



Holy Cross Parish

The Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 28, 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

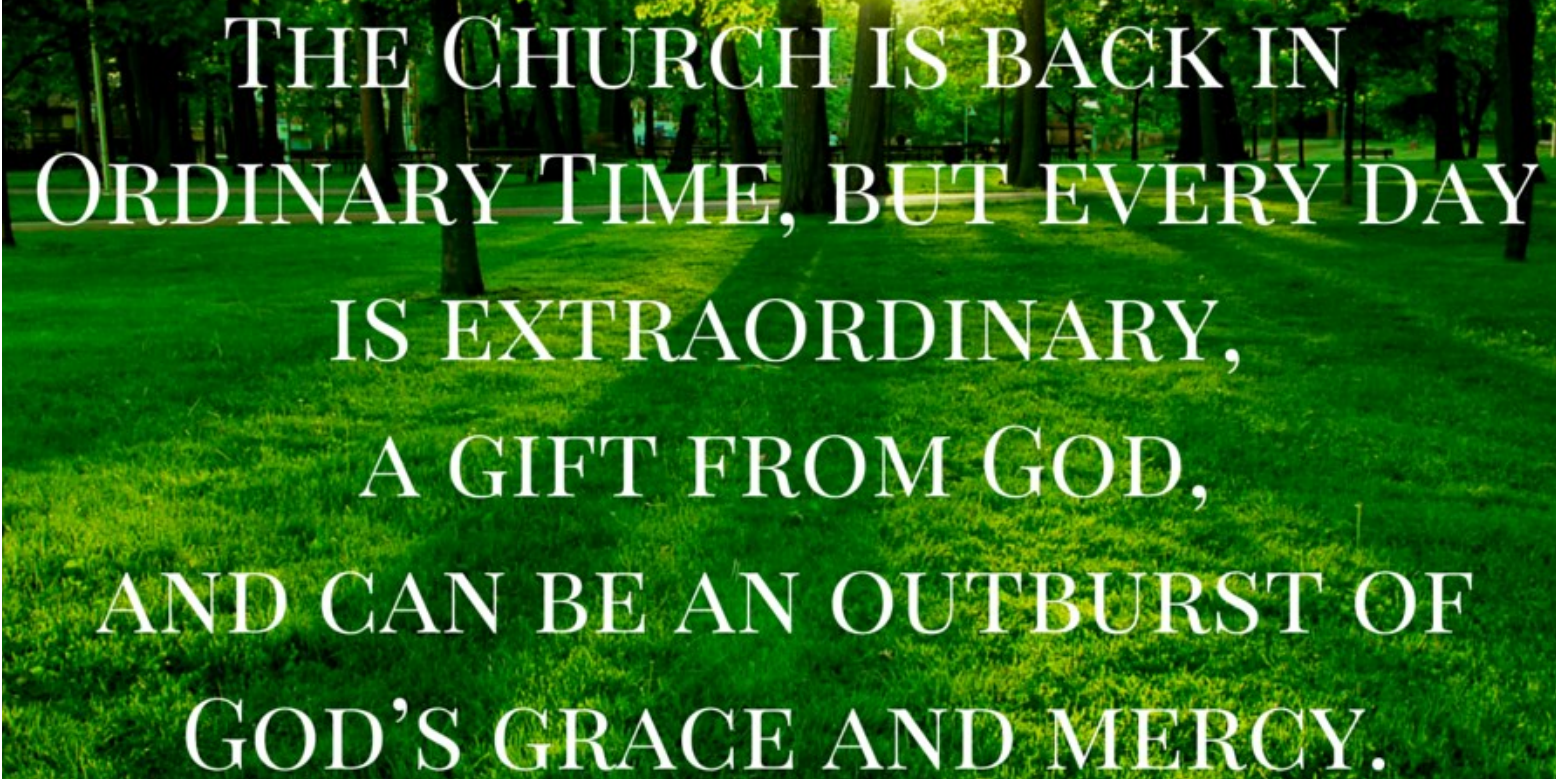
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Shawna: RE@holycrossmt.org

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

Basics of Catholicism part 103

How does someone become a deacon?

Before I describe the ordination rite for a bishop, I want to take some time to explain how someone gets to become a bishop. The first step is that he needs to become a deacon. We have two types of deacons: permanent and transitional. For this part of the series, I am going to focus on the permanent deacons. Unlike transitional deacons, permanent deacons will almost always remain a deacon for their entire lives. These men are usually married, their children have grown up, and now they would like to start a different type of service for the church. In most dioceses, the bishop requires any man who wants to pursue the permanent diaconate to have older children since service as a deacon is a huge time commitment. But every bishop sets their own rules regarding the requirements for the diaconate.

How does a man become a deacon? First, usually, he meets with his pastor to discuss the possibility of entering into formation to become a deacon. Formation is the process through which a man is prepared intellectually, spiritually, pastorally, and relationally for this service in the church. If his pastor agrees that he would be a good candidate and agrees to sponsor him, he applies to the diocese for entrance into the deacon formation program. In our diocese, the first year is called a propaedeutic or pre-year where the candidates get to meet each other, spend some time exploring the diaconate and ministry in the church, and discern whether they would like to continue. The formation program is usually about 5 years long and encompasses the study of theology, spirituality, the church, prayer and liturgical formation, practice in ministry, and coming to know themselves. The wives of the candidates also must complete the program with their husbands, unless he doesn't have a wife.

Once they have completed the 5 years of formation, they are called to orders. At this point, the bishop sends them an official letter indicating that he is willing to ordain the man to the order of the deacon. At a Mass of Ordination in the Cathedral, he is ordained a deacon for the service of the church. The deacon then assists the pastor or his bishop in sacramental as well as practical matters in the church. Following his ordination to the diaconate, he cannot be married even upon the death of his wife.

The life of a permanent deacon is quite different from a transitional deacon. Transitional deacons are those men who are studying to become priests and must be ordained a deacon before being ordained a priest. Since permanent deacons can own property, usually have jobs outside the church, and have families, they live more stable lives than a priest would. Bishops rarely move permanent deacons since they would have to sell and buy a house, move their families, and find new careers. Thus permanent deacons serve an important roles in churches by giving some stability to sacramental ministry as well as practical matters. Deacons can also serve as administrators of parishes, financial officers, OCIA directors, adult formation, and more.

Fr. Cody



Divine Mercy Academy is excited announce that we are hosting our very first Ignatius Book Fair! The Book Fair will offer a thoughtful selection of Catholic and curated secular works and we would like to invite the public to come! Tuesday, October 21st, from 6 to 8 PM, will be a Parents Only shopping night with wine, cheese, and other goodies. We would also like to welcome you from 4-6 PM on October 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. Please contact Carolyn Nealen (carolyn.nealen@dmamt.org) with any questions and/or with

Thank you to all the parishioners who volunteered at the Broadwater Food Pantry this month. Your kindness to our community is such a blessing!

Town Pump is matching monetary donations given to the food pantry from September thru November.

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

Broadwater Food Pantry
PO Box 1164
Townsend, MT 59644



This LEGENDARY ride could be yours! A generous donor gifted this truck to the Diocese of Helena for the benefit of the Legendary Lodge. It's been fully restored and is a classic vehicle to make your own!

Imagine yourself behind the wheel of this cherry red classic! As you drive it down the street, every one waves. Picture it featured in your Christmas photos, take it to the Farmer's Market, or brand it with your business logo ... this iconic truck is an attention getter!

All proceeds will benefit Legendary Lodge.
Don't miss this opportunity to own a CLASSIC!
Call or text 406-449-6658 for more information and a closer look.

- 1954 restored Chevy pickup
- 3-on-the tree transmission
- Oak plank truck bed
- White-wall tires
- AM radio
- Newly upholstered seat
- New brakes

Price \$35,000.

The Diocese of Helena is opening this opportunity to parishioners for two weeks before advertising this Legendary Ride to the general public. Buying this classic helps your Diocesan camp and gives you the coolest ride in town.



Find more photos of this iconic piece of American steel at
<https://diocesehelena.org/legendarytruck>

*black lab not included

Grief Support Group: COMPANIONS ON A JOURNEY

Beginning Monday September 29, 2025 1:00pm Saint Mary Catholic Community 1700 Missoula Ave.

A grief support group is a **SAFE** place to meet with others, **COMPANIONS** who are grieving. It is a place to **SHARE YOUR STORY**, your **TEARS** and your **HOPES**. Whether your loss is recent, months or years you may benefit from the **SUPPORT** and **SACRED TIME** with others on the same journey.

ALL ARE WELCOME who have experienced the loss of a loved one. There are times after a death when we need someone to talk to...we need to know we are not alone, others share our pain, our questions our concerns.

"We need others to root for us." Sheineele Jones

Facilitator: Helen Beausoleil, LCSW

Call Saint Mary's parish office 442-5268 and register or Helen Beausoleil 406-459-0948.

"The capacity to love requires the necessity to mourn."

LEGENDARY NEEDS LOGS

FORTIFY THE LEGEND. EXPAND THE MISSION



Bishop's *Gala* **OCTOBER 10, 2025**
5:00 PM
CARROLL COLLEGE

This **October 10th**, the **Bishop's Gala** returns with all proceeds to benefit **Legendary Lodge**. This will not be your usual Gala. Be prepared for camp sights and sounds, tastes and smells! Our theme is **"Western Glamping"**, so get creative dressing the part with cowboy hats and fun accessories.

Get your tickets, or reserve your table, today!

WWW.DIOCESEHELENA.ORG/BISHOPSGALA



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC Diocese of Helena

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. 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.

September 28: Love

October 26: Peace

November 23: Hope



If you are interested in joining St. Cyril and Methodius in their day of prayer outside Planned Parenthood on October 9th in Helena. Please contact Monica Benton, she has volunteered to coordinate with St. Cyril and drive a group of Holy Cross parishioners in.

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.

Adhering to the Diocese of Helena Safe Environment policy, Holy Cross Parish requires all employees and all volunteers who work in any capacity involving young people under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults to have had a background check and be Virtus trained every five years. Monthly online training bulletins are completed as well. Protecting our most sacred responsibilities—the children, youth, and vulnerable adults who have been entrusted to our care is of utmost value. To learn more or if you are interested in becoming Virtus certified please contact Shawna Wickens.

Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending September 21st

Envelopes \$2,355.00

Loose \$219.00

Online \$939.44

Total Weekly Contribution \$3513.44

Total Weekly Goal \$2,629.31

Monthly Summary

Week 1 \$8376.05

Week 2 \$2,506.29

Week 3 \$3,513.44

Week 4

Total Monthly Contribution \$14,395.78

Total Year to Date \$47,041.32

Yearly Goal \$140,000.00

Thank you for your generosity

Mass	Schedule
Monday September 29	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday September 30	Mass 9:00a Homebound
Wednesday October 1	
Thursday October 2	
Friday October 3	
Saturday October 4	Mass 9:20a No Adoration or Confession
Sunday October 5	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p – 7:30p

Welcome the Circle of Peace

Two of our circles are rather small and would like to merge. Therefore the Circles of Compassion and Understanding are merging into the Circle of Peace. If you have concerns about this merge or would like to join this circle, please contact Fr. Cody. The current circle members are as follows:

Circle of Love

Bakken Family, Bleile Family,
Boylan Family, Bill & Mary Duede,
Estrada Family, Terri & Emmalin Fischer,
Jill Flynn, Marge & Lewayen Kroeger,
Kucinski Family, Pat & Debbie Miller,
Iwy & Sharon Obrigewitch,
John & Missy Rauser,
Rachelle Rauser Family, Karen Simonich,
Carol Taylor, Weiss Family,
Scott & Shawna Wickens Family

Circle of Hope

Eichinger/Reiman Family,
Fisette Family, Larry & Kristi Gersch,
Holmes Family, Richard Majszak,
Chuck & Carole Plymale,
Poe Family, Janet Riddle,
Dan & Bernadette Swenson,
Jess e& LaReissa Swenson Family,
Karen Susag, Swanton Family,
Montey & Mary Ellen Schnur,
Rich & Cyrilla Vetsch,
Vince & Phyllis Vogl,
Arnold & Lorraine Woodring,
Larry & Buffy Woodring

Circle of Peace

(formerly Compassion & Understanding)
Missy Cox, Mike & Miscese Gagen,
Harold & Laura Gibbs,
George & Brigid Jenkins, Steve & Jay Kitt,
Bob & Gay Ann Masolo,
Tim & Jan McAlpine, Fran & Iris Wright,
Juanita Bray, Barb DeMartin,
Jack & Mary Garman, Marilyn Lane,
Tom & Julie Lethert, Terry Love,
Julie Van Camp

If you are a parishioner not listed in a circle and would like to join one please contact Fr. Cody or the parish office.

Scripture Readings



Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

10-05-2025

Reading 1: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
Psalm: 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Reading 2: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others."

- Pope John Paul II

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.

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

Ministry Schedule

Sunday October 5, 2025 4:30pm

Greet: Eichinger Family
Lector: Alex Estrada
Gifts: Pat and Debbie Miller
EM: Tom and Julie Lethert
Money Counters: Karee Eichinger and Kristi Gersch

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

There will be no Adoration or Confession on
Saturday, October 4th

There will be no Mass or Adoration on Monday
(10/6), Tuesday (10/7), Monday (10/13), or
Tuesday (10/14)

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted by
email to

bulletin@holycrossmt.org

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be
guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all the parishioners who helped with our
parish community event! It was a great opportunity to reach out
and be present in our community!



Faith Formation

2025-26 RE classes began after mass on Sunday, September 7th, RE will be every Sunday after mass 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. Guided by 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.

Is there someone or something you would like
to pray for?

Well, our pilgrimage group is willing to take your prayers with us to these holy sites. If you would like us to bring your prayers to Fatima, Lourdes, or Santiago de Compostela, write your prayer on a small piece of paper and put it in the appropriate envelope on the info table in the Narthex. **You have until October 5th to submit your prayers.**



Youth Highlights

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

10/5/25: RE Class (Penance)

10/12/25: RE Class (Marriage)

10/19/25: RE Class (Holy Orders)

JUNIOR HIGH RALLY

"EXALTED IN HUMILITY"

October 25

A day of faith and fun for young people in grades 6-8. The day will move between prayer, talks, music, games, liturgy, and more.

Grades 6-8 | 10am-9pm
at Butte Central High School

COST: \$55
(FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE)

Information and Registration at:
diocesehelena.org/juniorhighrally

If your 6th, 7th or 8th grade youth would like to attend the Junior High youth Rally, please contact Shawna Wickens for more information and registration!