

The Healing of Peter's Mother-in-law
James Tissot (painted between 1836-1902)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I want to begin my remarks with a note of gratitude for all the expressions of sympathy that you have extended to me and to my family after the passing of my father last week. Thank you!

There comes a time in every priest's life when he will be called upon to bury one or even both of his parents. I will say that it goes without saying that it is a very strange experience, being both a "minister" of the Church performing the Rites of the Church, and a son. There's not a feeling that I can readily point to, it is rather just a deep awareness of personal identity, of being priest and son, and how these two embrace. It kind of makes me wonder what it was like for Jesus to be both the Son of God and the Son of Man, to be both a Creator and a Redeemer, but I digress, and in a good way.

Since funerals are clearly on my mind right now as I sit in my hotel room just hours before the Vigil Service for my dad, there are a couple of things that I would like to say.

The first thing that I would like to say is how grateful I am that there are no estrangements in the family, and we all get along relatively well. You cannot put a price tag on a funeral that is drama-free, and trust me, I have presided over some memorable ones, doozies actually. And so, what I am getting at is this, if you are on the outs with someone in your family, please be reconciled, or at bare minimum extend yourself and make the effort. Why carry around wounds that can be healed and are only worsened when a person dies? I fully understand that there are some circumstances where reconciliation might not seem possible, but please consider this, we are our own worst judges in such matters because emotion clouds our use of reason, and so we may need to ask for help or advice. It requires great humility and a death within oneself to reach out sometimes to others with whom we are estranged but consider the alternative.

The next thing is more or less a practical matter, and it is this, for the love of your family, my goodness, put your affairs in order and have a plan! Sure, you may think to yourself that you are healthy and have all of the time in the world to take care of such things, until you don't, (vibrant healthy people get hit by trucks every day). Our Lord told us in no uncertain terms that we do not know the day or the hour, and boy, isn't that the truth?

Simplify your life a bit and go through all of your things and unburden yourself of all that stuff. If something has sat in your closet without being consulted in who knows how long it is clearly no longer precious and your kids don't want it. On the Lent checklist that I put in the bulletin last week I had made this recommendation as I do each year,

(Continued on page 2)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time **Sexagesima Sunday** **4 February 2024**

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:

Wednesday & Friday 10 am-12 pm; Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-5:00 pm

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at 6:00 pm

Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Rosary is prayed at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 11:00 am

Rosary is prayed at 10:30 am

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday at 12:10 pm

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

SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:00 am

Friday at 9:00 am

Mass is followed by a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration

Mass is offered at St. Joseph Mission in Charlo every **third weekend** of each month, **Saturday** at 4:00 pm

Congratulations
Kelly Maier

Confirmed January 26th at Immaculate Conception



clean house, and give your stuff to the poor.

I would also highly recommend having a pre-plan for your funeral which includes the full rites of the Church and setting some money aside for the cost. Buy your plot now and have your stone etched and in place. Talk to your family about your death and your arrangements and put things down in writing.

I will be honest, my dad wanted to be cremated and did not want a funeral with all of the fuss, but, I am a Catholic priest and I am not cremating my father. My sisters were in full agreement and the wider family circle was relieved that we would all gather around the body of my dad and honor him. The grandkids got to pick out a new suit for him with a tie and a fancy pocket square and he will rest in a locally made pine box. When we first gathered around my dad's body the day after his death it was a powerful moment for the whole family and a first for all of my nieces and nephews. Later that evening, my nephew who found my dad's body in his apartment told me how healing it was to see him at rest and that now he had a good memory to replace the traumatic one that had been previously tormenting him.

It's wonderful how life comes full circle. My mom and dad were married in Great Falls at Our Lady of Lourdes (our family parish) and now both have been buried there and will now rest in peace side by side at Mount Olivet, my dad in the nicest suit he ever wore and my mom in that blue "a night on the town with dad" dress that us kids never forgot (she knew how to wear that dress!)

Thanks again for all of your good wishes and I desperately hope that February will just be a normal business as usual month...I feel like I have been gone for nearly the entire month of January until I realize it's not a feeling, I have been absent quite a bit for this that and the other thing. It is always good to be home and I look forward to returning to it.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 3rd

Vigil of the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repose of the Soul of Toby Kavarik, rb Teri Daigneault

Sunday, February 4th

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of Carol Hamal, rb Rita Rehbein/

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, February 6th

St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

Repose of the Soul of George Collins, rb Teri Daigneault

Wednesday, February 7th

Repose of the Soul of Glenn Haas, rb Katie Devlin

Thursday, February 8th

St. Jerome Emiliani / St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

Repose of the Soul of Dawn Gass, rb Katie Devlin

Humbly asking for your prayers

Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Michael Conrad, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, 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, Ryan Johnson, Vicki Whalen.

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 February

For the terminally ill: We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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.

DAILY NEWS

World - Business - Finance - Lifestyle - Travel - Sport - Weather

Issue: 240104

THE WORLD'S BEST SELLING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Est - 1965

First Edition

Monday 5th June

Country Store Thrift Shop News

The building we have occupied for over 30 years on Main Street has been sold. We need a new location to rent before May 31. If you know of any available rental property with space enough for the store's operation, please contact Rosemary: 406-319-2070/ or Ruth: 406-883-5025.

Volunteers from 10 churches work at the store and each church receives 4 checks a year. Numerous local charities are given a donation each month. The Country Store has been in our community for 65 years. It is definitely a great place to shop and a blessing to our customers and volunteers.

Prayers to help us find a new location, please!

SEVEN SISTERS Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest. The goal is to have someone praying for each priest everyday for one Holy Hour and ideally prayed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

It takes 7 people committing to this ministry for Father Kevin and 7 people committing to this ministry for Father Bob. You may have a substitute when you are sick or unable to do this.

If you would like any information pamphlets or guide books for your Holy Hour, please stop in the parish office. Please contact Linda Dorrington at 406-596-1460 to sign up or ask questions.

One Holy Hour † One Priest † Once per Week

(you choose what day of the week and keep that particular day)

Priest Testimonials:

"My homilies are stronger and my Masses more reverent."

"I smile to know that someone is praying a Holy Hour for me."





TRIVIA

Who is quoted as saying, "As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the whole world in which we live"?

See next week's bulletin for the answer!

Last week's answer:

This term refers to the ritual washing of the thumbs and index fingers of the celebrant at Mass.

A: Ablution.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

*O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.*

Collect:

*Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,
they may be defended always by your protection.
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: Job 7:1-4,6-7

RESPONSORIAL: Ps. 147:1-2,3-4,5-6;

R. Praise the Lord who heals the brokenhearted.

SECOND READING: 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23

ALLELUIA: *Christ took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.* - Mt. 8:17

GOSPEL: Mk 1:29-39

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The duty of offering God genuine worship concerns man both individually and socially. This is "the traditional Catholic teaching on the moral duty of individuals and societies toward the true religion and the one Church of Christ." By constantly evangelizing men, the Church works toward enabling them "to infuse the Christian spirit into the mentality and mores, laws and structures of the communities in which [they] live." The social duty of Christians is to respect and awaken in each man the love of the true and the good. It requires them to make known the worship of the one true religion which subsists in the Catholic and apostolic Church. Christians are called to be the light of the world. Thus, the Church shows forth the kingship of Christ over all creation and in particular over human societies. (CCC 2105)

ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital
Chapel



Fridays at
9:00 am

DIVINE MERCY RADIO

90.7 FM



*DMR is a locally owned,
listener supported non-
profit 501(c)3
PO Box 568
Polson, MT 59860*



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

PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Almighty and eternal God,

You blessed the union of married couples
so that they might reflect the union of Christ
with his Church:

look with kindness on them.

Renew their marriage covenant,

increase your love in them,

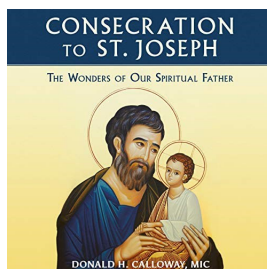
and strengthen their bond of peace

so that, with their children,

they may always rejoice in the gift of
your blessing.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



**For consecration to Saint
Joseph on the Solemnity of
St. Joseph, March 19th, begin
your 33 day preparation on
February 16th!**

Fr. Donald Calloway's book
may be purchased from the
parish bookstore (in the
parish office*).

***See page 1 for office hours.**

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

\$112,248 of \$185,000 (61%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph

\$23,396 of \$44,500 (53%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:

\$16,895 of \$20,000 (84%)



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

REMEMBER THE PARISH IN YOUR WILL.

Most adults do not have a legal will.
Write your will today by visiting
MyCatholicWill.com.

This Lent, protect those you love
most in under 15-minutes through
the online, easy-to-use form.

Leave a legacy of faith by including
the parish in your will.

www.MyCatholicWill.com
Use code: **PARISH20** to save 20%



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.



Introducing STRIVE

**A Free, and Anonymous 21-Day Porn Detox
for Men Brought to You By Covenant Eyes!**

Why STRIVE:

- Narrated by Matt Fradd, an expert, best selling author, & active public voice on the effects of pornography.
- Full of videos, resources, & exercises for men
- Proven results for over 28K men
- Supportive & helpful community

Text STRIVE to 66866 to Join Today!

