

You're Invited to Our
Fireside Gala

**Saturday,
January 24, 2026**

**101 S. Walnut St., Townsend
Holy Cross Church.**

Enjoy a cozy night out!

Steak dinner with
appetizers, salad, main
course, and dessert.

\$50/plate

Seating times:

4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, or
6:00 pm

Bring your own beer or
wine!

For reservations call
406-266-4811 or scan
the QR code



Holy Cross Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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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Townsend, Montana 59644



All-male priesthood

When we think of the all-male priesthood, we often reduce it to an administrative or functional role and ignore the spiritual side of the priesthood. By reducing the priesthood to a functional role and ignoring the spiritual side, we miss so much of the beauty of our church. The spiritual side of the maleness of the priesthood compliments and edifies the femaleness of the church.


Maleness in the Sacraments

The Church places high value on both families and sexuality. For the Church, sex is not only a physical activity but a spiritual one. As Genesis states, the man and woman came together and become one. The same idea applies to the Sacrament of Baptism. In the Sacrament of Baptism, new life is formed. This new life comes from two sources: the Church and Jesus. The Baptismal Font looks and functions like a womb. New life in the form of the baptized emerges from this womb into the new life with Jesus and the Church. This new life isn't just a sign but a new creation. During the Easter Vigil, which best expresses the reality of Baptism, the priest dunks the Paschal Candle in the font, the candle is both a phallic symbol and a symbol of Christ. Jesus is dunking himself into the womb so that it can be unsealed for new life to emerge. This one event shows the value and equality of both genders in the Sacraments. Jesus, through the priest, gives himself to the Church so that new life can emerge.

The value of maleness in the Mass

Bear with me as we venture into biology. The biological nature of the man is to give. In order to sire offspring, he literally gives from his body in order for the egg to be fertilized. The biological nature of women is to receive. They take in the sperm of the male in order to create and nurture life. Does it end there, is that it? No. Once the female receives from the male, she gives the new life, the baby, to the male. The male then needs to receive the baby and choose him/her to become a father. Both men and women express gift and reception. In the Mass, the body of the priest mirrors the self-gift of Jesus who gave of his body for the sake of his people. Therefore, the maleness of the priest emphasizes a spiritual reality of the sacrifice of the Mass. The priest gives of himself to God who transforms it and gives it back. The Church, in response, receives the gift of the priest, Jesus, nurtures it within herself and then gives her body back to Jesus. The entire Eucharistic Sacrifice shows and illustrates the value and importance of maleness.

Fr. Cody



SAVE THE DATE

Please Join Us!

MARCH for LIFE

January 16, 2026



11:30am at the State Capitol Rotunda

This year's Keynote Speaker is Kristan Hawkins, CEO of the Pro-Life Generation and President of Students for Life of America and Students for Life Action. She is a frequent speaker and analyst on the topics of abortion, feminism and disability advocacy. She has spent nearly two decades building a national network of more than 1500+ campus Students for Life groups in all 50 states.


She hosts "The Kristan Hawkins Show" weekly and discusses trending news items from a pro-life perspective. Her writings and interviews have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Fox News, CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC, Newsweek, and NPR.

In addition to what is sure to be an informative and inspiring presentation by our Keynote Speaker, additional speakers will provide updates on Planned Parenthood facility closures and the latest developments regarding dissemination of the Abortion Pill. There are also plans to honor the life and legacy of Charlie Kirk.

This event is sponsored by:



For the latest updates on this event, please scan this QR code to go to the ProLife Montana EVENT page



All bulletin information and mass announcements requests need to be submitted by email to

bulletin@holycrossmt.org

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Tuesday at 10a

Calling All Women

Are you interested in participating in a women's group?

Fr. Cody is calling all women of the parish who are interested in participating in a women's group to a meeting to discuss possible groups like the Daughters of Isabella and gauge interest in starting a new group. Hope to see you all there.

Due to lost of scheduling conflicts and the holidays, Father Cody has moved the Women's meeting to Monday, January 12th at 6pm.

Parish Administrator
Saint Mary Catholic Community
Helena, MT

JOB
OPENING

Saint Mary Catholic Community is seeking a qualified Parish Administrator to provide support for the day-to-day general operation and management of the parish. The Parish Administrator will direct ministries of worship, education and formation, human and social justice concerns, finance and budget, human resources and administration. The Parish Administrator works in collaboration with and under the supervision of the Pastor, and in cooperation with other parish leadership to motivate, enable, and affirm the parish community in its efforts. The Parish Administrator supports the vision and mission of Saint Mary Catholic Community.

Candidates must be an active participant in the work of the Catholic Church, a baptized and confirmed Catholic, and be able to partake in the sacramental life of the Church. An advanced degree (Bachelor's or Master's) in Business Administration/Management or equivalent education/experience is requested. A degree in Pastoral Ministry is preferred. Three years' experience in administration of an organization or program is desired.

This is a fulltime, salaried position, with benefits. Annual salary range is \$60,000 - \$63,500, depending on experience.

For a complete job description and list of qualifications for the position, please see our website at www.stmaryhelena.org.

Apply by sending your cover letter, resume and three professional references to jhaddon@stmaryhelena.org. This position will remain open until filled.

2026 Calendars
Available in the Narthex
Please feel free to take one!

If anyone would like to donate towards the poinsettias for Christmas there are envelopes available in the Narthex. Please write poinsettias in the memo part of your check.

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

- December 28: Love
- January 25: Peace
- February 15: Hope



Diocese of Helena List of Sacred Sites

As the Jubilee Year of Hope is coming to the end soon. Here are a list of places that Bishop Vetter has designated as Sacred spaces within the Diocese of Helena where the faithful may obtain the jubilee indulgence.

- Cathedral of Saint Helena, Holy Rosary Church, Bozeman
 - St. Rose of Lima Church, Dillon , St. Joseph Church, Libby
 - St. Ignatius Mission Church, St. Ignatius
 - St. Teresa of the Little Flower Church, Browning
 - All Saint’s Chapel, Carroll College-Helena
- For more info visit: <https://diocesehelena.org/jubilee-2025>

Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending December 14th

Envelopes	\$1,585.00
Loose	\$48.58
Online	\$500.34
Total Weekly Contribution	\$2,133.92
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$5,084.06
Week 2	\$2,133.92
Week 3	
Week 4	
Total Monthly Contribution	\$7,217.98
Total Year to Date	\$92,066.52
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00

Mass	Schedule
Monday December 22	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday December 23	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday December 24	Christmas Eve Mass 4:30p Church office closed
Thursday December 25	Church office closed
Friday December 26	
Saturday December 27	
Sunday December 28	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p Parish Potluck (hosted by circle of Love) NO RE



CATHOLIC JOURNEY EXPERIENCE:
ALL ARE INVITED!

This is your opportunity to attend a 3-day weekend retreat seeking guidance by the Holy Spirit into a deeper experience of Christian community, prayer, discussion, reflection and enlightenment!

Women's Weekend held at St Cyril and Methodius, East Helena
January 15-18th, 2026

Contact: helenacatholicjourney.women@gmail.com 406-431-7577

Men's Weekend held at St Cyril and Methodius, East Helena
February 12-15th 2026

HABEMUS PAPAM



The Annual Catholic Appeal kicks off this weekend. Our goal is to raise \$21,900. Many people are unsure of the value and importance of the Annual Catholic Appeal. Let me guide you to understand the importance of this appeal using the new image on the poster. To maintain the function of the church, we have three parts that need support. The parishes are an essential part of the church. Through the parishes, the people come to know God, desire to follow him, receive the Sacraments, and have a place to live their lives of faith. Yet, parishes cannot sustain themselves. They need support from the Diocese for administrative needs, clergy, and to connect them to the larger church as a reminder that we are part of Jesus' Church not our own. The Annual Catholic Appeal supports the education of priests, the ministries of the Diocese, administrative help to the parishes, and maintains our Catholic identity. Another aspect of the Church is the global aspect. We are not just a group of churches in Montana but part of the global Catholic Church. Recognizing our identity through these three aspects is necessary for understanding who we are. When all three of these aspects of the Church are understood, supported, and lived out, then we can understand who we are and our role in the Church of Jesus. **We have currently reached 35% of our parish goal, with \$14, 175 to go!**

Scripture Readings



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
12-28-2025

Reading 1:	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalms:	128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Reading 2:	Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel:	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"O King of glory, though you hide your beauty, yet the eye of my soul rends the veil. I see the angelic choirs giving you honor without cease."

- St. Mary Faustina Kowalska

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.

Deacon Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Liam Aippersback, Ryan Frampton, and Mason Yochum

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, Don and Jenny Schaubert, Judy & Franklin Silfka, Mike McGonigal, Bob Moodry, Mary Garman, Bakkum family

Ministry Schedule


Sunday December 28, 2026 4:30pm

Greet:	Fisette Family
Lector:	Megan Bleile
Gifts:	Larry & Buffy Woodring
EM:	Tacy Swanton and Debbie Miller
Money Counters:	Karee Reiman and Kristi Gersch

A Year with the Church Fathers

Mondays from 6:30-8 pm
Starting Monday, Oct. 27th
Explore the lives of the fathers.
Read their theology and writing.
Come to understand their value in the Church.
See flyer for more information.

1/5/26 will be the last session for the fall series



LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY SUNDAYS @ 4PM

~~NOV. 30 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES~~
~~DEC. 7 - LUTHERAN MYSTERIES~~
~~DEC. 14 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES~~
DEC. 21 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
DEC. 28 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

There is a ministry sign up sheet for Christmas Eve Mass in the Narthex

Faith Formation

Youth Schedule

12/21/25: **NO RE**
12/28/25: **NO RE**
1/4/25: Parish Christmas Party
1/11/2025: RE Class (Liturgy of the Word and praying with Scripture)

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.

There will be no daily Mass or Adoration on Monday, December 29th and Tuesday, December 30th

Christmas Eve Mass
Wed. 12/24
4:30 pm



CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUN. JAN 4TH
AFTER MASS



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Dec. 31



Mass at 4: 30 pm
Holy Day of Obligation

There is a ministry sign up sheet for Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God in the Narthex.

GET THE WINTER WIGGLES OUT

... Moms ... & Littles
Friday 1/16/26
11AM -12PM
Piano & Songs

Moms with kids 4 and under
Come meet other Moms and get your little ones out of the house during winter. Enjoy piano sing along songs and lots of space to play.



Contact Natalie with questions/RSVP
949-200-2315
Location: Holy Cross Catholic Church (Basement event space)
101 S Walnut, Townsend

Legendary Lodge
2026 CAMPS SCHEDULE

June 14-19 Junior High #1	July 12-17 High School #2
June 21-26 High School #1	July 19-24 Junior High #2
July 5-10 5/6th Grade Boys	July 26-31 5/6th Grade Girls

Registration for **families who live within the Diocese of Helena** opens **Jan 5th**. Opens for all other registrants Jan 9th.

Join us for Family Camp!
June 28-30
Registration opens March 2nd, 2026

Camp Rates
Early Bird:
(Register before Jan 25th)
\$425
Standard:
\$450

Holy Cross Parish is offering assistance for the cost of Legendary Lodge that can be used at the time of registration. If you are interested in a scholarship for your child to attend camp, please contact the parish office before registration begins.

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.

Thank you for supporting our parish youth!

