



# Holy Cross Parish

The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 2, 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



# Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5th

Mass at 6:30 pm

## Basics of Catholicism part 78

### Growth in virtue

Many people are confused on the purpose of confessing sins, working to eliminate them from our lives, and the Christian life in general. One of the most common misconceptions is that the ultimate goal is freedom from sin. Although on one level this is the goal, the goal cannot be achieved until we are in Heaven. So, then, why bother working against sinful inclinations in this life and asking for forgiveness? Why not wait until we die and ask for forgiveness then? The answer is simple: the other goal of our lives is to live life well. The best expression of living life well is called virtuous living. Virtuous living requires us to be in touch with our challenges, limitations, and sinful inclinations. We cannot grow in virtue unless we have challenges that we need to overcome or parts of our lives which need refinement. This process of coming to know ourselves and working towards a good way of life is one of the goals of the spiritual life. The more we can recognize the patterns of grace and live a life close to God, the happier and more fulfilling of a life we lead.

The second misconception is that sin has so marred us that we cannot do anything good. Honestly, this is the Protestant understanding of the human person. Catholics, since the beginning, have always held that each person was created good and from that goodness we are capable of doing good. If we are created good, then why not live out this goodness through which we were created? If we are made in the image and likeness of God, why sully that through accepting shameful living and choosing against our goodness? We should live confidently knowing that we were created good, for a good purpose, and can do good for the world. This is the joy of the Christian life.

The third misconception is that we can never overcome sin so why try. We will always fail and therefore we are defeated. Defeat is from the Devil. He wants us to feel defeated because then we would never turn to God or accept his love and mercy. Defeatism keeps us from the goodness we are and the greatness that God is calling us to live. Jesus died and rose that we would never be defeated. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is necessary for combating this defeatist mentality. If each time we went to confession we left a new person, then we could never be defeated. If each time we confessed our sins, we understood the power of God in bringing us salvation, how could we ever think we lost? Jesus already won the battle against sin and death, the principalities and powers of the world, and against the Devil. We either share in his victory by accepting his mercy as we confess our sins or we share in the defeat of the Devil by believing that we cannot win and sin will always have mastery over us.

The Christian life is a life of constant growth and progress. Sometimes we grow a lot, sometime a little, and sometimes we feel that we are digressing. None of these feelings matter. The most pivotal part of our lives is believing in the victory Jesus won and the necessity of orienting our lives towards the good.

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](http://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.



### Catholic Mental Health Counseling

CSSM's counseling program has served clients from over 20 communities in Montana and is ready to serve you!

- Our counselors are Catholic and welcome faith as a part of any counseling session, although it does not have to be. They have experience with clients from many different backgrounds, cultures, and ages. We are here for everyone.
- We specialize in many areas, including grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, relationship/marriage, and perinatal concerns.
- You can meet with us from your computer, tablet, or cell phone from anywhere in Montana. If you're in Helena or Billings, you can meet in-person with a counselor.
- We want to be a good match, so the first session is free. If you choose to continue, we accept insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and private pay, with a sliding fee scale and other discounts available.

**To get started, call (406)442-4130 and select option '2' or send us a message at [www.cssmt.org](http://www.cssmt.org).**

## 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

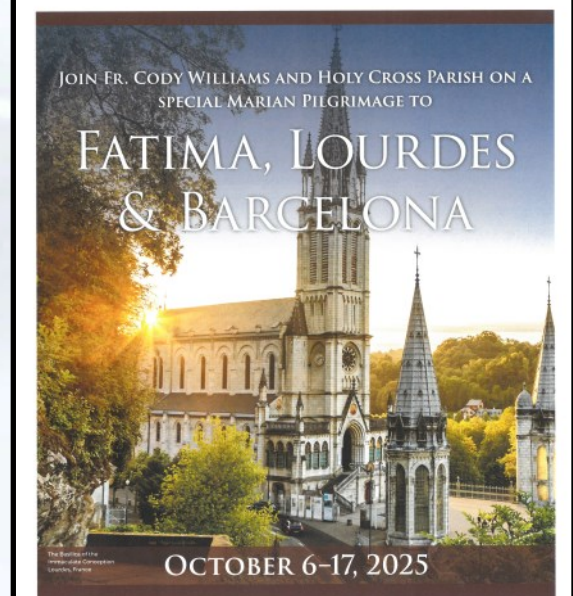
AN ALL-AGES EVENT  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
CYC CONVENTION

REGISTER NOW:

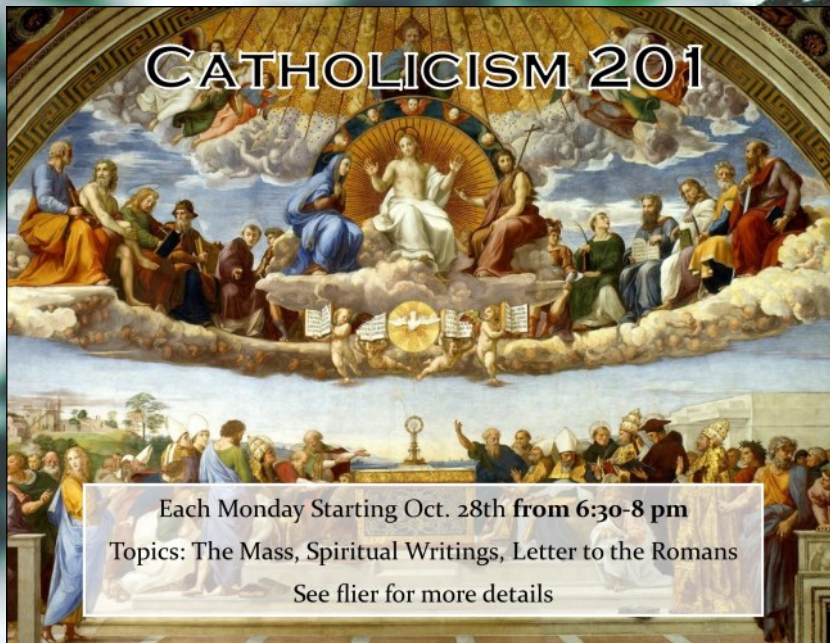
[DIOCESEHELENA.ORG/  
EUCCHARISTICCONGRESS](http://DIOCESEHELENA.ORG/EUCCHARISTICCONGRESS)



LEARN MORE



4780 W Six Mile Road, Suite 100  
Northville, MI 48168  
866.468.1420 | [info@pilscentral.net](mailto:info@pilscentral.net)  
[www.pilgrimagesbycts.com](http://www.pilgrimagesbycts.com)



# 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



First Sunday in Lent  
 03-09-2025

- Reading 1: Deuteronomy 26:4-10
- Psalm: 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
- Reading 2: Romans 10:8-13
- Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

MASS	Schedule
Monday March 3	No Mass or Adoration No Catholicism 201
Tuesday March 4	Mass 9:00a Homebound Parishioners
Wednesday March 5	Ash Wednesday Mass 6:30p
Thursday March 6	
Friday March 7	
Saturday March 8	Chosen movie 7p
Sunday March 9	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family RE 5:30p

## YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

- 3/9/25 RE topic: Mass (structure)
- 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*  
 Saturday  
 March 15 @ 9:30am  
 305 Broadway St.  
 Townsend, MT 59644

May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you

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



## Stations of the Cross

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm March 12th-April 9th  
 Soup supper to follow!

**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

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

The new email address for any information for the bulletin or advertisements is [bulletin@holycrossmt.org](mailto:bulletin@holycrossmt.org)

Ministry Schedule	
Sunday March 9, 2025	4:30pm
Greet:	John and Missy Rauser
Lector:	Karen Simonich
Gifts:	Mike Gagen and John Bleile
EM:	Debbie Miller and Emmalin Fischer
Money Counters:	Tom and Julie Leibert



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

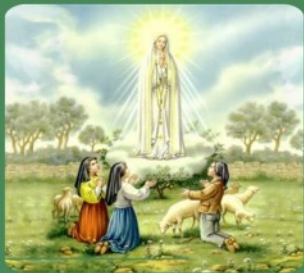
MEET DOWNSTAIRS  
IN ONE OF THE CLASSROOM  
COFFEE & TEA WILL BE OFFERED

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

## Holy Cross Parish

### Finances

Weeks ended Feb 9th, 16th & 23rd

Total	\$5686.44
Budget for three weeks	\$8,700.00
Variance	\$3013.56

#### Year to Date

Total	\$86467.31
Budget	\$95700.00
Variance	\$9232.69

THANK YOU FOR  
your generosity



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"If we but paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in this Sacrament, I am sure that the thought of Christ's love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude."

- St. Angela of Foligno

#### 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, Suri Kitt, Ellen Marie Osborne, Matthew Redeagle, Repose of the soul of Bill Lane, Repose of the soul of Harold Lassiter



No Mass, Adoration or Catholicism 201 on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

No Catholicism 201 on Monday, March 24th

# Faith Night

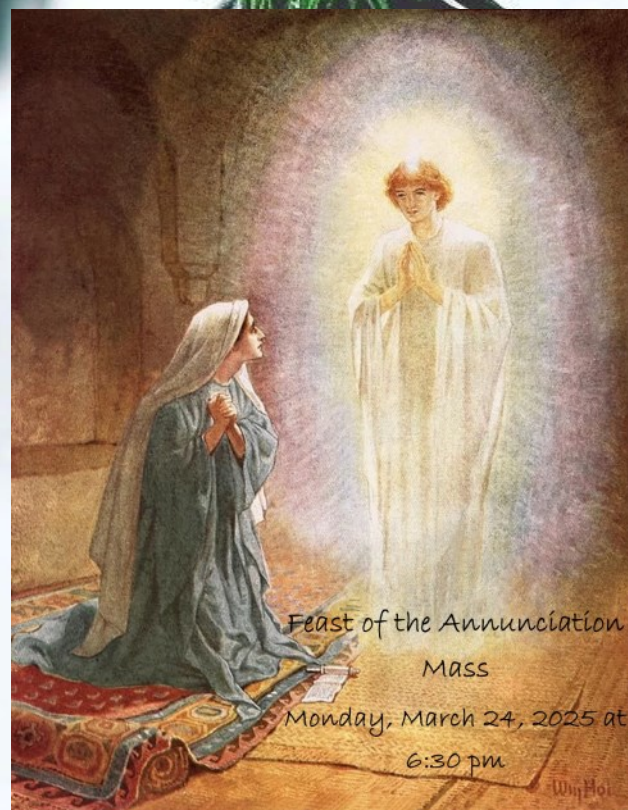
Exploring the issues of our times in the context of faith



The next topics:

- Mar 17th—Immigration
- May 19th—Poverty and Homelessness

For all ages. Free dinner



Feast of the Annunciation  
Mass  
Monday, March 24, 2025 at  
6:30 pm



## 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) or 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.

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)

#### 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