



# Holy Cross Parish

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 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](mailto:frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org)

Office: 406-266-4811

Email: [office@holycrossmt.org](mailto:office@holycrossmt.org)

Shawna: [RE@holycrossmt.org](mailto:RE@holycrossmt.org)

Website: [holycrossmt.org](http://holycrossmt.org)

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

Townsend, Montana 59644





All-male Priesthood

Now we begin a far more useful and exciting exploration in the value and importance of the priesthood being limited to men.

The Church as a Family


One of the greatest reasons for the all-male priesthood is the balance of gender in the Church. I know, I’m guessing that most people are raising their eyebrows at me if not completely dismissing me at the moment. Remember: The Church is feminine and our mother. The priest holds a special role as the spouse of the Church. Bishops show this spiritual reality more prominently through wearing a ring and through their role in the Church. Yet, priests mirror some of this reality. In the words of Genesis, “man is not meant to be alone.” Priests are not loners who want to live without a family or children. Priests are men who see such great value in family and children that we are willing to give them up for the sake of the parish family. The femininity of the Church is balanced by the masculinity of the priest. Pope Francis emphasized the need for women to show the beauty and femininity of the Church. When a priest has too much control over of the interior of the Church, it becomes sterile and lifeless. Women give the Church a special beauty and elegance which keeps both genders in balance. In a similar way, a priest’s title of “father” illustrates the familial role of the priest and his connection to the larger body of the Church.

As a side note, imagine a woman pastor in the Catholic Church. I can easily imagine it because one of my friends is a Lutheran pastor. As you look around the Church, the interior is feminine, the leadership is feminine, and the identity of the Church is feminine. Where is the role for men? The challenge for us today is that we have not expressed both genders equally in our churches in order to see the beauty and value of both come alive and be well-represented. The challenge that women should become priests, should also call us to ask the question: what is the role of a woman in the church? What is the role of man in the church? What are the gifts that each bring?

Jesus as a man

The Church teaches that our goal is to do as Jesus taught and gave us. Often today we want to dismiss the value of gender and make everyone genderless as though maleness and femaleness are social constructs and not rooted in our identity. Jesus is male. The priest is his representative, his face, his presence in the world. If our goal is to do as Jesus gave and taught us, then we also have to mirror him. Since Jesus was male, his priests are also male. Therefore, we have an all-male priesthood to match the maleness of Jesus.

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



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!



“Pies by Guys”

The Knights will be hosting dinner and their annual “Pies by Guys” event after mass on Sunday, December 21st.

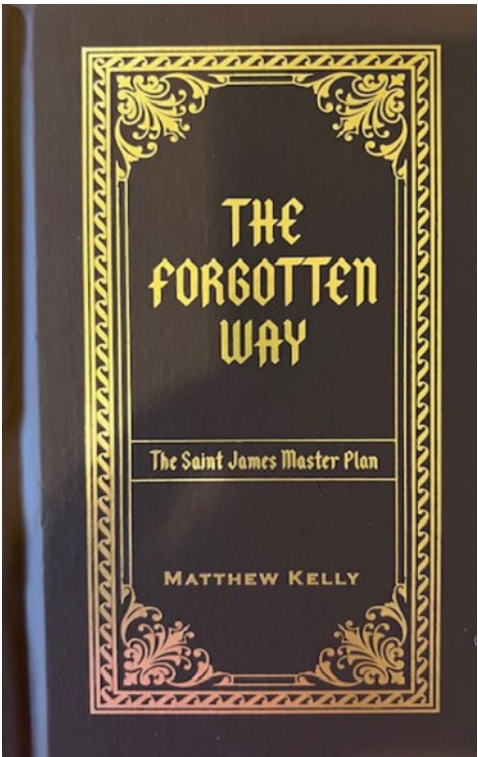
Any guys in the parish willing to bring pies that day would be great!

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

[bulletin@holycrossmt.org](mailto:bulletin@holycrossmt.org)

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Tuesday at 10a



THE FORGOTTEN WAY

~ The Saint James Master Plan ~

Mathew Kelly’s most recent book is available in the Narthex free for parishioners. This short book is full of wisdom and practices that provide a meaningful way to discover how to elevate your Christian life in the Way of St. James. Based on his words “Someone who does not trip up in speech has reached perfection,” the book includes discussions about elevating our speech to improve our lives and relationships dramatically. It includes a prayer process and scriptural meditations that will help re-orient your spiritual life with that single truth. Wonderful to share as a family, with prayer and reading groups or simple reflection. There is a limited number, so 1 free copy per household, please.

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 on

**Saturday, December 20th**  
**1:00 pm**  
**Parish hall**

We will discuss possible groups like the Daughters of Isabella and gauge interest in starting a new group. I hope to see you all there.



Parish potlucks

Every 4<sup>th</sup> 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 7th

Envelopes	\$4,630.00
Loose	\$117.44
Online	\$337.02
Total Weekly Contribution	\$5,084.06
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$5,084.06
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	
Total Monthly Contribution	\$5,084.06
Total Year to Date	\$89,932.60
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00

Mass	Schedule
Monday December 15	Mass 9:00a Regis Blanchard rb Gibbs Family Adoration 9:30a Ask a Priest 6:00p
Tuesday December 16	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday December 17	
Thursday December 18	
Friday December 19	
saturday December 20	Women's meeting 1:00 p in the Parish Center
Sunday December 21	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p Knights dinner + Pies by Guys (NO RE) Blessing table in the narthex



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](mailto: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 24% of our parish goal!**

Scripture Readings



Fourth Sunday in Advent  
12-21-2025

Reading 1:	Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalms:	24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Reading 2:	Romans 16:25-27
Gospel:	Luke 1:26-38



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host."

- Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

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 21, 2026 4:30pm

Greet:	Reiman Family
Lector:	Alex Estrada
Gifts:	John and Missy Rauser
EM:	Joy Haggard and Buffy Woodring
Money Counters:	Marge Kroeger and Joy Haggard



# Faith Formation

## 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 - GLORIOUS 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

## Youth Schedule

12/14/25: RE Class (The beginning of Mass)

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.

## Christmas Choir



George Jenkins will be leading a Christmas  
choir to sing during Christmas Eve mass. If you  
are interested in singing in the Christmas  
choir please contact George.

## HELP NEEDED!

Looking for people to help with folding, stuffing of  
envelopes and sending out Christmas letters as well as  
cutting holy cards.

Please come to the church office on **Tuesday, December  
16th @ 9:30 am** if you are willing to help. Thank you!

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 ob-  
jects that are on the table belong to the people who want  
them blessed and are not free for the taking.

*Blessings*

## Did Jesus establish one Church?



### Ask a Priest Night

Monday December 15th

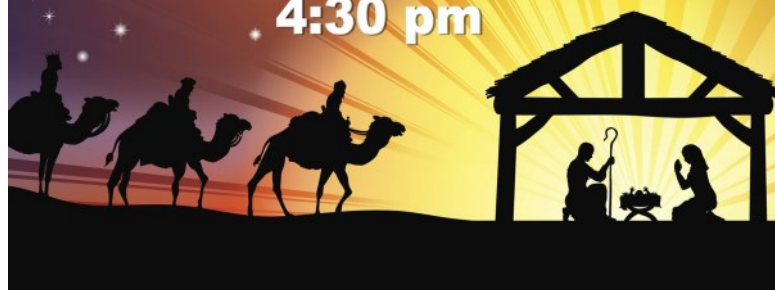
Dinner at 6pm, presentation at 6:30

All are welcome!

## Christmas Eve Mass

Wed. 12/24

4:30 pm



## Advent Prayer

4, 3, 2, 1... Count the weeks  
til Jesus comes.

Each week we add another light.  
Our hope for Jesus growing bright.  
We pray, we share, we do our part...  
to welcome Jesus to our heart!



## 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 5<sup>th</sup>**. 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!

