



Holy Cross Parish

Third Sunday of Lent

March 23, 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

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Townsend, Montana 59644



Basics of Catholicism part 81

General Absolution

The Rite of Penance gives two options for absolving penitents of their sins: individual confessions and general absolution. The most common form, and the one expected by the Church, is individual confessions. Individual confessions are when a person comes to a priest, confesses their sins, receives absolution, and then continues on with their lives. This is the most common form of experiencing this Sacrament. The Church allows for one more option with very specific restrictions around it: general absolution.

General Absolution is when a priest says the Prayer of Absolution with a group of people present. Those who are present do not confess their sins out loud, there could be a communal Act of Contrition, and the priest doesn't provide council, advice, or a penance. For a few decades, this form of the Rite of Penance was widely used during Penance Services as a quicker way of celebrating the Sacrament. The Rite of Penance states that this form can be used if there is a large number of penitents and the amount of time needed to hear their confessions causes an undue hardship on the people or they are in danger of death.

We need to remember that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is not magic. Let's use an example to illustrate my point. Imagine that I am on a plane. The pilot announces that we are going to crash. This situation represents an example where the people are in danger of death. I, a priest, can use the Rite of General Absolution at this moment to help free people from their sins and hopefully save some people from damnation. Yet, this isn't magic. Each person, although I have said the Prayer of Absolution, still has a choice to make. Will they accept this grace? Do they want to be free from their sins? Will they accept God into their lives? The choice of accepting this gift of forgiveness from God is still a choice. Some people will not accept it and even General Absolution is not useful.

This example illustrates one of the major problems with General Absolution used during a Penance Service. Although the people come, hopefully, with contrite hearts, we cannot be assured of their desire to be forgiven. Some people come with the intention of an easy way out of going to Confession and are not really sorry for their sins. Some assume that they don't need to confess their sins and are therefore deprived of the opportunity to be real with the sins in their lives. General Absolution is meant to be used in very isolated circumstances for this reason. The act of confessing sins is the major part of our conversion, understating our own issues, and responding to God's grace.

Fr. Cody

Western Montana Catholic Women's CONFERENCE

"COME TO ME" MATTHEW 11:28



Mother Mary
Maximilian



Paula
Umaña



Elza
Spaedy

New Life

Friday, April 4, 2025 ~ Cathedral of St. Helena
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross & The Rosary, followed by Soup & Bread
All are welcome

Saturday, April 5, 2025 ~ 7 am check-in

Women's Conference, Speakers,
Confessions, Vendors, Fellowship

Helena Civic Center

visit HelenaCWC.org



Register by March 15, 2025 for Early Bird Discount
Registration deadline is March 28, 2025

Bishop Vetter has promulgated the indulgences and Holy Doors for the Jubilee Year of Hope. You can go to the Diocesan website at <https://diocesehelena.org/jubilee2025/> or see the letter on the bulletin board.



NUTRITIOUS MEALS HELP CHILDREN GROW HEALTHY IN GUATEMALA

In Santa María Chiquimula, Guatemala, over half the community is affected by malnutrition. Amid rising food prices and job loss, Ana Belén and her husband were struggling to provide for their growing family. But they saw a ray of hope through their participation in a Catholic Relief Services' program that helps them ensure their children are healthy and have the nutrition they need to thrive and play. Visit csrcicebowl.org/week-3 to read this week's Story of Hope.

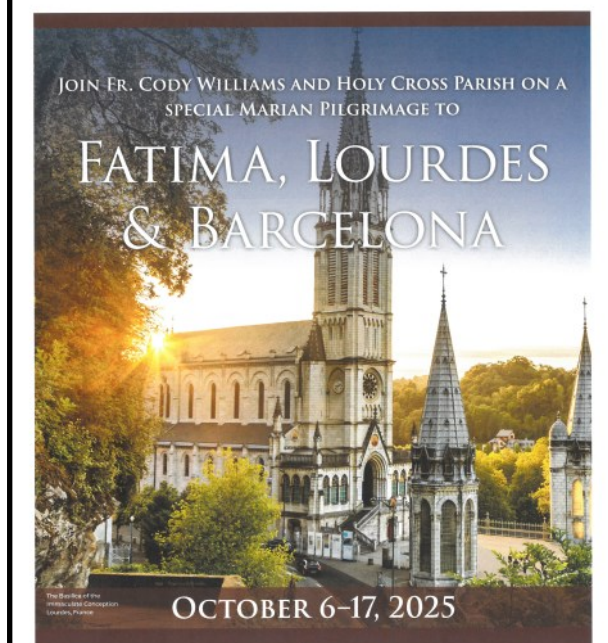


Catholic Mental Health Counseling

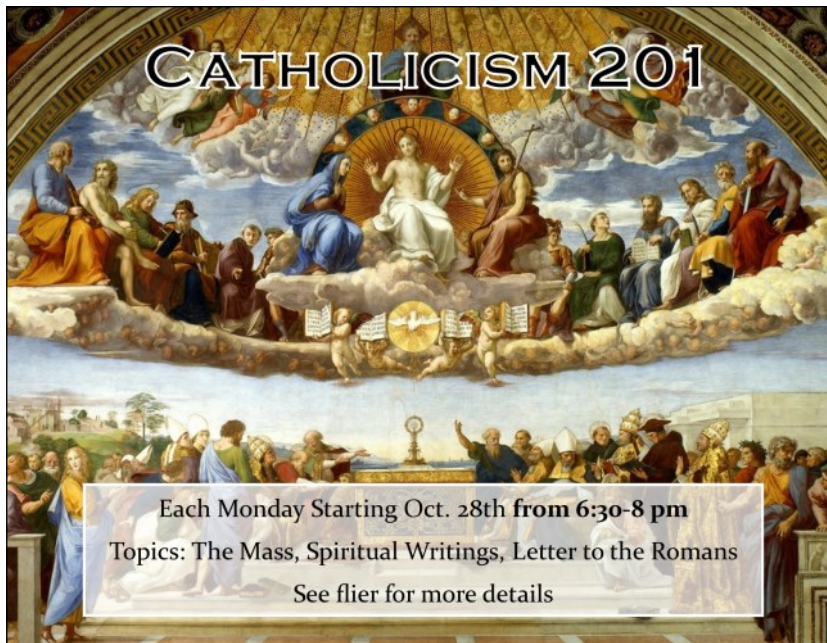
CSSM's counseling program has served clients from over 20 communities in Montana and is ready to serve you!

- 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.



41780 W Six Mile Road, Suite 100
Northville, MI 48168
866.468.1420 | info@ctscentral.net
www.pilgrimagesbycts.com



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. They're 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.

March 23: Circle of Love
 April 27: Parish Easter Party- No Potluck
 May 25: Memorial Day Weekend-No Potluck

Scripture Readings

Fourth Sunday in Lent
 03-30-2025

Reading 1: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
 Psalm: 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
 Reading 2: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
 Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

MASS	Schedule
Monday March 24	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 201 6:30p
Tuesday March 25	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday March 26	Stations of the Cross 6:00p Soup Supper 6:30p
Thursday March 27	
Friday March 28	
Saturday March 29	
Sunday March 30	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p

YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

3/30/25 RE topic: Social Justice



Stations of the Cross
 Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm
 March 12th—April 9th
 Soup supper to follow!

Next Women of Holy Cross Parish meeting:
 Tuesday, March 25th at 6:00 pm

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 bulletin@holycrossmt.org.
 Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed.
Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a
TWO weeks in advance

Knights of Columbus

When: April 4th
 Time: 5-7p
 Menu: Fish, Clam Chowder, Mac & Cheese, Potatoes, and Coleslaw
 Prices: \$15 per plate. \$6 for just Clam Chowder. \$4 for just Mac & Cheese

Please reach out to Richard Majszak 406-980-1447 for any questions

The new email address for any information for the bulletin or advertisements is bulletin@holycrossmt.org

Ministry Schedule

Sunday, March 30, 2025 4:30pm

Greet: Eichinger Family
 Lector: Julie Lethert
 Gifts: Wickens Family
 EM: Fran Wright and Karen Simonich
 Money Counters: Tom and Julie Lethert



The Annual Catholic Appeal kicked off several months ago with our parish goal of \$21,900. So far we have raised \$10,650. Please consider donating to this important campaign raising money for the important functions of our Diocese.

Mass of Healing
for Survivors of Abuse and Trauma
THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH, 5:30PM
CATHEDRAL OF ST. HELENA
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC Diocese of Helena

LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY FOR THE POPE, CHURCH, PRIEST, FAMILIES, CHILDREN & FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

THE ROSARY IS A PRICELESS TREASURE WHICH IS INSPIRED BY GOD. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ROSARY IS A WEAPON AGAINST THE EVILS OF THE WORLD.

SUNDAYS @ 4:00

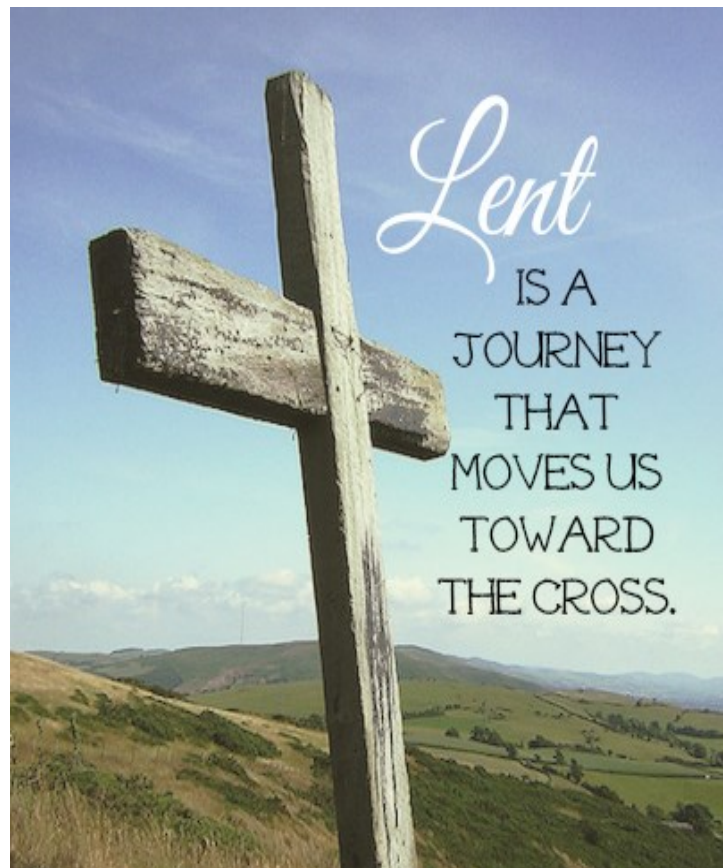
MAR - 2 GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
MAR - 9 JOYFUL MYSTERIES
MAR - 16 LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
MAR - 23 SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
MAR - 30 GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity to the Irish people.

FATHER
SON
HOLY SPIRIT

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. Please keep all your items to be blessed with you until the end of Mass. Once Mass is ended, Fr. Cody will come to the entrance of the Church and bless any of the objects that are on the table. Those objects that are on the table belong to the people who want them blessed and are not free for the taking.

Blessings



Holy Cross Parish Finances

Week ended March 16th

Total Weekly \$2138.20
Budget \$2900.00
Variance -\$761.80

Year to Date
Total \$90349.83
Budget \$101500.00
Variance \$11150.17

THANK YOU FOR your generosity

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



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"Holiness is a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident -- in the most audacious way -- in His Fatherly goodness."

- St. Therese of the Infant Jesus

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



Beginning September 29 bulletin 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, Judy Butler, Brian Roher and family, Isaac Hyde, Bob Masolo, Marj Kohn, Repose of the soul of Bill Kearns

SPRING BAZAAR

Saturday, April 26 4-7 PM

Ham dinner with scalloped potatoes and green beans, relish tray and dessert!

Cost: \$30.00 for immediate family
\$15.00 for single adult
\$10.00 for students
Under 4 Free

Raffle Tickets \$5 Each or 5 for \$20:

Raffle Prizes: 26" Heyride E-Bike, Airhead Airhead Towable Wake Shocker, Blast Towable Tube, Fiji Float Non-Towable,



River Otter River Tube



Silent Auction,

Gift Certificate Table,

Activity area for children

KEEP CALM PRAY FAST GIVE ALMS

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.

Pastoral Council:

Jesse Swenson
Mary Ellen Schnur
Karee Eichinger
Michael Fisette
John Bleile

Finance Council:

John Rauser
Tim McAlpine
Tacy Swanton
Pat Miller
Monica Benton