



*Pharisee and Tax Collector icon* (Artist Unknown)

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

**The Common Good: The Second Pillar  
(Catholic Social Teaching Continued)**

The second great pillar of Catholic Social Teaching is the common good. It is not a slogan or a political compromise, nor is it a matter of majority opinion. The Church understands the common good as the set of social conditions that allows every person — and the community as a whole — to reach genuine fulfillment. In an age that often defines the “common good” as “the greatest happiness for the greatest number,” the Church offers something far deeper: a vision rooted in the dignity of the human person and the call to live together in right relationship with God and one another.

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that the ultimate common good is God Himself. All human community — from the family to the nation — finds its true purpose only when it is ordered toward Him, who alone satisfies the deepest desires of the human heart. The Second Vatican Council described the common good as “the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment.” (Gaudium et Spes 26) The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that “the dignity of the human person requires the pursuit of the common good” (CCC 1929), linking this second pillar inseparably to the first: human dignity.

The common good is not simply the total of everyone’s private interests. It is a relational good — the web of conditions that makes it possible for each person to develop his or her gifts in harmony with others. It embraces the moral, cultural, economic, legal, and environmental dimensions of life. It includes the essentials of human flourishing: food, shelter, health care, education, and the freedom to practice one’s faith. It also requires justice and peace — fair laws, honest governance, the protection of human rights, and the resolution of conflicts through reason and mercy rather than power or violence.

The Church teaches that the common good flourishes where solidarity and subsidiarity are held together. Solidarity reminds us that we are responsible for one another — especially for those who are weak, poor, or marginalized. Subsidiarity ensures that decisions are made as close as possible to those affected by them, respecting the dignity and competence of families, local communities, and smaller institutions. When these two principles work together, society becomes a true community of persons, not an impersonal system of control.

Modern society often struggles with this idea. We tend to think of the “common good” in utilitarian terms — as a calculation of benefits and burdens, profit and loss. But the Church insists that no policy or practice that sacrifices the dignity of even one innocent person can ever serve the common good. To pursue it authentically means ensuring that the needs of the weakest — the unborn, the poor, the elderly, the sick, the stranger — are not overlooked but protected. As Pope Francis

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
**26 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**

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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 this week**

**SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday** at 9:00 am

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



**Coffee and Donuts October 26<sup>th</sup>**

Served after Mass at the Sacred Heart parish hall.  
All are welcome!

*Goodbye*

**“Farewell” Breakfast for Fr. Bob Brooks**

after his final Mass at Sacred Heart on  
**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** (All Souls Day).



**Next Polson Knights of Columbus meeting:**  
**November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am.**

(Continued from page 1)

has written, "The common good cannot be attained without special attention to the poor and vulnerable" (Fratelli Tutti, 110).

Living for the common good begins close to home. In public life, it means supporting laws that defend basic rights and create conditions where all can flourish. In the workplace, it means cultivating respect for the dignity of labor — offering fair wages, safe conditions, and honest work. In parish and community life, it means volunteering time, serving the poor, participating in local initiatives, and taking responsibility for the well-being of others. Even our care for creation is part of this call, for a healthy environment is essential to the flourishing of every human life. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it" (Gen 2:15) — a reminder that stewardship of our common home is not optional; it is part of our vocation.

In its fullness, the common good is both social and spiritual. It directs our gaze beyond ourselves to the God who is the source and summit of every good. As members of the Body of Christ, we are not isolated individuals but part of a living communion, called to love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34). The more we seek the good of others, the more we find our own joy and fulfillment.

The common good, then, is the moral fabric of a just society: the harmony of dignity, justice, solidarity, peace, and stewardship that allows all people to thrive together. To work for it is not merely a civic duty but an act of faith — a way of honoring the God who made us for communion. May our parish community strive always to build up this common good, beginning here among us, so that God's kingdom may be more visible in the world.

Peace,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

### Feast of Saints Simon & Jude, Apostles



#### October 28<sup>th</sup>

However meagre in details is the history of these glorious apostles, we learn from their brief legend how amply they contributed to this great work of generating sons of God. Without any repose, and even to the shedding of their blood, they "edified the body of Christ"; and the grateful Church thus prays to our Lord today: "O God, through the work of the apostles you have spoken your Word of love, your Son, into our world's deafness. Open our ears to hear; open our hearts to heed; open our will to obey, that we may proclaim the good news with our lives."

From CatholicCulture.org

#### ***Humblly 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**

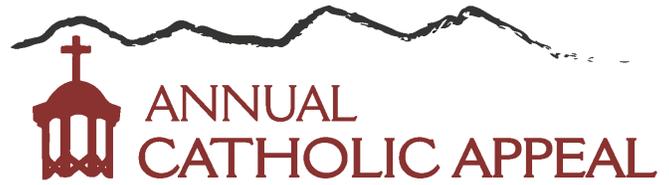
#### **The Holy Father's prayer intention for October**



**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.



FUNDING THE MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

Please watch your mail for your ACA packets!  
Coming soon to a parish near you!



### High School Youth Group

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

Begins October 26<sup>th</sup>

#### **Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions**

#### **Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission**

**Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Sick & Shut-Ins of the Parish

#### **Immaculate Conception**

**Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> Vigil of the 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Repose of the Souls of Our Deceased Parish Faithful  
**Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Intentions of the Parish Faithful



**DID YOU KNOW?**



By 13 weeks gestation\* (end of the first trimester), babies are about the size of a lemon. They can move their arms and legs, and may soon be able to suck their thumbs. Vocal cords are developing. The digestive tract has already begun contracting. White blood cells have already started being produced in the bone marrow (helpful for the immune system fighting off germs later!).

Resource: [whattoexpect.com](http://whattoexpect.com)  
Image resource: [verywellfamily.com](http://verywellfamily.com)

\*Abortion is legal in Montana until the age of viability, which is an ever-changing number with modern medical technology, but generally accepted as 24 weeks gestation.



Visit [HopeAfterAbortion.com](http://HopeAfterAbortion.com) for more information.



**PARISH WEBSITE**



**ROSARY GROUP**

St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

Fridays at 9:00 am

**DIOCESE OF HELENA WEBSITE**



**DIVINE MERCY RADIO 90.7 FM**



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

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



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

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Entrance Antiphon:

*Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.*

Collect:

*Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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 35:12-14,16-18  
Responsorial: Ps. 34:2-3,17-18,19,23  
R. *The Lord hears the cry of the poor.*  
Second Reading: 2 Tm 4:6-8,16-18  
Alleluia: *God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, and entrusting to us the message of salvation. - 2 Cor 5:19*  
Gospel: Lk 18:9-14

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

*The first movement of the prayer of petition is asking for forgiveness, like the tax collector in the parable: "God, be merciful to me a sinner!"<sup>105</sup> It is a prerequisite for righteous and pure prayer. A trusting humility brings us back into the light of communion between the Father and his Son Jesus Christ and with one another, so that "we receive from him whatever we ask."<sup>106</sup> Asking forgiveness is the prerequisite for both the Eucharistic liturgy and personal prayer. (CCC 2631)*

"Isn't Halloween just a Christianized version of an ancient pagan holiday called Samhain?"



Halloween, or the Eve of All Hallows' Day (All Saints Day), originated with Christianity.

For more information, please visit "Is Halloween a Pagan Holiday? (And Should We Boycott It?)" by Joe Heschmeyer (Shameless Popery/Catholic Answers)

**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](mailto:betschida54@gmail.com) / Diane Rotering (406-274-3639) [roteringd@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mikester55@hotmail.com)
- Find information for this campaign and more events at the web address below:

**PLEASE VISIT:** [40daysforlife.com/Whitefish](http://40daysforlife.com/Whitefish)



Visit [HopeAfterAbortion.com](http://HopeAfterAbortion.com) for more information.



Call **406-442-4130** or visit [www.cssmt.org/mental-health/](http://www.cssmt.org/mental-health/) to get started today!



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

**Questions about the Because He First Loved Us Campaign?**

Not receiving your remit envelopes? Need to change your credit card number? Want to know your pledge balance?

Contact the Foundation! We are happy to help!  
Call (406)389-7050 or email [foundation@dohmt.org](mailto:foundation@dohmt.org).

Thank you for your continued support and this beautiful sacrifice to our Lord.



**PROLIFE PROVIDERS** [ProlifeProviders.com](http://ProlifeProviders.com)

**Discover doctors who share and respect your values**



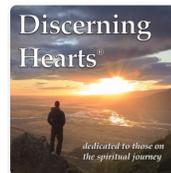
**PRAY as YOU GO** PrayAsYouGo.org is a daily online resource that offers guided prayer sessions to help individuals grow in their spiritual life. Each session typically includes scripture, reflective music, and prompts for prayer, making it easy to integrate spiritual reflection into your day. Designed 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.



**Breviary**  
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Liturgy. Prayer. Faith.

**Hallow**

**The #1 Catholic Meditation App**



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

**Parish Offertory Progress Report**  
*Fiscal Year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>*

**Immaculate Conception**  
\$62,366 of \$183,150 (34%)  
**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph**  
\$13,846 of \$48,393 (27%)

**I.C. Building Fund Progress:**  
\$1,250 of \$12,000 (10%)  
**S.H. Building Fund Progress:**  
\$1,270 of \$1,349 (94%)



**Thank you for your generosity!**

# Hope that Anchors Us

*Facing the end of life, whether for ourselves or someone we love, can stir fear, sadness and deep questions about what lies ahead. Yet, in these moments, we are called to cling to a hope far greater than anything this world offers. Christian hope is not just a wish for things to improve; it is a certainty, rooted in a person who will never fail us. Our hope rests in the One who guarantees it—Jesus Christ, who holds our future in His hands.*

*So how do we truly live out this hope, especially when suffering weighs heavy?*

*Let us use the letters of the word “hope” to reflect more deeply on the assurance Jesus has given us.*

## Holding Fast to Christ

Our hope is not in vague ideas but in Jesus Christ: God who took on flesh, loved us to the end, and conquered death. When life’s final chapter feels uncertain, He remains our sure and steadfast anchor. We are held by a God who keeps His promises. “The mystery of the Redemption of the human person is in an astonishing way rooted in the loving involvement of God with human suffering. That is why we can entrust ourselves to God and to convey this certainty in faith to the person who is suffering and fearful of pain and death.”<sup>1</sup>

## Overcoming Death

Through His resurrection, Jesus Christ, overcame death and gave us the hope of joining Him in eternal life. Eternal life is a relationship with our Lord who does not die, who is Life and Love itself. “Death is a decisive moment in the human person’s encounter with God the Savior.”<sup>2</sup> Thanks to the grace of Christ, death is not the end of life but a promise of communion with God. This is the glorious future awaiting us, and the great hope that steadies us even now when we are suffering.

## Persevering in Solidarity

The Gospel is not just information; it transforms. It changes our life and enables us to act. Since we know who holds our tomorrow, we can face today’s fears with courage. This hope reshapes how we face suffering. It means living our final days not in despair, but with joy, offering our pain as prayer and witness.

This hope is not just for us; it is a light we pass to others. In hospice rooms, family conversations, and quiet acts of care for others, we become living reminders that no life is beyond God’s reach. “The scene of the Cross provides a way of understanding that even when it seems that there is nothing more to do there remains much to do, because ‘remaining’ by the side of the sick is a sign of love and of the hope that it contains.”<sup>3</sup> Together, we can build communities anchored in solidarity that no illness or grief can destroy. We believe that every human

life, to the very last breath, has inestimable value and demands our protection and care.

## Embracing Suffering

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Jesus did not just observe human suffering—He entered into it. Our God chose to become like us! Love Himself chose to suffer with us, and that changes everything. Even when we feel alone, He is there, whispering, “I am with you.” Our suffering becomes meaningful when united to Christ’s suffering on the Cross. When we unite our pain with His, it becomes a share in God’s redeeming work, a mystery where our deepest wounds become vessels of grace. This is the scandal of our faith: a God who did not spare Himself so that we would know we are never abandoned.



Isaiah the prophet tells us, “They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength” (Is. 40:31). In life’s hardest moments, let us fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ. He walks this path with us, redeems our struggles, and promises a dawn where every tear is wiped away. May His hope light our way, guiding us and our loved ones to our heavenly home with Him.

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<sup>1</sup> *Samaritanus bonus*, Conclusion.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, V, 10.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, II.

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Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities | [usccb.org/prolife](https://usccb.org/prolife)



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[@ProjectRachel](https://www.instagram.com/ProjectRachel)