

Stewardship

9-24-2023

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Weekly Income

Envelopes

Loose

Total

Holy Cross Monthly Expenses-September

City of Townsend \$173.41

Flocknote \$36.00

Spectrum \$144.97

NorthWestern Energy \$281.76

Geisser Services \$975.00

Cemetery

Cemetery Weekly Income

Short Term

Long Term

Grave Sites

Total

Cemetery Expenses-September

NorthWestern Energy \$76.65

Geisser Services \$725.00

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

THANK YOU!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"Every time I hear anyone speak of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or of the Blessed Sacrament I feel an indescribable joy. It is as if a wave of precious memories, sweet affections and joyful hopes swept over my poor person, making me tremble with happiness and filling my soul with tenderness. These are loving appeals from Jesus who wants me wholeheartedly there, at the source of all goodness, his Sacred Heart, throbbing mysteriously behind the Eucharistic veils... I love to repeat today 'Sweet Heart of my Jesus, make me love You more and more.'"

- Pope John XXIII, *Journal of a Soul*

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.

Dillon Armstrong, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, John Cooney, Jamie Severson, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, and Matt Keck

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Prayer Chain



Unless requested otherwise after one month prayer request names will be removed from the prayer chain:

Joanie Pritchard, Elaine Graveley, Bob Masolo, Dave Welch, Marie Hoeffner, Chris and Fran Wright, Ed and Jean Boucher, Mary Alice Upton, Jackie Kynett, Martin and Margy Clark, Clara Boster, Shanna Montonario, Gene Determan, LaReissa Swenson, Jenny Schaubert, Kadence Saxton, Laura Toeckes, Tom Arensmeyer, Jana Melling, Wally Johnston, Kay Clark, Scott Scoffield, Bill Kearns, Tom Grewell and family, Alex Bakken, Townsend Community

Did You Know!

Most hospitals were started by the Catholic church. For centuries hospitals were opened and run either by religious or people. About 15 percent of all hospitals in the United States are Catholic hospitals. In some parts of the world, the Catholic Church provides the only healthcare, education and social services available to people.

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.



Holy Cross Parish

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 1, 2023

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



God as male and as father

No attribute of God has caused more confusion and challenges to people than using male pronouns for God and calling him our Father. Much of our confusion comes from the desire in our world for equality and the desire to destroy the negative qualities stemming from abusive patriarchies. In order to grasp both the value and importance of God revealing himself as male, we need to clarify a few major points. First, God is the fullness of both masculinity and femininity. As the fullness of both genders, he can express himself in any way he chooses. Throughout Scripture he uses examples of both his paternal and maternal nature. When he calls Abraham in Genesis 12, God makes a point that he will be a father to Abraham and protect him and his children along their journey. In the Psalms, the Book of Isaiah, and the Book of Hosea God uses maternal language to speak to his people like as a hen guarding her chicks, a mother suckling a kid at her breast, and a mother teaching her children to walk. These examples prove that God can relate to us in whatever way he desires.

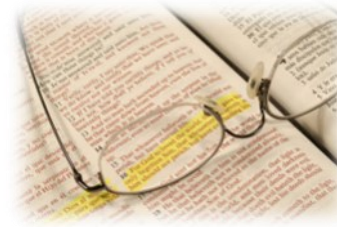
So why does God choose to relate to us as a father, as a male? The answer to this question makes more sense if we flip the question. Imagine if God related to us as a mother. What does that teach us about God and ourselves? Women have the unique gift of nurturing children within their wombs. Similarly women have a unique relationship with their children that they give birth to them, feed them, and nurture them. If God related to us as a woman, we must conclude that God gave birth to us, since that would be consistent with a womanly nature, and therefore we would be gods. This is ridiculous. We know that we are not gods. Similarly, God would always relate to us in the self-giving love of taking us into himself bridging the divide by our nature as other gods like God. This causes a series of problems.

Let's flip the scenario back to God as a male. Men are outward focused compared to the inward focus of women. Whereas men give themselves by giving of themselves to something outside of themselves, women give of themselves by nurturing inward. Thus God would give himself to create his greatest creation, us, by giving of himself to form something outside of himself. The image is Adam being created from clay and God breathing into his nostrils to give him life. We are not gods but creatures created by God. As creatures, God chose us, he called us, and he adopted us into his life. We will never be gods but are chosen by him to share in his life and love. Throughout Scripture this image is the most dominant image. God goes out to his people to find them and bring them in. He desires us like a stag running across the hills to find his doe. We are the reason for his self-giving love and the object of his affection.

Although some of us may not like the idea of God as male, the simple truth is that God wants to relate to us in this way. If we want to know him, we should ponder and pray over this revelation. God's revelation as male doesn't mean that men are better than women. Quite the opposite. It means that male and female are equally valuable and have a special place in God's place for creation. Each share in a special way in God's creative power and in the way we relate to and understand God.

Fr. Cody

Scripture Readings



Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
10-8-2023

Reading 1: Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm: 80:9 and 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20
Reading 2: Philippians 4:6-9
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43



MASS	Schedule
Monday October 2	Mass 9a Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 101 7p
Tuesday October 3	Mass 9a
Wednesday October 4	No Mass
Thursday October 5	No Mass
Friday October 6	OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday October 7	No Mass
Sunday October 8	Confession 3:30-4:15p Mass 4:30p Parish Family NO RE Bishop Vetter Visit

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and by email to office@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 October 8, 2023 **4:30pm**

Greet:	Bleile Family
Lector:	Marilyn Vandersloot
Gifts:	Wickens Family
EM:	Tom and Julie Lethert
Money Counters:	Juanita Bray and Karen Susag

Mark Your Calendars!

Schedule of Sunday Events:

- 1st Sunday: Family Night – Parish provides food free to all who come
- 2nd Sunday: Knights Dinner – each month the Knights raise money through their dinners to support various causes
- 3rd Sunday: RE and those adults who want to come
- 4th Sunday: Parish Potluck after Mass – all are welcome to come
- (5th Sunday: RE and those adults who want to come)

Reminder: Family Nights are for everyone! Please invite your friends, family members, random people you meet. These events are designed for anyone and everyone to be able to participate and grow in their faith. This year the focus is coming to know our humanity. Each week of the Fall will focus on the goodness of our humanity and how to live that in our daily lives.



Have A Seat!

Catholic Extension is giving us a \$30,000 grant to help get new pews. There is one catch. We must match the money \$2 for every \$1 they give us. Basically we need to raise \$60,000 by Dec. 31, 2023. This may seem like a daunting or difficult task. We have raised a total of \$54,247. We have raised \$25,000 towards the Catholic Extension matching grant. We have four more months to raise an additional \$35,000. If we raise the requisite \$60,000, then we will reach our goal of \$125,000. I ask you to be generous and help us get this incredible grant.

Catholic Radio Station for Townsend

We have the option of applying for, and possibly getting, a Catholic radio station for Townsend. The programming will be the same as Relevant Radio out of Helena except that we can add some of our own material. To help us get started, KNEH out of Helena is giving us the money we need to begin the project along with an antenna. The big question: would anyone listen to it? If you are interested in listening to our own Catholic radio station please reply to the Flocknote sent out last week or email Fr. Cody. We want to make sure this is something the community could benefit from.



Holy Hour at a new time and more time for Confessions

With all my schedule changes and other responsibilities, I moved the Holy Hour to the 4th Saturday of each month from 9 am – 12 pm. This is a great opportunity to come to the church, pray, and spend some time with our Lord. Also, I will be hearing confessions during these hours.

Next Holy Hour October 28th

Parish Service forms are available. Lots of help is needed! Please prayerfully consider how you will help you parish this year. Some opportunities are available in the new form so read it carefully. This parish needs a lot of support from all of you to continue functioning. Please be generous in your service of this parish. Parish registration forms also need to be returned. We are needing to update our new database with the correct information to publish a new directory. Please return by October 15th.

Created Good

Townsend Community Family Night

FREE DINNER

Let's explore the goodness of our humanity through activities and events that focus on being created in God's image.

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

1st Sunday of every month
5:45-7:00 pm

Holy Cross Parish Center
101 S Walnut St.

Topics:

Oct. 1st: What does it mean to be human?

Nov. 5th: Who am I?

Dec. 3rd: What is the purpose of life?

Catholicism 101

Do you know someone who is interested in learning about Catholicism? Would you like to know your faith a little better? Then, this series is for you!

Mondays 7-8:30

Starting Monday September 11th

Schedule of the topics on the bench in the entryway.

A livestream option for Catholicism 101 will be available on Mondays from 7-8:30 and on Thursdays from 6:30-8. Please invite your friends and family members who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. All are welcome!

The next topic is "Who is Jesus?" on Monday, October 2nd. The notes are posted on the website and a livestream version is available. If you would like to join the livestream version, send an email to frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org.

We are looking for volunteers to either provide dinner or help cook dinner for the RE youth, their families and other members of the parish who wish to attend. RE dinner time is on Sundays following mass from 5:30 – 6:00pm. Meals need to be ones that can be either cooked in a crockpot or cooked ahead of time and can be kept warm. Because dinners include all ages of the youth and their families this year plus a few extras from the parish, we should plan on feeding around 100 people every Sunday. Please prayerfully consider either providing a meal (planning, purchasing food and cooking) or simply just preparing/cooking the meal (parish supplies the food). We encourage you to partner up with another member/family of the parish to help ease the burden of feeding that many people. The following dates are needed:

11/19/23 and 12/17/23

You can sign up by scanning the QR code, visiting the sign up genius website at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849ABAB2AA4FBCF8-refamily>, by writing your name on the sign up sheet in the Narthax or by contacting Shawna Wickens at the parish office.



Bishop's
Gala

2023 Bishop's Gala Canceled

The Bishop's Gala planned for 2023 has been canceled but will be back in 2024. Bishop Vetter wants to thank those who generously attended last year's gala. He is looking forward to seeing everyone as he makes his third round of deanery and parish visits and adds Capital Campaign events to his calendar.

Bishop Austin Vetter and Bishop Jeffrey Fleming will be celebrating a **Red Mass** in Helena at the Cathedral of St. Helena on Wednesday, October 4 at 12:00 noon. Following Mass, there will be a luncheon in the Brondel Center of the cathedral.

A special invitation is extended to all judges, lawyers, legislators, government officials and law school students.

Blessings

There will be a Blessing Table beginning the third Sunday in October. If you would like any items blessed please place them on the table and Father Cody will bless them after mass. This will be available each third Sunday of the month.

Let's pray the Rosary

for the Holy Father, the
Church, Priests, all
Marriages, Families
& children



Sundays
4:10pm

We're looking for volunteers to lead the rosary to from the ambo in you on a rotating basis.. if interested, please text Karen at 8582297281



Oct. 1 - Joyful Mysteries

Oct. 8- Luminous Mysteries

Oct. 15- Sorrowful Mysteries

Oct. 22 - Glorious Mysteries

Oct. 29 - Divine Mercy Chaplet