



Holy Cross Parish

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7, 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

Office: 406-266-4811

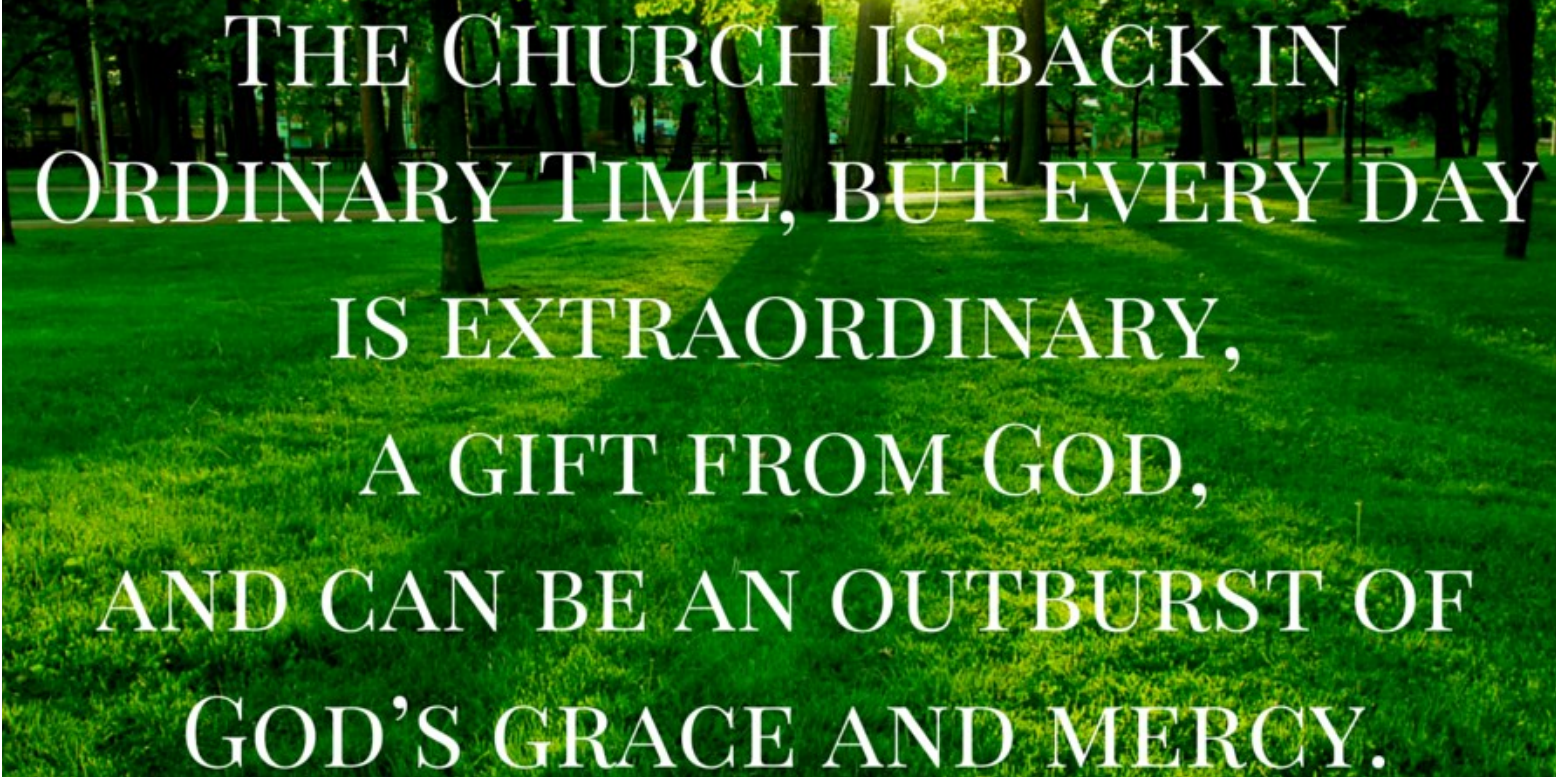
Email: office@holycrossmt.org

Shawna: RE@holycrossmt.org

Website: 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

The Rite of Ordination of a Deacon: Symbols

The symbols of the deacon, which represent his role, are made more obvious in the final parts of the Rite of Ordination. Now ordained and vested in the vestments of a deacon, he proceeds to the bishop's chair where the bishop hands him the Book of the Gospels. The proclaiming of the Gospel as well as preaching the Word are two of the main roles of the deacon. The words the bishop charges the new deacon with I find rather beautiful. He says: "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become, believe what you read, teach what you believe, practice what you teach." The Gospel is being handed down to this deacon not as a sign of faith but as a command to teach and preach. One of the roles of the deacon is to preach at Mass. More specifically the proper role of the deacon at Mass is to proclaim the Gospel. Whenever a deacon is present at Mass, he has primacy in proclaiming the Gospel even above a priest or bishop.

Following the handing on of the Gospel, the bishop exchanges a sign of peace with the newly ordained and all the deacons follow.

The next symbols of the deacon are far less obvious. Now the newly ordained takes his appropriate seat in the Sanctuary right next to the bishop. In the liturgy, the deacon is one of the primary assistants to the bishop, not priests. The deacon now takes on several roles. If this was not an ordination, the deacon would have started the Penitential Act, asked for the presider (priest's or bishop's) blessing before proclaiming the Gospel, and read the prayers of the faithful.

Now that Rite has concluded, we continue with the Eucharistic Prayer. The proper role of the deacon is to prepare for the Eucharist. If he is not present, a server sets up the altar. If no server, then the priest. So, the deacon sets up the altar and performs two actions specific to the deacon. He mixed the water and the wine. Then he hands the paten with the bread to the celebrant of the Mass. These two roles are expected of the deacon. Next he hands the chalice to the presider. His role is one of service to the Mass and assistant to the priest.

During the Eucharistic Prayer, the deacon kneels only during the Prayer of Consecration. In contrast, the people kneel from the Holy, Holy, Holy until the Great Amen, the entire Eucharistic Prayer. During the elevation at the Great Amen, the deacon elevates the chalice. The deacon is the proper minister of the chalice. Which means several things. First, he is the one to elevate it at the Great Amen. His proper role is to distribute the Blood of Christ during the Mass. Lastly, he can purify the chalices at the conclusion of communion. These are his proper roles.

Fr. Cody

Magnificats

It's that time of year again to start planning for next years Magnificat subscriptions. They offer regular print and large print. Regular print is \$39 each and large print is \$69 each. Please order and pay at the parish office. Orders are due by October 31st.

HELP NEEDED!

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex to volunteer to help with this event.

PARTY IN THE PARK

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12TH

STARTING AT 5:00 PM

HERITAGE PARK
FAMILY-FRIENDLY! ALL ARE WELCOME!!

GAMES, FOOD, MUSIC, MOVIE

TACO BAR & ICE CREAM SUNDAES

****OUTDOOR MOVIE STARTING AT 8PM!!**

SPONSORED BY HOLY CROSS CHURCH

NO COST!!

LEGENDARY NEEDS LOGS

FORTIFY THE LEGEND. EXPAND THE MISSION



Bishop's
Gala

OCTOBER 10, 2025

5:00 PM

CARROLL COLLEGE



To register for the Bishop's Gala go to
diocesehelena.org/bishopsgala

The Food Pantry needs our help! Twice a month the Food Pantry is open to provide food for those who need some extra assistance. Due to limited support for the weeks the Food Bank is open, Holy Cross will now help out during the months of February, June, and September. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, sign up sheets will be available on the table in the Narthex during those months or you can contact Paul VanHoudt. The Food Bank has returned to it's normal location.

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

Broadwater Food Pantry

PO Box 1164

Townsend, MT 59644

Thank you for your generosity!



THANK YOU!

- A special thank you to Karee Eichinger for her service as our Commercial Cleaner. We express our gratitude for your years of service cleaning our building and wish you the best in your next endeavors.
- A profound thank you to Geiser Services for their many years of service to our church. As a way to maintain the care of our building, I hired a maintenance manager to take the role of lawn care, snow removal, and general maintenance. Geiser Services will still be responsible for the care of the lawn at the cemetery. We thank them for the years of service to our parish.

THE DIOCESE IS HIRING

Director of Financial Services & CFO

The Diocese of Helena is seeking an experienced, creative, and operationally-minded financial professional. Competitive salary, generous benefits, fulfilling mission. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to serve the Catholic Church in Western Montana!

Sept. 15 priority

Full description & application details:
www.diocesehelena.org/employment

Come learn about the life of
Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk

Speaker: Deacon William J. White,
Postulator for Cause of Canonization for Nicholas Black Elk

Tuesday, September 23 @ 5:30 pm
St. Mary Catholic Community Social Center

A light dinner will be served
A free will offering would be appreciated

Sponsored by: Saint Mary's Catholic Community and Our Lady of the Valley Church

Please call the Parish Office at (406) 442- 5268 to RSVP



Thank you to all who donated items to the Holy Cross "Catholic Christmas" silent auction basket for the Bishop's gala. We had many wonderful items with an estimated basket value being approximately \$300. Any items donated that weren't included in the Bishop's gala basket will be held at the church and used for future fundraising events, such as the parish bazaar.

Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending August 31

Envelopes

Loose

Online

Total Weekly Contribution

Total Weekly Goal \$2,629.31

Monthly Summary

Week 1 \$2273.27

Week 2 \$1,514.78

Week 3 \$2,292.86

Week 4 \$2,962.80

Week 5

Total Monthly Contribution \$9,043.71

Total Year to Date \$20,493.26

Yearly Goal \$140,000.00

Thank you for your generosity

Scripture Readings



Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

09-14-2025

Reading 1: Numbers 21:4b-9
Psalm: 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38
Reading 2: Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel: John 3:13-17



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"As a man must be born before he can begin to lead his physical life, so he must be born to lead a Divine Life. That birth occurs in the Sacrament of Baptism. To survive, he must be nourished by Divine Life; that is done in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist."

- Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Mass	Schedule
Monday September 8	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday September 9	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday September 10	
Thursday September 11	
Friday September 12	Party in the Park community event 5:00p (movie starts at 8:00p)
Saturday September 13	
Sunday September 14	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p - 7:30p Parish feast day potluck

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.

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

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, Mary Garman, Don and Jenny Schaubert, Judy & Franklin Silfka

Ministry Schedule

Sunday September 14, 2025 4:30pm

Greet: John and Missy Rauser
Lector: Mary Ellen Schnur
Gifts: Tom and Julie Lethert
EM: Missy Cox and Buffy Woodring
Money Counters: Tacy Swanton and Bernadette Swenson

Faith Night

All our welcome!
Activities for both kids and adults!

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 begins at 6:30. Q&A at 7:00.
Holy Cross Church, Townsend—101 S. Walnut St.

First 2 Topics
Sept 22—Are all Saved?
Oct. 20—Faith vs. Science



Anointing of the Sick Mass
Sunday, September 28th
4:30 pm

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on this day. If you or someone you know could use the graces of this Sacrament, please contact Fr. Cody. Only those who have talked with Fr. Cody before mass will be anointed.

Ministry Sign Ups

As a new year begins, so do we continue to need more ministers. Please prayerfully consider ways in which you can help your church. Simply, fill out the ministry sign-up sheet with your name and phone number, indicate the ministries that you are willing to commit to for the next year or the ones you would like to learn more about, and either put them in the offertory basket or drop them by the office. We will not transfer names from the previous year. If you would like to continue in your current ministry, you need to sign up again. Thank you for your service to our church.

We need more homebound ministers. If this is a ministry that you are interested in or curious about, please contact Fr. Cody.

We need more money counters. If you are willing to help count the collection, please sign up on the ministry schedule.



There will be no Mass on Tuesday, September 16th

Welcome Niki Weiss!

Niki has accepted the job of Commercial Cleaner. We welcome her to this role and thank her for her service to our church. She is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of our building and taking care of general cleaning.

LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY
SUNDAYS @ 4:00

SEPT 7 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

SEPT 14 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

SEPT 21 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

SEPT 28 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES



Faith Formation

2025-26 RE classes begins after mass on Sunday, September 7th, starting with dinner at 5:30. Prayer begins at 6:00 and then everyone will be separated into family groups that will consist of youth from each age group and adult RE leaders. Each family group will participate in an activity together until 6:45 and then each grade level will separate into their individual classes for further discussion and activities. This year our focus is on the Sacraments, the Mass, and prayer. Once again, we invite parents and other parishioners to participate in the adult group at the same time to explore the same material that the youth will be learning.

To register for RE, scan the QR code below or contact Shawna Wickens. There is a registration fee of \$50 per child/\$150 per family max. There are funds available to help with registration costs if needed. Contact Father Cody or Shawna Wickens with any questions@ 406-266-4811 or re@holycrossmt.org



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 to the right. Thank you for supporting our parish youth!



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.

Our parish feast day is coming up on Sunday, September 14th. It is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross! In honor of our parish feast day, we are having a parish potluck after Mass. Bring your favorite dish and celebrate with all of us!



Youth Highlights

9/7/25: First night of RE (Baptism)

9/14/25 : RE Class (Eucharist)

9/21/25: RE Class (Confirmation)

9/28/25: RE Class (Anointing of the Sick)

Thanks to all the youth, parents, and grandparents who participated in our summer youth events. Not only did we have participants from our parish, but some from White Sulphur, Three Forks, and even Louisiana. We spent a day fishing at park lake, a day exploring baptism and playing in the water at Canyon Ferry Lake, and a day hiking to Memorial Falls where we discussed the Transfiguration and even got to celebrate mass on the mountain.

