



Sic Deus Dilexit Mundum
Unknown artist (c. 1700s)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The other day I was reading Lamentations, a collection of five beautiful poems bemoaning the fall of Jerusalem in the year 587 B.C. and the deportation of its citizens to Babylon where they lived in exile for 70 years. Lamentations is beautiful on many counts and the first and most obvious one is that it teaches us how to sorrow over our sins and complain in a way that God is disposed to listen to. The other features of these poems that I greatly enjoy is that one can distinctly hear the voice of the suffering Christ speaking prophetically of His Passion in the third chapter (third poem), not to mention even a brief complaint that readily calls to mind the tremendous sorrow of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The poems also treat of a theme that makes many a modern-day Catholic take pause and it is that of the wrath of God. I am a believer in God's wrath, but I do not confess a wrathful God and it is on this point that I think there can be some confusion; treating God as though He is moved by strong emotion in the same way that we are moved by emotion in our fallen state. You already know that God is not a fallen human being who cannot always control the movements of passion allowing the use of reason to become dark and clouded, and so His wrath must be something quite different, and it is.

The wrath of God is an expression of His perfect justice. Sin introduces disorder into the well-ordered world that He has created and when sin and the disorder it produces reaches a certain critical mass, if we can say it that way, the justice of God, His wrath, will visit us in order to set things straight. But, and this is a very big and important but, God's justice, when it manifests His wrath, is always tempered with extraordinary mercy because the necessary divine intervention and correction includes the opportunity to repent and be saved.

I am mentioning all of this as a preface to what it is I really want to say, and it is this; that out of a collection of poems that is so darkly rich in the expression of unimaginable grief comes the single most consoling passage of all Sacred Scripture: *But this I will call to mind; therefore I will hope: The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted, his*

(Continued on page 2)

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 September 2023

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

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

No weekday Mass this week

Father Kevin will be gone for presbyteral assembly in Butte

Mark your calendars!

All-Parish Harvest Dinner

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Where: Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Ronan

When: October 8th at 5:00 pm



Family Night returns on
Wednesday, September 20th
Classes begin on Sept. 27th

Religious Education registration forms can be found at the church entrance or online at our website, lakecountyromancatholic.org

Please call Catherine (D.R.E.) if you have any questions:
(847) 370-0549



Wednesday, September 20th
6:30-7:30 pm

The Family Night Kick-Off will be hosted by Head Over Heels gym!

Come and enjoy a night of fun for the family and an opportunity to register for religious education classes for those who haven't pre-registered.

(Please note that because the first Family Night is at the gym, dinner will not be served that evening.)

(Continued from page 1)

compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning—great is your faithfulness! *The LORD is my portion, I tell myself, therefore I will hope in him. The LORD is good to those who trust in him, to the one that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the LORD's deliverance. -Lamentation 3:21-26.*

And there it is, the mercy of God is never spent but rather His mercy and compassion are renewed each morning. Renewed. That means that the glass is full to the brim at every daybreak even after having poured out all day the previous day. How wonderful it is great each new day upon rising and honor God with your first thought of the day, a prayer of gratitude for the light of a new day and that you have been allowed to wake up in it knowing that today is truly a new day and a fresh start because the mercy of God is *renewed*.

Anyway, crack open your Bible this week and get to know Lamentations; five poems that take about 30 minutes to read, but do take longer and pray them with the Lord and His Blessed Mother, and it might not be a bad idea to memorize a few because who knows, if things keep going the way they are going, we may need them!

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

NOTE: I will be in Butte with Bishop Vetter and my brother priests all next week for our annual Priests Convocation. This year Bishop Vetter has invited Courage International to address us. Courage International is a Catholic apostolate that supports men and women who have same-sex attraction and who want to leave a "gay" lifestyle, as they come back to the Church to live a life of grace and holiness.

DEMYSTIFYING THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL The Spiritual Theology of St. John of the Cross

Fr. Kevin will recap aspects of his previous course on the interior life and continue forward a teaching on prayer in the Carmelite tradition with an emphasis on the mystical theology of St. John of the Cross. In his own words St. John of the Cross intended his instruction to benefit both lay and religious alike. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings during Family Night, beginning 9/27.

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.

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, Brady Hout.

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 September

For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Please pray for our seminarians!

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

Thursday, September 21 • 10:30 AM • Polson

All ladies are invited to a welcome social to introduce this year's Endow study on **Thursday, 9/21**, in the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall at **10:30 am**. You will learn about the Endow study program, our new class for the year on St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and meet other ladies interested in enriching their faith walk. The class begins 10/5 at 10:30 in Polson. Call Sheila LeBrun with any questions. 406-208-5788.



St. Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions, Korean Martyrs
September 20th

In the 19th century terrible persecutions of Christians occurred, and 103 members of the Christian community sacrificed their lives as martyrs. Andrew Kim Taegon, the first Korean priest and pastor, was extraordinary in his witness of faith. A few other priests and bishops were among the martyrs, but mostly it was lay people — men and women, married and unmarried, children, young people, and the elderly — that gave up their lives for the faith.

Reference: <https://combonimissionaries.org/ordinary-saints-for-ordinary-time-st-andrew-taegon-and-companions/>

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 16th

Vigil of the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repose of the Soul of Rodney McElwee, rb Caryl McElwee

Sunday, September 17th

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of Mike Day/

Intentions of the Parish Faithful



St. Pius of Pietrelcina | Feast Day September 23rd

A poor brother who prays

Born into a poor Italian farm family, from a young age Francesco Forgione desired to be a friar. When he was sixteen, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Order, and took the name Brother Pius (Fra Pio). He was ordained to the priesthood in 1910; six years later, joined the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in San Giovanni Rotondo. He spent many hours every day hearing Confessions. The height of his apostolic commitment was the celebration of the Holy Mass. He described himself as "a poor brother who prays." "Prayer is the greatest weapon we have," he said. It is "a key to open the heart of God."

An extraordinary meeting

In 1948, Padre Pio heard the Confession of a young Polish priest, Father Karol Wojtyła, who thirty years later would ascend the throne of Peter, taking the name John Paul II. It was during John Paul's pontificate that Padre Pio was declared blessed. During the rite of beatification, the Pope said that in the humble friar, we see the image of Christ suffering and risen. "His body," he said, "marked by the 'stigmata,' showed the intimate connection between death and resurrection... Not less sorrowful, and humanly much more scorching, were the trials he had to suffer as a consequence, one could say, of his singular charisms." For Padre Pio, "suffering with Christ" was a gift: "In contemplating the Cross on Jesus' shoulders," he said, "I always feel strengthened and I exult with holy joy... All that Jesus suffered in His Passion, I too have suffered, insofar as it is possible for a human creature."

"Relief from suffering"

The life of Padre Pio also shows an intense commitment to alleviate the sufferings of families. In 1956 he inaugurated the "Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza" (the House of Relief from Suffering), a new state of the art hospita. "It is the apple of my eye," the friar said when the hospital opened. "This is the creation that Providence, with your help, has created. Gaze at it in wonder, and with me bless the Lord God. He has placed upon the earth a seed that He will warm with the His rays of love."

Death

Padre Pio died during the night of 23 September 1968, at the age of 81. On 16 June 2002, he was proclaimed a saint by Pope John Paul II. In his homily, the Pope said, "The life and mission of Padre Pio prove that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted out of love, are transformed into a privileged way of holiness, which opens onto the horizons of a greater good, known only to the Lord."

Reference: VaticanNews.va

ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital
Chapel

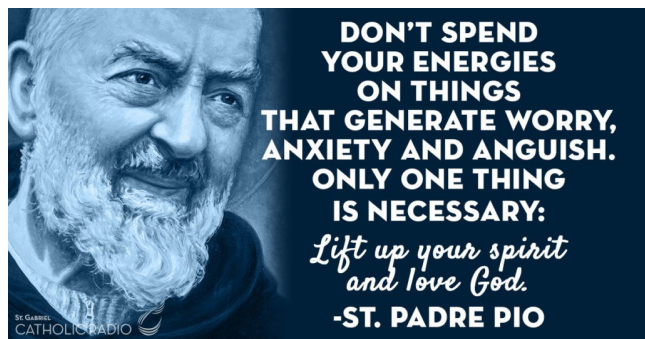
Monday at 6:00 pm
Friday at 9:00 am

DIVINE MERCY RADIO 90.7 FM

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



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance:

*Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.*

Collect:

*Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
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: Sir 27:30-28:7

Responsorial: Ps. 103:1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12;

R. *The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*

Second Reading: Rom 14:7-9

Alleluia: *I give you a new commandment, says the Lord; love one another as I have loved you. - John 13:34*

Gospel: Mt. 18:21-35

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The practice of all the virtues is animated and inspired by charity, which "binds everything together in perfect harmony"; it is the form of the virtues; it articulates and orders them among themselves; it is the source and the goal of their Christian practice. Charity upholds and purifies our human ability to love, and raises it to the supernatural perfection of divine love. (CCC 1827)



Parish Offertory Progress Report Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception

\$42,412 of \$175,000 (24%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph

\$7,993 of \$44,500 (18%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:

\$3,436 of \$20,000 (18%)



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

FIRST WEEKEND DEVOTIONS

Devotional materials and catechesis are available at the entrance of the church in advance of each first weekend.

First Wednesdays

Votive Mass in honor of St. Joseph at 12:10 pm
as well as all Wednesdays when permitted.

First Fridays

Votive Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus *when permitted* for 9 consecutive First Fridays from September through May at 12:10 pm



First Saturdays

Confessions are heard at 9:30 am and Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is offered at 10:00 am. After Mass the Rosary is prayed followed by a 15 minute period of private meditation on one or any of the mysteries of the Rosary as Our Lady had requested.

KNITTING GROUP

Knitting Group Knitters and Crocheters meet in the parish hall of Immaculate Conception on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please contact the parish office at 883-2506 for more information. All are welcome!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Ronan Council

Parish breakfast served after the 9:00 am Mass every 2nd Sunday of the month!

If you are interested in becoming a Knight or an Associate, please call Bruce Simpson at 406-493-9951.



GO FORTH NETWORK

A ministry based on the principles of subsidiarity; teaching and sharing with like-minded people the skills useful in practicing the corporal works of mercy in difficult and emergency situations.

Course topics and dates to be announced.

For more information, please contact Barb Marshall at 406-361-0849



That Man Is You!

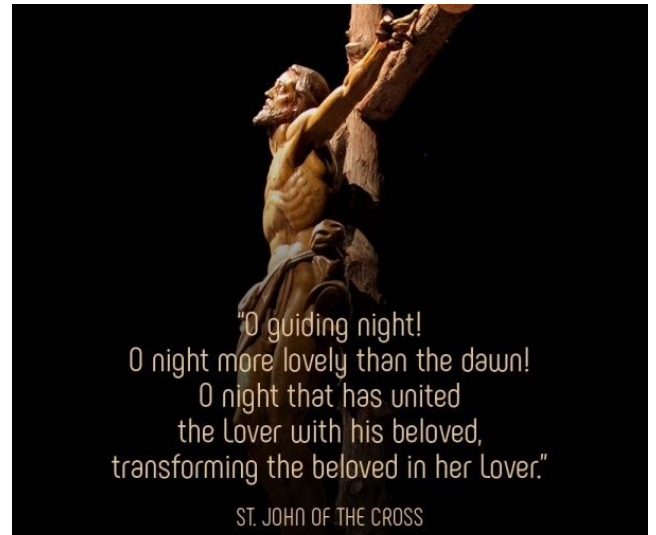
A study and fellowship group for men (and their sons). Meetings are on Thursday morning from 7:00 am to 8:00 am and begin with a hot protein breakfast and premium roast coffee. Meetings begin on September 14th.



ENDOW Women's Study Group

This year we will be studying The Science of Love, which explores the writings of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Meetings are on Thursdays at 10:30 am and will begin on October 5th. A tea social will meet on September 21st at 10:30 am to get to know each other and learn more about the program. Please contact Sheila LeBrun at 208-5788 for more information and cost of materials.

Wednesday night is Family Night and there is a little of something for everyone of all ages, from pre-school to adult and seniors. Faith formation opportunities include: pre-school, Religious Education, Sacramental Preparation (First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation). Religious Education classes meet from 5:45 to 7:00 pm, beginning September 27th. Dinner will be provided each Family Night at 7 pm.



DEMYSTIFYING THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL

The Spiritual Theology of St. John of the Cross

Fr. Kevin will recap aspects of his previous course on the interior life and continue forward a teaching on prayer in the Carmelite tradition with an emphasis on the mystical theology of St. John of the Cross. In his own words St. John of the Cross intended his instruction to benefit both lay and religious alike. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings during Family Night.