



Holy Cross Parish

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

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

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Townsend, Montana 59644



Basics of Catholicism part 129

Conditions that invalidate a marriage

The two most common situations that invalid a marriage are lack of maturity and lack of proper consent.

Lack of Maturity: the Church assumes that each person getting married in the Catholic Church has sufficient maturity to understand the vows they are exchanging and the implications of these vows. Many situations can prove that one or both people of the couple lacked maturity. The most obvious situation is age. According to the laws of the Church, the minimum age for a girl is 14 and for a boy is 15. Yet, the Church has a primary law that states that the laws of the local government trump Church laws as long as they are more strict. Thus, the minimum age to get married in the Catholic Church in the United States is 18. Anyone married before that minimum age is considered to lack sufficient maturity to enter into the covenant of marriage unless we can obtain sufficient proof to the contrary. Other common situations include being drunk during the wedding, having psychological concerns that prevent maturity, and eloping. A sufficient level of maturity is necessary to formally and fully consent to the vows given in marriage and therefore maturity is a necessary component of a faithful marriage.

Lack of Proper Consent: these situations are varied and complex. What does proper consent mean? What is the couple agreeing to at their wedding? In order to enter into the full covenant of marriage, the couple needs to intend all their vows. For the vow of faithfulness and love to your spouse, common invalidating situations include unwillingness to remain with only one spouse (surprisingly common), unwillingness to care for the spouse, belief that the spouse will become a servant or hold a specific role, lack of knowledge concerning the person of the spouse, and unwillingness to care for the spouse. Some people enter into marriage to prevent being alone or fear of dying alone. These are not sufficient reasons for marriage. For the vow of children, some people invalidate a marriage because they are vehemently unwilling to have children, have taken measures to prevent having children, or are unwilling to consummate their marriage (very rare). The more common situations that fall under lack of consent are situations of coercion. Situations like an unintended pregnancy before marriage "necessitating" marriage, feeling like they need to get marriage to get out of a bad situation, feeling that their parents are forcing the marriage, belief that the spouse will leave them if they don't get married, societal pressure, and more. Lack of proper consent covers everything from the pressure or corrosion that leads to a premature marriage to situations in which the couple doesn't intend the full scope of the vows at the time that the vows were exchanged. In order to prove these situations, the advocate and the Tribunal work through testimonies to determine the extent to which the vows were not fully exchanged. This can be a difficult process if witnesses or the couple are not willing to comply.

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



BABY BASKET DRIVE

COLLECTION ON SUNDAYS

APRIL 5-26

ITEMS WE'RE COLLECTING ARE:

(New items only)

BABY BOTTLES
SIPPY CUPS
PETROLEUM JELLY
BABY BATH TOYS
PACIFIER
DIAPER RASH CREAM
BABY WASHCLOTHS
BABY DISH SET
BABY LOTION
BABY BLANKET
NIGHT LIGHT
HAND MITS
RATTLES
BABY SPOONS
BIBS

BABY HAND SANITIZER
NAIL CLIPPERS
SAFETY OUTLET PLUGS
BABY BODY WASH
BABY SHAMPOO
BABY BATH TOWELS
THERMOMETER
TEETHING RINGS
ONESIES
BURP CLOTHS
HOODED TOWEL PONCHO
FOLDABLE BABY PLAY MAT
NASAL ASPIRATOR
SLEEPERS
SWADDLES

QUILTING LADIES

3RD ANNUAL



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.

Patrick Conley, host of The Inner Life on Relevant Radio, will be the honored guest speaker for our KNEH Catholic radio fundraiser banquet on Saturday, April 18th at Carroll College Campus Center.

Reception at 5pm, banquet at 6pm. Tickets online at www.kneh.org or call 406-410-0968.

Buy 7 tickets and get one free plus your own reserved table for eight. Thanks for your support!

You can listen to KNEH on the myParish app (click on the microphone icon) or at 97.3FM.

Parish potlucks

Every 4th 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.

April 26: Peace

May 24: **No Potluck** (Memorial Day Weekend)

June 28: Hope

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



HOLY CROSS PARISH BOOK STUDY
IMITATION OF CHRIST
 by Thomas a Kempis
 WE'LL MEET ON THE FOLLOWING
 THURSDAYS AT 9AM - 11AM

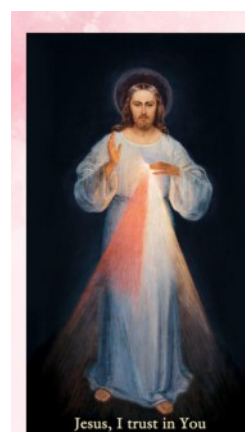
March 5	April 23
March 19	May 7
April 9	May 21

Open to men and women
Drop-ins are welcome
 Meet downstairs in the quilting room.
 For more info: Please contact
 Marge Kroeger 406-293-0514

The Holy Cross book study of the Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis will meet again on **Thursday, April 9th** We are discussing a variety of excerpts from the book. The study is open to all, including drop-ins.

We meet in the classrooms downstairs.

Contact Marge Kroeger at 406-293-0514 with any questions!



Please join us in praying the
Divine Mercy Chaplet
 on
Sunday, April 12th
4:00pm
 which is known as
Divine Mercy Sunday

Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending March 22nd

Envelopes \$1,864.00

Loose \$311.38

Online \$662.44

Total Weekly Contribution \$2,837.82

Total Weekly Goal \$2,629.31

Monthly Summary

Week 1 \$1,674.38

Week 2 \$2,016.24

Week 3 \$5,006.34

Week 4 \$2,837.82

Total Monthly Contribution \$11,534.78

Total Year to Date \$132,645.08

Yearly Goal \$140,000.00

Scripture Readings



Easter Sunday

04-05-2026

Reading 1: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Psalm: 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Reading 2: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"This God who, as the psalmist said, built His tabernacles in the sun, now establishes Himself in the very core of the flesh and the blood."

- Francois Mauriac

Mass	Schedule
Monday March 30	Mass 9:00a seminarians Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday March 31	Mass 9:00a Homebound
Wednesday April 1	
Thursday April 2	Holy Thursday Mass 6:30p
Friday April 3	Stations of the Cross 12:00p Good Friday service 6:30p
Saturday April 4	Easter Vigil Mass 8:30p
Sunday April 5	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family

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.

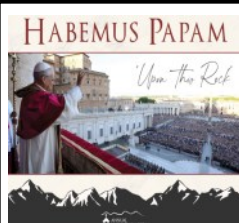
Deacon Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Liam Aippersback, Ryan Frampton, and Mason Yochum

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 Schaubert, Judy & Franklin Silfka, Repose of the soul of Mary Garman, Karen Simonich, Stover family, Daylene Hanson, Arnold Woodring



Annual Catholic Appeal

Holy Cross Parish Goal:

\$21,900.00

We have currently reached 49% of our parish goal, with \$11,050 to go!

Ministry Schedule

Sunday April 5, 2026

4:30pm

Greet: Reiman Family

Altar Servers: Alex Weiss, Malikai Fisetbe and Mathyas Fisetbe

Lector: Mary Duede

Gifts: John and Missy Rauser

EM: Shawna Wickens and Buffy Woodring

Money Counters: Juanita Bray and Karen Susag

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.

Last session:
March 30th



LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY SUNDAYS @ 4PM

MAR. 1 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES
MAR. 8 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
MAR. 15 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
MAR. 22 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
MAR. 29 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES



Faith Formation

Youth Schedule

3/29/2026: Last RE Class (Finding God in daily life and Stations of the Cross)

4/5/2026: Easter Sunday (NO RE)

4/12/26: Parish Easter Party

Please join us for our potluck parish Easter party
Sunday, April 12th
5:30pm (after mass)
Ham provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share! We will also have cake to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday!



Stations of the Cross

Good Friday
12:00 pm



No Daily Mass, Adoration, or Confession on Saturday, April 4th

TRIDUUM

Mass of the Lord's Supper—Thurs. April 2nd @ 6:30 pm
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion—Fri. April 3rd @ 6:30 pm
Easter Vigil—Sat. April 4th @ 8:30 pm
Easter Sunday—Sun. April 5th @ 4:30 pm

There will be an Easter egg hunt for the kid's during the Easter party on April 12th, NOT after mass on Easter Sunday.

10 Holy Week Activities for Catholic Families

- 1. Follow directions to fold your palms from Palm Sunday into a cross or another decorative shape. <http://www.catholicicing.com/how-to-fold-a-palm-cross-in-10-easy-steps/>
- 2. Attend at least one weekday or special Mass during Holy Week.
- 3. Attend Stations of the Cross or do a Stations of the Cross reflection or drawing project at home. Stations of the Cross for Children: <https://www.reallifeathome.com/printable-stations-of-the-cross-for-children/> Stations of the Cross Draw and Write Activity: <https://www.reallifeathome.com/stations-of-the-cross-activity/>
- 4. Pray for people in your parish and around the world who are going through the RCIA process and are about to be received into the church during the Easter Vigil.
- 5. Make your own set of Resurrection Eggs to help children with the story of death and resurrection of Jesus. <http://www.catholicicing.com/catholic-resurrection-eggs/>
- 6. Holy Thursday's (Maundy Thursday) focus on cleansing is a reason that families often used to thoroughly clean their homes right before Easter. Pick some areas of your home (or your whole home) for your family to clean during Holy Week to be fresh and ready for Easter.
- 7. On Holy Thursday, do a foot washing with your family. Talk about ways each family member can serve others in the way that Jesus calls us to do.
- 8. Make hot cross buns together with your family. Find ways to have everyone join in on making them, even if it's just by adding in some ingredients or helping to add the icing crosses.
- 9. Spend time on Good Friday (particularly between noon and 3 pm) in prayer or reflection. Consider making it a time with no television or Internet.
- 10. Make these special Easter Story Cookies on Holy Saturday to enjoy on Easter. <http://www.catholicicing.com/how-to-make-easter-story-cookies-with-a-printable-recipe/> If you prefer, you can try these Empty Tomb Rolls: <https://lovelylittlekitchen.com/empty-tomb-rolls/>

Please join us in praying the
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET
9 - DAYS NOVENA

Begins on Good Friday, April 3,
&
Concludes on Saturday, April 11
Starts each day at 3pm



JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

It is not required to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet novena at 3 p.m. everyday. While 3 p.m. is recognized as the "Hour of Great Mercy" (commemorating Jesus' death) and is highly recommended, the prayers can be said at any time of day and anywhere (e.g.: at home, in the car or in church)



Please pick up a new parish directory from the Narthex for your household!

MOMS & LITTLES
Easter Egg Hunt
kids under 4 yrs
April 3rd at 11AM
@Holy Cross Church
RSVP to Natalie
(949) 200-2315
See you there!