



# Holy Cross Parish

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 25, 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

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





Marriage

The journey from covenant to Sacrament requires one small leap: from human covenant to God covenants. The Old Testament is a beautiful collection of stories and experiences about the nature of God and his will and desire for humanity. Some of the images presented that explain God’s desires are incredibly beautiful. In order to understand the Sacramentality of marriage, we need to venture into the Old Testament and connect it with the New Testament.

Starting with the journey of the Israelites in the desert, God makes a claim: “I am a jealous God...You shall have no gods before me.” Why does it matter if God is jealous for his people? The only reason why a person would become jealous of another is if that person wanted the other person entirely to themselves. The same logic applies to God. He chose his people, he wanted his people, he cultivated his people, they were HIS people. This jealousy of God is the only time in religious thought throughout human history in which a god jealously guards his people. God is completely devoted to his people and no other people would suffice. Even when he threatens to destroy his people and start over, Moses intervenes and reminds him that they are his people abating his anger. The image for God’s relationship with the Israelites is characterized as a mother hen guarding her chicks under her wings.

The relationship only intensifies as we head further into the Old Testament. In the Book of the Prophet Hosea, God requires Hosea to take a harlot as a wife. However odd this may seem, it makes a point: God is as a husband to Israel and Israel is as a wife to God. Israel has been unfaithful whereas God has remained faithful. Marriage imagery. The imagery only intensifies in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel. In this story (Ezekiel 16) God sees Israel as a child covered in blood and abandoned and cleans and feeds her. As the child grow, God continually cares for the child *until* the child is of marrying age. Then God takes the child and marries her even though she ignores her new husband. These are only a few of the many images throughout the Old Testament that indicates that God wanted and understood his relationship with Israel as a marriage.

What does this mean about marriage? Marriage is not simply a human institution. Marriage is something divine, a special relationship that God wants with his people. God didn’t abandon the Israelites but instead remained faithful, one of the elements of marriage. He took Israel exclusive to himself, another aspect of marriage between only two people. God didn’t assume that the marriage would end even with infidelity and other challenges, the indissolubility of marriage. The Old Testament begins to describe the incredible goal and value of marriage as we continue the discussion with Jesus and the fulfillment 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](https://www.helenacwc.org)





Celebrating  
MARRIAGE  
WITH BISHOP AUSTIN VETTER

MASS // INDIVIDUAL BLESSING OF  
COUPLES // RECEPTION //

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH  
CATHEDRAL OF ST. HELENA  
6:00PM

BISHOP VETTER EXTENDS A WARM INVITATION TO ALL MARRIED  
COUPLES, FROM THE NEWEST OF NEWLYWEDS TO THOSE WHO HAVE  
COMMEMORATED OVER SIX DECADES, TO A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION.


EVENT DETAILS  
BEGINS WITH MASS // RECEPTION  
TO FOLLOW // HEAVY APPETIZERS  
AND DESSERT INCLUDED // SEMI  
FORMAL ATTIRE // FREE CHILDCARE  
WHILE SPACES LAST // \$25 PER  
COUPLE



Western Montana  
CATHOLIC WOMEN’S CONFERENCE  
“Come to Me” Matt 11:28  
April 11, 2026 – Civic Center, Helena, MT  
[www.helenacwc.org](https://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.



Blessing bags are available in the Narthex. Please take and share them with someone in need.



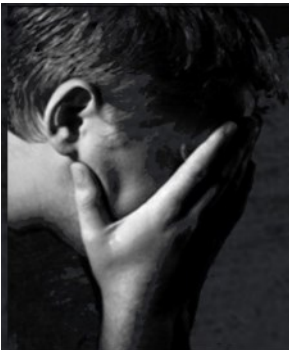
Parish potlucks

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.

January 25: Peace

February 22: Hope

March 22: Love



# The Struggle is Real!

Anxious, worried, stressed out,  
suffering, overwhelmed?  
Aren't we all!  
There's another way

Friday, February 6th at 6 pm at the Lodge  
Come hear testimonies and find support  
amidst life's challenges  
Free dinner and child care

Holy Cross Parish Contributions	
Week ending January 18th	
Envelopes	\$3,489.28
Loose	\$112.88
Online	\$440.94
Total Weekly Contribution	\$4,043.10
Total Weekly Goal	\$2,629.31
Monthly Summary	
Week 1	\$1,890.61
Week 2	\$1,659.24
Week 3	\$4,043.10
Week 4	
Total Monthly Contribution	\$7,592.95
Total Year to Date	\$112,909.71
Yearly Goal	\$140,000.00

Mass	Schedule
Monday January 26	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a
Tuesday January 27	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners Prayer Night for the suffering 6:30p
Wednesday January 28	
Thursday January 29	
Friday January 30	
Saturday January 31	
Sunday February 1	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family 5:30p - 7:30p RE



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!

Men's Weekend  
St Cyril and Methodius, East Helena

February 12-15th 2026

Contact: [Helenacursillorector@gmail.com](mailto:Helenacursillorector@gmail.com) 406-431-7544

Blessed be  
the Most  
Holy Name  
of Jesus,  
now and  
forever.

Amen

Scripture Readings



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
02-01-2026

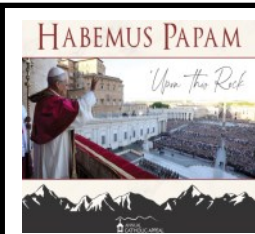
Reading 1: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13  
Psalm: 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10  
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

**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.



## Annual Catholic Appeal

Holy Cross Parish Goal:  
\$21,900.00

We have currently reached 48% of our parish goal, with \$11,300 to go!

BECOMING A MAN OF PRAYER



## 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](http://holycrossmt.org/skiretreat)

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

INFO & SIGN UP





### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"The Eucharist bathes the tormented soul in light and love. Then the soul appreciates these words, 'Come all you who are sick, I will restore your health.'"

- St. Bernadette Soubirous

**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 Moody, Mary Garman, Bakkum family, Karen Simonich

**Ministry Schedule**

Sunday February 1, 2026 4:30pm

Greet: John and Missy Rauser  
Lector: Alex Estrada  
Gifts: Karen Susag and Joy Haggard  
EM: Debbie Miller and Buffy Woodring  
Money Counters: Tacy Swanton and Bernadette Swenson

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



**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.

**The Spring Series begins 1/26/26**




**LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY SUNDAYS @ 4PM**

JAN 4 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES  
JAN 11 - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES  
JAN 18 - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES  
JAN 25 - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES  
FEB 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.



**Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**  
**Mass**  
**Monday, February 2, 2026**  
**5:30 pm**  
**There will be no 9:00 am daily mass or Adoration on this day!**

★ ★ ★  
**IT'S GAME TIME**  
★ ★ ★  
**SUPERBOWL**

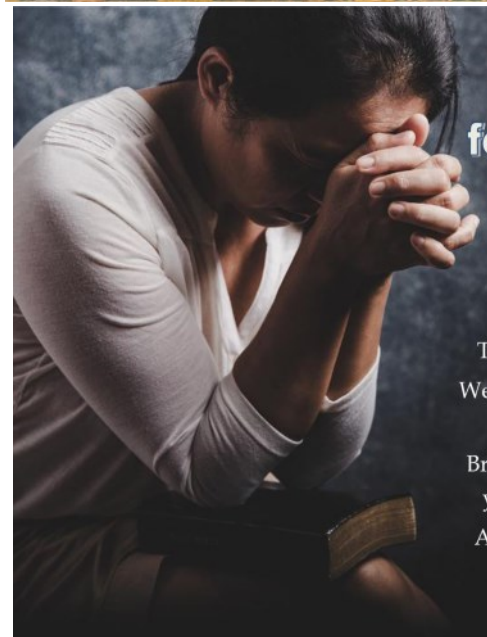
**Holy Cross' Knight's of Columbus group is hosting a**

**SUPER BOWL PARTY**  
**Sunday, February 8th**  
**5:30 pm (after mass)**

**Serving pizza and wings!**  
**Please come out and join us!**

**Prayer Night for the suffering**

Tuesday, Jan 27th at 6:30 pm  
We will pray for all those who are suffering.  
Bring the prayers of those who you know need God's help.  
A night of communal prayer.



**You can make a difference!**

- Grab a baby bottle.
- Fill it with cash, check, or change.
- Return it to church.

Return by February 8th

**Options clinic**  
Change for Life

Learn more or give online!




# Faith Formation


**Youth Schedule**

**1/25/26: RE Class (God's gift to us: The Eucharistic Prayer)**  
**2/1/26: RE Class (Eucharistic Prayer Part 2)**  
**2/8/25: NO RE (Superbowl Sunday)**  
**2/15/28: RE Class (Praying with the Mass)**

**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.

At first, Paul didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God. But when Jesus appeared to him after His resurrection, Paul knew he had been wrong. Soon, he gave his life to Christ and spread the Good News everywhere he went!



Saint Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!" (Phil. 4:13)  
Dear God, help me be as brave and dedicated as Saint Paul.

11

**Legendary Lodge 2026 CAMPS SCHEDULE**

<b>June 14-19</b> Junior High #1	<b>July 12-17</b> High School #2
<b>June 21-26</b> High School #1	<b>July 19-24</b> Junior High #2
<b>July 5-10</b> 5/6th Grade Boys	<b>July 26-31</b> 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 registering your child. Visit [legendarylodge.org](http://legendarylodge.org) for camp registration.

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!**

