



Christ Carrying the Cross
El Greco (1541-1614)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Just a couple of housekeeping notes this week as we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King and prepare for the season of Advent. I don't mind the use of the term "holiday season" because in all reality that is what it is, a season of holy days, but at the same time it must be remembered that Advent is a season in its own right and is a time to seriously focus a bit on the spiritual renewal of our mind and heart.

To that end there will be some materials available to you at the entrances of the churches. There are two Advent guides, one from Magnificat and the other from Word Among Us, and there is a book by Matthew Kelly on the Holy Eucharist. As always, confessions are heard on the days when Mass is celebrated, and if you are able, please consider attending a daily Mass each week during Advent. When Christmas day arrives, please do not be one who looks back with regret realizing that you have not done anything to take a step closer to Christ.

On the ACA front (Annual Catholic Appeal) it seems that we got off to a wobbly start and then tipped over. These past couple of years we were able to simply get the campaign done and move on, yet here we are a month into this year's campaign and we are pretty far behind. I have not done an analysis of the situation but I will look more deeply into it after Thanksgiving. If you have not yet made your contribution to the ACA this year, please take some time this week to make your offering. On a personal note, when the ACA is not fully funded and does not reach its goal, then all of the programs funded by the ACA get cut across the board and that includes the Guatemala Mission. I am the director of the Mission and there is just no way to adequately communicate to the folks in Guatemala why we have to draw back our financial support. *Just a wee bit of Catholic guilt there.* But as I have said, the ACA is not a fundraiser for the bishop, it is an annual collection that funds some of his ministry as the Bishop of Helena.

(Continued on page 2)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 26 November 2023

Sacred Heart, Ronan
Immaculate Conception, Polson
St. Joseph Mission, Charlo

Fr. Kevin Christofferson, Pastor
Fr. Robert Brooks, Pastoral Associate

Parish Office

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This week's office hours:

Tues 2:00-5:00 pm; Wed & Fri 10 am-12 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

Immaculate Conception at 6:00 pm

Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Rosary is prayed at 5:30 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 9:00 am

Immaculate Conception at 11:00 am

Rosary is prayed at 10:30 am

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm

Confessions are heard at 11:30 am and again after Mass on Wednesday during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.

FIRST WEEKEND DEVOTIONS

Immaculate Conception Church

Friday (First Friday), December 1st

Confessions at 11:30 am

Mass at 12:10 pm—Votive Mass in Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday (First Saturday), December 2nd

Confessions at 9:30 am

Mass at 10:00 am—Votive Mass in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (after Mass)

During a period of Eucharistic Adoration after the First Saturday Mass the 5 Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed, followed by a further 15 minutes of silent meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary as Our Lady had requested at Fatima.

Outdoor Advent Decorating at **Immaculate Conception** will take place on **Saturday 12/2 at 1:00 pm**. Please bring hand pruners for trimming boughs and wear warm clothing. We will be putting up the new nativity scene as well as changing from fall to winter decorations. We should be done in a couple of hours if enough people show up. All hands are appreciated! Questions? Call Sheila LeBrun: 406-208-5788



Outdoor nativity scene placement at **Sacred Heart** will take place on **Saturday, December 2nd at 1:00 pm** followed by a **soup social**. All are welcome!

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Starting on the First Sunday of Advent we will be fulfilling Bishop Vetter's request to begin Mass with a brief common prayer followed by two minutes of silent meditation. The prayer is a prayer composed by St. Anselm and it will be recited by all immediately after the announcements followed by the silence. The motive of the time of prayer and silence is to assist people to prepare and enter more intentionally into the celebration of the Mass; to open ourselves to its mystery and its fruits in our daily lives. This prayer is to accompany the Campaign for Catholic Life which has already begun in the diocese and will arrive in our parish next May. The Campaign for Catholic Life is a campaign aimed at outreach and evangelization, support for retired clergy, and the formation of seminarians. Much more on this later. Prayer cards will be available in the pews.

And finally, please make a note in your calendars that Sacred Heart in Ronan will be hosting a Lenten parish mission this year, the 25th (a Sunday) through the 27th. The presenter of the mission is a good friend of mine, Fr. Bryce Lungren of the Diocese of Cheyenne, and the author of the book *The Catholic Cowboy Way*. Fr. Bryce will be speaking on some of the contents of his book and books will be made available for purchase in advance of the mission. I am really looking forward to this.

That is about all for now. I hope you had a great Thanksgiving and during this next week please do think of that one thing that you can do this Advent to take a step closer to Christ.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



Food Pantry Necessities



Peanut butter and cereal are a constant need; as well as oats, flour and rice. Clients tend to prefer healthy options for food that are not so loaded with sugar. The Food Pantry will also accept money donations as well. Charitable donations may be left in the basket at the entrance of the church.

The Food Pantry also utilizes plastic grocery bags!

Humbly asking for your prayers

Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Michael Conrad, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Kate Shrider Olsen, Bill Nash, Donna Jacobs, Derrie Edge, Madge Vert, Heather Stocki, Betty Bjork, Vicki Weiss, Jason Avison, Floyd Smith, Nash Niemeyer, Richard Call, Bud Cheff, Jr, Donna Radtke, Bill Rueth, Monte Jenkins, Chris Skinner, the Sandler Family, Margaret Welty.

Please help to keep the list current by contacting the Parish Office. Also, out of respect for a person's privacy, please make sure that all individuals wish to be publicly identified.

Grace be to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for you all; Making a remembrance of you in our prayers without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

The Holy Father's prayer intention for November

For the Pope: We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for our seminarians!

Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthoney Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, Matt Keck.

Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting, macrame, or any other crafts projects involving *yarn*? Do you have a family member or friend who enjoys knitting? Need a Christmas gift idea?

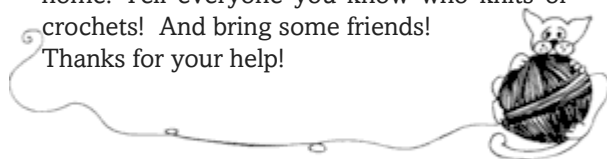
The Knitters & Crocheters Club has been gifted with many skeins of new yarn, yarn of all colors, brands and weight. All are invited to come to Immaculate Conception Church and pick up any amount of yarn that they would like to have. **There is no cost!** Free will donations to support Immaculate Conception will be accepted.

Saturday, December 16th,

Open from 8:00 am till 1:00 pm.

Please bring shopping bags to haul your yarn home. Tell everyone you know who knits or crochets! And bring some friends!

Thanks for your help!



Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 25th

Vigil of the Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Parish All Souls' Intentions

Sunday, November 26th

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Sick & Shut-Ins of the Parish/
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, November 28th

For the Victims of Abortion

Wednesday, November 29th

Intentions of Jeff Devlin, rb Katie Devlin

Thursday, November 30th

St. Andrew, Apostle

Repose of the Soul of Michael R. Neis, rb Katie Devlin

Friday, December 1st

First Friday of the Month

For the Spiritual Needs of all Clergy

Saturday, December 2nd

First Saturday of the Month

For Unity of All Christians



Solemnity of Christ the King: Background

About Christ the King

Published by The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI's encyclical gave Catholics hope and—while governments around them crumbled—the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever. Jesus Christ "is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind" (*Quas primas*, 7).

Christ's kingship is rooted in the Church's teaching on the Incarnation. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both the divine Lord and the man who suffered and died on the Cross. One person of the Trinity unites himself to human nature and reigns over all creation as the Incarnate Son of God. "From this it follows not only that Christ is to be adored by angels and men, but that to him as man angels and men are subject, and must recognize his empire; by reason of the hypostatic union Christ has power over all creatures" (*Quas primas*, 13).

The Church calls us to acknowledge Christ's kingship with our whole lives:

He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, 'as instruments of justice unto God.' -*Quas primas*, 33

Today, religious freedom for many people means that we can believe whatever we want in private, but when we enter the public square or the marketplace, we may not speak of anything that relates to our faith. However, the Church acknowledges the reign of Christ, not only privately, but publicly. This solemnity encourages us to celebrate and live out our faith in public. "Thus by sermons preached at meetings and in churches, by public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed and by solemn processions, men unite in paying homage to Christ, whom God has given them for their King" (*Quas primas*, 26).

For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life. When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital
Chapel

Friday at 9:00 am

DIVINE MERCY RADIO 90.7 FM

*DMR is a locally
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All homilies are
available on YouTube
and can be found by
searching the full name
Fr. Kevin Christofferson.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Entrance:

*How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honor.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.*

Collect:

*Almighty ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray,
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever*

Readings:

FIRST READING: Ezk 34:11-12, 15-17

RESPONSORIAL: Ps. 23:1-2,2-3,5-6;

R. The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING: 1 Cor 15:20-26,28

ALLELUIA: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed be the kingdom of our father David that is to come!*


- Mk 11:9,10

GOSPEL: Mt. 25:31-46

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Though already present in his Church, Christ's reign is nevertheless yet to be fulfilled "with power and great glory" by the King's return to earth. This reign is still under attack by the evil powers, even though they have been defeated definitively by Christ's Passover. Until everything is subject to him, "until there be realized new heavens and a new earth in which justice dwells, the pilgrim Church, in her sacraments and institutions, which belong to this present age, carries the mark of this world which will pass, and she herself takes her place among the creatures which groan and travail yet and await the revelation of the sons of God." That is why Christians pray, above all in the Eucharist, to hasten Christ's return by saying to him: Maranatha! "Our Lord, come!" (CCC 671)



 **ANNUAL
CATHOLIC APPEAL**
FUNDING THE MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF HELENA
ACA Campaign Progress*
Immaculate Conception: 54% of goal
Sacred Heart: 70% of goal
*as of 11-10-2023

Parish Offertory Progress Report Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception

\$75,754 of \$185,000 (41%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph

\$16,052 of \$44,500 (36%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:

\$4,295 of \$20,000 (21%)



Thank you for your generosity!



BECAUSE
HE FIRST
Loved
US...

A CAMPAIGN FOR CATHOLIC LIFE

Campaign Prayer

O Lord, my God, teach my heart this day
where and how to see You, where and how to find You.

You have made me and remade me,
and You have bestowed on me
all the good things I possess, and still I do not know You.
I have not yet done that for which I was made.

Teach me to seek You,
for I cannot seek You unless You teach me,
or find You unless You show Yourself to me.

Let me seek You in my desire;
let me desire You in my seeking.
Let me find You by loving You;
let me Love You when I find You.

AMEN

— St. Anselm



CSSM
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
of Montana

Mental Health Services

NEW Counseling Program Available!

Catholic Social Services of Montana is excited to announce the launch of its new mental health counseling program. We are actively accepting new clients. Below are more details:

- We have licensed counselors available to talk or listen.
- No topic is too big or too small for us to address. If we can't tackle it, we'll work with you to provide a referral.
- You can meet with us from your computer, cell phone, or any other online mobile device. If you live in or want to travel to Helena, you can meet in-person with us.
- We're Catholic. Faith can be a part of our conversation if you'd like, but that is not required. We are here for everyone.
- Your first session is free. If you choose to schedule another session, we accept insurance and private pay and offer reduced private pay rates if you meet qualifying standards.

To get started, you can call (406)442-4130 or visit www.cssmt.org.