



"Paradise" from The Last Judgment
(see full work on page 3)
Fra Angelico (c. 1395-1455)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

This First Sunday of Advent, at the request of Bishop Vetter, we are beginning Mass by praying together a beautiful prayer composed by St. Anselm. Like all prayers, for the most part, it is a means of stirring our hearts to a greater love of God and a door through which we receive the grace of God more deeply into our souls. This specific prayer was chosen by the bishop as a means of opening ourselves more deeply to the fulness of the Christian mystery presented in the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Christ so that we might be moved and transformed by it.

A few weeks ago I had made mention in my homily about what exactly the Church means when it speaks of the full, active, and conscious participation of the faithful in the celebration of the Mass and why the Church places such a high value on it. Participation can mean many things to many people which is why I believe it is a goal that has yet to be achieved because there is no consensus among all the competing and confused understandings regarding the concept. And that would be the point, we don't get to decide what the Church means when speaks of such things, rather we need to listen to the Church and in Her voice recognize the voice of Christ inviting us to enter into a deep and abiding communion of love with Him, which begins with our participation at Mass, the source of our Christian life.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have published a paper treating of the theological vision behind the Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council and the Roman Missal, and in the next two weeks I would like to share with you some of its contents and insights so that as we prepare to commemorate the birth of Our Savior we might make such a preparation by deepening our understanding and participation in the very Sacrament He instituted the night before He died.

We have to get our participation in the Mass right. We just have to. It is the highest form of Christian prayer and without it, it is really difficult to speak of any kind of personal prayer or relationship with Christ. The Mass is our prayer to God offered in community and it is in between Sundays that we enter each day to enter into the inner chamber of our heart to speak with Him. It is a both/and proposition.

When it comes to participation at Mass we must speak of that participation under two aspects; one being external, and the other internal. Next week we will look at the externals of our participation at Mass and then the following week the interior dimension.

Peace, Fr. Kevin Christofferson

P.S. I terribly regret that I will not be here for the patronal
(Continued on page 2)

First Sunday of Advent 3 December 2023

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

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

Parish Office
PO Box 1477 Polson, MT 59860
Phone: 406-883-2506
Cell: 406-594-0474

Email: lakecountyromancatholic@gmail.com
Website: www.lakecountyromancatholic.org

This week's office hours:
Tues & Thurs 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.



*Solemnity of the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin
Mary, December 8th*

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass offered at Immaculate
Conception at 12:10 pm

The Lake Funeral Home, Shrider-Thompson Funeral Home, Partners in Home Care/Hospice, and Providence St. Joseph Medical Center would like to invite you to our Candle Lighting Ceremony.

Candle Lighting Ceremony
Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 2:00 PM
The Lake Funeral Home
101 6th Ave East, Polson

This is an ecumenical ceremony which will allow the natural feelings of sadness, along with the joy and happiness of the holidays, to help all of us reflect on the memories we cherish. We look forward to sharing his special ceremony with you.
Refreshments and drinks will be served afterwards.

(Continued from page 1)

feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. It is a formation weekend for those preparing for the permanent diaconate, and I am scheduled for classes. Mass will be offered at 12:10 pm by Fr. Brooks who will also lead the consecration of the parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary after the Mass as we do each year. While in Helena I will be offering Mass for you and renewing the consecration as well in order to be united with you in spirit on this day.

Also, please take a copy of the book on the Eucharist written by Matthew Kelly. There is a copy for each household for you to share as you read and deepen your understanding and appreciation of the Holy Eucharist. The books may be found at the entrance of the churches.



**St. Lucy's Scandanavian
Christmas Dinner**
December 17th | Gaudete Sunday

Swedish meatballs and hasselback
potatoes are on the menu!

New in Ronan!

Mission Valley Neurodegenerative Disease Support Group

Mission Statement: The purpose of this group is to provide an opportunity for individuals and their loved ones to connect with others who are also living with PD, MS, or ALS.

Meeting Location: St. Luke Community Healthcare,
107 6th Ave SW, Ronan,
Cottonwood Conference Room, main floor across from cafeteria

Meeting Length: 1 hour (contact Monte for meeting dates)



There will be new topics of discussion at
each session.

Contact person: Monte Jenkins,
406-253-3484, jenkins@ronan.net

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 December

For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Please pray for our seminarians!

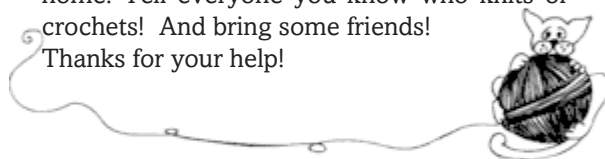
Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthoney Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, Matt Keck.

**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, December 2nd

Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent

Repose of the Soul of Carol Kelly, rb the Kelly Family

Sunday, December 3rd

First Sunday of Advent

Repose of the Soul of Ken Cornelius, rb Linda Dorrington

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, December 5th

Repose of the Soul of Maggie McGee, rb Katie Devlin

Wednesday, December 6th

Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop

Intentions of Linda Dorrington, rb Linda Dorrington

Thursday, December 7th

Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Repose of the Soul of Maggie McGee, rb Katie Devlin

Friday, December 8th

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Intentions of the Parish Faithful





The Last Judgment by Fra Angelico (c. 1395-1455)

To the left of Christ represents the condemned (to Hell) and, to the right, it represents the saved ones and the saints. In the center, the opened tombs symbolizes the resurrection of the dead.

First Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon:

*To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

Collect:

*Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.
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: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19: *Lord,
make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be
saved.*
SECOND READING: 1 Cor 1:3-9
ALLELUIA: Cf. Ps 85:8:
GOSPEL: Mk 13:33-37

ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital
Chapel

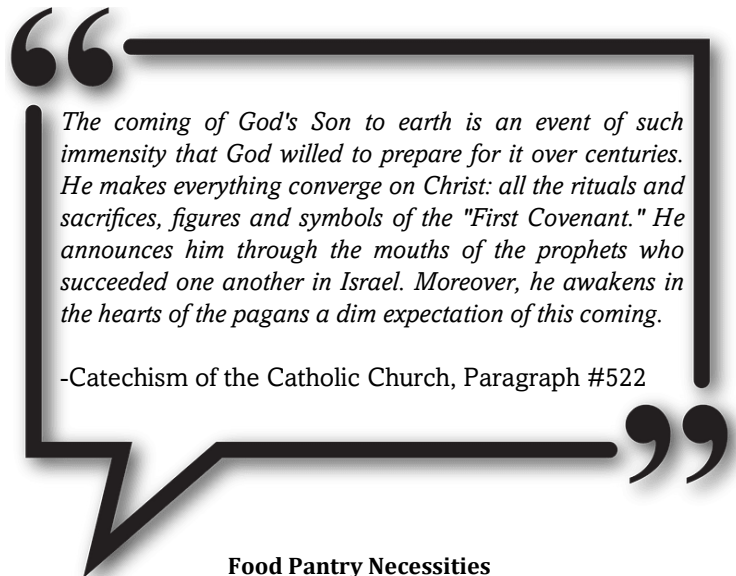
Friday at 9:00 am

DIVINE MERCY RADIO 90.7 FM

*DMR is a locally
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profit 501(c)3*



All homilies are
available on YouTube
and can be found by
searching the full name
Fr. Kevin Christofferson.



The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the "First Covenant." He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraph #522

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!

Parish Offertory Progress Report Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$77,874 of \$185,000 (42%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$16,429 of \$44,500 (37%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:
\$4,295 of \$20,000 (21%)



Thank you for your generosity!



BECAUSE
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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. Ignatius Mission Presents
Christmas Concert for the
Community

December 9 | 5:00 pm

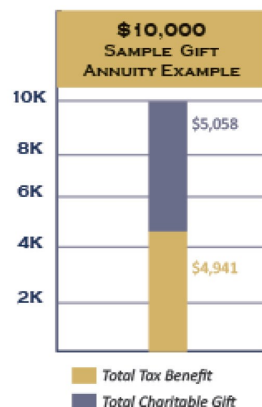
Featuring the Cazan Duo

Claudius Cazan - Violin
& Clementa Cazan German - Piano

Refreshments and social
following the concert. A freewill
offering will be taken.

Could you benefit from a 40% Montana Tax Credit?

Imagine if you gave a gift to benefit your parish or favorite Catholic ministry and received nearly HALF of it returned to you in tax credits! Annuities allow you to make your donations work for you.



Montana is a unique state, committed to giving back to its nonprofits through the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. This piece of our tax code allows you to give to an endowment through a planned gift (charitable annuity), and be able to claim a tax credit of 40% of the total charitable gift.

The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena offers annuities that support 164 different endowments within our Diocese, including one for every parish as well as many Catholic ministries.

Each household is eligible for up to a \$10,000 Montana tax credit per spouse (\$20,000 total). Donate appreciated stock and your tax savings in capital gains could be even more!

**For more information and your own
personalized annuity illustration,
contact the Foundation at (406)389-7050.**

Due to the planned gift requirement of annuities, we regret that annuities cannot be used for donations to the Because He First Loved Us Campaign for Catholic Life.



FOUNDATION
for the Diocese of Helena