

## Stewardship

12-3-2023

Holy Cross

### Holy Cross Weekly Income

Envelopes	\$2,170.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Stole	\$300.00
Restricted	\$500.00
Loose	\$132.00
Total	\$3,202.00

### Holy Cross Monthly Expenses-November

City of Townsend	\$173.41
Spectrum	\$144.97
NorthWestern Energy	\$561.64
MT Energy Alliance	\$1,730.37
Broadwater County Treasurer	\$1,773.56
Flocknote	\$36.00
Broadwater County News	\$102.00
Magnificat	\$552.00

### Cemetery

#### Cemetery Weekly Income

Short Term	\$100.00
Long Term	
Grave Sites	
Total	\$100.00

#### Cemetery Expenses-November

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

THANK YOU!



### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"The Eucharist began at Bethlehem in Mary's arms. It was she who brought to humanity the Bread for which it was famishing, and which alone can nourish it. She it was who took care of that Bread for us. It was she who nourished the Lamb whose life-giving Flesh we feed upon,"

- St. Peter Julian Eymard

### 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:

Elaine Graveley, Bob Masolo, Chris and Fran Wright, Ed and Jean Boucher, Mary Alice Upton, Martin and Margy Clark, Clara Boster, Shanna Montonario, LaReissa Swenson, Jenny Schaubert, Kadence Saxton, Tom Grewell and family, Alex Bakken, Millie Sullivan, JL and Janet Jones, Vince Boster, Paulette Obrigewitch, Nicole Ito



### Did You Know!

Often we get criticism for "adopting" the pagan ritual of bringing tree branches and trees indoor during the winter or season of Advent and Christmas. The criticism is that we adopted pagan customs. The fact that most people ignore is that God created the universe and made everything that is good. If the pagan tradition of bringing evergreen branches contained something good – the hope of eternal life and the awaiting the joy of spring – then we should adopt it as it matches with the eternal truths of awaiting God's return and the hope of new life that comes through Jesus' birth, death, and Resurrection. The Catholic Church is malleable enough to adopt customs an cultures that are good and express the same ideas as our faith.

**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.**



Second Sunday of Advent

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

# Holy Cross Parish

December 10, 2023

Fr. Cody Williams, Pastor Email: frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org

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Townsend, Montana 59644

## Christmas Schedule:

Since Christmas falls on Monday this year, this schedule is a little complicated. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent officially ends at 4:30 pm on Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and Christmas begins.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec. 23rd:**

**Confession 9a-12p and 3:30-4:15p**

**Mass 4:30p**

**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th:**

**Confession 8p**

**Mass 9p**

**Christmas Day, Dec. 25th:**

**Mass 8a**



Who is Jesus?

The next few controversies that the Church wrestled with can be complicated if not confusing. Instead of explaining the theology behind them, I am going to use the biblical examples that led to their declaration. Following from the conclusion from the Council of Nicaea that Jesus is 100% human and 100% divine, the Church wrestled with Jesus' human and divine will and with his mode of operation, i.e. whether he acts human or divine.

Some claimed that Jesus was fully human and fully divine but only visibly. His mind and soul were really divine and he functioned or operated as God not as human. Many examples throughout Scripture attest to Jesus' humanity **and** his divinity. When Jesus was on the boat with his disciples during the storm, he fell asleep. When Lazarus died, Jesus wept. When he was tired from the long day, he was hungry and thirsty. All of these examples attest to Jesus' humanity. In the same way, his desire for his father, his ability to perform miracles, his knowledge about the things of God attest to his divinity. From these examples of Jesus' life, we already see the complementarity and union of the divinity and humanity in Jesus. They are not mixed in some weird demi-god but instead discrete and separate yet also united.

The second one is complicated. Did Jesus will or have the power of choose anything but that from the desires of his divine will? Did he will as a human, as God, or as both? St. Maximus the Confessor settled this debate through his reflection on Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. While Jesus was at prayer with his disciples before his crucifixion, he was struggling between his human and divine will. His human will, naturally, wants to live, not suffer, and be shielded from pain. His divine will wants the salvation of the world and the will of his Father to come to completion. As he wrestles with these two wills that are at odds with each other, we see that Jesus has a full human will and a full divine will which are brought into conformity through his prayer. Jesus has a divine and human will which are separate but united in him. He doesn't have some strange mix between the two but two separate wills that work together in Jesus to make the will of his Father done.

If you took a moment to think about these theological points, I think you would realize that they make sense. If Jesus is 100 % human and 100 % divine, we should expect him to have a human and divine will and mind. In order to be human, we must think and will as a human. In order to be divine, he must think and will as a God.

Fr. Cody

*Scripture Readings*



Third Sunday of Advent  
12-17-2023

Reading 1: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
Psalm: Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28



MASS	Schedule
Monday December 11	Mass 9a First Responders Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 101 7p
Tuesday December 12	Mass 9a Coralee Horne RB Mary Alice Upton
Wednesday December 13	No Mass
Thursday December 14	No Mass
Friday December 15	No Mass
Saturday December 16	No Mass
Sunday December 17  Third Sunday of Advent	Confession 3:30-4:15p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30-7:15p  Blessing table in the narthex

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and by email to [office@holycrossmt.org](mailto: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 December 17, 2023	4:30pm
Greet:	Tom Aced
Lector:	Mary Ellen Schnur
Gifts:	Dan and Bernadette Swenson
EM:	Megan Bleile and Buffy Woodring
Money Counters:	Juanita Bray and Karen Susag



Holy Days of Obligation. I know that many are confused about which days are Holy Days of Obligation and which are just important days. From now on, I will advertise the Holy Days of Obligation with a special poster on the doors of the church announcing the Mass times. In general, the only major solemnities which are Holy Days of Obligation are those which are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. For any holy days which fall on Mondays, Fridays, or Saturdays, the obligation is dispensed in this Diocese at the moment. The exception for December is Christmas. On a similar note, with Christmas in the future, everyone is required to attend a Mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and one Mass for Christmas. The schedule for the Christmas Season will be out next weekend.

Out of a desire to use our faith and our parish to help the world, I would like to start a program to support needs throughout the world. These acts of support will come from the parish resources and will not be a second collection or another appeal. If you have causes or people throughout the world that you would like to support, send an email to [frwilliams@holycrossmt.org](mailto:frwilliams@holycrossmt.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

No Mass Tuesday Dec. 26th

### Blessings

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.



The Diocesan Capital Campaign has kicked off. The goal is to raise \$30 million as a Diocese in 5 years. These funds will create endowments for seminarian education and promotion of vocations, retired priests, spreading our faith, and supporting parishes. We get back 40% of all money raised in this parish. Please take a prayer card and pray for the success of the campaign. Fr. Cody will be calling everyone and setting up meeting to discuss this campaign and hear your desires for our parish.

We could still use some help in the following ministries:

- Prayers of the Faithful
- Newcomers welcome group
- Livestream Group
- Environmental Group



Our match for the Pews has been met! Due to a few generous donations, we have reached the goal meaning that we have gained an extra \$30,000 for our pews. Once I have signed some contracts, I will give you exact numbers for the remainder of the cost. We will have new pews next summer!

### Become a Montana Knight Before Christmas!



Join us today and receive a beautiful KNIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS key chain. Both you and your proposer will receive a key chain! Join the Knights today at [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus)



Book Sale: Karen Simonich is hosting a book sale on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. You are welcome to look through them and see if you are interested in any of them.



Hey kids, want some candy? Fr. Cody has a challenge for you. Using the bingo cards, once per Mass, if you recognize one of the words on the Bingo card from the Mass, show it to Fr. Cody and he will give you a stamp. If you get a bingo, you get candy.



Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, we will have Adoration and Confessions from 9 am to noon. This is a great opportunity to spend some time with Jesus who is present in bodily form in the Eucharist as well as celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You are welcome to come for as little or as much time as you wish. Resources will be available to help you pray and make the most of the time you have. I encourage everyone to come and use this opportunity.

Next Holy Hour December 23rd

### Have A Seat!



The Prayers of the Faithful Group has started! This group will be writing the Prayers of the Faithful, aka. The Universal Prayers, for our Masses. The goal of this group is to write prayers that match with the current social, political, and other concerns. If you have a concern that you would like added to the Prayers of the Faithful or would like to join this group, contact one of the members or Fr. Cody.

The 2024 Calendars are available on the information table in the entrance area of the church.

The Diocese of Helena in collaboration with the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings hired a special position to address social concerns in both dioceses and work to create avenues for local concerns at the local level. Two of these initiative include the Baby Boutiques which supply low to no cost baby needs for mothers and a Catholic bases counseling service via telehealth. If you are in need of either of these services or would like to promote them in our community, please contact Fr. Cody.



The Diocese began a mental health initiative to provide counseling and Catholic counselors to anyone who would like one. Please see the announcement on the bulletin board for more information.

**Montana State  
March for Life 2024**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024**  
**11:30 am - 1:00 pm**  
**MONTANA STATE CAPITOL**  
**HELENA, MT**

**We Are Stronger Together**

ProLife Montana



The Annual Catholic Appeal is in full swing. Our goal is to raise \$21,100 for the purpose of the Diocese, the parishes of the Diocese, and the mission of the Diocese. Please consider and make a donation to the ACA. We are currently at 65% of our goal.

# CREATED GOOD

## Townsend Community Family Night

DINNER  
PROVIDED



FOR THE  
WHOLE  
FAMILY

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

**When:** 1st Sunday of every month  
5:45-7:00 pm  
**Where:** Holy Cross Parish Center  
101 S. Walnut St.

**Jan. 7th:** Christmas Party  
**Feb. 4th:** What do I do with my life?  
**March 3rd:** What does it mean to be forgiven?  
**April 7th:** Easter Party  
**May 5th:** How do I make strong relationships?

**FREE EVENT**

**Catholicism 101**

Mondays 7-8:30

The next topic is "Prayer part 1: Liturgy and Common Prayers on Monday, December 11th. 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](mailto:frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org).