



Holy Cross Parish

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 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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Townsend, Montana 59644



The Annulment process

The process of declaring a marriage valid or invalid is quite simple. It starts with a person approaching an advocate, usually their pastor, requesting to begin the annulment process. Then the advocate, the person who will work with the person and testify to the invalidity of the marriage, has the person fill out forms and answer questions about the marriage. The process can be challenging for some people as this part of the process can bring up a lot of hurt and pain. Yet, by reflecting on the challenges they faced in their marriage and being able to express it in words can bring a lot of healing.

After the paperwork is complete, the advocate will write a letter on behalf of the person and send in the paperwork to the Tribunal. The Tribunal is the office of the Diocese which oversees any cases related to Church law. Each Tribunal has a judge which oversees cases of Church law with the Bishop as the ultimate judge. In addition to the judge of the Tribunal, the Tribunal also has several canon lawyers who act in various roles. In the case of annulments and marriage laws, many of these lawyers act as defenders of the bond, reviewers of the case, or advocates. All of these people make their petition. The role of the advocate is to defend the desire of the person seeking the annulment and make the case for the invalidity of the marriage. The defender of the bond has two roles. The first role is to make their case that the marriage is valid. The second role of the defender of the bond is to ensure that the proper processes were followed including obtaining proper testimonies, filing the right paperwork, advocating for the correct type of annulment, and proper juridical processes. Once all of these testimonies and statements are collected, the judge reviews the case and makes his decision. The judge will decide whether the marriage is considered valid or invalid. A valid marriage cannot be annulled and therefore the person is not free to marry. An invalid marriage means that the marriage vows were not properly exchanged and therefore the marriage never took place allowing the person to be free to marry. The Tribunal rarely declares a marriage valid because that would end all possibilities of future annulments. Instead, the judge declares that the case lacks sufficient evidence to prove invalidity.

Once the judge has made his decision, the petitioner, the person who requested the annulment, can appeal the decision of the judge. When the decision to appeal has been made, then the case goes before the next higher court of the Church, for us this is the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Portland. At this level, the judge of the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Portland has the final say and the case is concluded.

This process may seem rather legalistic to some. Why are there processes and procedures? The answer is simple, to protect the sanctity of marriage. If we annulled every case that came to the Diocese, we are saying that marriages are easy to break and carry little weight. If we don't allow any annulments, we are not responding to the real needs of people and the challenges we face. This process holds in proper tension the sanctity of marriage and the real situations of people allowing both justice and mercy.

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



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.



Blessing bags are available in the Narthex. Please take and share them with someone in need.

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.

FEBRUARY 18-MARCH 29, 2026
INFORMAL KICKOFF 1:30PM
ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026
1500 CANNON STREET, THIS
CAMPAIGNS OPEN HOURS ARE 7AM
TO 7PM. SIGN UP FOR YOUR
PREFERRED TIMES AT
40DAYSFORLIFE.COM/HELENA



WE CHOOSE
PRAYER OVER
DESPAIR. PEACE
OVER SILENCE.
COURAGE OVER
COMFORT

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 22: Love

April 26: Peace

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

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, March 19th**. We are discussing the 1st section, Ch. 1-25. 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!

Don't let your mental health slow you down!



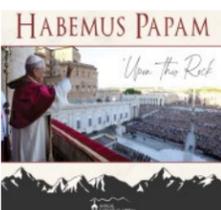
You are not alone. We're here for you.

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 49% of our parish goal, with \$11,075 to go!



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 8th

Envelopes \$1,555.00
 Loose \$70.00

Online \$391.24

Total Weekly Contribution \$2,016.24

Total Weekly Goal \$2,629.31

Monthly Summary

Week 1 \$1,674.38

Week 2 \$2,016.24

Week 3

Week 4

Total Monthly Contribution \$3,690.62

Total Year to Date \$127,430.23

Yearly Goal \$140,000.00

Scripture Readings



Fifth Sunday of Lent

03-22-2026

Reading 1: Ezekiel 37:12-14
 Psalm: 103:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
 Reading 2: Romans 8:8-11
 Gospel: John 11:1-45



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"If we did not have the adorable Eucharist here below, Jesus our God-with-us, this earth would be much too sad, this life too hard, and time too long. We must be grateful to the divine goodness for having left us this hidden Jesus, this pillar of cloud and fire in this desert,"

- St. Peter Julian Eymard

Mass	Schedule
Monday March 16	Mass 9:00a seminarians Adoration 9:30a Ask a Priest 6:00p
Tuesday March 17	Mass 9:00a Leona Watson rb JMJ prayer group
Wednesday March 18	Stations of the Cross 5:30p
Thursday March 19	Imitation of Christ book study 9:00-11:00a
Friday March 20	
Saturday March 21	
Sunday March 22	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p - 7:30p RE Parish Potluck (Circle of Love)

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

Ministry Schedule

Sunday March 22, 2026 4:30pm

Greet: Karen Susag
 Altar Servers: Alex Weiss, Lucas Bleile, and Brendon Estrada
 Lector: Megan Bleile
 Gifts: Fisetbe Family
 EM: Niki Weiss and Buffy Woodring
 Money Counters: Karee Reiman and Kristi Gersch

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

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

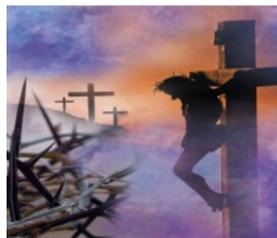


Youth Schedule

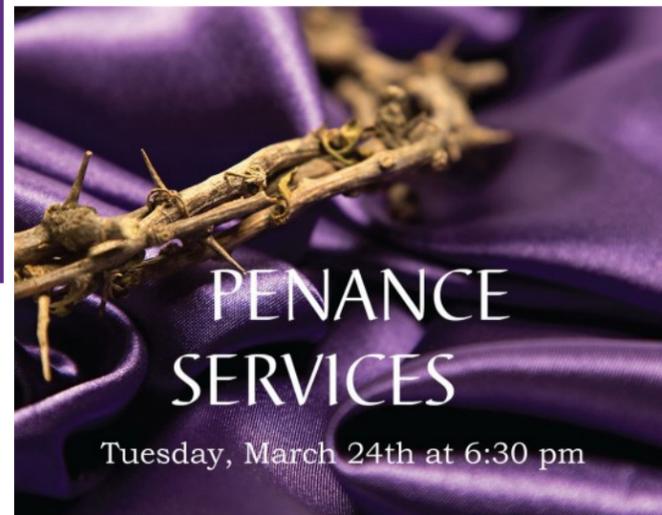
- 3/15/2026: RE Class (Personal Prayer)
- 3/22/2026: RE Class (Making time for prayer)
- 3/29/2026: RE Class (Finding God in daily life and Stations of the Cross)
- 4/5/2026: Easter Sunday (NO RE)

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.



Stations of the Cross
Wednesdays during Lent
5:30pm
No Meal will follow



PENANCE SERVICES

Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30 pm

WAYS TO DO LENT

Try one of these practices each day during Lent.

Feed the birds Do a chore without being asked Read a book for fun Enjoy some time alone Fast from junk food Write in a journal for fifteen minutes Go to Mass Donate foods you like to eat to a food shelf

Walk a pet for a friend Close your eyes and listen Sing at the top of your lungs Try a new food or restaurant Write a letter to God Pray Psalm 19 Write a poem called "Spring" Compliment a parent Keep the TV turned off for a week Make the Stations of the Cross Buy or plant a flower and care for it Listen closely at Mass Play cards with the old folks at a nursing home Go for a walk Draw a symbol of the resurrection Offer to babysit for free (on a Friday night) Clean your closet and give away forgotten clothes Visit a grandparent Walk instead of ride Tell a child a story Try not to use the internet for a day Daydream about your future Ask a relative to tell a story about when they were your age Pray the Rosary Get some exercise Give away toys you have outgrown Make a new friend Put your phone away for a whole day Make peace with an enemy Find eight signs of new life in nature Laugh Attend a service during Holy Week

Is the Eucharist *Really* the Flesh and Blood of Jesus?

Ask a Priest Night
 Monday, March 16th
 6 pm—Dinner 6:30—Presentation
 Questions Encouraged

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

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

MARCH 20-22, 2026
 CARROLL COLLEGE | HELENA, MT

FEATURING:

HIS EMINENCE
 CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN
 ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

BISHOP
 Austin A. Vetter

MOTHER
 Mary Clare, ACJ

AND MORE!

Register Now!
DIOCESEHELENA.ORG/EUCHARISTICCONGRESS

THE BISHOP CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

Eucharistic Congress will have dedicated junior high and high school tracks for the weekend. Junior high and high school youth may attend either with their parent/guardian or a Virtus certified adult chaperone. Please contact Shawna Wickens if your junior high or high school youth would like to attend, but will not be attending with a parent/guardian, so chaperones can be arranged.