



Holy Cross Parish

The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 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



Marriage

Since we are on the topic of vocations, we will now enter into the Sacrament of Matrimony, one of the two Sacraments of Vocation. As the value and importance of marriage continues to dwindle in our society, many people are accepting the idea that marriage is merely a contract or a symbol of love. The Church, however, holds firm that marriage is a Sacrament, a visible expression of the desire and will of God.

Why is marriage a Sacrament and not a contract? Most people turn to the Old Testament as the defense of marriage as a contract. In the Old Testament, Moses established a contract between a man and a woman, between their two families, as the beginnings of marriage. This contract was to ensure the protection and safety of the wife as well as the continuance of the man's household, namely children. The goal of the marriage covenant was to keep the two houses united by the marriage shared between the husband and wife. The parents of the married couple would work to maintain this relationship since there were high costs for breaking the marriage including financial and social repercussions. Nevertheless, some wanted a divorce. Moses allowed a system for divorce both for the man and woman. Yes, women could divorce their husbands in Israelite culture.

As time progressed, the marriage covenant established by Moses degraded and became a mess. Women lost the ability to divorce their husbands except in specific cases namely the husband allowing it. Jesus enters into this sad development of marriage with his new take on marriage. Jesus makes a point that marriage was from the beginning, namely Adam and Eve, and is an unbreakable covenant. He says "because of the hardness of your hearts Moses allowed you to write a bill of divorce." He continues "if a man divorces his wife and marries another, he commits adultery." Clearly Jesus sees something different in the covenant of marriage that was not part of the original Jewish marriage enacted by Moses. What does Jesus see? What was the incredible value of marriage that made the covenant or pact unbreakable?

For the answers to these questions, we will need to spend some time in the Old Testament before we can appreciate the words of Jesus in the New Testament. Let's start with Adam and Eve. God created Adam. Adam could not find a suitable partner from amidst the creatures of the world, so God made Eve. Eve was meant to be Adam's helper, his companion, his realization of God's relationship. Eve was not just another human to Adam neither Adam to Eve. They were a special partnership that mirrored God's relationship with them. This "bond of marriage" between the first two humans created an equality and a mission. Adam and Eve were tasked with the care of the garden and the mutual caring for each other. True equality and mutual love.

Fr. Cody



You're Invited to Our
Fireside Gala
Saturday,
January 24, 2026
101 S. Walnut St., Townsend
Holy Cross Church.

Enjoy a cozy night out!

**Steak dinner with appetizers,
salad, main course, and dessert.**
\$50/plate
Seating times:
4:00pm, 5:00pm, or 6:00pm
Bring your own beer or wine!

For reservations
call: 406-266-4811
or scan the QR code

Proceeds go to Holy Cross Church




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.

January 25: Peace

February 22: Hope

March 22: Love



SAVE THE DATE

Please Join Us!

MARCH for LIFE

January 16, 2026



11:30am at the State Capitol Rotunda

This year's Keynote Speaker is Kristan Hawkins, CEO of the Pro-Life Generation and President of Students for Life of America and Students for Life Action. She is a frequent speaker and analyst on the topics of abortion, feminism and disability advocacy. She has spent nearly two decades building a national network of more than 1500+ campus Students for Life groups in all 50 states.


She hosts "The Kristan Hawkins Show" weekly and discusses trending news items from a pro-life perspective. Her writings and interviews have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Fox News, CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC, Newsweek, and NPR.

In addition to what is sure to be an informative and inspiring presentation by our Keynote Speaker, additional speakers will provide updates on Planned Parenthood facility closures and the latest developments regarding dissemination of the Abortion Pill. There are also plans to honor the life and legacy of Charlie Kirk.

This event is sponsored by:



For the latest updates on this event, please scan this QR code to go to the ProLife Montana EVENT page



Holy Cross Parish Contributions	
Week ending January 4th	
Envelopes	\$1,372.00
Loose	\$127.37
Online	\$391.24
Total Weekly Contribution	\$1890.61
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$1890.61
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	
Total Monthly Contribution	\$1890.61
Total Year to Date	\$107,207.37
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00

Mass	Schedule
Monday January 12	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday January 13	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday January 14	
Thursday January 15	
Friday January 16	
Saturday January 17	
Sunday January 18	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30 - Knight's Dinner 5:30p - 7:30p RE

CATHOLIC JOURNEY EXPERIENCE:
ALL ARE INVITED!



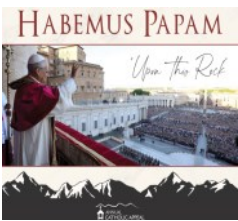
This is your opportunity to attend a 3-day weekend retreat seeking guidance by the Holy Spirit into a deeper experience of Christian community, prayer, discussion, reflection and enlightenment!

Women's Weekend held at St Cyril and Methodius, East Helena
January 15-18th, 2026

Contact: helenacatholicjourney.women@gmail.com 406-431-7577

Men's Weekend held at St Cyril and Methodius, East Helena
February 12-15th 2026

Contact: Helenacursillorector@gmail.com 406-431-7544



Annual Catholic Appeal

Holy Cross Parish Goal:

\$21,900.00

We have currently reached 35% of our parish goal, with \$14,175 to go!



Men's

SKI RETREAT

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

Join Fr. Cody Williams and other men for a weekend of prayer, skiing/snowboarding, and fraternal time. For more information go to holycrossmt.org/skiretreat

\$50
(covers food & lodging; lift ticket not included)

INFO & SIGN UP


Scripture Readings



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

01-18-2026

Reading 1:	Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Psalms:	40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
Reading 2:	1 Corinthians 1:1-3
Gospel:	Johann 1:29-34



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"God in his omnipotence could not give more, in His wisdom He knew not how to give more, in His riches He had not more to give, than the Eucharist."

- St. Augustine

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, Kammy Law, Don and Jenny Schaubert, Judy & Franklin Silfka, Mike McGonigal, Bob Moodry, Mary Garman, Bakkum family, Karen Simonich

Ministry Schedule


Sunday January 18, 2026 4:30pm

Greet:	Karen Susag
Lector:	Debbie Miller
Gifts:	Gagen Family
EM:	Shawna Wickens and Emmalin Fischer
Money Counters:	Marge Kroeger and Joy Haggard

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.

The Spring Series begins 1/26/26



LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY SUNDAYS @ 4PM

JAN 4 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES
JAN 11 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
JAN 18 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
JAN 25 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
FEB 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.




GET THE WINTER WIGGLES OUT

... Moms ... & Littles
Friday 1/16/26

11AM - 12PM
Piano & Songs

Moms with kids 4 and under
Come meet other Moms and get your little ones out of the house during winter. Enjoy piano sing along songs and lots of space to play.



Contact Natalie with questions/RSVP
849-200-2315
Location: Holy Cross Catholic Church (Basement event space)
101 S Walnut, Townsend



Celebrating MARRIAGE
WITH BISHOP AUSTIN VETTER

MASS // INDIVIDUAL BLESSING OF COUPLES // RECEPTION //

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH
CATHEDRAL OF ST. HELENA
6:00PM

BISHOP VETTER EXTENDS A WARM INVITATION TO ALL MARRIED COUPLES, FROM THE NEWEST OF NEWLYWEDS TO THOSE WHO HAVE COMMEMORATED OVER SIX DECADES, TO A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION.

EVENT DETAILS
BEGINS WITH MASS // RECEPTION TO FOLLOW // HEAVY APPETIZERS AND DESSERT INCLUDED // SEMI FORMAL ATTIRE // FREE CHILDCARE WHILE SPACES LAST // \$25 PER COUPLE

You can make a difference!

- Grab a baby bottle.
- Fill it with cash, check, or change.
- Return it to church.

Return by February 8th

Options clinic
Change for Life




Learn more or give online!



Faith Formation

Youth Schedule

1/11/26: RE Class (Liturgy of the Word and praying with Scripture)

1/18/26: RE Class (Coming to prayer with God's word)

1/25/26: RE Class (God's gift to us: The Eucharistic Prayer)

2/1/26: RE Class (Eucharistic Prayer Part 2)



Holy Cross Youth Ski Day

Friday,
January 23rd

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. Contact Father Cody or Shawna with any questions.



HIGH SCHOOL SKI RETREAT
WHITEFISH, MT

JANUARY 23-25, 2026

We invite high school youth in grades 9-12 and their adult chaperones to join us in a fun weekend of skiing, faith, and fellowship!

Whitefish, MT - We will stay at St. Charles Borromeo Parish and ski at Whitefish Mountain.

Location:
Cost:
\$50, plus cost of lift ticket, ski rentals, etc.

REGISTRATION AND INFO AT
diocesehelena.org/skiretreat




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.

Legendary Lodge
2026 CAMPS SCHEDULE

June 14-19	Junior High #1	July 12-17	High School #2
June 21-26	High School #1	July 19-24	Junior High #2
July 5-10	5/6th Grade Boys	July 26-31	5/6th Grade Girls

Registration for **families who live within the Diocese of Helena** opens **Jan 5th**. Opens for all other registrants Jan 9th.

Join us for Family Camp!
June 28-30
Registration opens March 2nd, 2026

Camp Rates
Early Bird:
(Register before Jan 25th)
\$425
Standard:
\$450




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 registration begins. Visit LegendaryLodge.org for camp registration.

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!

