



Holy Cross Parish

Second Sunday of Lent

March 16 2025

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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Basics of Catholicism part 80

The Prayer of Absolution

The Prayer of Absolution is the only part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation that requires a priest. The priesthood is connected with the forgiveness of sins as an extension of Jesus' ministry and command to his priests: "Whoever sins you forgive are forgiven and whose sins you retain are retained." Notice that every Sacrament that requires a priest is also connected with the forgiveness of sins: Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Penance, Eucharist. Matrimony is about the vows exchanged by the couple and the final two – Confirmation and Holy Orders – are directly connected with the office of the bishop. Therefore, in each of the Sacraments where the priest is the prominent celebrant of the Sacrament, the forgiveness of sins is connected with it.

What is the Prayer of Absolution? The Prayer of Absolution is the prayer said by the priest towards the end of the ritual of the Sacrament that, through the ministry of the Church and as an extension of Jesus' forgiveness, absolves the person from their sins. Lets take a moment to reflect on the words of this prayer before we move on:

God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his son, has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace and I absolve you from your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Let's start from the beginning. The prayer begins by naming God who is the Father of mercies. The priest cannot forgive sins on his own; that is a power specific to God. Through God's power in him, by the merits of his ordination and building upon the baptismal graces of the penitent, the priest can absolve sins. Even the ending echoes this focus: God forgive sins. This isn't some form of magic or just a hopeful prayer. This is a promise given from the Father, through the Son, to each of us. He wills to forgive us and wants us to have the assurance that our sins are forgiven through the ministry of his priests.

The second part reminds us of how we are forgiven. We are not simply "forgiven." The process of being forgiven from our sins was through the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. We didn't need to sacrifice an animal, complete a quest, live perfect lives, make up for all the crimes we have committed, or something of the like. The freedom from sins we experience in this Sacrament is a free gift given to us because Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead for us. The Prayer of Absolution makes this point abundantly clear in the first few lines of this prayer. Often confessionals have a crucifix on the wall to help remind people of this essential point.

The final point emphasizes my earlier point. The priest can absolve sins only by extension of his ministry in the Church and because he is an ordained minister in the Church set apart for this ministry. Therefore, the power of this Sacrament doesn't lie in the priest but in the Church who opens the treasury of graces for the faithful. Therefore the priest must say these words and none others for the Sacrament to be valid and the sins the person confessed to be absolved.

Fr. Cody

Western Montana Catholic Women's CONFERENCE

"COME TO ME" MATTHEW 11:28



Mother Mary
Maximilian



Paula
Umaña



Elza
Spaedy

New Life

Friday, April 4, 2025 ~ Cathedral of St. Helena
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross & The Rosary, followed by Soup & Bread
All are welcome

Saturday, April 5, 2025 ~ 7 am check-in

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

Helena Civic Center

visit HelenaCWC.org



Register by March 15, 2025 for Early Bird Discount
Registration deadline is March 28, 2025

Bishop Vetter has promulgated the indulgences and Holy Doors for the Jubilee Year of Hope. You can go to the Diocesan website at <https://diocesehelena.org/jubilee2025/> or see the letter on the bulletin board.



PAYING IT FORWARD AS A LEAD MOTHER IN NIGERIA

In Nigeria, over 25 million people are experiencing extreme food insecurity due to climate change, poverty and conflict. Because of violence in their hometown, Amina and her family were forced to flee and start life over again in a new village. Learn how Amina's participation in a Catholic Relief Services program helped her prepare nutritious meals for her family

and support other families in her community to overcome the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-2 to read this week's Story of Hope.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

IN A JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE
MARCH 21-23, 2025
CARROLL COLLEGE, HELENA

— FEATURING —

Charles Camosey | Hannah Hemphill | Jimmy Mitchell |
Sr. Anne Catherine Burleigh, OP | Sr. Marianna Thayer, OP

AN ALL-AGES EVENT
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
CYC CONVENTION

REGISTER NOW:

[DIOCESEHELENA.ORG/
EUCCHARISTICCONGRESS](https://DIOCESEHELENA.ORG/EUCCHARISTICCONGRESS)



LEARN MORE



Thank YOU!!

Your church
raised

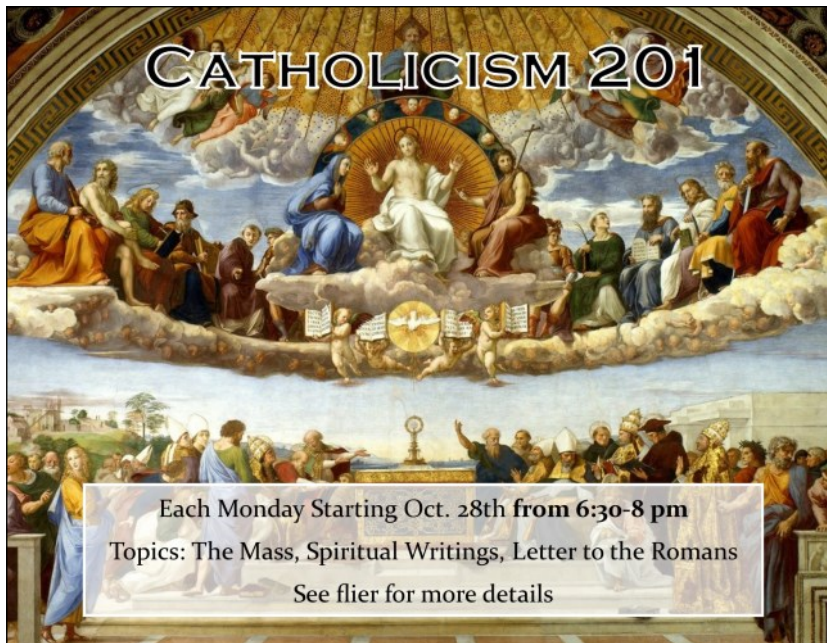
\$1531.87!

Together, we are
Offering Hope &
Building Families.

Options
clinic
Change for Life



optionshelena.org



Each Monday Starting Oct. 28th from 6:30-8 pm
 Topics: The Mass, Spiritual Writings, Letter to the Romans
 See flier for more details

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.

March 23: Circle of Love
 April 27: Parish Easter Party- No Potluck
 May 25: Memorial Day Weekend- No Potluck

Scripture Readings



Third Sunday in Lent
 03-23-2025

Reading 1: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
 Psalm: 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11
 Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

MASS	Schedule
Monday March 17	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a Faith Night 6:00-7:30p
Tuesday March 18	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday March 19	Stations of the Cross 6:00p Soup Supper 6:30p
Thursday March 20	
Friday March 21	Fish Fry 5:00-7:00p
Saturday March 22	
Sunday March 23	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p


YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

3/23/25 RE topic: Mass (structure)
 Mark your calendars:

- High schoolers are encouraged to take part in the CYC Convention/Eucharistic Congress **March 21-23.**



There is a basket located in the Narthex to place non-perishable food donations for the Food Pantry!

 Stations of the Cross
 Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm
 March 12th—April 9th
 Soup supper to follow!

Next Women of Holy Cross Parish meeting:
 Tuesday, March 25th at 6:00 pm

The CHOSEN
 Movie Night

2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
 7-8:30 PM
 FREE MOVIE, POPCORN AND SNACKS.
 ALL ARE WELCOME!
 SPONSORED BY: HOLY CROSS CHURCH
 101 S. WALNUT STREET

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and by email to bulletin@holycrossmt.org.
 Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed.
Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a
TWO weeks in advance

Knights of Columbus

When: March 21st and April 4th
 Time: 5-7p
 Menu: Fish, Clam Chowder, Mac & Cheese, Potatoes, and Coleslaw
 Prices: \$15 per plate. \$6 for just Clam Chowder. \$4 for just Mac & Cheese
 Please reach out to Richard Majszak 406-980-1447 for any questions

The new email address for any information for the bulletin or advertisements is bulletin@holycrossmt.org

Ministry Schedule

Sunday March 23, 2025	4:30pm
Greet:	Tom and Julie Lethert
Lector:	Charles Ringenberg
Gifts:	Larry and Buffy Woodring
EM:	Debbie Miller and Tacy Swanton
Money Counters:	Juanita Bray and Karen Susag



The Annual Catholic Appeal kicked off several months ago with our parish goal of \$21,900. So far we have raised \$10,650. Please consider donating to this important campaign raising money for the important functions of our Diocese.

WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS

PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday, March 19th
4:30pm

MEET DOWNSTAIRS
IN ONE OF THE CLASSROOM

COFFEE & TEA WILL BE OFFERED

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

Faith Night

Exploring the issues of our times in the context of faith



The next topics:
Mar 17th—Immigration
May 19th—Poverty and Homelessness

For all ages. Free dinner

LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY
FOR THE POPE, CHURCH,
PRIEST, FAMILIES,
CHILDREN & FOR
THE WHOLE WORLD

THE ROSARY IS A PRICELESS TREASURE WHICH IS INSPIRED BY GOD. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ROSARY IS A WEAPON AGAINST THE EVILS OF THE WORLD.



St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity to the Irish people.



SUNDAYS @ 4:00

- MAR. - 2 GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
- MAR. - 9 JOYFUL MYSTERIES
- MAR. - 16 LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
- MAR. - 23 SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
- MAR. - 30 GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

Immigration
Faith Night

Who is an immigrant?
Where do they come from?
Why do they want to be here?
Why are we facing a crisis?
Special presentation by immigration lawyer Michelle Williams

Monday, March 17th starting at 6 pm
Free dinner and free event.
For all ages!



Carroll College is excited to visit your parish on March 23rd! Visit with current students and staff/faculty from our campus who will be attending mass and staying afterwards to share more about Carroll. We look forward to praying and connecting with you!

Holy Cross Parish
Finances

Week ended March 9th

Total Weekly	1744.32
Budget	\$2900.00
Variance	-\$1155.68

Year to Date

Total	88211.63
Budget	98600.00
Variance	-\$10,388.37

THANK YOU FOR
your generosity

Please consider a memorial for your loved ones to the Holy Cross Cemetery instead of flowers.

THANK YOU!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"If Christ did not want to dismiss the Jews without food in the desert for fear that they would collapse on the way, it was to teach us that it is dangerous to try to get to heaven without the Bread of Heaven."

- St. Jerome

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.

Dcn. Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Jamie Severson, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, and Jake Smith.

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Prayer Chain



Beginning September 29 bulletin 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, Judy Butler, Brian Roher and family Repose of the soul of Bill Kearns

Save The Date
for the Holy Cross

Spring
BAZAAR

Saturday, April 26th
More details to come soon!

So, how many of you actually read this bulletin? I am thinking of changing the format of bulletin distribution to an email sent though Flocknote. Let us know if you would like this option by sending an email to:

bulletin@holycrossmt.org.

Holy Cross recommends that the following be respected:

Christian Burial:
Notice should be made with the priest before arrangements are made with the funeral director.

Social Hall:
Our Social Hall and kitchen may be rented out for special events.

Please call the office for information for any of the above notices:
406-266-4811.

Pastoral Council:

Jesse Swenson
Mary Ellen Schnur
Karee Eichinger
Michael Fisette
John Bleile

Finance Council:

John Rauser
Tim McAlpine
Tacy Swanton
Pat Miller
Monica Benton

Do you know that we have Catholic Radio in Montana? KNEH, 97.3FM in Helena is an affiliate of Relevant Radio, which has 220 radio stations broadcasting across the US. You can listen LIVE to KNEH on the My Parish app by clicking on the Radio microphone icon or listen LIVE at www.kneh.org