



L'Ascension

Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

One of the things that makes communication exceedingly difficult these days are the political filters through which nearly everything is heard and understood. Our discourse as a nation has become hyper politicized and the polarizing effect this has on our conversations makes real communication virtually impossible. I know that I do not need to elaborate with any examples because you are all too well aware of what I am talking about. There are issues that need to be discussed for sure, but we cannot seem to bring ourselves to have any of these most necessary discussions because our politics get in the way. But, as I am thinking about it, it is not really politics per se that is the problem, but rather our ideologies that have hardened our hearts and closed our minds.

In the broadest sense of the term politics is something that ought to unite a people as they discern together the common good which then moves them to enter into a dialogue regarding the best means of achieving that good. But when is the last time you ever saw that happen?

The Church understands full well that not everyone shares our faith in Jesus Christ. The Church is also fully aware that people are diverse in their ethnicities, cultures, languages, customs and even their political persuasions and philosophical inclinations. So, what is it that can unite so many different people and give them a common purpose? I have already hinted at it and that would be the common good.

Now the common good is not something manufactured or arbitrary that can be applied like a cookie cutter in order to embrace as many people as possible. No,

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The Ascension of the Lord

21 May 2023

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

Parish Office

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This week's office hours:

CLOSED (Katie on vacation)

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

Immaculate Conception at 6:00 pm
Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 9:00 am
Immaculate Conception at 11:00 am

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm
Confessions are heard on each of these days at 11:30 am and again after the 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesday during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.



Coffee and donuts will be served after 9:00 Mass in Ronan on Sunday, May 21st. All are welcome!!

Mark your calendar!

Summertime Sunday Hospitality

begins at Immaculate Conception on **May 28th!**

Join us for food & fellowship on the front porch of the church (weather permitting) each Sunday after the 11:00 am Mass, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

The annual **parish picnic** will take place at Boettcher Park on Sunday, **June 25th** after the 11:00 am Mass.

We are still seeking help for a few Sundays this summer.

If you are interesting in helping with hosting, food preparation, or Sunday setup, please call or text Patti Thomas at (281) 731-2660.



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that would not be good and certainly not in keeping with human dignity. But we can talk about the common good under its most basic and fundamental aspect, natural law.

Natural law is something that is absolutely common to all people regardless of any accidental distinctions we may want to recognize, such as ethnicity, culture and so on. Natural law is the law of nature which at minimum requires us to be true to ourselves as human beings, and at the end of the day it does not even require any belief in nature's God. Natural law, the truth be told, is accessible to every intelligent being that has the use of reason and therefore it is able to embrace and include all peoples. It does not need to be revealed, although Divine Revelation certainly helps us to understand and interpret it authentically. Natural law then provides us with the departure point in discerning a true and proper common good.

The natural law, if properly discerned, will lead us to a more authentic understanding of the human person (but not fully since that requires faith in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ in the flesh), how we ought to relate to one another in organized societies, and the foundation upon which those societies are built, the human family established with the marriage of one man and one woman in a lifelong monogamous relationship. This is all very, very basic stuff, but these are also the very points of the greatest confusion and the source of so much hostility in our political discourse.

I have mentioned this many times before and so please bear with me, but when an individual stubbornly adheres to an error their use of reason becomes disabled, and their intellect is darkened rendering them virtually incapable of making any

prudential judgements. And this my friends is the state of affairs and at least in part why civil discourse cannot take place in our country; far too many people in positions of public trust and service have made themselves to become imbeciles, and the rest of us must suffer on account of it.

I am not really in a position to offer any concrete solutions to the difficulties that I am describing, but I do hope that in some small way I can at least shed light and understanding on the world in which we live and encourage each and every one of you to study, pray and remain faithful. Our Catholic faith is truly a rare and beautiful thing and something to be continually studied and always cherished in our heart. I know that listening to the news and consuming social media can hurt the ears and more often than not shock the conscience, and so do yourself a favor, love your soul and give it that One Thing for which it truly hungers.

Peace,
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.



Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 20th

Vigil of the Ascension of the Lord

Repose of the Soul of Msgr. Joseph L. Wolter,
rb Teri Daigneault

Sunday, May 21st

The Ascension of the Lord

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, May 24th

Intentions of Betsy Sailor, rb Rita Rehbein

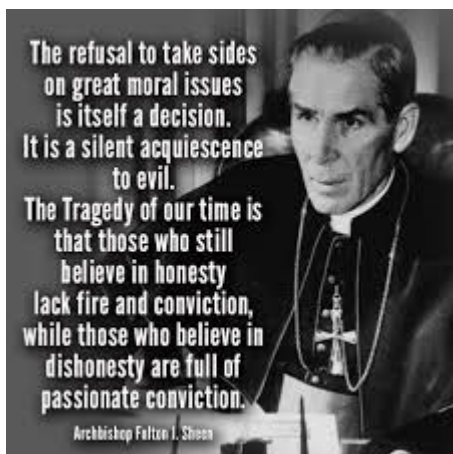
Thursday, May 25th

Repose of the Soul of Fr. John Marsh, rb Teri Daigneault

Friday, May 26th

Memorial of St. Philip Neri, Priest

Intentions of Brett Bosley, rb Rita Rehbein



Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, 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, Bob Mahon, Heather Stocki, Betty Bjork, Vicki Weiss, Jason Avison, Floyd Smith, Nash Niemeyer, Richard Call, Teresa Cullis, Bud Cheff, Jr, Donna Radtke, Bill Rueth, Frank Delgado, Jan Irwin, Monte Jenkins, Jeff Chada, Mike Moon.

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 May

For church movements and groups: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.



Please pray for our seminarians!

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

The Ascension of the Lord

Entrance:

*O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;
hide not your face from me, alleluia.*

Collect:

*Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Savior of the human race is with you
in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever*

Readings:

Acts 1:12-14

Psalms 27:1, 4, 7-8

*R. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of
the living.*

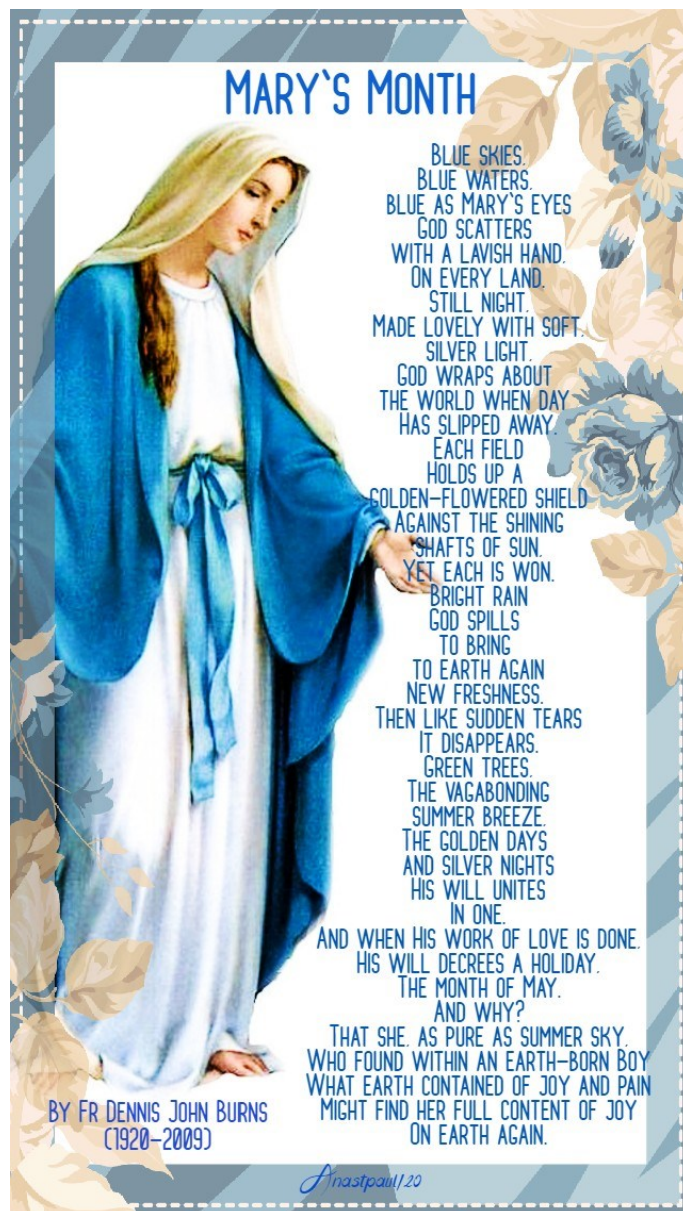
1 Peter 4:13-16

*Alleluia: I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord. I will come back
to you and your hearts will rejoice. - Cf. Jn 14:18*

Gospel: John 17:1-11a

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

*"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to
myself." The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces
his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven, and indeed begins it.
Jesus Christ, the one priest of the new and eternal Covenant,
"entered, not into a sanctuary made by human hands. . . but into
heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."
There Christ permanently exercises his priesthood, for he "always
lives to make intercession" for "those who draw near to God
through him". As "high priest of the good things to come" he is the
center and the principal actor of the liturgy that honors the Father
in heaven. (CCC 662)*



SAINT PHILIP NERI, PRIEST

Feast Day May 26th

"Cast yourself into the arms of God and be very sure that if he wants anything of you, He will fit you for the work and give you strength."

"A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one."

"Do not grieve over the temptations you suffer. When the Lord intends to bestow a particular virtue on us, He often permits us first to be tempted by the opposite vice. Therefore, look upon every temptation as an invitation to grow in a particular virtue and a promise by God that you will be successful, if only you stand fast."



ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital
Chapel

Monday at 6:00 pm
Friday at 9:00 am



DIVINE MERCY RADIO 90.7 FM



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PO Box 568
Polson, MT 59860*



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

Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$135,137 of \$175,000 (77%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$30,736 of \$44,500 (69%)



Thank you for your generosity!