

Stewardship

11-19-2023

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Weekly Income

Envelopes	\$4,402.05
Loose	\$44.25
Stipend	\$100.00
Restricted	\$30,125.00
Reimbursement	\$826.10
Total	\$35,502.40

Holy Cross Monthly Expenses-October

City of Townsend	\$173.41
Spectrum	\$144.97
NorthWestern Energy	\$419.78
Geisser Services	\$725.00
Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena	\$2,715.05
Edith Mountain Sprinklers	\$120.00
Special K Plumbing & Heating	\$520.00
Diocese of Helena	\$220.00
Broadwater County News	\$76.50

Cemetery

Cemetery Weekly Income

Short Term	
Long Term	
Grave Sites	
Total	
Cemetery Expenses-October	
Geisser Services	\$1,425.00

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.

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

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.



Holy Cross Parish

The Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 26, 2023

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

Email: office@holycrossmt.org

Shawna: RE@holycrossmt.org

Website: holycrossmt.org

Mailing address: P.O. Box 610 (101 S. Walnut)

Townsend, Montana 59644



The Synod on Synodality

After hearing many concerns and reading many articles in various newspapers, I decided to take a short break from our basics of Catholicism series to address some concerns and confusion related to the Synod on Synodality. About three years ago, Pope Francis began an initiative to help the church listen and work through some of the challenges of our time. The original goal of the synod was to listen to the concerns of people throughout the church and to hear the challenges and joy that we as a body of believers face from all aspects of the Catholic Church. After a three-year listening process, the synod culminated in a gathering in Rome, a synod, to discuss the results of this listening session.

These “expected” results are the source of an incredible amount of confusion. As of right now, the synod has concluded and the final documents are being completed. Some who participated in the Synod were hopeful for massive changes to church doctrines related to sexuality and women’s role in the church. Others were incredibly apprehensive and expressed fear that the Church’s doctrines would change as a result of this synod. After all my reading, I argue that the media’s response to the Synod was one of the greatest examples of the Devil at work.

First, how much do we trust in God and in his Church? The fallout from the media’s response to the Synod caused an immense challenge to us who are faithful to the Church. Many people chose to put their trust in the synod leadership than in God. Do we not believe that God is the leader of the Church? Do we not believe that God would never let his Church fall into error, heresy or ruin? Then, where is our belief? These fears pose and incredible challenge for us: to believe that God is the head of his Church and live that with faith. To believe that we are not more powerful than God and have the power to dictate the truths about God, the universe, and everything. We put too much faith in ourselves and our leadership and way too little in God. We need to reverse this.

Second, we feel powerless against the synod and its potential outcomes. This claim is ridiculous and a slam against the good of the people of the Church. Too often we have collapsed Catholicism to the clergy creating a clericalism: the belief that the clergy control the church and tell the people what to do. This is far from the truth. The clergy and the people (laity) must work together for the good of the church. The same works for this synod. The reason why we are struggling with these theological problems is because most people are not confident in knowing the Church’s teaching on these matters. If you were asked to debate these theological points at a synod, would you feel confident that you could explain well the church’s position on homosexuality, women’s ordination, inspiring and building faith, leadership in the church, spirituality? If we as a Church decided to make a concerted effort to learn our theology and learn it well, we would not be facing these types of issues. Lack of education led to the problems we have today. From this we see a special and important role for the laity, the people of God, to know their faith well enough to preach it, to be empowered by God and his grace, and to live the truths of our faith with a boldness. These three things together are the hope of the synod; that we as a Church could come together to grow as a church again.

Lastly, despair is from the Devil, hope is from God. We are challenged in an unprecedented way to listen to God, place our hope in Him, and come to know Him. Let nothing deter you from this goal.

Fr. Cody

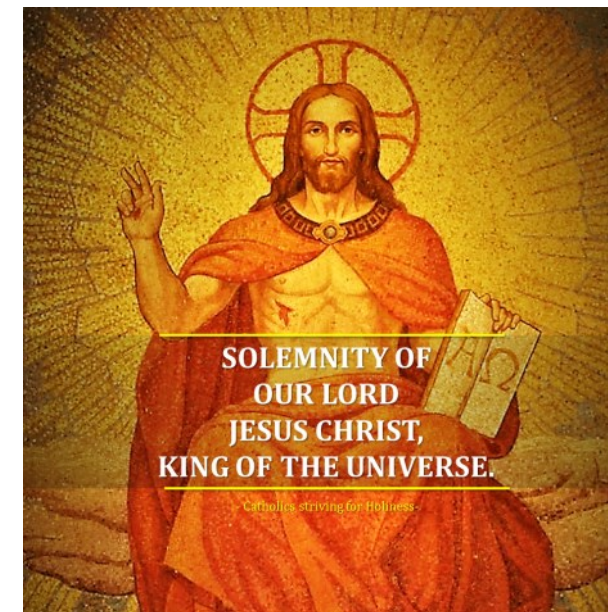
Scripture Readings



First Sunday of Advent

12-3-2023

Reading 1: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
 Psalm: 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19
 Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
 Gospel: Mark 13:33-37



MASS	Schedule
Monday November 27	Mass 9a First Responders Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 101 7p
Tuesday November 28	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday November 29	No Mass
Thursday November 30	No Mass
Friday December 1	No Mass
Saturday December 2	No Mass
Sunday December 3 First Sunday of Advent	Confession 3:30-4:15p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30-7:15p Family Night

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

Ministry Schedule	
Sunday December 3, 2023	4:30pm
Greet:	Monte and Cathy Armstrong
Lector:	Megan Bleile
Gifts:	Eichinger Family
EM:	Karen Simonich and Missy Cox
Money Counters:	Karee Eichinger and Kristi Gersch



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 4th Sunday of Advent and one Mass for Christmas. The schedule for the Christmas Season will be out next weekend.

Fliers for our next Family Night are available on the information table. I encourage everyone to take a few and hand them out to people you know. Remember, they get a free meal out of it. This month we will be exploring our purpose in life. The kids will have a special event of their own in the classrooms and the adults will have a deeper discussion in the parish center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

No RE on Sunday, Nov. 26th

The Mass honoring the Immaculate Conception of Mary:
Friday, Dec. 8th at 6: 30p

Help Wanted:

Installing base molding

If you are interested in any of these projects, contact Fr. Cody



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!



Every 4th 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!

Created Good

Townsend Community Family Night

FREE DINNER

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

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

1st Sunday of every month
5:45-7:00 pm

Holy Cross Parish Center
101 S Walnut St.

Topics:

~~Oct. 1st: What does it mean to be human?~~

~~Nov. 5th: Who am I?~~

Dec. 3rd: What is the purpose of life?



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.



**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




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 58% of our goal. We need to raise \$8,850 to go to reach our goal.

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.

Catholicism 101

Do you know someone who is interested in learning about Catholicism? Would you like to know your faith a little better? Then, this series is for you!

Mondays 7-8:30

Schedule of the topics on the bench in the entryway.

A livestream option for Catholicism 101 will be available on Mondays from 7-8:30 and on Thursdays from 6:30-8. Please invite your friends and family members who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. All are welcome!

The next topic is "Bible Part 4: How do we Understand the Bible?" on Monday, December 4th. 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.

MONTANA CATHOLIC MEN'S Conference

REGISTER THROUGH THE QR CODE OR AT: **MONTANA CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE GROUP ON FACEBOOK**



DECEMBER 2, 2023

Cathedral of St. Helena

Adult : \$35
Student : \$25

Supported by Knights of Columbus Insurance



SCAN ME

