



Holy Cross Parish

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 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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Basics of Catholicism part 123

The symbols of the Sacrament of Marriage

Each of the Sacraments have symbols that help describe the event taking place and guide us to experience the invisible realities that can be difficult to grasp. The Sacrament of Matrimony has two symbols: the couple and the rings

The Couple

The most prominent and important symbol of marriage is the couple. Without the couple, the marriage doesn't happen. The couple symbolizes a partnership, a coming together of two parties, a joining or union, and a pact or covenant. We cannot start an agreement or a deal without two parties to form the agreement. We cannot have a partnership without at least two people being present. Notice also that the Church only allows a man and a woman to marry. Not two men or two women or a person and something else. The necessity of a man and a woman shows complementarity in the union. God created man and woman as two parts of a whole. They are not identical but they are equal, they are not two separate entities but complements. The couple is the sign of equality and union, of complementarity and wholeness.

The couple is valuable on another level. The Sacrament of Matrimony is the only Sacrament in which the persons who are receiving the Sacrament are also the ones celebrating the Sacrament. The exchange of vows is the moment in which the Sacrament takes place. The exchange of vows makes the woman and the man the celebrants of the Sacrament not the priest. The priest is there as a witness to the Sacrament on behalf of the Church. The couple perform the Sacrament, they are its agents and its recipients.

The Rings

The exchange of rings is another necessary part of the Marriage Rite. The ring is a circle with no beginning and end. The lack of beginning and end means that the love is everlasting. The exchange of rings is the sign of the everlasting love shared between the couple. The rings also symbolize the exclusiveness of marriage. The couple marks themselves with this universal sign to say to everyone else, I already have a partner for life. During the Marriage Rite, the rings are blessed as they are now a sacramental, an item that pertains to the Sacrament.

Fr. Cody



Stations of the Cross
Wednesdays during Lent
Leaders needed

Sign up sheet in the Narthex

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



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 22nd at 5:15 PM

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

All are welcome!



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.

February 22: Hope

March 22: Love

April 26: Peace

Journey Gathering

February 16, 2026 at 7 PM, Our Lady of the Valley Social Center

Shine as light to the world!

Join us to greet the newest members of the Journey family. The Candidates from the Men's and Women's Journey weekends are invited to attend their first Gathering.

Come so that they may get to know what an amazing, faith-filled community they have become a part of.

Ice cream social to follow the introductions. Bring your friends and families!!!



Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending February 8th

Envelopes \$640.00
Loose \$115.13

Online \$385.00

Total Weekly Contribution \$1,140.13

Total Weekly Goal \$2,629.31

Monthly Summary

Week 1 \$2,483.00

Week 2 \$1,140.13

Week 3

Week 4

Total Monthly Contribution \$3,623.13

Total Year to Date \$118,248.02

Yearly Goal \$140,000.00

Scripture Readings



First Sunday in Lent

02-22-2026

Reading 1: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Psalm: 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17

Reading 2: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"The Eucharist is the heart of the Church. Where Eucharistic life flourishes, there the life of the church will blossom."

- Pope John Paul II

MASS	Schedule
Monday February 16	Mass 9:00a seminarians Adoration 9:30a 6:30p Ask a Priest Faith Night
Tuesday February 17	NO MASS
Wednesday February 18	Mass 6:30p (Ash Wednesday)
Thursday February 19	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Friday February 20	
Saturday February 21	
Sunday February 22	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p Parish potluck (Circle of Hope) 5:30p -7:30p RE

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, Mary Garman, Karen Simonich, Stover family

Ministry Schedule

Sunday February 22, 2026 4:30pm

Greet: Bleile Family

Altar Servers: Alex Weiss, Malikai Fisetto, and Brendan Estrada

Lector: Mary Ellen Schnur

Gifts: John and Missy Rauser

EM: Megan Bleile and Emmalin Fischer

Money Counters: Karee Reiman and Kristy Gersch

Don't let your mental health slow you down!



You are not alone. We're here for you.

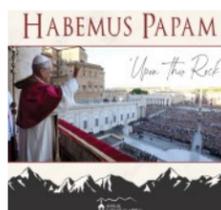
Your mental health affects your spirituality, vocations, relationships, and all parts of your life. Take care of it!

- ✓ Our therapists are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of your therapy, although it is not required.
- ✓ You can meet with a therapist in-person or online.
- ✓ Therapists specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, and marriage/family.
- ✓ Therapy is completely confidential. We'll walk with you on your journey to achieve your goals.
- ✓ Your consultation is free. Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, some EAP, and private pay (discounts are available) are accepted for additional sessions.



To get started:

Call us at (406)442-4130 or Message us at cssmt.org.



Annual Catholic Appeal

Holy Cross Parish Goal:

\$21,900.00

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

Faith Formation

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 @ 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.



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



Ash Wednesday

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

Do Catholics Worship Mary and the Saints?

Faith Night
Monday, February 16th
 6pm—Dinner, 6:30 pm—Presentation
Bring your questions!
All are welcome

Youth Schedule

2/15/26: RE Class (Praying with the Mass)

2/22/26: RE Class (What is Prayer)

3/1/2026: RE Class (Sung Prayer)

3/8/2026: RE Class (Memorized Prayers)



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 the 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. 15

JUNIOR HIGH #1 JUNE 14-19 *Girls Spots FULL	HIGH SCHOOL #1 JUNE 21-26
93%*	100% - Waitlisting
5TH/6TH GRADE BOYS JULY 5-10	HIGH SCHOOL #2 JULY 12-17 *Girls Waitlist FULL
87%	100% - Waitlisting*
JUNIOR HIGH #2 JULY 19-24 *Girls Waitlist FULL	5TH/6TH GRADE GIRLS JULY 26-31
100% - Waitlisting*	100% - Waitlisting

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!



HOLY CROSS PARISH BOOK STUDY

IMITATION OF CHRIST by Thomas a Kempis

Thursday, February 19th 9-11am

Open to men and women

Meet downstairs in the classroom

WE WILL REVIEW AND DISCUSS:
 Chapters 1-25 of the First Section
 (Chapters are short)

For more info: Please contact Marge Kroeger 406-293-0514

