



Holy Cross Parish

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 31, 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

Office: 406-266-4811

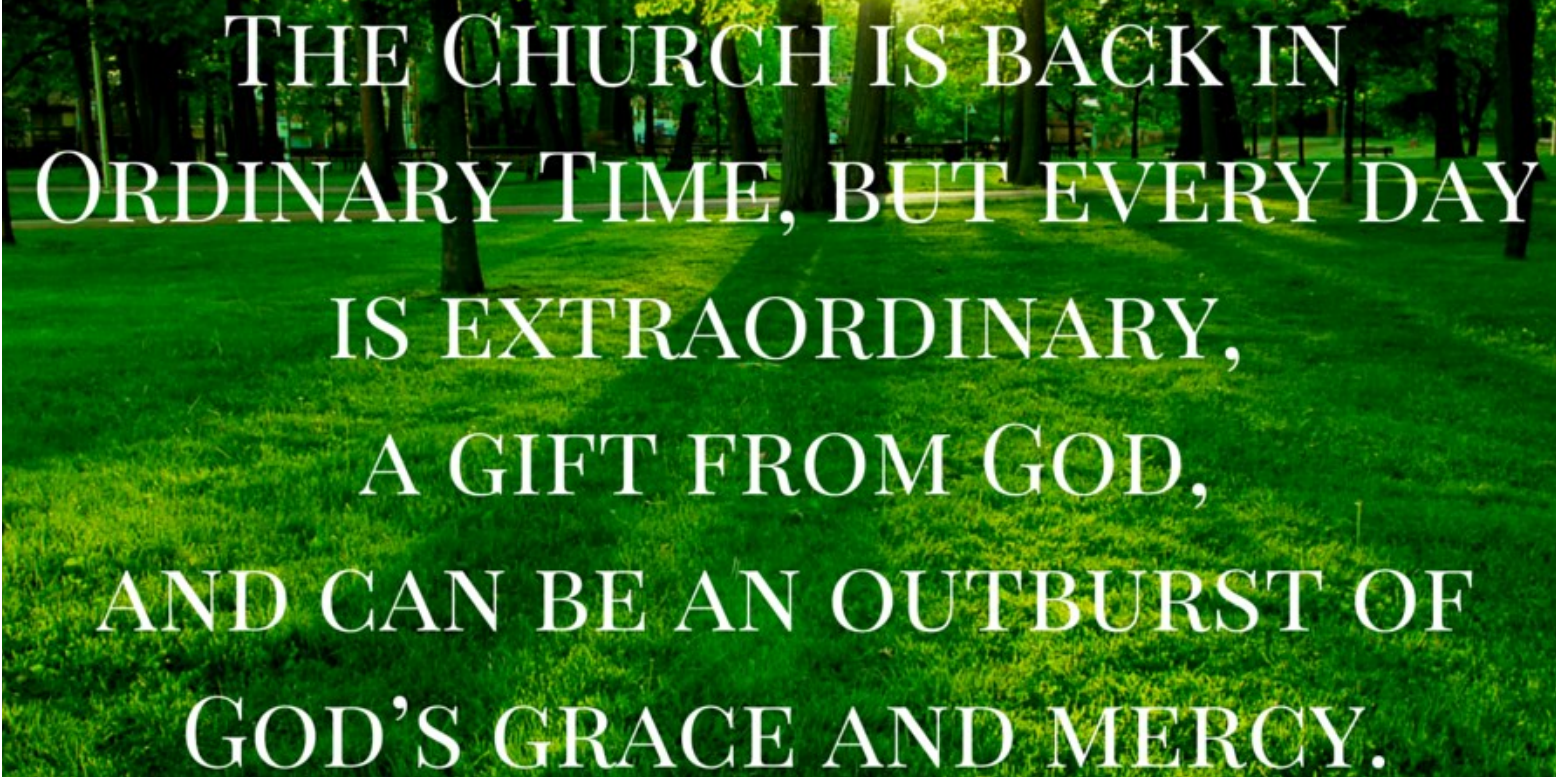
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Townsend, Montana 59644



THE CHURCH IS BACK IN
ORDINARY TIME, BUT EVERY DAY
IS EXTRAORDINARY,
A GIFT FROM GOD,
AND CAN BE AN OUTBURST OF
GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY.

TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN

The Rite of Ordination of a Deacon

Following the promises, the rite takes a more spiritual turn. The deacon candidate, the one who is about to be ordained a deacon, lays prostrate on the floor. This gesture is one of supplication. As he lays on the floor of the cathedral, the people sing the Litany of the Saints. Think about what this moment represents. This man is laying down his life for service to the church and the people of the church. Yet, this is not some simple gesture. As we reflect on this moment, we are also calling upon the Saints of the Church to pray for this man and help him in his new role of service to the Church. The same gesture is used in the consecration of a religious. In the Benedictine tradition, the man is covered with the cuculla. It's kind of like an outer coat. This coat symbolizes death to self, it's worn for special occasions and he is buried in it. Nevertheless, this moment in both religious professions and ordinations symbolize death to self.

Once the Litany of the Saints concludes, the man rises from the floor and the Ordination Rite continues with the Prayer of Ordination. The bishop comes and lays his hands on the man's head. This gesture is one of the oldest in the church. Going back to the Old Testament times, the laying on of hands was used to anoint kings, prophets, and priests. We continue the tradition today. Now it symbolizes connection with the apostolic line. As the apostles ordained priests and deacons, so too do we carry on that lineage connecting the newly ordained man to the apostles. During this moment, the bishop says the prayer of ordination. The prayer recalls the moment the apostles chose the first deacons, the ministry and purpose of deacons, and asks for God's help for the newly ordained to fulfill this role. At this moment, the man is now a deacon. His soul is configured to Christ and he is officially a deacon.

After the bishop has concluded the Prayer of Ordination, the rest of the deacons (sometimes priests included) all process forward to lay hands on the newly ordained deacon. This moment shows the connection between the newly ordained deacon and the order of deacons; he is part of a brotherhood of deacons.

The next part of the rites continues with the symbols of the newly ordained man and his role as a deacon. Next the deacon is vested in the vestments of a deacon. The two primary vestments are the stole and the dalmatic. The stole is a sign of authority, ministry, and role. Deacons always wear their stoles from the shoulder to the hip. This allows their arms to be free to assist the priest in his role. The dalmatic looks very similar to the priestly garb called the chasuble. Although it has several main differences. The dalmatic has sleeves allowing for greater freedom of movement of the arms. Similarly, it usually has two stripes down the front whereas a chasuble has one. Lastly, it is clasped on the side causing it to look more like a tunic whereas the chasuble is open on the side. The deacon is always vested by either another deacon or a priest. You are not allowed to vest yourself. This moment shows the induction into the order of deacons as well as the spiritual truth that we do not call ourselves but God calls us and gives us our role.

Fr. Cody

HELP NEEDED!

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex to volunteer to help with this event.

NO COST!!

PARTY IN THE PARK

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12TH

STARTING AT 5:00 PM

HERITAGE PARK

FAMILY-FRIENDLY! ALL ARE WELCOME!!

GAMES, FOOD, MUSIC, MOVIE

TACO BAR & ICE CREAM SUNDAES

****OUTDOOR MOVIE STARTING AT 8PM!!**

SPONSORED BY HOLY CROSS CHURCH

CALLED TO CARE

All across Montana, children in crisis are praying for safety, love, and belonging.

Catholic Social Services and Child Bridge are raising up families grounded in Christian compassion.

"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me." Matthew 18:5

Could God be calling you to step in?

LEARN MORE TODAY
childbridgemontana.org



CHILD BRIDGE






THE DIOCESE IS HIRING

Director of Financial Services & CFO

The Diocese of Helena is seeking an experienced, creative, and operationally-minded financial professional. Competitive salary, generous benefits, fulfilling mission. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to serve the Catholic Church in Western Montana!

Sept. 15 priority

Full description & application details:
www.diocesehelena.org/employment

Come learn about the life of
Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk

Speaker: Deacon William J. White,
 Postulator for Cause of Canonization for Nicholas Black Elk

Tuesday, September 23 @ 5:30 pm
 St. Mary Catholic Community Social Center

A light dinner will be served
 A free will offering would be appreciated

Sponsored by: Saint Mary's Catholic Community and Our Lady of the Valley Church

Please call the Parish Office at (406) 442- 5268 to RSVP



August is Make-A-Will Month
Make YOURS for FREE!

The future begins with you! Our parish is excited to offer you a free estate-planning resource from The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena called FreeWill so you can invest in the future of your family AND your faith, starting now.



With FreeWill, you can write your will online today. Having a will allows you to:

- Protect your loved ones and ensure their future well-being.
- Express your values and the principles that define your life.
- Begin your legacy that supports the causes you hold dear.



Make a plan today with FreeWill at
freewill.com/fdoh



All it takes is 20 minutes to create your will and start your legacy.

Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending August 24

Envelopes	\$2,017.0
Loose	\$67.00
Online	\$878.80
Total Weekly Contribution	\$2,962.80
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$2273.27
Week 2	\$1,514.78
Week 3	\$2,292.86
Week 4	\$2,962.80
Total Monthly Contribution	\$9,043.71
Total Year to Date	\$20,493.26
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00

Thank you for your generosity

Scripture Readings



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

09-07-2025

Reading 1:	Wisdom 9:13-18
Psalms:	90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
Reading 2:	Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Gospel:	Luke 14:25-33



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"Mary adored Jesus as the Bridegroom of souls. Union is the final purpose of love. Jesus by the gift of His substance in the Eucharist unites Himself with our souls as with His dear spouses. As a Bridegroom, He gives them all His possessions, His name, His heart, His whole Self, but on the condition that the soul reciprocates. The soul, His spouse, shall live for Him only,"

- St. Peter Julian Eymard

Mass Schedule

Monday September 1	Mass 9:00a Bill Kearns rb Missy Cox Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday September 2	Mass 9:00a Bob Masolo rb Missy Cox
Wednesday September 3	
Thursday September 4	
Friday September 5	
Saturday September 6	No Mass, Adoration or Confession
Sunday September 7	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family First day of RE 5:30p - 7:30p

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.

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, Kammy Law, Mary Garman, Don and Jenny Schaubert, Judy & Franklin Silfka

Ministry Schedule

Sunday September 7, 2025 4:30pm

Greet:	Larry & Buffy Woodring
Lector:	Mary Duede
Gifts:	Larry & Buffy Woodring
EM:	Emmalin Fischer and Megan Bleile
Money Counters:	Karee Eichinger and Kristi Gersch

THANK YOU!

- A special thank you to Karee Eichinger for her service as our Commercial Cleaner. We express our gratitude for your years of service cleaning our building and wish you the best in your next endeavors.
- A profound thank you to Geiser Services for their many years of service to our church. As a way to maintain the care of our building, I hired a maintenance manager to take the role of lawn care, snow removal, and general maintenance. Geiser Services will still be responsible for the care of the lawn at the cemetery. We thank them for the years of service to our parish.

Faith Night

All our welcome! There will be separate activities for kids during faith night!

Ask A Priest

Got a question you would like to ask a priest?
We've got an event for you.

Dinner at 6 pm. Presentation beings at 6:30. Q&A at 7:00.
Holy Cross Church, Townsend—101 S .Walnut St.

First 2 Topics
Sept 22—Are all Saved?
Oct. 20—Faith vs. Science

There will be no Mass, Adoration or Confession on Saturday, September 6th and

No Mass on Tuesday, September 16th



Thank you to all who donated items to the Holy Cross **"Catholic Christmas"** silent auction basket for the Bishop's gala. We had many wonderful items with an estimated basket value being approximately \$300. Any items donated that weren't included in the Bishop's gala basket will be held at the church and used for future fundraising events, such as the parish bazaar.

Welcome Niki Weiss!

Niki has accepted the job of Commercial Cleaner. We welcome her to this role and thank her for her service to our church. She is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of our building and taking care of general cleaning.

LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY SUNDAYS @ 4:00

SEPT 7 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

SEPT 14 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

SEPT 21 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

SEPT 28 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES



Faith Formation

2025-26 RE classes will begin after mass on Sunday, September 7th, starting with dinner at 5:30. Prayer begins at 6:00 and then everyone will be separated into family groups that will consist of youth from each age group and adult RE leaders. Each family group will participate in an activity together until 6:45 and then each grade level will separate into their individual classes for further discussion and activities. This year our focus is on the Sacraments, the Mass, and prayer. Once again, we invite parents and other parishioners to participate in the adult group at the same time to explore the same material that the youth will be learning.

To register for RE, scan the QR code below or contact Shawna Wickens. There is a registration fee of \$50 per child/\$150 per family max. There are funds available to help with registration costs if needed. Contact Father Cody or Shawna Wickens with any questions@ 406-266-4811 or

re@holycrossmt.org



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 to the right. Thank you for supporting our parish youth!



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.

Our parish feast day is coming up on Sunday, September 14th. It is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross! In honor of our parish feast day, we are having a parish potluck after Mass. Bring your favorite dish and celebrate with all of us!



Youth Highlights

9/7/25: First night of RE (Baptism)

9/14/245 : RE Class (Eucharist)

9/21/25: RE Class (Confirmation)

9/28/25: RE Class (Anointing of the Sick)

Thanks to all the youth, parents, and grandparents who participated in our summer youth events. Not only did we have participants form our parish, but some from White Sulphur, Three Forks, and even Louisiana. We spent a day fishing at park lake, a day exploring baptism and playing in the water at Canyon Ferry Lake, and a day hiking to Memorial Falls where we discussed the Transfiguration and even got to celebrate mass on the mountain.

