



# Holy Cross Parish

Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 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



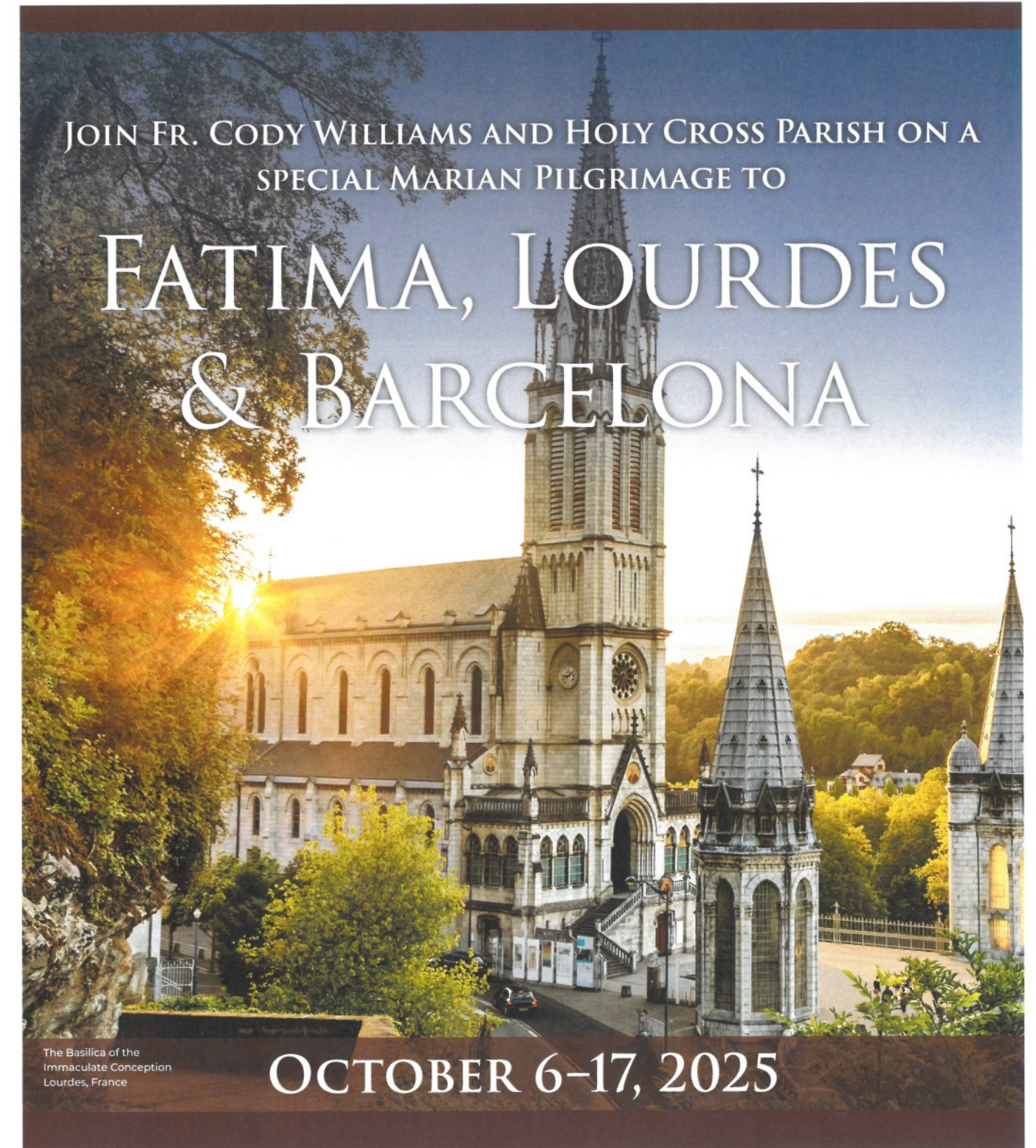
The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation has four necessary parts. The first necessary part is the confession of sins. Without the confession of sins, nothing happens. No absolution. No forgiveness. No Sacrament. These words may seem harsh or specific but they are true. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is effective only when sins are confessed. The reason for the Sacrament and the only thing the Sacrament of Reconciliation does is absolve sins. Priests are instructed that they are not allowed to use the prayer of absolution in two cases. The first case is when no sins are confessed. Without and sins confessed, we must ask the questions: what is the priest absolving? In order for the priest to function in his Sacramental role, the person must confess their sins. The second case is if the person is clearly not contrite for their sins. Priests are instructed to assume contrition unless the person shows an undeniable lack of contrition.

I spent considerable time explaining the importance of confessing sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation to illustrate the point that this Sacrament is about forgiving sins. This is not a chat session with the priest, a time for prayer or to ask for a blessing, nor is it for spiritual direction. The main core element is the power of Jesus to forgive the sins of those who come and to allow them a fresh start and a chance to know of the power of God in their lives. Often people are either scared to confess their sins or want to withhold them from the priest. One of Jesus' parables illustrates the depth of the power of the experience of this Sacrament. Jesus says "Two people owed a king a sum of money. One owed a huge amount and the other much less. The king decided to forgive both of them their entire debt. Which of the two loved the king more?' Peter responds, 'the one with the larger debt.'" Jesus makes the point to us that when we have the freedom to unveil all our sins and know that they will be forgiven, our love for the Lord grows. This Sacrament was given to us that we may have that freedom to unveil all of our sins without worrying about the repercussions of our sins.

The second principal part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is contrition. If we are not sorry for our sins, then why are we asking for forgiveness? Is it a vain desire to be free of the guilt or to feel that you are not longer bound by that sin? True contrition is very important for both the effectiveness and the experience of this Sacrament. The level of our contrition directly correlates to the experience of forgiveness. A priest can withhold absolution from a person who doesn't exhibit contrition. Although this is possible, the conditions for withholding absolution are quite specific. The priest generally assumes the person is contrite by coming to Confession. If, however, a person shows strong evidence that they either want to keep doing the sin, have no remorse for it, or do not see it as wrong, the priest could withhold absolution to help the person realize the gravity of their sins. Another important point is that absolution only works on the confessed sins and the ones for which the person is contrite. Even if the prayer of absolution is said, the Sacrament is not magic. It applies to those sins that the person has confessed and the ones for which the person is contrite.

Fr. Cody



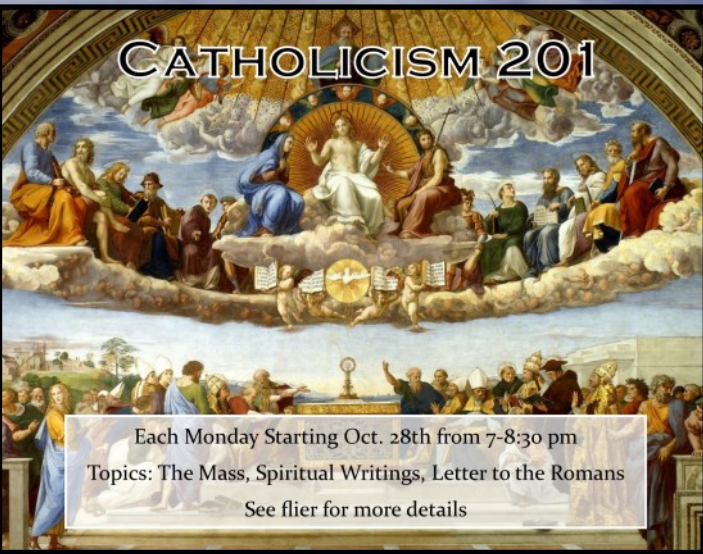
JOIN FR. CODY WILLIAMS AND HOLY CROSS PARISH ON A  
SPECIAL MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO  
**FATIMA, LOURDES  
& BARCELONA**

The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception  
Lourdes, France

**OCTOBER 6-17, 2025**



41780 W Six Mile Road, Suite 100  
Northville, MI 48168  
866.468.1420 | [info@ctscentral.net](mailto:info@ctscentral.net)  
[www.pilgrimagesbycts.com](http://www.pilgrimagesbycts.com)



Each Monday Starting Oct. 28th from 7-8:30 pm  
 Topics: The Mass, Spiritual Writings, Letter to the Romans  
 See flier for more details

The sessions are on Mondays from 7-8:30 pm. You can also join a livestream version on Thursdays from 5-6:30. If you would like to join, send an email to Fr. Cody.

We are in need of volunteers to help with RE dinner. Dinners will feed all ages of the youth and their families, therefore, we should plan on feeding around 80 people every Sunday. Please consider either providing a full meal (planning, purchasing food & cooking) or simply preparing/cooking a meal with food that the parish purchases, either help would be greatly appreciated. We encourage you to partner up with another member/family of the parish to help ease the burden of feeding that many people.



### 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. The rotation of the circles is as follows:

Sunday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> – Circle of Understanding  
 Sunday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Circle of Hope

We will cycle through the circles following the above schedule for the rest of the months of the year. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Fr. Cody.

The Holy Cross Quilters would like to remind parishioners of the Baby Essentials that were collected, along with a large donation of diapers, wipes & rash creams from Catholic Social Services of Helena.

If you know of someone in the community who could use a gift basket of these items, please contact the Holy Cross office:

(406) 266-4811

## Scripture Readings

Baptism of the Lord  
 01-12-2025

Reading 1: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7  
 Psalm: 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4,3b and 9b-10  
 Reading 2: Acts 10:34-38  
 Gospel: Luke 3:15-16,21-22

### 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

MASS	Schedule
Monday January 6	Mass 9a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 201 7p
Tuesday January 7	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday January 8	
Thursday January 9	
Friday January 10	
Saturday January 11	Chosen Movie Night 7p
Sunday January 12	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p

The new email address for any information for the bulletin or advertisements is [bulletin@holycrossmt.org](mailto:bulletin@holycrossmt.org)

# Faith Night

Exploring the issues of our times in the context of faith

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

For all ages. Free dinner

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and 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.  
TWO weeks in advance

### Ministry Schedule

Sunday January 12, 2025 4:30pm

Greet:	Bill and Mary Duede
Lector:	Debbie Miller
Gifts:	Mike Gagen and Karen Susag
EM:	Buffy Woodring and Tacy Swanton
Money Counters:	Karee Eichinger and Tacy Swanton



The Annual Catholic Appeal kicked off several months ago with our parish goal of \$21,900. So far we have raised \$7300. Please consider donating to this important campaign raising money for the important functions of our Diocese.



### 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).

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



"The Rosary is a prayer both so humble and simple and a theologically rich in Biblical content. I beg you to pray it."

St. John Paul II



SUNDAYS @ 4:00

JAN 12 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

JAN 19 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

JAN 26 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

FEB 2 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES



**We're Hiring!!!**

CSSM's counseling program is here for everyone with holistic, Catholic-based counseling and therapy. With over 80 clients from nearly 30 Montana communities served, it's time to add another licensed counselor to the team! Interested candidates can view the position description by visiting CSSM's website at [www.cssmt.org/staff-board/](http://www.cssmt.org/staff-board/).

## 2025 DATES & RATES

June 15-20 Junior High #1	July 6-11 Junior High #2	July 27-August 1 5th/6th Grade Girls
June 22-27 High School #1	July 13-18 High School #2	<b>CAMP RATES</b> Early Bird Rate: (Register in January) \$400  Standard Rate: \$425
June 29-July 1 Family Camp	July 20-25 5th/6th Grade Boys	

### REGISTRATION OPENS

January 3rd at Noon for families who live within the Diocese of Helena  
January 8th at Noon for families who live outside the Diocese of Helena

[legendarylodge.org](http://legendarylodge.org)

## Holy Cross Parish Finances

Week ended December 29th

Total Weekly	\$3,995.79
Budget	\$2900.00
Variance	\$1,095.79

Year to Date

Total	\$68,197.96
Budget	\$75,400.00
Variance	-\$7,202.04

THANK YOU FOR  
your generosity



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"All the good works in the world are not equal to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass because they are the works of men; but the Mass is the work of God. Martyrdom is nothing in comparison for it is but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man."

- St. John Vianney, Cure d'Ars

### 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, Bill and Marilyn Lane, Shanna Montonario, Kadence Saxton



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.

Since we moved to online giving about a year ago, we would like to know whom would like to continue getting and using envelopes for their offertory. If you do not contact the office by the end of the year, we will assume that you no longer want to receive envelopes.

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](http://www.kneh.org)

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

THANK YOU!

#### Pastoral Council:

Jesse Swenson  
Mary Ellen Schnur  
Karee Eichinger  
Michael Fiset  
John Bleile

#### Finance Council:

John Rauser  
Tim McAlpine  
Tacy Swanton  
Pat Miller  
Monica Benton