



# Holy Cross Parish

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 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

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

Office: 406-266-4811

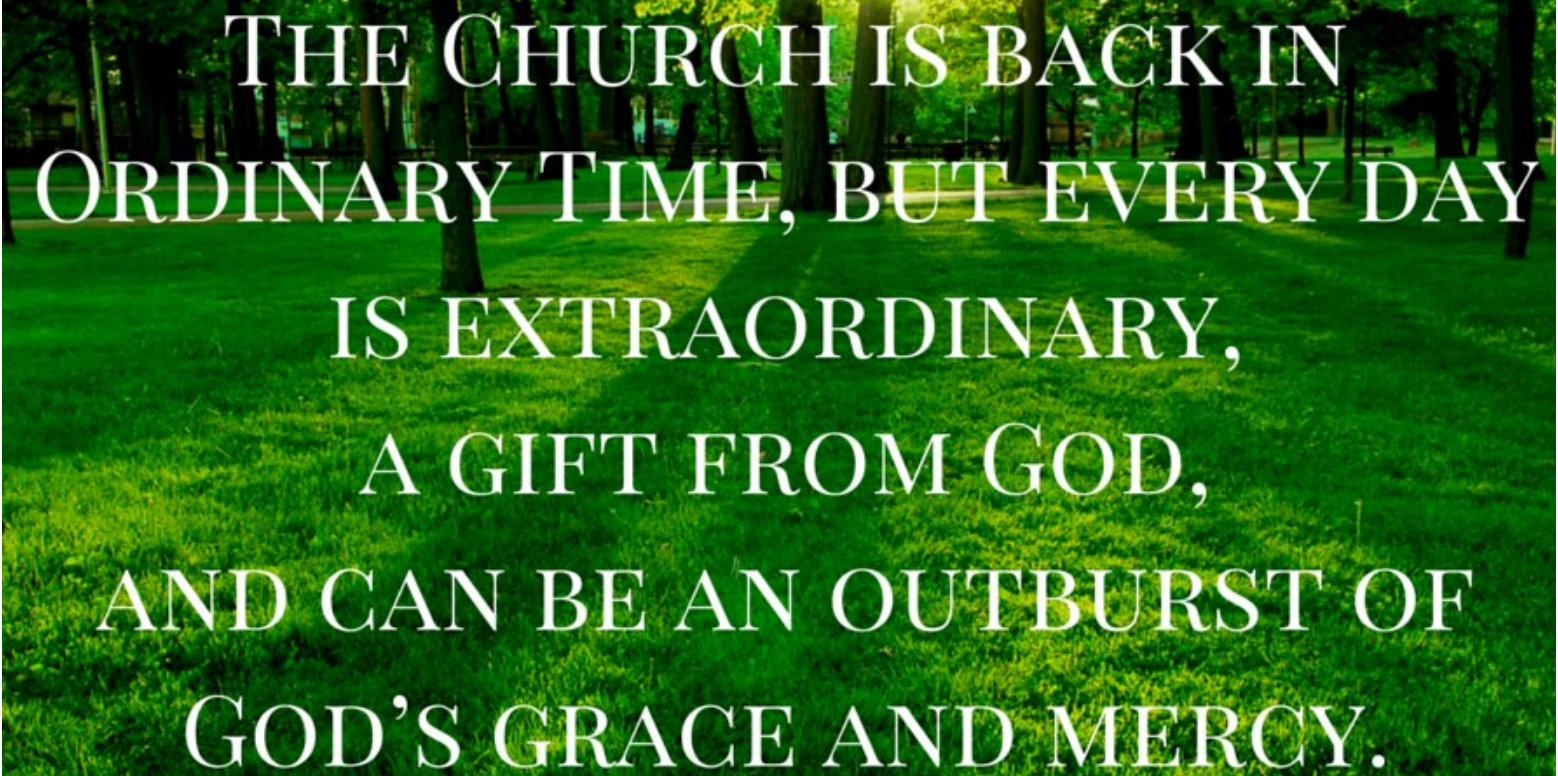
Email: [office@holycrossmt.org](mailto:office@holycrossmt.org)

Shawna: [RE@holycrossmt.org](mailto:RE@holycrossmt.org)

Website: [holycrossmt.org](http://holycrossmt.org)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 610 (101 S. Walnut)

Townsend, Montana 59644



THE CHURCH IS BACK IN  
ORDINARY TIME, BUT EVERY DAY  
IS EXTRAORDINARY,  
A GIFT FROM GOD,  
AND CAN BE AN OUTBURST OF  
GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY.

TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN



Basics of Catholicism part 110

The value of the Sacrament of Holy Orders

Celibacy

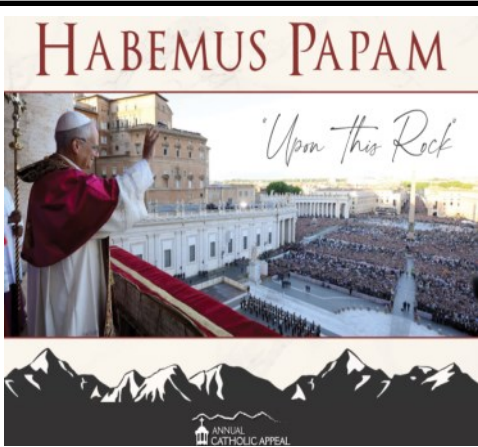
Why are priests celibate? What is celibacy? Celibacy is the choice to not get married. The true nature of celibacy is often confused. Celibacy, in the Christian context, is the free gift of oneself to choose to remain unmarried for the sake of deeper union with God. The celibate man or women doesn't choose celibacy because he/she doesn't want to get married or doesn't want children. Celibacy is a calling for the sake of deeper union with God, greater service in the Church, and a greater freedom in serving God. A celibate person gives up their opportunity for marriage and children in this life as a sign of the greater gifts to come in the next life. I can guarantee you that the vast majority of the priests that I know would have chosen the life of marriage and a family if God had not called them to be a priest.

Why are priests celibate? Actually, not all priests are celibate. Only the priests in the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church are required to take a promise of celibacy. Bishops in all rites of the Catholic Church are required to be celibate. Celibacy is considered a discipline. The Vatican/ Pope could decide to release all priests from this promise if he wished to. Yet, the Church, since the beginning, has encourage and expected her priests to be celibate and sign of the coming of the kingdom of God and as a quality of the nature of a priest.

What does celibacy do? Most people think priests are lonely, sad men who sit in their rectories lamenting the decisions that they have made. Usually, the people who think this way have never known a priest. They assume this idea simply to justify advocating for married priests. A study conducted by Pew Research has found priests to be one of the overall happiest of all professions. The reason for our happiness is celibacy and the freedom it brings to serve the Church. Without the concern for a wife and children, I can be called upon at any hour to go and help someone, provide for the needs of the church, or simply devote myself to God.

Celibacy for the priest is more than freedom from worldly cares or a greater ability to serve the Church. For the priest, the life of celibacy is one of greater union with God with the anticipation of the greater joys of Heaven. Celibacy is counter cultural. In a world that claims that happiness comes from marriage, love, and family, the priest stands in contrast to these ideals which are over inflated saying to the world, "true love comes from God and service." The vast majority of priests that I know would prefer to be celibate as priests for the gifts that come through a deeper union and commitment to following Jesus. Celibacy is both a gift and a calling. God calls the man to celibacy and gives him the graces to endure so that he can more faithfully follow God's will for his life.

Fr. Cody



The Annual Catholic Appeal kicks off this weekend. Our goal is to raise \$21,300. Many people are unsure of the value and importance of the Annual Catholic Appeal. Let me guide you to understand the importance of this appeal using the new image on the poster. To maintain the function of the church, we have three parts that need support. The parishes are an essential part of the church. Through the parishes, the people come to know God, desire to follow him, receive the Sacraments, and have a place to live their lives of faith. Yet, parishes cannot sustain themselves. They need support from the Diocese for administrative needs, clergy, and to connect them to the larger church as a reminder that we are part of Jesus' Church not our own. The Annual Catholic Appeal supports the education of priests, the ministries of the Diocese, administrative help to the parishes, and maintains our Catholic identity. Another aspect of the Church is the global aspect. We are not just a group of churches in Montana but part of the global Catholic Church. Recognizing our identity through these three aspects is necessary for understanding who we are. When all three of these aspects of the Church are understood, supported, and lived out, then we can understand who we are and our role in the Church of Jesus.



CATHOLIC JOURNEY EXPERIENCE:  
ALL ARE INVITED!

This is your opportunity to attend a 3-day weekend retreat seeking guidance by the Holy Spirit into a deeper experience of Christian community, prayer, discussion, reflection and enlightenment!

Women's Weekend held at St Cyril and Methodius, East Helena  
January 15-18th, 2026

Contact: [helenacatholicjourney.women@gmail.com](mailto:helenacatholicjourney.women@gmail.com) 406-431-7577

Men's Weekend held at St Cyril and Methodius, East Helena  
February 12-15th 2026

Contact: [Helenacursillorector@gmail.com](mailto:Helenacursillorector@gmail.com) 406-431-7544

Journey Gathering

November 18, 2025

7 PM St. Mary's Social Center

REJOICE! FOR THIS IS A YEAR OF JUBILEE IN OUR CHURCH!

Abundant Blessings are being given out, so before the year ends, ponder whether you have been missing out. If so, then this gathering is for you. Join us with Father Nathan Scheidecker, aka Father Ned, who will map out these blessings for you and for your family.

November is also a month to help our deceased family of the church penitent reach sainthood. Father Ned wants to show you how to help these loved ones receive special help in gifts of indulgences through your holy care.

Please Join us on Tuesday, November 18, 7 PM, St. Mary's Social Center

All are welcome, bring your friends and family.



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. They're 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.

November 23: Hope

December 28: Love

January 25: Peace

The Food Pantry is collecting Thanksgiving basket items until 11/21/25. They are short on turkeys and items like stuffing mix, gravy mix, olives, cranberry sauce, etc. Any items they are short of will have to be purchased. The food pantry is open for donations 11/14 & 11/15 from 9-11am or contact Tony Van Houdt at 406-633-3177 for drop off or pick up. Thank you for all your support!

**Town Pump is matching monetary donations given to the food pantry thru the end of November.**

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

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

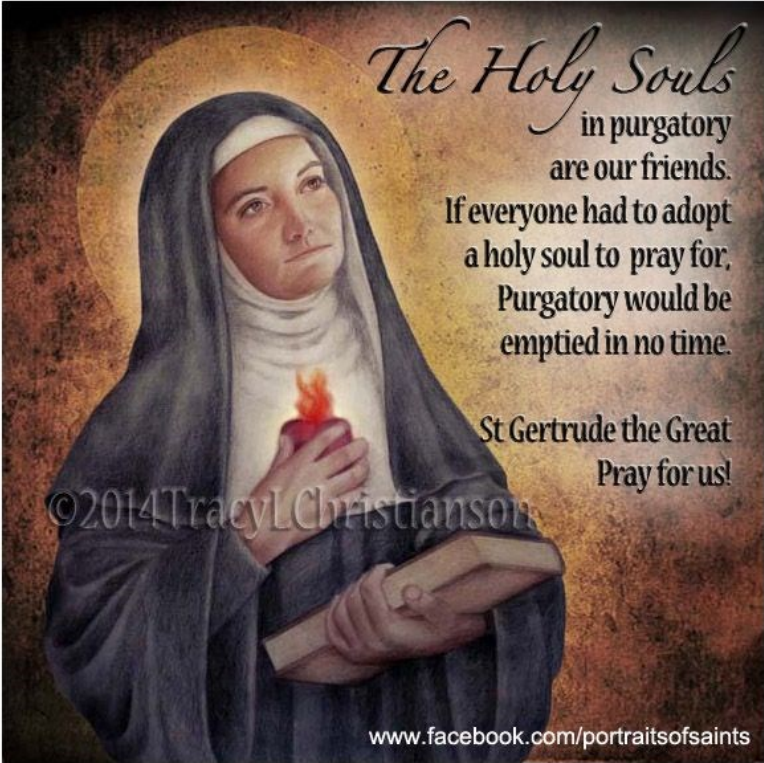


All bulletin information requests need to be submitted by email to

[bulletin@holycrossmt.org](mailto:bulletin@holycrossmt.org)

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a



**CSSM**  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES  
of Montana  
Mental Health Services

**Catholic Mental Health Counseling**

CSSM's counseling program has served clients from over 20 communities in Montana and is ready to serve you!

- Our counselors are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of any counseling session, although it does not have to be. They have experience with clients from many different backgrounds, cultures, and ages. We are here for everyone.
- We specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, relationship/marriage, and perinatal concerns.
- You can meet with us from your computer, tablet, or cell phone from anywhere in Montana. If you're in Helena or Billings, you can meet in-person with a counselor.
- We want to be a good match, so the first session is free. If you choose to continue, we accept insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and private pay, with a sliding fee scale and other discounts available.

**To get started, call (406)442-4130 and select option '2' or send us a message at [www.cssmt.org](http://www.cssmt.org).**



**Helena Catholic Women's Conference**


Save the date for the next  
Helena Catholic Women's Conference

April 10-11, 2026  
Helena Civic Center

Theme: "There Is No Place Like Home"  
Visit [helenacwc.org](http://helenacwc.org) for more information

Holy Cross Parish Contributions	
Week ending November 9th	
Envelopes	\$880.00
Loose	\$53.70
Online	\$449.64
Total Weekly Contribution	\$1,383.34
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$5,043.83
Week 2	\$1,383.34
Week 3	
Week 4	
Total Monthly Contribution	\$6,427.17
Total Year to Date	\$64,715.21
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00
Thank you for your generosity	


*Scripture Readings*



Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

11-23-2025

Reading 1:	2 Samuel 5:1-3
Psalms:	22:1-2, 3-4, 4-5
Reading 2:	Colossians 1:12-20
Gospel:	Luke 23:35-43



*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

"Jesus taught a new sacrifice which the Church received from the Apostles and offers throughout the whole world."

- St. Irenaeus (d. 202)

Mass	Schedule
Monday November 17	Mass 9:00a Irene Maria Avintana & Brigid Jenkins Adoration 9:30a Ask a Priest 6:00p
Tuesday November 18	Mass 9:00a Homebound
Wednesday November 19	
Thursday November 20	
Friday November 21	
Saturday November 22	
Sunday November 23	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p-7:30p Parish Potluck (Circle of Hope) Pilgrimage Presentation & Youth Virtus Lesson

**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, Kammy Law, Don and Jenny Schaubert, Judy & Franklin Silfka, Mike McGonigal, Bob Moodry, Mary Garman

**Ministry Schedule**


Sunday November 23, 2026 4:30pm

Greet:	Larry and Buffy Woodring
Lector:	Mary Ellen Schnur
Gifts:	Tom and Julie Lethert
EM:	Niki Weiss and Shawna Wickens
Money Counters:	Tom and Julie Lethert



### 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.




### LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY

#### SUNDAYS @ 4:00

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



 **"The Rosary is a weapon for these times."**  
 - Saint Padre Pio

# Faith Formation


### Youth Schedule

**11/16/25: RE Class (Ritual as part of life)**  
**11/23/25: Pilgrimage presentation & RE youth Virtus lesson**  
**11/30/25: RE Class (Mass as God's prayer)**  
**12/7/25: RE Class (Recognizing our need for God)**

## 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.

### What do Catholics believe about the Bible?



Mon. Nov. 17th  
 Dinner at 6pm—presentation at 6:30  
 Questions welcome!  
 How do we understand it?  
 Where did it come from? How do we use it?  
 What value does it have for Catholics?

### HELP NEEDED!

To make our evangelization event -**"Resting in the Busyness of Life,"** on **Friday, December 5th** a success, we need your help! The night will start with dinner at 6 pm, followed by testimony talks and discussion from 6:30-8. We need lots of help for this event in the following areas:

☐ Welcoming   ☐ Food preparation   ☐ Set-up  
☐ Child Care   ☐ Clean-up

If you are willing to help, please email either Shawna at [re@holycrossmt.org](mailto:re@holycrossmt.org) or Fr. Cody at [frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org](mailto:frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org) with your desired area of help.



We are working to increase and promote safety for those who attend and use our church. As part of our desire for increased safety, external doors to the building will be locked on Sundays during RE. The only door which will remain unlocked is the one leading from the parking lot to the basement. If you have questions or concerns about this change, please contact Fr. Cody.

### 2026 Summer Camp Season CAMPS SCHEDULE



<b>June 14-19</b> Junior High #1	<b>July 12-17</b> High School #2
<b>June 21-26</b> High School #1	<b>July 19-24</b> Junior High #2
<b>July 5-10</b> 5/6th Grade Boys	<b>July 26-31</b> 5/6th Grade Girls


Registration for **families who live within the Diocese of Helena** opens **Jan 5<sup>th</sup>**. Opens for all other registrants Jan 9th.

## Ask A Priest

Got a question you would like to ask a priest?  
 We've got an event for you.  
 Dinner at 6 pm. Presentation beings at 6:30. Q&A at 7:00.  
 Holy Cross Church, Townsend—101 S. Walnut St.  
 Upcoming Topics  
 Nov. 17 – What do Catholics believe about the Bible?  
 Dec. 15 - Did God establish a Church?  
 Feb. 16 – Do Catholics worship Mary and the Saints?  
 March 16 – What is the Eucharist?

## Resting in the Busyness of Life

Anxious? Worried? Overwhelmed?  
 Aren't we all!



Come relax and discover ways to rest amidst the busyness of life  
 Friday, Dec. 5th starting at 6 pm  
 The Lodge—131 S. Spruce St, Townsend  
 Dinner, real life experience, support  
 Child care available  
 Free Event—All Are Welcome!


### The Prayer of St. Gertrude

.. ——— ♥ ——— ..

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family.


Amen.

.. ——— ♥ ——— ..



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!**



### Join us for Family Camp!

June 28-30  
**Registrations open March 2nd, 2026**



### Camp Rates

Early Bird  
 (Register before Jan 25th)  
**\$425**  
 Standard Rate:  
**\$450**