



Holy Cross Parish

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

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 124

The ends of marriage

The Sacrament of Marriage has two principal ends or goals. These form the purposes of marriage and the value of marriage. The two ends of marriage are: the good of the spouses and the procreation of children.

The good of the spouses:

One of the important goals of marriage is the mutual care of the married couple. One of the options for the vows states: "for better or for worse, for richer or for poor, in good times and in bad." These vows explain that each person of the couple knows that they are vowing to care for their spouse in any situation that may arise. This marriage is not just for convenience or for love. They do not marry because it is forced upon them or they don't have a better option. Marriage is the free gift to care for a singular person for the rest of your life and to care for the good of that person. The good of the spouse is also a spiritual good. The ultimate goal of any married couple is to lead each other to Heaven. Therefore, the first essential end of marriage is the mutual care of the two people in the couple for as long as they shall live.

The procreation of children:

God is three in one and one in three. We do not believe in only one person in God nor that we have two gods. This starting point is important for understanding the second end of marriage: the procreation of children. Love is always unitive and procreative. A good friendship brings life into both friends and helps them to support and encourage one another. Love is also life-giving. Love seeks to bring new life into the world and to share that new life with the world. The same applies to the nature of God, from whom this end is derived. God could have been Father and Son. The love shared between the Father and the Son would be compared to a strong and life-giving friendship. From eternity, however, love always gives life and forms another. Therefore, the love shared between the Father and the Son is so strong and complete that it manifests itself in the third person of the Trinity who is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the love shared between the Father and the Son which is so life-giving that it proceeds the third person of the Trinity completing the relationship. The same applies to married couples. Their marriages are meant to be life-giving and to produce children. Today, this end is becoming complicated. Does every married couple need to have children in order to have a valid marriage? No. The desire for children and for their marriage to be life-giving is necessary. The life-giving nature of marriage can manifest itself in biological children, adopted children, care for the children of the community, a motherly or fatherly care for all people, or even a desire to give their lives for the good of the community. All of these bring life through the joy to the love shared in the bonds of marriage.

Fr. Cody

Western Montana Catholic Women's CONFERENCE

"COME TO ME" MATTHEW 11:28



Sister Jacinta Phipps



Celeste Bebe



Jessica Echeverry

There Is No Place Like Home

Friday, April 10, 2026 ~ Cathedral of St. Helena

5:30 pm Mass and Rosary ~ All are welcome

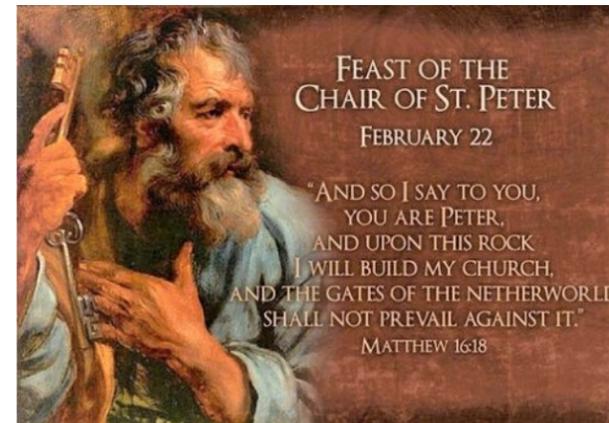
Saturday, April 11, 2026 ~ 7 am check-in

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

(including special "Montana Strong" speakers: Allison Bell, Kaylyn Lybeck, Lynnette Nilan)

Helena Civic Center

visit HelenaCWC.org



Western Montana CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"Come to Me" Matt 11:28

April 11, 2026 - Civic Center, Helena, MT

www.helenacwc.org / 406.603.0175

Lord Jesus, thank you for the constant love you have for me. Thank you for the gift of life and the gift of faith. Today, take me into your Sacred Heart and renew me. I open my heart to your grace, to be



healed where healing is needed. Replace any wounds or worries with your peace and joy. Send your Holy Spirit into my whole being: body, mind, and soul. Guide me to be the woman you have created me to be: your beloved daughter, disciple, and friend. Please remove any obstacles that keep me from living this way. Make me a woman of faith, hope, and charity. Lord, pour out your grace upon the upcoming Catholic Women's Conference, upon the planning efforts, and upon many women that they may hear your invitation and say "yes." May the conference be a time of spiritual renewal, healing, reconciliation, and joy for all who attend. Thank you Lord Jesus for all this, I pray in your sweet name. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Mother Mary, Gate of Heaven



Gate of Heaven, you are the sweetest, the tenderest, the kindest of mothers, constantly watching me with eyes of love as I travel my weary way through this same valley of tears that was once marked by your own blessed footsteps. How surely does devotion to you open the heavenly portals to numberless souls! Be the Gate of Heaven to me by obtaining through your prayers all the graces I need to live a holy life and to enter the gates of heaven. Amen.

St. Monica intercessor

Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers.

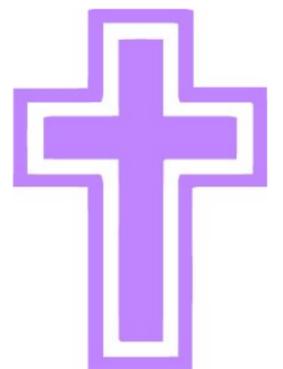
Dear St. Monica, we now ask you to pray with us for all those sons and daughters that have wandered away from God, and to add your prayers to those of all mothers who are worried over their children. Amen.



Mother Mary, Gate of Heaven, pray for us.
St. Monica, pray for us. Amen.

FEBRUARY 18-MARCH 29, 2026
INFORMAL KICKOFF 1:30PM
ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026
1500 CANNON STREET, THIS
CAMPAIGNS OPEN HOURS ARE 7AM
TO 7PM. SIGN UP FOR YOUR
PREFERRED TIMES AT
40DAYSFORLIFE.COM/HELENA

WE CHOOSE
PRAYER OVER
DESPAIR. PEACE
OVER SILENCE.
COURAGE OVER
COMFORT



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.

February 22: Hope

March 22: Love

April 26: Peace



To Benefit Good Samaritan's ministry of bringing stability to the lives of real people in need.

Let's Get Together At The Hop!

Bring the Family for a Fun-filled Night of 50's favorites!
Music - Games - Silent Auction

SINGLE \$10 - FAMILY \$25

Helena Civic Center
March 7th
Doors at 5pm

Call or visit our website for details.
(406) 442-0780
goodsamhelen.org

Holy Cross Parish Contributions

Week ending February 15th

Envelopes \$1,075.00
Loose \$321.51

Online \$285.00

Total Weekly Contribution \$1,681.51

Total Weekly Goal \$2,629.31

Monthly Summary

Week 1 \$2,483.00

Week 2 \$1,140.13

Week 3 \$1,681.51

Week 4

Total Monthly Contribution \$5,304.64

Total Year to Date \$119,929.53

Yearly Goal \$140,000.00

MASS	Schedule
Monday February 23	Mass 9:00a seminarians Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday February 24	Mass 9:00a Mary Garman rb Lynn Doherty
Wednesday February 25	
Thursday February 26	
Friday February 27	
Saturday February 28	
Sunday March 1	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p - 7:30p RE

Don't let your mental health slow you down!



You are not alone. We're here for you.

Your mental health affects your spirituality, vocations, relationships, and all parts of your life. Take care of it!

- ✓ Our therapists are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of your therapy, although it is not required.
- ✓ You can meet with a therapist in-person or online.
- ✓ Therapists specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, and marriage/family.
- ✓ Therapy is completely confidential. We'll walk with you on your journey to achieve your goals.
- ✓ Your consultation is free. Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, some EAP, and private pay (discounts are available) are accepted for additional sessions.



To get started:
Call us at (406)442-4130 or
Message us at cssmt.org.



Men's SKI RETREAT

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

Join Fr. Cody Williams and other men for a weekend of prayer, skiing/snowboarding, and fraternal time. For more information go to holycrossmt.org/skiretreat

\$50
(covers food & lodging; lift ticket not included)

INFO & SIGN UP



Scripture Readings



Second Sunday in Lent

03-01-2026

Reading 1: Genesis 12:7-14a
Psalm: 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
Reading 2: 2 Timothy 1:8-10
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"Lord, I shall see you no more with the eyes of the flesh..."

- St. John of the Cross (to the Host which had been brought to him)

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.

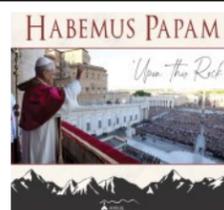
Deacon Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Liam Aippersback, Ryan Frampton, and Mason Yochum

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, Don and Jenny Schauber, Judy & Franklin Silfka, Repose of the soul of Mary Garman, Karen Simonich, Stover family



Annual Catholic Appeal

Holy Cross Parish Goal:

\$21,900.00

We have currently reached 48% of our parish goal, with \$11,175 to go!

Ministry Schedule

Sunday March 1, 2026

4:30pm

Greet: Pat and Debbie Miller
Altar Servers: Alex Weiss, Brendan Estrada, and Taylor Bleile
Lector: Debbie Miller
Gifts: Larry and Buffy Woodring
EM: Tacy Swanton and Joy Haggard
Money Counters: Tacy Swanton and Bernadette Swenson

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.



LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY SUNDAYS @ 4PM

- FEB 1 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES
- FEB 8 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
- FEB 15 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
- FEB 22 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
- MAR 1 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

We need someone to lead the rosary on Sunday at 4pm at least once a month. If you're interested, please contact the office, or speak with Shawna.



Faith Formation

Youth Schedule

- 2/22/26: RE Class (What is Prayer)
- 3/1/2026: RE Class (Sung Prayer)
- 3/8/2026: RE Class (Memorized Prayers)
- 3/15/2026: RE Class (Personal Prayer)



Holy Cross Youth Ski Day
Rescheduled to
Friday,
March 6th

Showdown Ski Hill

Join us for a fun day of skiing. Holy Cross will pay for the youth's lift ticket and lunch. Any child younger than 6th grade needs to be accompanied by a parent. Please scan the QR code to register. If your child was already registered for the original ski day, no need to register again, but please contact Father Cody or Shawna Wickens if your child was registered but can not attend on the new ski date.



WAYS TO DO LENT

Try one of these practices each day during Lent.



Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays during Lent

5:30pm

No Meal will follow

Feed the birds Do a chore without being asked Read a book for fun Enjoy some time alone Fast from junk food Write in a journal for fifteen minutes Go to Mass Donate foods you like to eat to a food shelf

Walk a pet for a friend Close your eyes and listen Sing at the top of your lungs Try a new food or restaurant Write a letter to God Pray Psalm 19 Write a poem called "Spring" Compliment a parent Keep the TV turned off for a week Make the Stations of the Cross Buy or plant a flower and care for it Listen closely at Mass Play cards with the old folks at a nursing home Go for a walk Draw a symbol of the resurrection Offer to babysit for free (on a Friday night) Clean your closet and give away forgotten clothes Visit a grandparent Walk instead of ride Tell a child a story Try not to use the internet for a day Daydream about your

future Ask a relative to tell a story about when they were your age Pray the Rosary Get some exercise Give away toys you have outgrown Make a new friend Put your phone away for a whole day Make peace with an enemy Find eight signs of new life in nature Laugh Attend a service during Holy Week

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.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

MARCH 20-22, 2026
CARROLL COLLEGE | HELENA, MT

FEATURING:
HIS EMINENCE
CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK



BISHOP MOTHER AND MORE!
Austin A. Vetter Mary Clare, ACJ

Register Now!

DIoceseHELENA.ORG/EUCCHARISTICCONGRESS



Middle School/High School Youth Lock-in

Friday March 6th 6:00 pm to
Saturday, March 7th 8:00 am
Holy Cross Parish Center

Holy Cross middle school and high school youth are invited to a lock-in where they will spend the night enjoying food, games, fun and fellowship. If your child would like to attend please scan the QR code to register them. Contact Father Cody or Shawna Wickens with any questions.



Eucharistic Congress will have dedicated junior high and high school tracks for the weekend. Junior high and high school youth may attend either with their parent/guardian or a Virtus certified adult chaperone. Please contact Shawna Wickens if your junior high or high school youth would like to attend, but will not be attending with a parent/guardian, so chaperones can be arranged.