



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Cross Parish

February 8, 2026

**2026 - SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT  
SPONSORED BY THE IRONMEN CATHOLIC MEN'S SEMINAR  
SERIES**

*Remember Jesus gave his life for you!*

*We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us;  
and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

**1 Timothy 2:6**

Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 2026 -- 7:15am to 4:00pm  
St. Ann's Parish -- 2100 Farragut St. -- Butte, MT

Open to men of all faiths, parishes and ages.

This retreat is being offered at no charge compliments of St. Ann's Parish  
Light breakfast, full lunch & refreshments will be provided.

**RSVP by February 11<sup>th</sup> 2026**

For more information text or call: Jim Bellandi @ 560-2857

Please arrive in time for the start of Mass @ 7:15am

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Mass: Monday and Tuesday 9:00a

Adoration: Monday 9:30a

Weekend Schedule:

Confession: Sunday 3:30-4:15p or by appointment

Mass: Sunday Mass 4:30p

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30a to 12:00p

Fr. Cody Williams, Pastor Email: [frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org](mailto:frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org)

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Townsend, Montana 59644



### Marriage as a Sacrament

What do we mean by "marriage as a Sacrament"? This question is critical for understanding the Church's teaching on marriage. As I outlined in the previous parts of this series on marriage, marriage is not simply a social contract. Marriage is something more, something rooted in God's relationship with us, something that binds us to God and shows his love for the world. Therefore, we should assume that God intends more from marriage than a deal.

What is a Sacrament? A Sacrament is a visible expression of the invisible realities of God. Each Sacrament has a visible form that helps us to relate to it and experience it. Yet, every Sacrament has an invisible reality that the visible signs point to. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, the visible sign is the couple and their exchange of rings. The couple is the greatest sign since it shows the love shared between two people. The invisible sign of the couple is the incredible love that God has for his people. God binds himself to us like a couple exchanging vows to love each other for as long as they both shall live. Obviously the sign of the couple is limited by time whereas God's love is eternal. Thus the invisible reality: God so loved the world that he gave himself entirely to us. The invisible reality behind the visible sign of the couple is God's everlasting love for us. As the couple exchanges rings as a symbol of their love and commitment, God gives us signs and covenants. The sign of Jesus' death and Resurrection is a constant reminder of the covenant that God established with all people through his blood as a sign of his love. Thus marriage is a Sacrament: a visible expression of something of the nature of God.

If we are not careful with the above description of a sacrament, we can easily expand it to include far more than the 7 Sacraments of the church. For instance, why are religious and consecrated single people not considered a Sacrament? Are they not signs of God's love and devotion? People who devote themselves to God in this way show their commitment to God but not in the same way as marriage. Marriage and Holy Orders are both Sacraments because they share in the life and ministry of Jesus. As Jesus became high priest so that he could offer himself and the world to the Father, so do we have priests to imitate the self-offering of Jesus. As Jesus gave himself entirely to his Church, took her as his bride, and desires an eternal commitment to her, so too we have marriage as a Sacraments to imitate the love Jesus has for his Church. Marriage as a Sacrament teaches us about the nature of God in ways that other forms of callings or commitments do not. Marriage is the sign of God's love and fruitfulness. He gives his life to the Church who brings forth spiritual children in the form of the baptized. Jesus gives himself to the Church to make her holy and draws her into the mystery of his life.

Too often today we think of marriage in very human terms. The two become one and share a household or marriage is about love. Marriage is not about love. Marriage is about commitment and to give our lives for the sake of another. The Sacrament of Marriage calls the couple to sacrifice for each other as Jesus gave himself for the Church. Marriage is a constant reminder of the everlasting love of God through which he gave his life for the salvation of the world.

Fr. Cody

## Western Montana Catholic Women's CONFERENCE

"COME TO ME" MATTHEW 11:28



Sister Jacinta Phipps



Celeste Bebe



Jessica Echeverry

### There Is No Place Like Home

Friday, April 10, 2026 ~ Cathedral of St. Helena  
5:30 pm Mass and Rosary ~ All are welcome

Saturday, April 11, 2026 ~ 7 am check-in

Women's Conference, Speakers,  
Confessions, Vendors, Fellowship

(including special "Montana Strong" speakers: Allison Bell, Kaylyn Lybeck, Lynnette Nilan)

Helena Civic Center

visit HelenaCWC.org



BLACK AND INDIAN  
MISSION COLLECTION

Special Collection Date: 2/22/2026

Envelopes available in the Narthex

On the third Sunday of each month a blessing table will be set up in the entrance of the church. You are welcome to bring any objects of devotion that you would like blessed and Fr. Cody will bless them after Mass. This will be available each third Sunday of the month. Please keep all your items to be blessed with you until the end of Mass. Once Mass is ended, Fr. Cody will come to the entrance of the Church and bless any of the objects that are on the table. Those objects that are on the table belong to the people who want them blessed and are not free for the taking.

Blessings

## Western Montana CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"Come to Me" Matt 11:28

April 11, 2026 – Civic Center, Helena, MT

www.helenacwc.org / 406.603.0175

Lord Jesus, thank you for the constant love you have for me. Thank you for the gift of life and the gift of faith. Today, take me into your Sacred Heart and renew me. I open my heart to your grace, to be healed where healing is needed. Replace any wounds or

worries with your peace and joy. Send your Holy Spirit into my whole being: body, mind, and soul. Guide me to be the woman you have created me to be: your beloved daughter, disciple, and friend. Please remove any obstacles that keep me from living this way. Make me a woman of faith, hope, and charity. Lord, pour out your grace upon the upcoming Catholic Women's Conference, upon the planning efforts, and upon many women that they may hear your invitation and say "yes." May the conference be a time of spiritual renewal, healing, reconciliation, and joy for all who attend. Thank you Lord Jesus for all this, I pray in your sweet name. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Mother Mary, Gate of Heaven



Gate of Heaven, you are the sweetest, the tenderest, the kindest of mothers, constantly watching me with eyes of love as I travel my weary way through this same valley of tears that was once marked by your own blessed footsteps. How surely does devotion to you open the heavenly portals to numberless souls! Be the Gate of Heaven to me by obtaining through your prayers all the graces I need to live a holy life and to enter the gates of heaven. Amen.



St. Monica intercessor

Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers.

Dear St. Monica, we now ask you to pray with us for all those sons and daughters that have wandered away from God, and to add your prayers to those of all mothers who are worried over their children. Amen.

Mother Mary, Gate of Heaven, pray for us.

St. Monica, pray for us. Amen.

### Join Our Lady of the Valley's annual Chili Feed and Silent Auction

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:15 PM

Enjoy delicious chili, great company, and support St. Andrews' furnace repair.

All are welcome!



## Parish potlucks

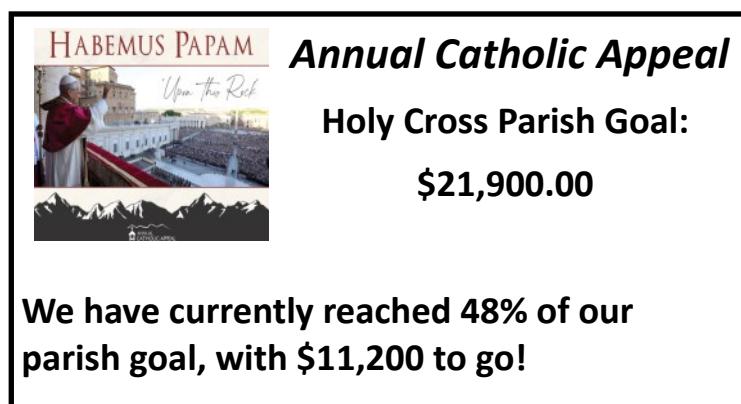
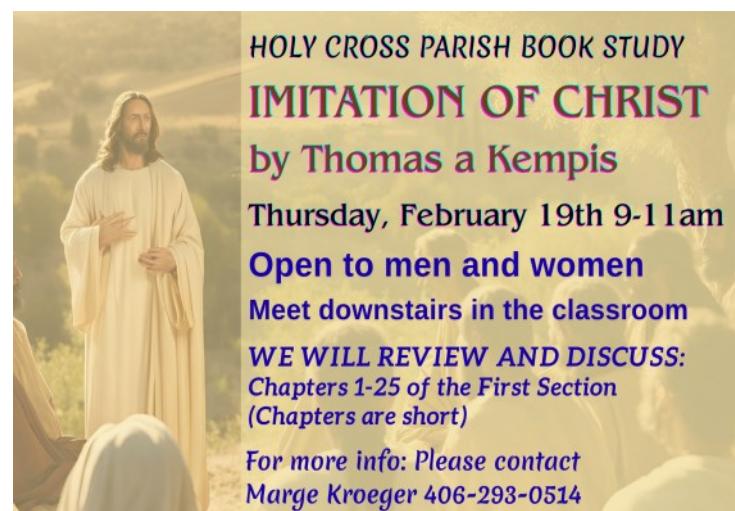
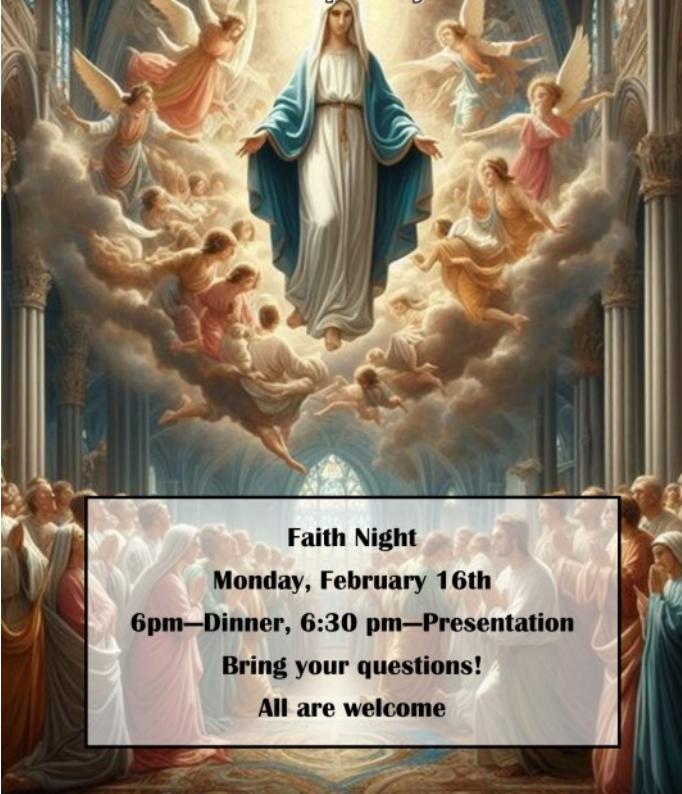
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month we have a parish potluck where anyone can bring a dish or come down and enjoy some good food. As part of the desire for the circles to be more active in the parish, I am assigning a circle to each potluck as the point group for the potluck. Their responsibility is to set-up, clean-up, and help make sure there is enough food. Anyone is welcome to bring food and help. The circle's responsibility is to facilitate the potluck. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Fr. Cody.

February 22: Hope

March 22: Love

April 26: Peace

## Do Catholics Worship Mary and the Saints?



We have currently reached 48% of our parish goal, with \$11,200 to go!



## Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending February 1st

Envelopes	\$1,905.00
Loose	\$293.00
Online	\$285.00
<b>Total Weekly Contribution</b>	<b>\$2,483.00</b>
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$2,483.00
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	
<b>Total Monthly Contribution</b>	<b>\$2,483.00</b>
Total Year to Date	\$117,107.89
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00

MASS	Schedule
Monday	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a
February 9	
Tuesday	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday	
February 11	
Thursday	
February 12	
Friday	6:00p Women's Bunko Night
February 13	
Saturday	
February 14	
Sunday	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p Dinner provided by Knight's 5:30p - 7:30p RE
February 15	

## Scripture Readings



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

02-15-2026

Reading 1:	Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm:	119:1-2,4-5, 17-18, 33-34
Reading 2:	1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Gospel:	Matthew 5:17-37

## Pray for our Seminarians

Lord Jesus, we ask your special blessing on those preparing for the priesthood in our seminaries. We pray that they will grow in faith, hope and love. Give them courage and perseverance and be their constant companion as they prepare to serve you and your people with the fire of your love. Make them holy as you are holy. Amen.

Deacon Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Liam Aippersback, Ryan Frampton, and Mason Yochum

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

## Prayer Chain

Unless otherwise requested, after one month prayer request names will be removed from the prayer chain

John Clark, Martin and Margy Clark, Marilyn Lane, Shanna Montonario, Kadence Saxton, Don and Jenny Schauben, Judy & Franklin Silifka, Mary Garman, Bakkum family, Karen Simonich

## Ministry Schedule

Sunday February 15, 2026	4:30pm
Greet:	Fisette Family
Altar Servers:	Lucas Bleile, Malikai Fisette, and Mathyas Fisette
Lector:	Mary Duede
Gifts:	Estrada Family
EM:	Shawna Wickens and Buffy Woodring
Money Counters:	Marge Kroeger and Joy Haggard

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
O Jesus, You are always with us, "yesterday and today, and the same forever!" (Heb 13, 8). Always the same in eternity by the immutability of Your divine Person; always the same in time, by the Sacrament of the Eucharist.  
- from *Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

## A Year with the Church Fathers

Mondays from 6:30-8 pm  
Starting Monday, Oct. 27th  
Explore the lives of the fathers.  
Read their theology and writing.  
Come to understand their value in the Church.  
See flyer for more information.



The Food Pantry needs our help! Twice a month the Food Pantry is open to provide food for those who need some extra assistance. Holy Cross will be helping out during the month of February. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, there are sign up sheets available on the table in the Narthex or you can contact Paul VanHoudt.

Food items needed this month are:

1# packages of ground beef, canned meat, canned stews, canned soups, canned chili, mac & cheese and peanut butter

Please mail monetary donations directly to the Food Pantry. The address is:

**Broadwater Food Pantry**  
PO Box 1164  
Townsend, MT 59644

Food Pantry new phone #: 406-916-0043



You can make a difference!

- Grab a baby bottle.
- Fill it with cash, check, or change.
- Return it to church.

Return by February 8th

**Options**  
clinic  
Change for Life



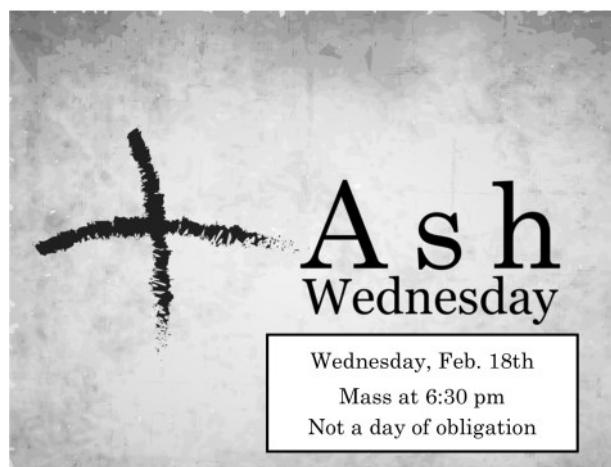
Learn more or give online!



**LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY**  
**SUNDAYS @ 4PM**

**FEB 1 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES**  
**FEB 8 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES**  
**FEB 15 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES**  
**FEB 22 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES**  
**MAR 1 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES**

We need someone to lead the rosary on Sunday at 4pm at least once a month. If you're interested, please contact the office, or speak with Shawna.



**A s h**  
Wednesday

Wednesday, Feb. 18th  
Mass at 6:30 pm  
Not a day of obligation

**Women's Fun Night**



**Bunco Dice Game**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**  
**6 P.M. TO 8 P.M.**

IN THE HOLY CROSS FAMILY ROOM  
OPEN TO ALL WOMEN  
SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED  
BYOB

THIS IS A FUN GAME THAT YOU CAN LEARN QUICKLY.

IF YOU NEED A RIDE, CALL FRAN WRIGHT AT 856-379-5699

# Faith Formation

## Youth Schedule

**2/8/26: NO RE** (Superbowl Sunday)  
**2/15/26: RE Class** (Praying with the Mass)  
**2/22/26: RE Class** (What is Prayer)  
**3/1/2026: RE Class** (Sung prayer)

**Holy Cross Youth Ski Day**  
Rescheduled to



**Friday,**  
**March 6th**

### Showdown Ski Hill

Join us for a fun day of skiing. Holy Cross will pay for the youth's lift ticket and lunch. Any child younger than 6th grade needs to be accompanied by a parent. Please scan the QR code to register. If your child was already registered for the original ski day, no need to register again, but please contact Father Cody or Shawna Wickens if your child was registered but can not attend on new ski date.



## Middle School/High School Youth Lock-in

**Friday March 6th 6:00 pm to**  
**Saturday, March 7th 8:00 am**  
**Holy Cross Parish Center**

Holy Cross middle school and high school youth are invited to a lock-in where they will spend the night enjoying food, games, fun and fellowship. If your child would like to attend please scan the QR code to register them. Contact Father Cody or Shawna Wickens with any questions.



## Attention Adults

Join us for an adult group that will meet after mass on Sundays during RE class times. The adult group will discuss and explore the same topics as the youth. This year's focus is on Sacraments, the Mass, and prayer. Parents that join can continue the discussion and learning at home with their children.

**2026**  
**REGISTRATION UPDATE JAN. 9**  
**LEGENDARY LODGE**

**JUNIOR HIGH #1**  
**JUNE 14-19**  
79%

**HIGH SCHOOL #1**  
**JUNE 21-26**  
90%

**5TH/6TH GRADE BOYS**  
**JULY 5-10**  
78%

**HIGH SCHOOL #2**  
**JULY 12-17**  
100% - Waitlisting

**JUNIOR HIGH #2**  
**JULY 19-24**  
100% - Waitlisting

**5TH/6TH GRADE GIRLS**  
**JULY 5-10**  
87%

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
**LEGENDARYLODGE.ORG**

Holy Cross Parish is offering assistance for the cost of Legendary Lodge that can be used at the time of registration. If you are interested in a scholarship for your child to attend camp, please contact the parish office before registering your child.

We are looking for volunteers to provide dinner after mass on some Sundays prior to RE. If you are interested in helping please contact Shawna Wickens or scan the sign up genius QR code.



**Thank you for supporting our parish youth!**