



Holy Cross Parish

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2024

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



The Eucharist

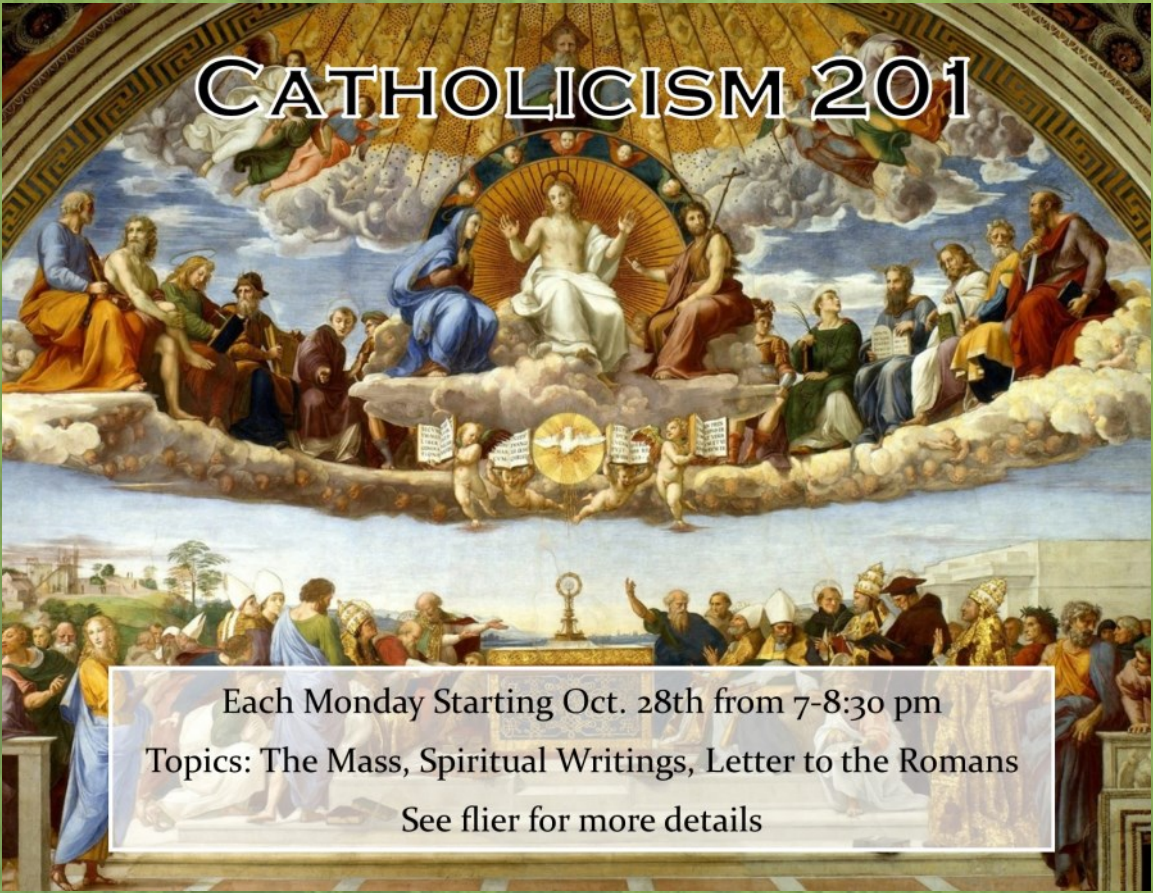
As we are nearing the end of the Bishops’ initiative for a Eucharistic revival in the United States, it’s time to deepen our understanding of the importance and gravity of this Sacrament. The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the final step in the initiation process and the only Sacrament that people routinely receive. Additionally, I argue that it’s one of the most misunderstood of all the Sacraments.

The final step in the initiation process

The last two parts of this series focused on two of the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism and Confirmation. Baptism as a Sacrament of Initiation is easy for people to understand since its symbolism is directly related to entering the Church. Many people understand the Sacrament of Confirmation as a graduation or final stage in the life of a Catholic. Both of these understandings lead to the Confirmation as just another step or a process of entering more fully into the Church. If we put these Sacraments back into the original order of the early church, their proper theology and placement in the life of a Christian emerge. Baptism is the first step through which someone becomes a member of the Church. The process of washing with water and becoming a new person in Christ evidences this entrance into the Church. Confirmation is the next step in the process through which a person is sealed with the graces of the Holy Spirit and given the mission of the Church. Therefore Baptism prepares the person for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Another way to think of this process is Baptism makes a person one with Christ and Confirmation joins them to Pentecost and the mission of the Church. What’s next? What’s the sign of full entry and oneness with Jesus? The answer is simple: The Eucharist. The Eucharist is the final step in the initiation process since it completes the signs through its symbols. The sign of entry into and living life in the Church is a union with Jesus. What better sign of this union than to receive and consume the Body and Blood of Jesus. Since the early Church, the Church has always understood the Eucharist as the consummation of the mysteries begun in Baptism and Confirmation and a sign of full union with the Church.

The order of the Sacraments of Initiation as Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation is a modern and western invention. With the goal of better training in the faith for the youth, the bishops moved the Sacrament of Confirmation to the high school years and Eucharist to elementary school years. Many bishops are moving back to the original model. One of the primary reasons for the transition back to the “restored order” is to provide the graces these children need at pivotal points in their lives like high school. Why should we be denying them these graces just because we want them to mature a little more? The second reason, one most people don’t realize, is that there is no rite for 1st Communion. We never needed to create one because the time you would receive 1st Communion was always connected with Confirmation. The Church never intended for 1st Communion to be separated from Confirmation to begin with. We changed this process for the sake of a hopeful desire for greater maturity and training in the faith before the final stages of initiation and life as a Catholic.

Fr. Cody



A PRAYER FOR CATECHISTS

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.

Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

JOIN US FOR

THE FILM SCREENING OF

UNTHINKABLE

AN ABBY JOHNSON FILM



TO WATCH THE TRAILER, VISIT: UNTHINKABLEDOC.COM

SCAN TO BUY TICKETS





SEPTEMBER 20 | 6:30PM

BRIDGE ASSEMBLY


A generous donor has decided to give \$5000 a year to help us reach our goal for the Diocesan Capital Campaign. Additionally, this generous donor is willing to give an additional \$5000 year if the parish can collectively raise an additional \$5000 a year pledge to the campaign. If we succeed at raising the additional \$5000, we will reach \$125,000 for the campaign and an additional \$30,000 in money will come back to the parish to help with building projects, faith formation, and our endowments with the Diocese. Please consider making a gift to the campaign if you have not already made a pledge.

CYC Kickball Tournament is in Townsend this year on September 22nd. Co-ed teams of 8-12 players of all ages (over the age of 7) are welcome to participate. It would be great if we could get some teams from Holy Cross to participate.

Here is a link to all the info:

<https://diocesehelena.org/kickball/>

If there are individuals or teams that would like to participate to please contact Shawna via the office, her email is(re@holycrossmt.org) or phone (406-594-3714) so she can get all the appropriate paperwork gathered and get registered.



Montana Catholics For Life

Beyond its attempt to wrongly enshrine abortion as a right in Montana, CI-128 would eliminate parental notification of an abortion for girls under 16. The Montana Parental Notification of Abortion Act would be rendered unconstitutional if CI-128 passes. This undermines families and is extremely dangerous.

Abortion proponents say eliminating parental notification is necessary to protect girls who are unsafe at home or have a medical emergency requiring an abortion. This is simply not true; there are existing legal protections for those circumstances.


Catholics can share the facts about the Montana Parental Notification of Abortion Act and why it should be protected.

- In Montana, at least 48 hours before performing an abortion on a girl who is under 16 years old, abortionists are required to notify her parents, with the following exceptions:*
 - Judicial Bypass: A minor may seek permission from the court to bypass parental notification. The court grants this permission by determining that the minor is mature enough to act independently or that notifying the parents is not in the minor's best interest.*
 - Medical Emergency cases: In cases where an abortion has been determined necessary to protect the minor's health during a medical emergency, and delaying the procedure to notify the parents would pose a serious risk, the notification requirement can be waived.*

We do not support abortion, and we don't need to agree with current law, but we have an obligation to inform others that CI-128 is incredibly divisive and dangerous because it would provide abortions to young girls and keep it a secret from their parents. The responsible decision is to protect young girls and their parents and to vote "no" on CI-128 in November.


Join our Montana Bishops as we stand for every child's right to life, the dignity of each mother, and the sanctity of the family.

"Mother of Life" is by nationally known artist, Nellie Edwards. All Rights reserved. See story of artwork: www.PaintedFaith.NET




LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY


FOR THE POPE, CHURCH, PRIEST, FAMILIES, CHILDREN & FOR THE WHOLE WORLD



"The Rosary is the Weapon."

SAINT PADRE PIO





SUNDAYS @ 4:00


~~SEPT 7 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES~~

~~SEPT 8 - LUSTEROUS MYSTERIES~~

SEPT 15 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

SEPT 22 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

SEPT 29 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES



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.

Scripture Readings



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9-22-2024

Reading 1: Wisdom 2:12,17-20
Psalm: 54:3-4,5,6-8
Reading 2: James 3:16-4:3
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37



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

office@holycrossmt.org

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a

TWO weeks in advance

MASS	Schedule
Monday September 16	No Mass No Adoration Monte Armstrong funeral 11a
Tuesday September 17	No Mass
Wednesday September 18	No Mass
Thursday September 19	No Mass
Friday September 20	No Mass
saturday September 21	Mass 9a
sunday September 22	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30-7:15p Parish Potluck CYC Kickball Tournament

Ministry Schedule

Sunday September 22, 2024 4:30pm

Greet: Eichinger Family
Lector: Karen Simonich
Gifts: Tom Aced and [REDACTED]
EM: Tom and Julie Lethert
Money Counters: Bernadette Swenson and Sara Holmes



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.

We are in need of volunteers to help with RE dinner. Dinners will feed all ages of the youth and their families, therefore, we should plan on feeding around 80 people every Sunday. Please consider either providing a full meal (planning, purchasing food & cooking) or simply preparing/cooking a meal with food that the parish purchases, either help would be greatly appreciated. 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: 9/29/24, 10/13/24, 11/3/24, 11/10/24, 12/1/24 & 12/8/24



RE will continue to be on Sunday evenings following mass with dinner from 5:30-6:00p and prayer time & class to follow which will conclude at 7:15p for ages preschool - 5th grade. Middle school and high school youth will end with additional prayer time to conclude at 7:30p. Cost of RE this year is \$50/child with a family max of \$150. We want all youth involved in RE and do not want the registration fee to be a burden so please contact Father Cody with any concerns about payment. Scan the QR code to register your child online.



Help needed:

The following tasks are some areas around the church that need attention. If you are willing to work on or complete these tasks, please contact Fr. Cody.

Spraying for bugs

Repainting the parking stripes and stop bars

Weeding around the building or spraying for weeds

Trimming the hedge

Cleaning the gutters

Replacing the rusted sleeve on the vent

Reminder: The Bishops of Montana have asked us to abstain from meat or some other pleasure on Wednesday until the end of election season as a way to reject CI-128. If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Upcoming Funeral

Monty Armstrong: Monday, September 16th at 11 am in the parish center.

Reminder: Mass will be downstairs in the parish center for the next three weekends. If you are available to help with set-up and clean -up after Mass, we could use some extra help.

On Saturday, September 21st we will celebrate a Mass at 9 am.

Ministry Sign-ups

In the pews are ministry sign-up sheets. I encourage everyone to read through the various ministries offered by our parish and choose at least one to participate in this next year. We need a lot of help in a variety of ways including lectors, eucharistic ministries, laundry, and greeters. Please consider a way that you can serve God and your parish. If you are interested in something that is not on that sign-up sheet, contact Fr. Cody. Please return all forms by the end of September.

Holy Cross Parish Finances

Week ended September 8th

Total Weekly	\$
Budget	\$2902.00
Variance	

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY

This year the Finance Council approved a budget with a much higher amount of income needed to sustain the parish. This needed increase in income is largely due to increased in costs such as insurance premiums and needed supplies for the parish. As a way to clarify our need for more income, I will list in each bulletin the amount of money we brought in through the offertory and the amount deficit or surplus from our goal. The goal for the year is \$148,000 with an average amount each week of \$2902. I realize that reaching this goal seems like a challenge. But I believe we can achieve this goal and provide for the good of our parish. After hearing from several people about the financial column, I decided that listing the expenses became too confusing. Therefore, in September, I am going to publish the annual budget that the Finance Council approved in the bulletin so that everyone can see the annual expenses and the way we spend our money. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Cody or speak with one of the Finance Council members.

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

THANK YOU!



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"I adore and venerate you as much as ever I can, though my love is so cold, my devotion so poor. Thank you for the good gift of this your holy Body and Blood, which I desire to receive....,"

- *St. Anselm (Archbishop and Doctor of the Church)*

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



Bob Masolo, Fran Wright, Ed and Jean Boucher, Martin and Margy Clark, Shanna Montonario, LaReissa Swenson, Jenny Schaubert, Kadence Saxton, Tom Grewell and family, Millie Sullivan, J.L. and Janet Jones, Vince Boster, Paulette Obrigewitch, Nicole Ito, Bill and Marilyn Lane

Did you know?

In Cameroon a civil war has ravaged the country killing around 6000 and displacing over a million people. In the midst of this conflict Eucharistic Adoration has surged. Although the streets are patrolled and controlled by guerrilla warfare, people have boldly left their homes, endured the harassment, and the threat of violence just to come to the churches for Adoration. Catholics, Presbyterians, Baptists, and Pentecostals fill every hour of the day with adorers.

Fr. Etim Lambert says "Especially in this time because there are so many corpses that they see, there is so much hatred thrown around, and they ask "God, where are you?" And in the Sacrament of Eucharist, the Bamenda man can actually find God in a certain still, calm way."

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.