



The Unjust Judge and the Importunate Widow
John Everett Millais (1829-1896)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

**The First Pillar: The Dignity of the Human Person
(Catholic Social Teaching Continued)**

At the very heart of Catholic Social Teaching lies the truth that gives life and meaning to everything else the Church proclaims: the dignity of the human person. This is not simply one principle among many — it is the foundation upon which all the other social teachings rest. From this truth flow the principles of solidarity, subsidiarity, the common good, and our preferential concern for the poor.

The Church teaches that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). This divine image is not something added later or achieved through effort; it belongs to our very nature. Because of it, every person possesses an inalienable worth that does not depend on health, wealth, status, ability, or productivity. Nothing can erase it — not sin, not failure, not even rejection by others. This truth runs counter to a culture that measures human value in terms of usefulness or success. Yet the Church insists that human dignity is not something society bestows; it is something God Himself has imprinted upon every soul.

Scripture reveals this sacred reality from the very beginning. When God looked upon His creation and saw that it was “very good,” He declared the goodness not only of the world but of humanity itself. St. Paul deepens this understanding by calling each person a “temple of the Holy Spirit” — a living dwelling place of God. Christ, by His Incarnation, shows us the fullest revelation of human dignity: He became one of us, not only to redeem our souls but to restore our humanity to its original beauty and worth. In Christ, we learn that dignity and love are inseparable, for it is only in being loved — and in loving others — that our dignity finds its fullest expression.

From this truth about who we are come concrete moral and social obligations. If every person bears the divine image, then society must be ordered in a way that allows that image to flourish. The right to life, to work, to family, and to participation in community are not privileges; they are expressions of our God-given dignity. The Church’s vision of the common good seeks to ensure that each person has what is necessary to live fully human lives — not just to survive, but to thrive. The principle of

(Continued on page 2)

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 October 2025

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

Fr. Kevin Christofferson, Pastor
Fr. Robert Brooks, Pastoral Associate
Nate McNeil, Director of Faith Formation
Katie Devlin, Office Manager

Parish Office

PO Box 1477 Polson, MT 59860
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Email: lakecountyromancatholic@gmail.com
Website: www.lakecountyromancatholic.org

This week’s office hours:

Monday & Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am—12:00 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

No weekday Mass

SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:00 am

Friday at 9:00 am, followed by a Holy Hour

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



Annual Sacred Heart & Immaculate Conception Harvest Dinner

Sunday, October 19th

Begins at 4:00 pm

Served at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Please bring a dessert to share!



SACRED HEART Parish hall grounds Fall Cleanup



Tuesday, October 21st, 10:00 am
(gloves & clippers are helpful)

(Continued from page 1)

subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions exist to serve and support smaller communities, not to dominate them. And the principle of solidarity calls us to stand with those who suffer, recognizing that their dignity is bound up with our own.

In our present age, many speak of “human rights” and “equality,” yet often without reference to God or to the soul. The Church offers a bridge between faith and modern culture by showing that what secular society calls “human rights” the Church has long understood as the natural outworking of human dignity. When society upholds this truth — that every life has intrinsic worth — we see the fruits in stronger families, safer communities, and greater respect for life in all its stages. When we forget it, we fall into what Pope Francis calls a “throwaway culture,” where the vulnerable — the unborn, the elderly, the poor, the sick — are treated as burdens rather than as gifts.

To affirm human dignity, then, is not an abstract theological exercise; it is a daily task. It begins with how we treat one another — at home, at work, and in our community. It is seen when employers treat workers with fairness and respect, when we refuse to speak harshly of others, when we take time to listen, and when we stand beside those who are overlooked or excluded. It continues when we defend life from conception to natural death and work for policies that promote the health and flourishing of every person. Education, catechesis, and family life all have a role to play in forming hearts and minds to see others not as problems to be solved, but as persons to be loved.

The Church also invites us to speak this truth in a way that resonates with the wider world. Terms such as “human rights” and “human flourishing” may be common in secular discourse, but the Church gives them depth and meaning by grounding them in the mystery of creation and redemption. We can speak to our neighbors in a shared moral language, showing that what faith proclaims as sacred truth, reason can also recognize as moral wisdom: that every person, regardless of belief, possesses a worth that cannot be reduced to economics, politics, or ideology.

In a world that measures value by productivity, wealth, or influence, the Gospel offers a countercultural message: every human being is “someone,” never “something.” Each person we meet carries a reflection of the divine. To affirm that truth is to see Christ in every face, to honor God in every life.

Our challenge as disciples of Christ is to always be a living witness to this dignity — defending life, serving the poor, welcoming the stranger, and building a community where every person is respected as a child of God. In doing so, we not only uphold the teaching of the Church, but we make visible the love of Christ, who came that all might have life, and have it abundantly.

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



Donna Radtke

Vigil Service on Thursday, October 23rd, at 6:00 pm
Funeral Mass on Friday, October 24th, at 5:00 pm

Vigil & Funeral Mass will be offered at
Immaculate Conception

High School Youth Group

Meets Sundays at 9:30 am in the parish hall before Mass

Begins October 26th

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, October 19th *Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Sick & Shut-Ins of the Parish
Friday, October 24th
Intentions of Lois Peterson

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, October 18th *Vigil of the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Repose of the Soul of Donna Radtke
Sunday, October 19th *Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

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, Heather Stocki, Betty Bjork, Jason Avison, Nash Niemeyer, Richard Call, Bud Cheff, Jr, Bill Rueth, Monte Jenkins, Chris Skinner, Ryan Johnson, Vicki Whalen, Laurel Cheff, Zane Kelly, Rod Clairmont, David Jenkins, Bruce Simpson, Debbie Tschida, Grace Shafer, Carolyn Fyant, Diana Cote.

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 October



For collaboration between different religious traditions: Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

Please pray for our seminarians!

Dcn. Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Ryan Frampton, Liam Aippersbach, Mason Yochum.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

*To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

Collect:

*Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of 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: Ex 17:8-13

Responsorial: Ps. 121:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8

R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

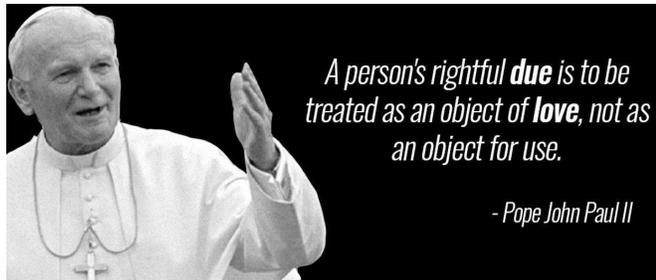
Second Reading: 2 Tm 3:14-4:2

Alleluia: *The word of God is living and effective, discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart.* - Heb 4:12

Gospel: Lk 18:1-8

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Pray constantly . . . always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father." St. Paul adds, "Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance making supplication for all the saints." For "we have not been commanded to work, to keep watch and to fast constantly, but it has been laid down that we are to pray without ceasing." This tireless fervor can come only from love. Against our dullness and laziness, the battle of prayer is that of humble, trusting, and persevering love. This love opens our hearts to three enlightening and life-giving facts of faith about prayer. (CCC 2742)



PARISH WEBSITE



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Download the **myParish app** on your App store or Google Play store on your iOS or Android!



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.*

A PRAYER FOR HOPE

Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism, you have given us the gift of new life. Through your son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you have made us your own.

Help us to recognize the gift of human life as a sign of hope in our world.

Reveal to us the places where your precious gift of life is most in need of protection and strengthen us to defend life in all stages and circumstances, from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying.

Guided by your Holy Spirit, guard us from discouragement and give us the grace to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that nothing can separate us from your love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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To order, visit store.respectlife.org.

DID YOU KNOW?



By 8 weeks gestation, all the essential organ systems have begun to develop. The baby has lips, a nose, and eyelids. Tiny toes and fingers are beginning to differentiate.

Resource: whattoexpect.com

Image resource: verywellfamily.com

Don't forget to bring your food pantry items for our local charities!

Polson Loaves & Fishes
904 1st St E, Polson

Ronan Bread Basket
10 6th Ave SW, Ronan
(across from St. Luke's Hospital)



Find donation bins at the churches' entrances.



**FROM 9/24/2025 TO
11/2/2025!**

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization effort to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000 volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in previous coordinated campaigns:

- **Over 16,500 babies** saved from abortion
- **Over 250 abortion workers** converted
- **150 abortion centers** closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location:** Outside BLUE MOUNTAIN CLINIC
– 610 N. California St. (near the corner of W. Broadway & California St.), Missoula
- **Vigil hours:** 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Mon. – Sat.)
- **Local contact:** Brad Tschida (406-546-4349) betschida54@gmail.com / Diane Rotering (406-274-3639) roteringd@gmail.com
- **Learn more ...** get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

PLEASE VISIT: 40daysforlife.com/Missoula

- **Vigil location:** Outside ALL FAMILIES HEALTHCARE
– 737 Spokane Avenue, Whitefish
- **Vigil days:** Monday through Saturday
- **Local contact:** Mike Hanson (406-314-7826) mikester55@hotmail.com
- Find information for this campaign and more events at the web address below:

PLEASE VISIT: 40daysforlife.com/Whitefish



Visit HopeAfterAbortion.com for more information.



Call **406-442-4130** or visit www.cssmt.org/mental-health/ to get started today!



Payments to **Immaculate Conception** may be made online at GiveCentral.org (click on the big orange "Find Your Charity" button and type in our zip code, 59860).

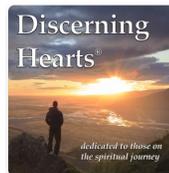
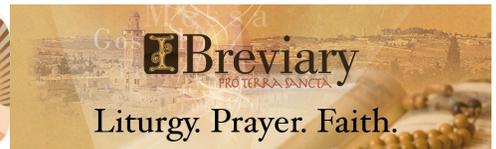


For more information or to apply visit: www.wwme.org
Or call: Paul & Tracy at 307-689-2820

restore
communication
rekindle
romance
renew
commitment
Oct. 3-5, 2025
Missoula, MT



PRAY as YOU GO PrayAsYouGo.org is a daily online resource that offers guided prayer sessions to help individuals grow in their spiritual life. Each session typically includes scripture, reflective music, and prompts for prayer, making it easy to integrate spiritual reflection into your day. Designed for those on the go, it provides a simple way to stay connected to God amidst daily activities. Whether at home, work, or on the move, Pray As You Go supports deepening your relationship with God through accessible, reflective prayer.



Discerning Hearts Catholic Podcasts
Available on your favorite podcast streaming apps!

Parish Offertory Progress Report
Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$60,178 of \$183,150 (33%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$13,014 of \$48,393 (27%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:
\$1,250 of \$12,000 (10%)
S.H. Building Fund Progress:
\$1,320 of \$1,349 (98%)



Thank you for your generosity!