

Stewardship

12-17-2023

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Weekly Income

Envelopes	\$2,370.00
Holy Day	\$50.00
Reimbursement	\$3,411.14
Stipend	\$100.00
Pews	\$20.00
Loose	\$136.00
Other	\$60.00
Total	\$6,147.14

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
Long Term
Grave Sites
Total

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

"My Jesus! What a lovable contrivance this holy Sacrament was - that You would hide under the appearance of bread to make Yourself loved and to be available for a visit by anyone who desires You!"

- *St. Alphonsus Ligouri*

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, John Clark

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 and 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.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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 31, 2023

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Townsend, Montana 59644



The gruesome death of Jesus prompts many questions regarding our salvation. Often I heard questions like, why did Jesus have to die? Why did he have to suffer the way he did? Was it necessary that Jesus suffered so that we can be saved? These questions, and some answers to them, caused rifts within Christianity and pose immense challenges for understanding our salvation.

Before I can begin to address the theories regarding Jesus' actions to bring us salvation, we must understand the nature of sin, its effects on our world, and its relationship to God and his actions. Sin is any deviation from God's laws. These deviations lead to the loss of God's presence in the world, a turning inward on ourselves, and a destruction to the goodness of the world. The best example for the effects of sin are Adam and Eve when they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden. We can easily read this passage as though God was punishing Adam and Eve. If you were to read the text carefully, however, you would notice that God is not pronouncing a punishment over them but telling them the effects of their sin. Sin caused God to be angry. We often picture God's anger as the vengeful, wrathful side from the Old Testament. This "anger of God" is a just anger to the destruction of his world and the loss of his presence and the goodness of the world. God has every right to be angry over the decline of his good and perfect world. Although he could stop the sin by destroying the world as we have seen in Noah's Flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, God's plan is something much stranger, the death of his Son. So, why is this the best plan and why did his Son have to die to end the cycle of sin and death?

Theory 1: Jesus placated an angry God.

God is angry over our continued sinful behaviors. All righteous acts need a solution or a way to right the wrongs that have been committed, especially with an all just God. Thus God's vengeful anger for the destruction caused by sin should kill everyone and destroy the world. Instead of God destroying the world and causing an end to sin, Jesus stepped in the way and took the brunt of God's anger preventing us from having to experience it. Jesus takes on all the pain and suffering of the world and all the effects of sin so that we don't have to bear the penalty.

If you were following along with my discussion on the nature of the relationship between the Father and the Son, you would quickly realize the problem with this theory. On one level God is angry due to our sins. He didn't want us to live this way, he wanted us to choose him, and he wanted us to comply with his will. He has a right to be angry and just in his condemnations. The issue isn't God's anger but his wrathful anger towards his Son. God cannot fight himself. He cannot be angry towards himself or take out his wrath on himself. The theory challenges the very nature of God and puts God at odds with himself. Therefore, this theory doesn't work. The anger of God is not abated by the sacrifice of Jesus, his Son.

Fr. Cody

Scripture Readings



The Epiphany of The Lord 1-7-2024

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm: 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13
 Reading 2: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6
 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



MASS	Schedule
Monday January 1	Mass 9a Adoration 9:30a No Catholicism 101
Tuesday January 2	Mass 9a
Wednesday January 3	No Mass
Thursday January 4	No Mass
Friday January 5	No Mass
Saturday January 6	Mass 9:20a
Sunday January 7	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family Christmas Party after mass

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 January 7, 2024	4:30pm
Greet:	Monte and Cathy Armstrong
Lector:	Megan Bleile
Gifts:	Fisette Family
EM:	Missy Cox and Marilyn Vandersloot
Money Counters:	Bernadette Swenson and Sara Holmes



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.

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 frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org.



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 ROMAN CATHOLIC
Diocese of Helena

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.

Mondays 7-8:30

The next topic is "The Liturgical Year: Celebrating Jesus' life" on Monday, January 8th. 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.

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!



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 January 27th

Have A Seat!



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!

The 2024 Calendars are available on the information table in the entrance area of the church. There are also new church directories available.

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



We could still use some help in the following ministries:

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



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



FUNDING THE MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

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.

~A gift at Christmas~



The book *Beautiful Eucharist* is available on the table in the vestibule for each household of Holy Cross Parish. Please take one for you and your family to read and better understand the true meaning of the season now and always. Merry Christmas!



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

Christmas Party

Come join us in celebrating our Savior's birth!
 Sunday, January 7th 5:45-7:00pm

DINNER, GAMES & FUN AT HOLY CROSS PARISH FAMILY NIGHT