



Holy Cross Parish

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 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

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Email: office@holycrossmt.org

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Website: holycrossmt.org

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Townsend, Montana 59644



Basics of Catholicism part 82

The Penance Service

One of the more common experiences of the Rite of Penance is the Penance Service. Actually, this form of the Rite of Penance is the fullest expression of this Sacrament and completes all the expected parts for a Sacrament. Let's walk through it.

Penance Services begin with a Liturgy of the Word. Often we dismiss or ignore this part of the Sacrament especially when a priest hears individual confessions. The Church recognized the connection between the proclamation of the Word of God and Sacramental actions in the life of Jesus. Before Jesus performed a miracle, he always preached the Word of God to them. The same applies during a Penance Service. The proclamation of the Word of God is a transformative experience which teaches us about the nature of God, the actions God did to secure our salvation and save us from our sins, and the ways we failed him and need mercy and forgiveness. Even in the celebration of individual confessions, the Church strongly recommends some connection to Scripture whether by a small recitation of a passage at the beginning or by using Scriptural passages as part of the advice that the priest can give.

The second part of the Penance Service is the examination of conscience and the communal Act of Contrition. An important part of the Penance Service is the opportunity for each person to examine their conscience and prepare for the individual confessions. Usually the priest, or another minister, leads the people through the basic sins and a reflection based on these categories of sins. The goal of this moment is for us to reflect more deeply on the nature of sin, the different types of sins, and possibly recognize some sins we didn't realize we were committing. Normally people focus on specific sins that they know are sins without taking time to pray and reflect on the movement of their consciences. Following the examination of conscience, the people say the Act of Contrition together. Since it was said communally, it doesn't need to be said during the individual confessions.

The third part is the individual confessions. The Church expects each person to go to a priest during this time and confess their sins. The Penance Service itself doesn't forgive sins. The priest, using the Prayer of Absolution, grants the forgiveness of sins to those who come for individual confessions. Reminder: the Church requires each member to confess their sins once a year to a priest. We are not required to attend a penance service.

The final part, and the one that is least used, is a final prayer and blessing at the end of the Penance Service. Most people bolt as soon as they have confessed their sins to a priest. But, the Penance Service anticipates that the people stay until everyone is done to show the communal nature of this service and the need to support each other in our fight against sin. The ending is very short: a prayer and a blessing. Yet, it emphasizes that the individual confessions are part of the Penance Service and that we are here to support one another.

Fr. Cody

QUILTING LADIES
2ND ANNUAL

BABY BASKET DRIVE

COLLECTION
SUNDAYS
APRIL 6-27

The Quilting Ladies are creating Baby Gift Baskets for expecting mothers and new mothers in our community. The gift baskets will be filled with essential baby and mother needs as well as fun items for the babies. Please donate only the items listed below.

NEW ITEMS ONLY.

A collection box marked "Baby Basket Drive" is in the narthex during the month of April. Sunday April 28 is the last Sunday for collecting items for the baskets. We will present the Baby Baskets on Mother's Day.

ITEMS WE'RE COLLECTING ARE:
(New items only)

BABY BOTTLES	BABY SPOONS
SIPPY CUPS	BIBS
BABY WIPES	BABY HAND SANITIZER
PETROLEUM JELLY	NAIL CLIPPERS
BABY BOARD BOOKS	SAFETY OUTLET PLUGS
CHILDREN'S BOOK	BABY BODY WASH
BABY BATH TOYS	BABY SHAMPOO
RUBBER DUCK	BABY BATH TOWELS
PACIFIER	THERMOMETER
DIAPER RASH CREAM	TEETHING RINGS
INFANT SOCKS	ONESIES
BAB WASHCLOTHS	BURP CLOTHS
BABY DISH SET	HOODED TOWEL PONCHO
BABY LOTION	FOLDABLE BABY PLAY MAT
BABY BLANKET	NASAL ASPIRATOR
NIGHT LIGHT	SOUND MACHINE



Bishop Vetter has promulgated the indulgences and Holy Doors for the Jubilee Year of Hope. You can go to the Diocesan website at <https://diocesehelena.org/jubilee2025/> or see the letter on the bulletin board.



PROTECTING CROPS FROM NATURAL DISASTERS IN BANGLADESH

Shahadat's village, and much of Bangladesh, is located on flat lowlands. The intense rainy season causes flooding that often destroys farms and crops. Find out how Shahadat learned new farming skills from a Catholic Relief Services program that enabled him

to increase the yield of his vegetable crops despite the challenges of climate change. Visit crricebowl.org/week-4 to read this week's Story of Hope.



Catholic Mental Health Counseling

CSSM's counseling program has served clients from over 20 communities in Montana and is ready to serve you!

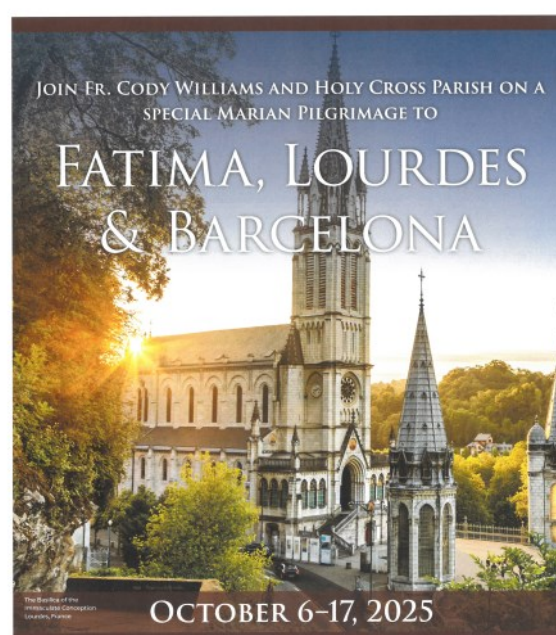
- Our counselors are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of any counseling session, although it does not have to be. They have experience with clients from many different backgrounds, cultures, and ages. We are here for everyone.
- We specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, 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.

JOIN FR. CODY WILLIAMS AND HOLY CROSS PARISH ON A SPECIAL MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO

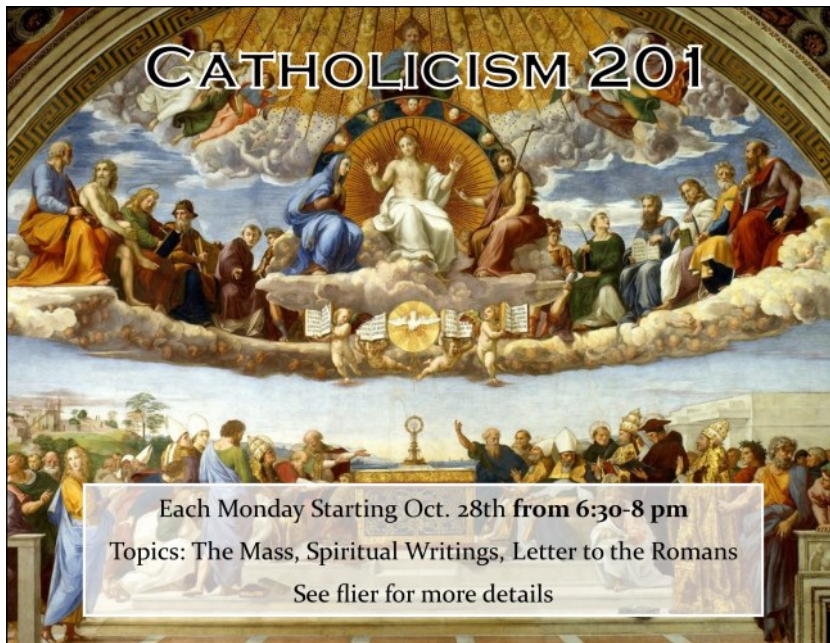
FATIMA, LOURDES & BARCELONA

OCTOBER 6-17, 2025



PILGRIMAGES
BY CORPORATE TRAVEL

41780 W Six Mile Road, Suite 100
Northville, MI 48168
866.468.1420 | info@ctscentral.net
www.pilgrimagesbycts.com



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.
 April 27: No Potluck
 May 25: Memorial Day Weekend—No Potluck
 June 22: Compassion

Scripture Readings

Fifth Sunday in Lent
 04-06-2025

Reading 1: Ezekiel 37:12
 Psalm: 30:1-2, 3-4 5-6, 7-8
 Reading 2: Romans 8:8-11
 Gospel: John 11:1-45

MASS	Schedule
Monday March 31	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 201 6:30p
Tuesday April 1	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday April 2	Stations of the Cross 6:00p Soup Supper 6:30p
Thursday April 3	
Friday April 4	Fish Fry 5:00-7:00p
Saturday April 5	Mass 9:20a Adoration and Confession 2:00-4:00p
Sunday April 6	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p

YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

4/6/25 RE topic: Discernment
 4/13/245 : Stations of the Cross for youth during RE class time
 4/20/25: Easter Sunday – **NO RE**
 4/27/285: Divine Mercy Sunday – **NO RE**



Stations of the Cross
 Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm
 March 12th—April 9th
 Soup supper to follow!

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

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and by email to bulletin@holycrossmt.org.
 Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed.
Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a
TWO weeks in advance

Knights of Columbus

When: April 4th
 Time: 5-7p
 Menu: Fish, Clam Chowder, Mac & Cheese, Potatoes, and Coleslaw
 Prices: \$15 per plate. \$6 for just Clam Chowder. \$4 for just Mac & Cheese
 Please reach out to Richard Majszak 406-980-1447 for any questions

The new email address for any information for the bulletin or advertisements is bulletin@holycrossmt.org

Ministry Schedule
 Sunday April 6, 2025 4:30pm

Greet: Bleile Family
 Lector: Mary Duede
 Gifts: John and Missy Rauser
 EM: John Bleile and Ales Estrada
 Money Counters: Karee Eichinger and Kristi Gersch



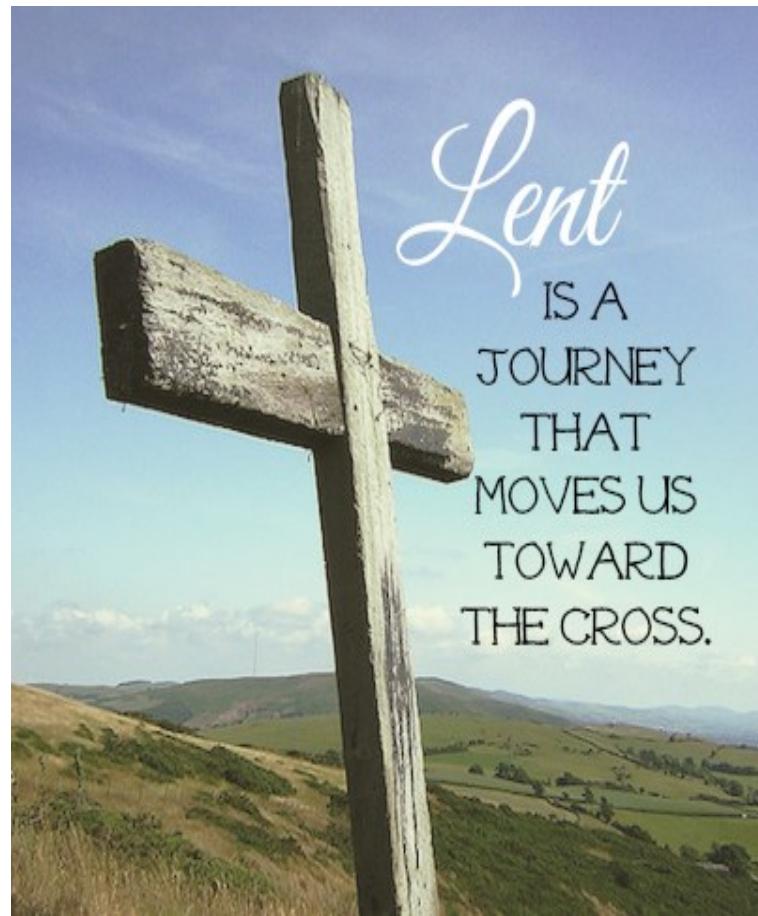
The Annual Catholic Appeal kicked off several months ago with our parish goal of \$21,900. So far we have raised \$10,650. Please consider donating to this important campaign raising money for the important functions of our Diocese.

Mass of Healing
for Survivors of Abuse and Trauma
THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH, 5:30PM
CATHEDRAL OF ST. HELENA
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC Diocese of Helena

On the third Sunday of each month a blessing table will be set up in the entrance of the church. You are welcome to bring any objects of devotion that you would like blessed and Fr. Cody will bless them after Mass. This will be available each third Sunday of the month. Please keep all your items to be blessed with you until the end of Mass. Once Mass is ended, Fr. Cody will come to the entrance of the Church and bless any of the objects that are on the table. Those objects that are on the table belong to the people who want them blessed and are not free for the taking.

Blessings

So, how many of you actually read this bulletin? I am thinking of changing the format of bulletin distribution to an email sent though Flocknote. Let us know if you would like this option by sending an email to:
bulletin@holycrossmt.org.



Thank YOU!!
Your church raised
\$1531.87!
Together, we are Offering Hope & Building Families.
optionshelena.org

Options clinic
Change for Life

Holy Cross Parish Finances

Week ended March 23rd

Total Weekly \$3285.74
Budget \$2900.00
Variance \$385.74

Year to Date

Total \$93,635.57
Budget \$104,400.00
Variance \$10,764.43

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"It is there in His Eucharist that He says to me: "I thirst, thirst for your love, your sacrifices, your sufferings. I thirst for your happiness, for it was to save you that I came into the world, that I suffered and died on the Cross, and in order to console and strengthen you I left you the Eucharist. So you have there all My life, all My tenderness."

- Mother Mary of Jesus, foundress of the Sisters of Marie Reparatrice

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



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, Judy Butler, Brian Roher and family, Isaac Hyde, Bob Masolo, Marj Kohn, Kris Sullivan

SPRING BAZAAR

Saturday, April 26 4-7 PM

Ham dinner with scalloped potatoes and green beans, relish tray and dessert!

Cost: \$30.00 for immediate family
\$15.00 for single adult
\$10.00 for students
Under 4 Free

Raffle Tickets \$5 Each or 5 for \$20:

Raffle Prizes: 26" Heyride E-Bike, Airhead Airhead Towable Wake Shocker, Blast Towable Tube, Fiji Float Non-Towable,



River Otter River Tube



Silent Auction,

Gift Certificate Table,

Activity area for children

KEEP CALM PRAY FAST GIVE ALMS

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.

Pastoral Council:

Jesse Swenson
Mary Ellen Schnur
Karee Eichinger
Michael Fisette
John Bleile

Finance Council:

John Rauser
Tim McAlpine
Tacy Swanton
Pat Miller
Monica Benton