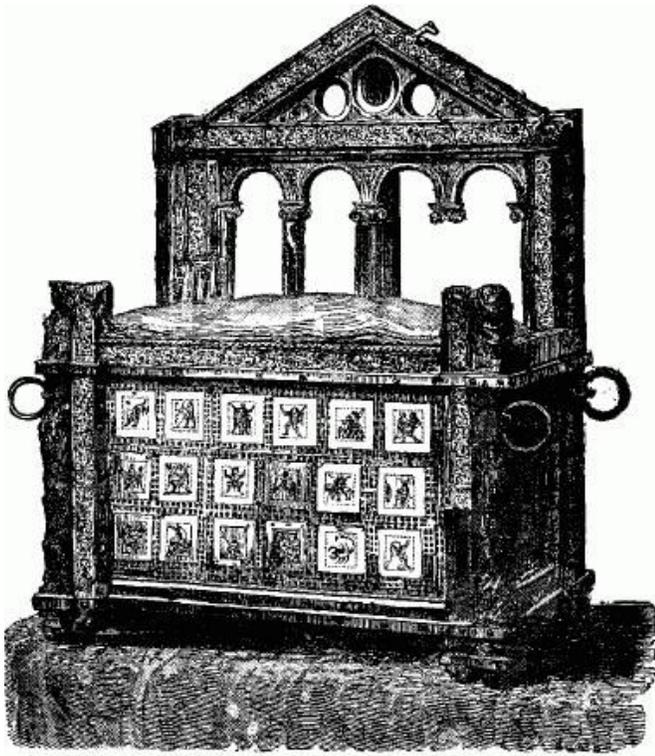


Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
9 November 2025



CHAIR OF ST. PETER, ROME.

Picture from *Illustrated History of Furniture: From the Earliest to the Present Time*, Frederick Litchfield (1850-1930)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Subsidiarity: The Fourth Pillar (Catholic Social Teaching Continued)

In a world that prizes efficiency, centralization, and the so-called “bottom line,” the Church proposes something far more human: the principle of subsidiarity. This fourth pillar of Catholic Social Teaching is a counter-cultural vision of authority and participation. It reminds us that decisions should be made by the smallest and most local community capable of handling them, and that larger institutions exist not to dominate or replace those smaller bodies, but to assist and strengthen them.

Subsidiarity protects human dignity by giving people a real voice in the decisions that affect their lives. It affirms that families, neighborhoods, parishes, and local communities are not extensions of the state, but living expressions of human freedom and creativity. When a family can educate its children, the government should not interfere unnecessarily. When a parish can care for the poor in its neighborhood, a national organization should support that effort, not absorb it. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “neither the state nor any larger society should substitute itself for the initiative and responsibility of individuals and intermediary bodies” (CCC 1883).

The roots of this teaching reach deep into Scripture and the Church’s social tradition. In *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931), Pope Pius XI wrote that “it is an injustice, a grave evil, and a disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do.” Decades later, St. John Paul II reaffirmed that subsidiarity “respects the autonomy of smaller social units, which must not be absorbed or destroyed by larger ones.” The principle is not a rejection of authority, but a proper ordering of it—a call for higher institutions to exercise what the Latin root *subsidiūm* means: “help” or “assistance.”

Modern society often misunderstands this principle. Efficiency is often mistaken for virtue, and centralized systems for progress. But when decisions are made far from the people they affect, human responsibility diminishes. Bureaucracies replace

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

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This week’s office hours:

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am—12:00 pm | Tuesday & Thursday 2-5 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 at 12:10 pm

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

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.



A note regarding Mass times...

Wednesday Mass time will remain the same but it is very likely that Tuesday and Thursday Mass at Immaculate Conception will be changed to 8:00 am. Mass in Ronan will continue on Fridays at 9:00 am with a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration and a time for confessions. Announcement will be made final in next week's bulletin.

Father Kevin would like to apologize for his forgetfulness! He left his planner with all his important dates back in Guatemala. While he works on recreating everything in his new date book, please contact the parish office if you were expecting Father to reach out to you upon his return and you have not heard from him yet. Thank you!



Next Polson Knights of Columbus breakfast:
November 16th after the 11:00 Mass

(Continued from page 1)

relationships. Policies that work in one place fail miserably in another because they ignore the uniqueness of local culture and circumstance. When local initiative is stifled, creativity fades and communities grow dependent on distant authorities. Subsidiarity counters this by restoring initiative to where it belongs—with the people who know their own needs best.

This principle is not merely political—it is profoundly spiritual. God, in His providence, entrusts each of us with gifts and responsibilities suited to our state in life. Parents are the first educators of their children. Pastors and parish councils discern how best to serve their flock. Local leaders are called to safeguard the well-being of their communities. Higher authorities, whether diocesan, national, or international, have a sacred duty to support these smaller bodies, stepping in only when necessary and always with respect for their freedom.

Subsidiarity also harmonizes beautifully with the other pillars of Catholic Social Teaching. It safeguards human dignity by recognizing that people are not passive recipients of aid but active participants in their own destiny. It strengthens solidarity by encouraging cooperation across different levels of society. And it contributes to the common good by ensuring that decision-making remains responsive, humane, and accountable.

We can all live subsidiarity in daily life. Families practice it when parents guide their children in virtue rather than leaving everything to schools or media. Parishes embody it when they form committees and ministries that draw on the talents of parishioners instead of relying on distant programs. Communities live it when neighbors organize to meet local needs—through food pantries, shelters, or civic projects—while accepting help from larger organizations only as true partners, not overlords. In each of these examples, the smaller body acts freely, and the larger one offers help that sustains, rather than supplants, that freedom.

Subsidiarity is not a call to isolation or distrust of government. It is a call to right order—to the kind of collaboration that mirrors the body of Christ, where each member plays its proper role and the whole flourishes in harmony (cf. 1 Cor 12:12–27). When we honor this principle, power becomes service, authority becomes assistance, and institutions become instruments of human flourishing rather than obstacles to it.

In the end, subsidiarity teaches that every person is meant to be a protagonist in his or her own life, and every community a steward of the gifts entrusted to it. The higher exists to serve the lower, and all exist to serve God. By living this truth, we build a society that is free, just, and humane—where each part, from family to nation, contributes to the symphony of the common good.

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



Sacred Heart Potluck Dinner
Sunday, November 9th
5:00 pm in the Parish Hall

Main course: Cowboy Spaghetti
Last names A-L: please bring salad to share
Last names M-Z: please bring dessert to share

*Memorial of Saint Frances
Xavier Cabrini*

November 13th

First naturalized U.S. citizen to be a canonized saint.



“I travel, work, suffer my weak health, meet with a thousand difficulties, but all these are nothing, for this world is so small. To me, space is an imperceptible object, as I am accustomed to dwell in eternity.”

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, November 9th

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
Sick & Shut-Ins of the Parish

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, November 8th *Vigil of Dedication of Lateran Basilica*
Special All Souls Intention

Sunday, November 9th

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, November 12th

Repose of the Soul of Donna Radtke, rb Elinor Collins

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, Shawna Lehner.

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 November



For the prevention of suicide: Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

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.



Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Today the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** in Rome, the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not St. Peter's Basilica as so many mistakenly believe. The Basilica is also called the Church of Holy Savior or the Church of St. John Baptist. In ancient Rome this was the church where everyone was baptized. It the oldest church in the West, built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324. This feast became a universal celebration in honor of the archbasilica, the ecclesiastical mother church, called "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world" (*omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput*), as a sign of love for and union with the See of Peter.

CatholicCulture.org



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HABEMUS PAPAM



The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Entrance Antiphon:

I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

Collect:

O God, who from living and chosen stones prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty, increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed, so that by new growth your faithful people may build up the heavenly Jerusalem. 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: Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9, 12

Responsorial: Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

R. The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

Alleluia: I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord, that my name may be there forever. (2 Chr 7:16)

Gospel: John 2:13-22

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.

PARISH WEBSITE



DIOCESE OF HELENA WEBSITE



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

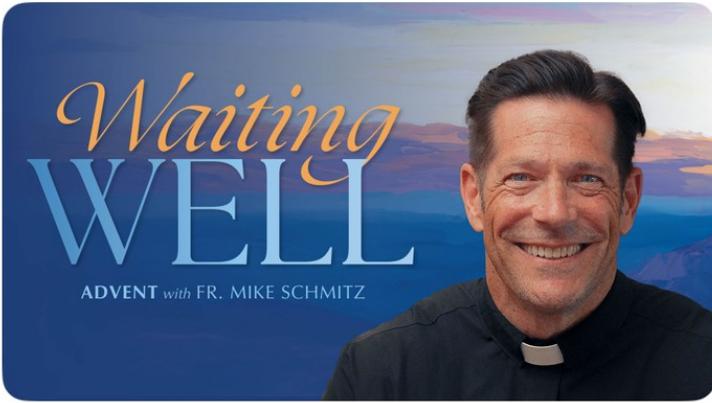
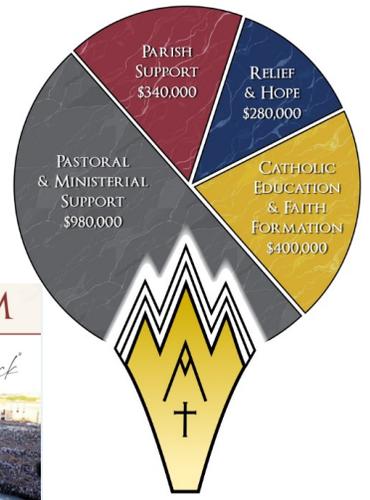


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PO Box 568
Polson, MT 59860



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

It is time to make a plan for the observance of **Advent** so that we can prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas!



ProlifeProviders.com

Waiting Well

Advent with Fr. Mike Schmitz

God wants to shape and mold us during times of waiting, but the problem is...

Instead of waiting, we get worried, anxious, we check out, and we get lost scrolling on our phones.

Fr. Mike wants to help you learn to wait well this Advent, with daily videos in the Ascension App starting November 30, 2025.

[Get Prayer Plan](#) [Join Waitlist](#)

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.



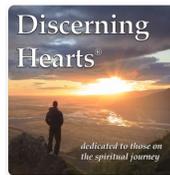
Waiting Well is only available on the Ascension app!

7-Day free trial available
Subscriptions are \$9/month or \$60/year

Fr. Mike Schmitz's Sunday homilies can be found for free on YouTube, Hallow, or wherever you get your podcasts!




Visit HopeAfterAbortion.com for more information.



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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).

Parish Offertory Progress Report
Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$70,677 of \$183,150 (39%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$16,419 of \$48,393 (34%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:
\$1,250 of \$12,000 (10%)
S.H. Building Fund Progress:
\$1,520 of \$1,349 (113%)



Thank you for your generosity!