

# Stewardship

12/10-11/2022

Holy Cross

## Holy Cross Weekly Income

Envelopes	\$2,465.00
Loose	\$225.00
Holy Day	\$166.00
Restricted	\$380.00
Christmas	\$50.00
Reimbursement	\$1,563.43
Memorial	\$50.00
Other	\$25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,924.43</b>

## Holy Cross Monthly Expenses-November

City of Townsend	\$173.41
Flocknote	\$36.00
Spectrum	\$134.97
MT Energy Alliance	\$1,586.55
Broadwater County Treasurers Office	\$1,766.16
NorthWestern Energy	\$ 699.88
Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena	\$5,885.69

## Cemetery

### Cemetery Weekly Income

Short Term	
Long Term	
Grave Sites	
<b>Total</b>	
<b>Cemetery Expenses-November</b>	
NorthWestern Energy	\$ 6.55

Please consider a memorial for your loved ones to the Holy Cross Cemetery instead of flowers.

**THANK YOU!**



### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

If the Word of God is living and powerful, and if the Lord does all things whatsoever he wills; if he said, "Let there be light", and it happened; if he said, "let there be a firmament", and it happened; if finally the Word of God himself willingly became man and made flesh for himself out of the most pure and undefiled blood of the holy and ever Virgin, why should he not be capable of making bread his Body and wine and water his Blood? God said, "This is my Body", and "This is my Blood"

- St. John of Damascus

### 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.

Dillon Armstrong, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, John Cooney, Jamie Severson, Alex Olmes, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, Matt Keck, Jack Reed and Don. Kyle Tannehill.

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

### Prayer Chain



Unless requested otherwise after one month prayer request names will be removed from the prayer chain:

Joanie Pritchard, Elaine Graveley, Marie Hoeffner, Chris and Fran Wright, Ed and Jean Boucher, Mary Alice Upton, Jackie Kynett, Shanna Montonario, Martin and Margy Clark, Clara Boster, Mary Pat Sullivan, Gene Determan, LaReissa Swenson, Jenny Schaubert, Connie Rezendes, William Hart, Marj Kohn, Kim Schaubert, Paul Friend, Amy Ghorsen, Frank and Sally Majszak, John Clark, Margaret's prayer request, Don Larsen, Joann Shindoll, Carl Lorentzen, Laura Obert, Coralee Horne, Dan and Marie Stover, Roy, Mary McWhorter, Bob Masolo, Dave Welch, John Woodring, Julie Whitman, Nancy Martin, Nicki Ito, Chris Wright, Karen Susag, Kadence Saxton

### Did You Know ?

Of the 265 popes (263 to be exact because Pope Benedict IX, during the dreadful medieval fights between popes and anti-popes, was elected three times) 205 were Italians, (of whom 106 were Romans), and 57 foreigners; comprised of 19 Frenchmen, 14 Greeks, 8 Syrians, 6 Germans, 3 Africans, 2 Spaniards, 1 Austrian, 1 Palestinian, 1 Englishman, 1 Dutchman, and 1 Pole.

**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.**



Fourth Sunday of Advent

# Holy Cross Parish

December 18, 2022

### Weekday Mass Schedule:

Mass: Wednesday and Thursday 9:00a

Adoration: Wednesday 9:30a

### Weekend Schedule:

Confession: Saturday 4:00-4:45p

Sunday 7:30-7:45a or by appointment

Mass: Saturday Mass 5:00p Sunday Mass 8:00a

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30a to 12:00p

Fr. Cody Williams, Pastor Email: frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org

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Shawna: RE@holycrossmt.org

Website: holycrossmt.org

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

Townsend, Montana 59644

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**



Morality part 60

Sexual Ethics

Masturbation

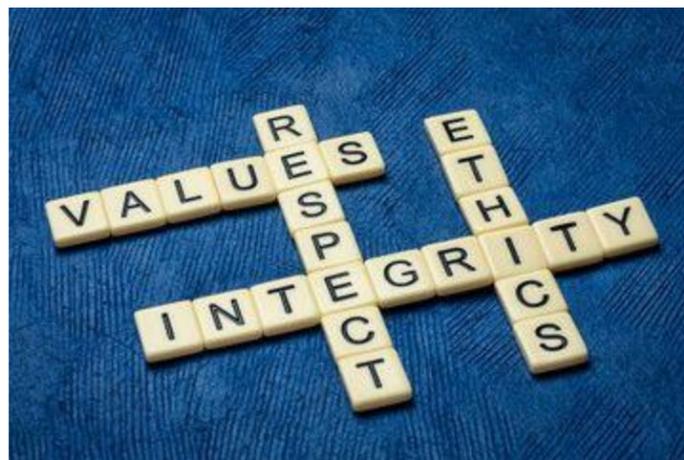
Out of all the topics that I could write about in the realm of sexual ethics, this one will be the most uncomfortable for everyone. Before I venture into this topic, I want to set a foundation on the topic of sexual expression. As I have mentioned in previous parts of this series, the goal is to use the faculties of our body rightly, to understand the proper context for our actions, and to feel good about the way we live our lives. If we live in such a way that we are dominated by our sexual desires or forced to succumb to their will, then we are not free to live well. Conversely, if we know the right ways to act and can follow through with our desire to act rightly, then we can live freely in the world.

Natural Law states that the body was designed for specific purposes and we should use our bodies for the purposes it was designed for. Our mouths are designed for communicating our thoughts and feelings as well as for breathing, eating, drinking, and many of the activities that give us life. We could also use our mouths to degrade people, to ingest poisons and toxins, and to hurt our bodies. No one thinks this would be good. In the same way our digestive tract is designed to keep us alive. The food we eat can either nourish us or harm us depending on the foods we choose to eat. Each of the parts of our bodies are designed for a purpose and that purpose gives us a greater sense of life.

Masturbation is using our body for the gratification of our own sexual pleasures. The Catholic Church describes this action in the Catechism as a gravely immoral act. This declaration may surprise us. Our sex organs bring us pleasure because the greatest way to use our bodies is to bring new humans into the world through love. Our sex organs are the only parts of our bodies that can produce life and therefore have the greatest moral weight when it comes to our use of them.

We must always remember the ideal goal in all ethics: to live well. Although we may be overcome or tempted by sexual desires, we can always work with God's grace to unite these desires to a greater good: our salvation. The Church's teachings often seem harsh to many people because they challenge the good of our actions and encourage us to change our behaviors. Prompting the question: what do we really seek? Let us work to seek God's will, what is best for ourselves and world, and help all people to live life well.

Fr. Cody



## Scripture Readings



The Nativity of the Lord

12-25-2022

Reading 1: Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm: 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 and 29  
Reading 2: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25  
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25



MASS	Schedule
Monday December 19	No Mass
Tuesday December 20	No Mass
Wednesday December 21	Mass 9a Adoration 9:30a For the intention of the extension donor RE- prek-5th grade 5-6:30p MS-HS 6:15-8p
Thursday December 22	Mass 9a Youth Church History Series 7p
Friday December 23	OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday December 24 Christmas Eve	Confession 9a Mass 8p First Responders
Sunday December 25 Christmas Day	Mass 12a Parish Family

### Ministry Schedule

Saturday December 24, 2022

8:00pm

Greet:

Lector: Karen Simonich

Gifts:

EM:

### Ministry Schedule

Sunday December 25, 2022

12:00am

Greet:

Lector:

Gifts:

Money Counters:

EM:

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and by email to

office@holycrossmt.org

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a

TWO weeks in advance

# Ministry Highlights

## Funeral Committee:

The funeral committee is a group of people who help with the funeral luncheon. Each funeral is assigned to one person on the committee who heads the luncheon for that funeral. The person who heads the funeral can call anyone in the parish asking for assistance with that funeral. The goal of the funeral committee is to provide a space and some food for the grieving family.

## Cooks for RE:

Our youth are the future of the church. They learn the ways of Catholicism from their teachers, parents, and the parish community. Part of our service to the youth is to provide them with meals at RE. Many of our high schoolers come directly from practice to RE and need something to eat. The meal also provides them down time in the church. If you are interested in making or providing a meal for our RE kids, please contact Shawna Wickens at [RE@holycrossmt.org](mailto:RE@holycrossmt.org).



**SAVE THE DATE** for Eucharistic Revival 2023, "Cultivating Eucharistic Amazement." Join us May 5 & 6, 2023 at Billings Central Catholic H.S. with special guests Dr. Scott Hahn, Archbishop Alexander Sample and musical guest Jaime Thietten. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength — the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Join the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings in the movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery – The Most Holy Eucharist. We'll explore what the Eucharist means in each of our lives, how this Sacrament is meant to be adored, how we cultivate Eucharistic amazement in our lives and how we, as the Body of Christ, become Eucharistic people. Ticket prices start at \$15. Visit [diocesegfb.org/revival](http://diocesegfb.org/revival) to learn more or register. Seating is limited!



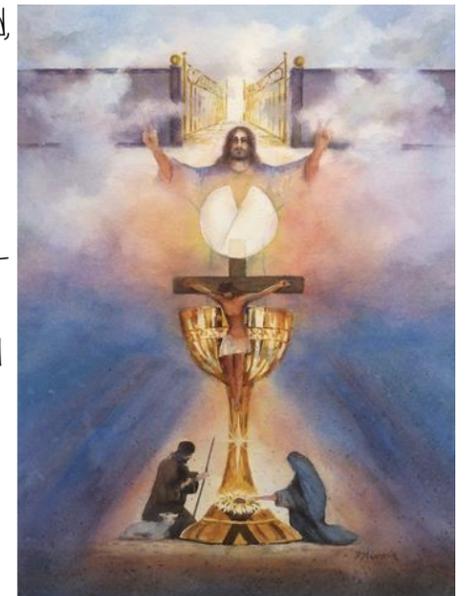
### TECH CREW NEEDED!

A new laptop was donated to our church to help with livestreaming Masses. I need a few people who are willing to run the livestream for Mass. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Cody.



# Announcements

Bishop Vetter has allowed us to distribute the Blood of Christ during Mass for the faithful to consume starting the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. In preparation for reinstating Communion under the Precious Blood, I want to draw your attention to this part of our Mass. Consuming both the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord better expresses his command to us to "take and eat" and "take and drink." The fullness of Jesus Body and Blood, however, are present in the Consecrated Host and Consecrated Wine. Each of them of their own contains the fullness of Jesus' Body and Blood. The faithful are not required to consume both the Precious Body and the Precious Blood. Even with the restriction rescinded, you still have the option to only receive the Consecrated Host and fully receive Communion. As this part of the Mass is reinstated, I encourage you to reflect on the great gift that Jesus has given us of his Body and Blood, signs of his love for us, his Body which enters our Body and brings transformation into himself. Jesus Body and Blood in form of the Consecrated Host and Consecrated Wine is the most precious gift the Church has and the greatest sign of God's ever presence with us.



## Have A Seat!



After consultation with the Pastoral and Finance Councils as well as those who came to the parish meetings, we are moving forward with buying new pews. This project contains several parts. The first part is new pews and kneelers. In addition to the new pews, we will be adding cushioning to the pews to make them more comfortable. This part of the project will cost approximately \$75,000. As we remove the pews, the goal is remove the carpet and put in new, easier to clean flooring. This part of the project will cost \$45,000. The total amount to be raised is \$120,000. Don't let this number alarm you. Through special donations we have already raised \$25,000. I have written a few grants to help with the cost of the pews. If we get them, I will let you know. The goal is to keep working at raising money until we have enough to complete both parts of the project. If you are interested in donating to the pew project - Have A Seat! - simply write a check with "pews" in the memo line. I will keep you updated on our progress.

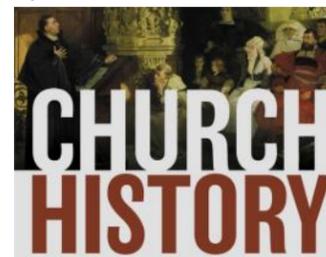


The Annual Catholic Appeal kicked off. The Diocesan goal is \$2 million. Our parish goal is \$20,700. Every little bit counts. We have currently raised \$18,315.00



Enjoy weekly video advent reflections on Formed with Fr. John Burns and discover the life God invites us to in Advent - one that brings us to a deeper and fuller way of living.

The History of the Catholic Church series has two more sessions for this fall: the 9<sup>th</sup> century on 12/15 and the 10<sup>th</sup> century on 12/22 at 7pm. The last 1000 years of Church history will continue starting on January 26<sup>th</sup> and concluding on March 28<sup>th</sup>. See the info table for more information.



## Attention all Liturgical Ministers



The process of scheduling liturgical ministers is immensely complicated given all the variety of schedules of all the ministers. As a way to help ensure that you are able to minister and the schedule works with your schedule, I am asking all liturgical ministers, lectors, eucharistic ministers, money counters, greeters and gift bearers to schedule themselves. On the info table at the front of the church will be the schedule for the upcoming months. Please indicate the times you would like to serve. If you choose not to sign up on the sheet on the info table, then we will schedule you regardless of your schedule unless you tell us otherwise. After the schedule is posted, all ministers will be required to find their own replacements in the case they cannot serve on a scheduled day. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Cody.

Montana  
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE  
"Come to Me" *Matt 11:28*  
April 15, 2023 – Civic Center, Helena, MT  
[www.helenacwc.com](http://www.helenacwc.com) / 406.422.1719

**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 of Divine Grace**, we salute you. You are an ever-shining light, the crown of virginity, an indestructible temple, the place that held Him whom no place can contain. Mother and virgin, because of you the Holy Trinity is glorified and adored. Ever in kindness, strengthen and sustain us, lightening our burden with a mother's blessing, that we may share the Father's life and splendor. God whose goodness crowned you Queen of Creation, and gave you to us, pray for us.

**St. Gemma Galgani intercession**  
O bright flower of heaven, St. Gemma, mirror of purity and penance, obtain for us the grace of purity and help us against all temptations of the flesh. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



We will not have a Penance Service for Advent but I will schedule one for Lent. Instead, I have confession times on Saturdays from 4:45 and Sundays from 7:30-7:45. I will also hold a special time for hearing confessions on Saturday, 12/24 at 9 am until no one comes.

## All Parish Christmas Party!!!

Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Come one, come all to celebrate Jesus' birth as a parish. Games, food, trivia and more!



What are YOU looking for? Join us for a Catholic Journey Spiritual Weekend All are Invited. All are welcome!

Looking for a weekend to deepen your spirituality? Give yourself a 3-day Christmas gift! No cooking or cleaning, all that is done for you. All you do is enjoy your connections with other faith filled women and the Lord.

The new Catholic Journey is for Catholics who are seeking a deeper understanding and commitment to their role as laity in the church. We also invite non-practicing Catholics, non-Catholics of other Christian denominations, and even those of non-Christian faith or no faith to attend. It is an opportunity to experience a weekend of Catholic spirituality as lived in a group of Catholic laity, who share with them the Catholic Community, reflections on the Catholic faith, and Catholic prayer and spirituality.

Weekends will be held at St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, East Helena, MT  
\*Women's weekend - January 12-15, 2023 (Contact Mary Munger at (406) 949-1870)  
\*Men's weekend - February 16-19, 2023 (Contact Darwin Eckert at (406) 594-6055)  
Weekends begin at 7:00 PM Thursday evenings and end about 4:30 PM on Sunday afternoons.

