



The Gentiles Ask to See Jesus
James Tissot (1836-1902)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Just a couple of housekeeping type items this week as we prepare for Holy Week. The first and perhaps most important item is that there is no Saturday evening Vigil Mass scheduled in Polson on Saturday the 23rd. Sunday, March 24th is Palm Sunday and so begins Holy Week. Again, please note, **there is no Saturday evening Vigil Mass on Saturday the 23rd.**

The second item is the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Helena on Tuesday, March 19th. If you are able, it would be great if you could attend, and I would encourage you to attend. It is always a good thing to connect with the wider diocesan church and especially on the day when the bishop will bless and consecrate the oils used for the celebration of the Sacraments for the coming year. Each year every parish disposes of the previous year's oils, usually by burning, and the new oils take their place. The Chrism Mass in times past used to be referred to as "the feast of priests" because it is also on this day and during this Mass that all of the priests of the diocese renew the promises that they made on the day of their ordination (plus you'll hear Bishop Vetter preach to us priests and exhort us to greater fidelity).

Finally, we are a week out from Holy Week and so that means that we still have time to plan and prepare. As I always like to say, "Holy Week is not a surprise," meaning that it does not sneak up on us or catch us off guard. And so, if you have not yet gone to confession, please look at the scheduled Masses for this coming week and I will also consult with Fr. Brooks and perhaps announce some additional times during Holy Week itself. If you have not been to confession in quite some time then please, **go to confession!** No one has ever died by going to confession and since I brought it up the only thing that does *die* and ought to *die* is our pride and self-love. As Jesus once said, "if only you knew the gift of God and who it was saying to you 'give me a drink.' Alleviate the thirst of Christ this Lent in preparation for Holy Week by humbly confessing your sins and renewing your faith in Him.

Last week you all received a copy of the Holy Week schedule in the bulletin, and it is also posted online on our parish website. Considering that this is the holiest week of the year during which we commemorate the central mysteries of our Christian faith and the redemptive work of Christ, please do your best to plan and take the time to participate in the Sacred Triduum; Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil, and given the options on Easter Sunday morning one could easily include that Mass too. We all need and can use a good old fashion emersion experience

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Fifth Sunday of Lent 17 March 2024

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

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday 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

Saturday, March 16th, at 4:00 pm at St. Joseph Mission*

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

Palm Sunday

There will be no vigil Mass on Saturday, March 23rd. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 24th, with Mass at 9:00 am in Ronan and 11:00 am in Polson.



Chrism Mass

Cathedral of St. Helena
Tuesday, March 19th at 12:00
noon

Adult Religious Ed
class resumes this
week on Wednesday,
March 20th, at 6:00 pm!



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in our Catholic faith. Please, don't let the week go by like it is any other week of the year and just attend Mass on Easter Sunday. You'll be cheating yourself.

That is about it for now except that I will resume our adult ed class on St. Teresa of Avila next Wednesday the 20th of March. We will look at the Fourth Dwelling Places of the Interior Castle and then move on to The Way of Perfection. Have a great week, and again, please have a plan for confession and your participation in Holy Week.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

March 17



I give unceasing thanks to my God, who preserved me faithful in the day of my temptation, so that I can today offer him sacrifice confidently.

I, Patrick, a sinner, the rudest and least of all the faithful, and most contemptible to very many.

I was thus corrected by the Lord, and he made me fit to be today so that I should care for the salvation of others.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND

6:00 pm—Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph Mission
Fish dinner served immediately after Stations in Polson.



Cabrini, a new movie by Angel Studios about the life of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, is now playing in theaters!



Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Saturday, March 16th Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent
Repose of the Soul of Jackie Byrnes, rb Bernice Hawkaluk
Sunday, March 17th Fifth Sunday of Lent
Intentions of Kate Spetter, rb Linda Dorrington
Friday, March 22nd
The Dorrington Family, rb Linda Dorrington

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, March 16th Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent
Repose of the Soul of John Harlan, rb Teri Daigneault
Sunday, March 17th Fifth Sunday of Lent
Intentions of the Parish Faithful
Wednesday, March 20th
Repose of the Soul of Ken Christofferson,
rb Janice Christofferson
Thursday, March 21st
Repose of the Souls of the Bishops in Purgatory,
rb Teri Daigneault
Friday, March 22nd
Intentions of Erin Zenger, rb Rita Rehbein

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, Bill Rueth, Monte Jenkins, Chris Skinner, Ryan Johnson, Vicki Whalen, Natalie Champoux.

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 March

For the new martyrs: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



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.

Please enjoy this excerpt from an article originally published by the National Catholic Register, entitled ***What Saint Patrick Can Still Teach the World***, written by John Clark.

* * *

To hear Patrick tell it, he was slow-witted, sinful, and unlikeable. However, an objective analysis illustrates he was brilliant, holy, and loved throughout the nation. Patrick loved the Irish people and the Irish loved Patrick. They also loved God.

In *The Building of Christendom*, Catholic historian Dr. Warren Carroll wrote: "The Irish proved remarkably, almost uniquely receptive to Christianity. Their conversion ... was unusually rapid, unusually thorough, and above all peaceful. ... The native priesthood, the druids, feared and opposed Christianity, but seem to have been almost helpless in the face of its rapid and steady advance."

Dr. Carroll, who is well-known for his historical observation that "One man can make a difference," could certainly point to Saint Patrick to defend his claim. Indeed, with the efforts of Saint Patrick, the Emerald Isle experienced a springtime of Christianity. Patrick's humility, coupled with his trust in God's love, proved a powerful combination to evangelization.

In his latter years, Patrick could look back with wonder and joy at how eager the Irish were to embrace Christianity. He writes: "So, how is it that in Ireland, where they never had any knowledge of God but, always, until now, cherished idols and unclean things, they are lately become a people of the Lord, and are called children of God..."

Only by God's grace, for sure. Yet at least part of the reason for their conversion lies in Patrick's faith, courage, and humility.

Though he lived over fifteen centuries ago, Patrick still has a lesson to teach our world today. We have gone mad in an effort to glorify ourselves. We tend to be slow to recognize or thank others, but we are lightning fast in pointing out our own achievements and demanding recognition. In our narcissistic world of selfies, our focus often fails to reach beyond arm's length. There is a name for all this, of course: pride.

Happily, there are ways to overcome this vice, and one of those is to consider the humility of Saint Patrick. After all he had accomplished, after all he had endured, Patrick sensed that others might conclude that he was the hero. But Patrick admonished them, assuring them that anything worthwhile that he achieved was "the gift of God."

God wants us to be successful in our vocation and every effort that expresses His will. But in the end, we must have the humility to see that each and every one of our successes is the gift of God. We can honor Saint Patrick—indeed, we can properly celebrate today—by first recognizing that fact.

Saint Patrick, pray for us.

To read the full article, visit the National Catholic Register web site at: www.ncregister.com/blog/what-st-patrick-can-still-teach-the-world

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Entrance Antiphon:

*Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.*

Collect:

*By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
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:

Jer 31:31-34

Ps 51:3-4,12-13,14-15

R. *Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

Heb 5:7-9

Verse before Gospel: John 12:26

Gospel: Jn 12:20-33

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The desire to embrace his Father's plan of redeeming love inspired Jesus' whole life, for his redemptive passion was the very reason for his Incarnation. and so he asked, "and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour." And again, "Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?" From the cross, just before "It is finished", he said, "I thirst." (CCC 607)



What is the ethnic heritage of the majority of American bishops? (a) German, (b) Irish, (c) Italian, (d) Latino, (e) Polish

See next week's bulletin for the answer!

Last week's answer:

Saint Rose of Lima was the first canonized saint of the Americas.

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

\$133,120 of \$185,000 (72%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph

\$29,269 of \$44,500 (66%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:

\$17,245 of \$20,000 (86%)



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.

DIOCESE OF HELENA EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



MARCH 22-24, 2024
CARROLL COLLEGE | HELENA, MT

ENCOUNTER THE LORD | ENTER INTO HOLY WEEK |
PROCLAIM HIS LOVE

— FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE —

DR. JOHN BERGSMA | CHIKA ANYANWU | CHRIS MUELLER |
SR. FAUSTINA MARIA PIA, SV | SR. ANTONIANA MARIA, SV

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