



# Holy Cross Parish

First Sunday of Lent

March 9 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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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



### Contrition

Although the last part on the Confession of Sins was rather lengthy, many of the challenges people face in their confession regard the sins a person can confess and the importance of confessing sins. I want to turn our attention to the second principal part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Contrition. Contrition is the sense of sorrow for one's sins. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation the priest/confessor looks for signs of contrition in the person. Without contrition, the Sacrament doesn't happen. This statement may seem harsh but the minimum level of contrition is quite low. Often priests assume contrition of the penitent by the fact that the person walked into the room. Why else would a person come to see the priest except that they are sorry for their sins and want God's grace? Yet, there are exceptions.

A priest can withhold absolution of sins to a penitent who shows very little to no signs of contrition. These signs include the willingness of continue to live in the state of mortal sin even after counsel, statement such as "I did it and I am not sorry," signs or force or coercion leading the person to come to confession that day, or a firm resolve to keep sinning. Although you might think these signs are quite rare, let me give you some simple hypothetical, yet very plausible, scenarios to prove my point. A divorced person, who has not received an annulment, is living with their civilly married new spouse. Rarely would a person be willing to separate or live as though not married to this new spouse. This is a sign of willfulness to live in the state of moral sin. Someone who is in the challenges of a habit or addiction may believe that they cannot overcome the addiction. This is not a sign of lack of contrition but a lack of hope. A person can still be absolved from their sins when they are facing an addiction even though there is a good chance the person will commit the sin again. Whether a person could commit a sin again is not sufficient grounds to withhold absolution. A person may like a specific habit like getting drunk every Friday and find it fun and social. This is different than an addicted person seeking help. This person enjoys the sin and doesn't want to give it up whereas an addict is seeking help and struggles with giving up the sin. My final example is a youth whose parents want them to go to confession, state the sins their parents told them, and feel no remorse or attachment to those sins. "I was told that I did the following..." This is a good example of force or coercion leading a person to enter the confessional without feeling contrition.

Why is contrition so important? Contrition shows thought and attachment on the part of the penitent. Do these sins matter to the person? Does the person desire forgiveness and mercy? Is the person interested in amending their lives? When we feel sorrow for the pain and harm we have caused, then we take blame for our actions and can work towards a remedy. If we continually hold that I didn't do it or to rationalize our way out of guilt and willfulness in the action, then we have no contrition nor any humility to recognize our faults. Contrition reminds us of our sinful nature, causes us to be real with our faults and limitation, and gives us the humility to desire God and his mercy. The person must show some sign of contrition in order to desire and experience God's mercy who forgives those who have a contrite heart.

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](https://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.



## A RECOMMITMENT TO END HUNGER

Since 1975, Catholics across the United States have come together each Lent to respond to global hunger through the CRS Rice Bowl program. Learn how people like you have made a local and global impact on the lives of our sisters and brothers in need and why our prayers and almsgiving are still needed today. During this holy season, let us recommit to sharing bread for life with our global family so that all people can reach their God-given potential. Visit [crsricebowl.org/week-1](https://crsricebowl.org/week-1) to read this week's Story of Hope.

## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

IN A JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE  
MARCH 21-23, 2025  
CARROLL COLLEGE, HELENA

### FEATURING

Charles Camosey | Hannah Hemphill | Jimmy Mitchell |  
Sr. Anne Catherine Burleigh, OP | Sr. Marianna Thayer, OP

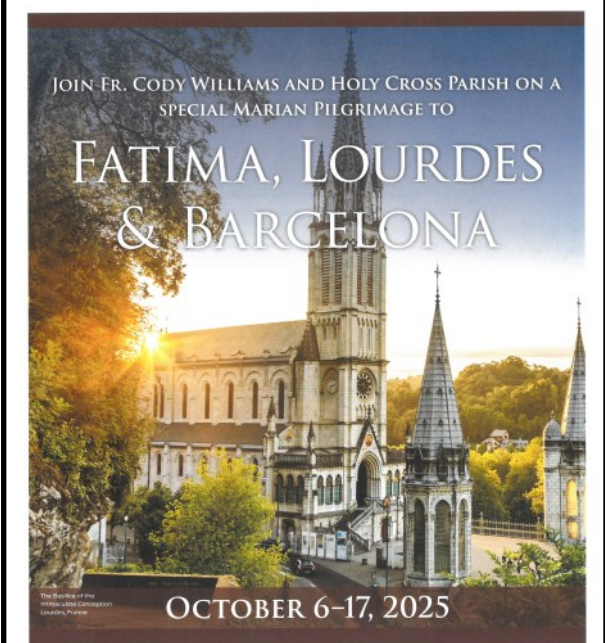
AN ALL-AGES EVENT  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
CYC CONVENTION

REGISTER NOW:

[DIOCESEHELENA.ORG/  
EUCCHARISTICCONGRESS](https://diocesehelena.org/eucharisticcongress)

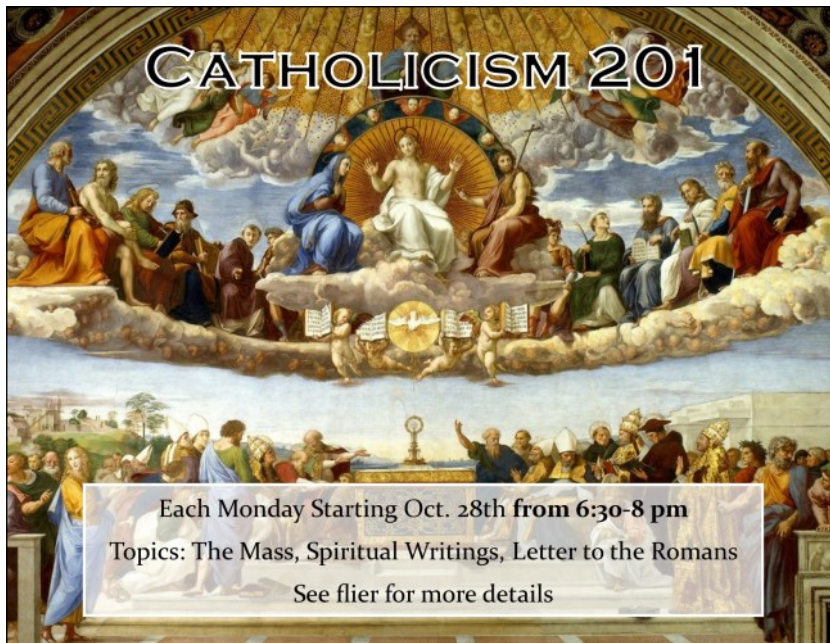


LEARN MORE



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# CATHOLICISM 201

Each Monday Starting Oct. 28th from 6:30-8 pm  
 Topics: The Mass, Spiritual Writings, Letter to the Romans  
 See flier for more details

## 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. 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



Second Sunday in Lent  
 03-16-2025

- Reading 1: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
- Psalm: 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14
- Reading 2: Philippians 3:17-4:1
- Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

MASS	Schedule
Monday March 10	Mass 9:00a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a Catholicism 201 6:30p
Tuesday March 11	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday March 12	Stations of the Cross 6:00p Soup Supper 6:30p
Thursday March 13	
Friday March 14	
Saturday March 15	
Sunday March 16	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p

### YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

3/16/25 RE topic: Mass (theology & spirituality)  
 Mark your calendars:

- The RE ski day is scheduled for **Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please let us know if you would like to go by Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- High schoolers are encouraged to take part in the CYC Convention/Eucharistic Congress **March 21-23**.

Women of Holy Cross  
**St. Patrick's Feast Day**  
 NO HOST  
**Breakfast**  
 at the  
*Mint Cafe*  
 Friday  
 March 14 - 9:30-11:30  
 305 Broadway St.  
 Townsend, MT 59644  
 May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you

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](mailto: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: March 21st and 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](mailto:bulletin@holycrossmt.org)

Ministry Schedule

Sunday March 16, 2025	4:30pm
Greet:	Bill and Mary Duede
Lector:	Megan Bleile
Gifts:	Pat and Debbie Miller
EM:	Nikki Weiss and Buffy Woodring
Money Counters:	Karee Eichinger and Tacy Swanton



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.

WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS

PRAYER MEETING


Wednesday, March 19th  
4:30pm

MEET DOWNSTAIRS  
IN ONE OF THE CLASSROOM


COFFEE & TEA WILL BE OFFERED

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*



Exploring the issues of our times in the context of faith



The next topics:  
Mar 17th—Immigration  
May 19th—Poverty and Homelessness

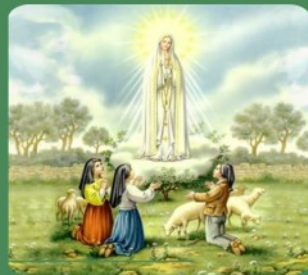
For all ages. Free dinner

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.



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



SUNDAYS @ 4:00

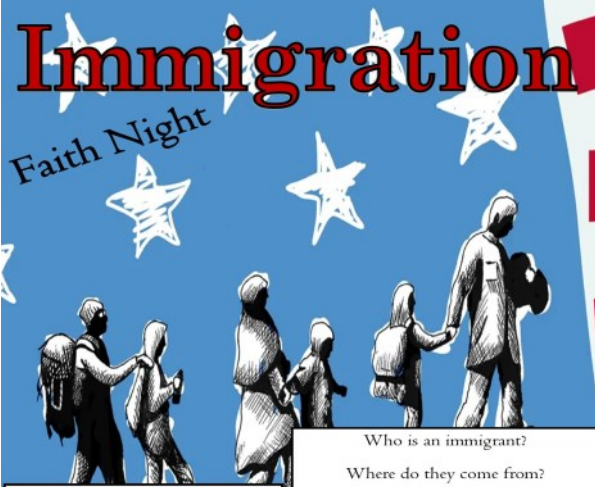
- MAR - 2 GLORIOUS MYSTERIES
- MAR - 9 JOYFUL MYSTERIES
- MAR - 16 LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
- MAR - 23 SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
- MAR - 30 GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

Save The Date  
for the Holy Cross

**Spring BAZAAR**

Saturday, April 26th  
More details to come soon!

**Immigration Faith Night**



Monday, March 17th starting at 6 pm  
Free dinner and free event.  
For all ages!

Who is an immigrant?  
Where do they come from?  
Why do they want to be here?  
Why are we facing a crisis?  
Special presentation by immigration lawyer Michelle Williams

Holy Cross Parish  
Finances

Week ended March 2nd

Total Weekly	\$1,738.00
Budget	\$2900.00
Variance	\$1,162.00

Year to Date

Total	\$86,467.31
Budget	\$95,700.00
Variance	\$9,232.69

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

"I hunger for the bread of God, the flesh of Jesus Christ ...; I long to drink of his blood, the gift of unending love."

- St. Ignatius of Antioch

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, Repose of the soul of Bill Lane, Repose of the soul of Harold Lassiter



IGNATIAN RULES OF DISCERNMENT

Presented by  
TERESA CHABOT

CATHOLIC LAY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FOR WOMEN- ST MATTHEW'S PARISH, KALISPELL, MT

Thursday Evening ~ Sunday Morning  
March 13-16, 2025

THE SYCAMORE TREE CATHOLIC RETREAT CENTER  
21592 SYCAMORE TREE LANE ~ SWAN LAKE, MT  
[www.sycamoretreeretreat.org](http://www.sycamoretreeretreat.org)

\*Cost: \$395  
3 nights lodging (1 person) @ \$100/night = \$300  
Conference fee \$75 / Meals \$20  
Includes three meals and a book.  
Scholarship available.

For more information or to register, please email Michelle Jenkins at [email@sycamoretreeretreat.org](mailto:email@sycamoretreeretreat.org) call (406) 754.2429

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

Do you know that we have Catholic Radio in Montana? KNEH, 97.3FM in Helena is an affiliate of Relevant Radio, which has 220 radio stations broadcasting across the US. You can listen LIVE to KNEH on the My Parish app by clicking on the Radio microphone icon or listen LIVE at [www.kneh.org](http://www.kneh.org)