

The Prophecy of the Destruction of the Temple
James Tissot (1836-1902)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The Preferential Option for the Poor: The Heartbeat of Catholic Social Teaching

The “cross-cutting” principle of Catholic Social Teaching — the preferential option for the poor — is not a political slogan or a program of social reform. It is the Church’s way of saying that the measure of any society is found in how it treats the weakest of its members. The poor are not a “problem” to be managed, but the very mirror through which we see how faithfully we have lived the Gospel. The option for the poor is both a principle and a summons: it calls us to look upon those who suffer as Christ Himself, and to order our lives, our institutions, and our communities around their good.

From the beginning of salvation history, God has shown a special love for the poor. The prophets cried out, “Defend the cause of the poor and the fatherless; uphold the rights of the afflicted and the destitute” (Psalm 82:3). Isaiah declared, “Share your bread with the hungry, and do not hide yourself from your own flesh” (Isaiah 58:7). Jesus made this divine preference unmistakable in the Beatitudes — “Blessed are the poor in spirit” (Matthew 5:3) — and in His parable of the Last Judgment, where He identifies Himself with the hungry, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned (Matthew 25:31-46). To love Christ is to love the poor; to ignore the poor is to turn away from Him.

The Church teaches that this “preferential option” is not a passing concern but a foundational principle. Pope John Paul II called it “a fundamental principle of the Church’s social doctrine” (*Centesimus Annus*, 57). Pope Benedict XVI said that “love for the poor is at the center of the Gospel,” and Pope Francis reminds us that the Church must be “a poor Church for the poor.” The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church describes it as a “normative principle” that permeates all the others. In this way, the option for the poor gives flesh and direction to the entire framework of Catholic Social Teaching — dignity, the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity.

Human dignity is most clearly affirmed when the poor are not excluded but empowered. It is a contradiction to proclaim that every person is made in the image of God while ignoring those whose lives are disfigured by poverty, hunger, or neglect. The common good likewise demands that social and economic systems enable all, especially the most vulnerable, to flourish. A society that leaves the poor behind has not achieved the common good, no matter how prosperous it appears.

Solidarity finds its truest expression in the option for the poor. To be “really responsible for all” means to take upon ourselves, as far as we are able, the burdens of those who suffer — not from afar, but up close, in personal encounter and shared

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Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
16 November 2025

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

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

Parish Office
PO Box 1477 Polson, MT 59860
Phone: 406-883-2506
Cell: 406-594-0474

Email: lakecountyromancatholic@gmail.com
Website: www.lakecountyromancatholic.org

NEW OFFICE HOURS!

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at 6:00 pm

*No Confession this Saturday due to Mass in Charlo
Rosary is prayed at 5:30 pm*

Sunday at 11:00 am

Rosary is prayed at 10:30 am

NEW WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE!

Tuesday at 8:00 am

Wednesday at 12:10 pm

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

Thursday at 8:00 am

SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:00 am

Friday at 9:00 am

*Followed by a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration
Confession will be offered during the Holy Hour until Benediction at 10:30 am.*

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



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

On the menu:

Pumpkin spiced pancakes w/ whipped cream, scrambled eggs, sausages, and fruit.



Tired of those secular “Christmas cards”? Put *Christ* back in *Christmas* with some new greeting cards, sold by your local Polson chapter of the Knights of Columbus! Cards will be made available at the church entrance at the weekend Masses at Immaculate Conception, and downstairs during the breakfast on 11/16.

(Continued from page 1)

struggle. And subsidiarity reminds us that help for the poor must be offered at the most immediate level possible — in families, parishes, and local communities — while higher institutions assist without overwhelming the personal initiative of those closest to the need.

This principle challenges the assumptions of secular culture at every turn. In a world that prizes individual success, the Church proclaims a collective responsibility for the vulnerable. Where society often treats charity as optional philanthropy, the Gospel insists that care for the poor is not optional at all — it is a moral obligation and an act of justice. Where economies are measured by efficiency and profit, the Church asks instead: *What happens to the least among us?* For in God’s eyes, the health of an economy is not judged by the wealth of the few, but by the dignity of the many.

The option for the poor also confronts the idea that poverty is simply a personal failure or an inevitable byproduct of progress. It calls us to recognize that social structures — what St. John Paul II called “structures of sin” — can perpetuate inequality and indifference. The task of Christians is to help transform these into structures of grace: communities, policies, and institutions ordered toward inclusion, participation, and mercy.

To embrace the preferential option for the poor is to see the world through the eyes of Christ. It is to let our hearts be pierced by the same compassion that moved Him to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and comfort the sorrowful. It is to recognize that every human being — especially the one in need — is a living icon of God’s love. This option is not limited to economics; it extends to every sphere of life — cultural, political, spiritual, and personal.

In the end, this principle is nothing less than the practical expression of the Gospel itself. “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40) It is here that faith becomes flesh — in the faces of the poor, the refugee, the forgotten, and the unseen. To stand with them is to stand with Christ.

The preferential option for the poor is the Church’s heartbeat — the pulse of divine mercy made visible in human compassion. It transforms our vision of society from one of competition to one of communion, reminding us that no one is truly well until all are able to share in the blessings of creation. When the poor are lifted up, humanity itself is raised; and when the Church walks with the poor, she walks most closely with her Lord.

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

Thank you!

Heart and Soul

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the crew who helped clean the parish house in Ronan recently!

Another shout out goes to Sharon McDaniel of Heart and Soul. She was a great help to Father Kevin in his moving process and clearing out the rectory to prepare for the remodel. She helps with estates and moving and comes highly recommended by the pastor.

Coffee and Donuts will be served in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall after 9:00 Mass on Sunday, November 23rd. All are welcome!



Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Saturday, November 15th

Vigil of the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repose of the Soul of the Deceased Members of the Parish

Sunday, November 16th

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sick & Shut-Ins of the Parish

Friday, November 21st

Intentions of the Harding Family, rb Katie Devlin

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, November 15th

Vigil of the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Special All Souls Intentions

Sunday, November 16th

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, November 18th

Repose of the Soul of Donna Radtke, rb Rita Jensch

Wednesday, November 19th

Repose of the Soul of Donna Radtke, rb Rita Jensch

Thursday, November 20th

For the protection of orphans

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, 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.



Want a great opportunity to volunteer and help the needy in our community? Helping Hands has the perfect opportunity for you! We have Holiday Helping Hands which is replacing the annual Bell Ringing with the Salvation Army.

100% of the money collected will stay in Lake County! Immaculate Conception Church Day will be Friday, December 12 at Super One.

To sign up please call Toni Whealon at 406-253-2096. If you would like a different day we can arrange that too. Help our neighbors in need.

“ At the heart of the world there dwells the mystery of the human person discovering himself to be God's son or daughter in the course of a historical and psychological process in which constraint and freedom as well as the weight of sin and the breath of the Spirit alternate and struggle for the upper hand. ”

- St. Pope Paul VI (*Octogesima Adveniens*)



Do not look back to the past, nor forward to the future. Claim only the present, for it holds God's will.

Saint Rose Phillipine Duchesne
Memorial November 18th

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne was a French missionary religious sister known for bringing the Society of the Sacred Heart to the United States and for her devoted work in educating and serving Indigenous peoples.

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.



Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Collect:

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. 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: Mal 3:19-20a (4:1-2a)

RESPONSORIAL: Ps. 98:5-6,7-8,9

R. *The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.*

SECOND READING: 2 Thes 3:7-12

ALLELUIA: *Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. - Lk 21:28*

GOSPEL: Lk 21:5-19

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Far from diminishing our concern to develop this earth, the expectancy of a new earth should spur us on, for it is here that the body of a new human family grows, foreshadowing in some way the age which is to come. That is why, although we must be careful to distinguish earthly progress clearly from the increase of the kingdom of Christ, such progress is of vital concern to the kingdom of God, insofar as it can contribute to the better ordering of human society." (CCC 1049)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS Immaculate Conception:

Pledges: \$555,570
Collected: \$252,469 (92%)
Goal: \$273,662

Sacred Heart:

Pledges: \$78,475
Collected: \$30,275 (44%)
Goal: \$69,231



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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

Fraturdays at 9:00 am

DIVINE MERCY RADIO
90.7 FM

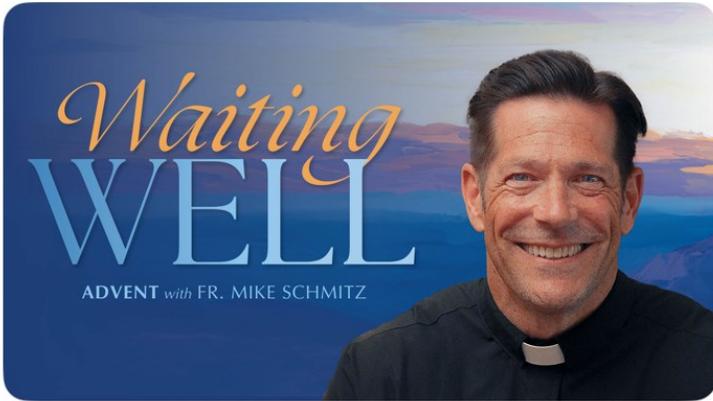


DMR is a locally owned, listener supported non-profit 501(c)3
PO Box 568
Polson, MT 59860



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

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



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



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!



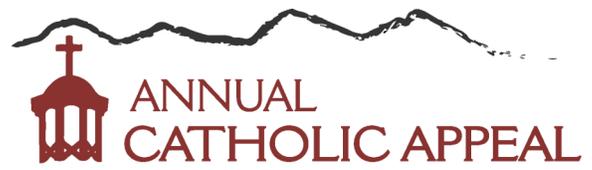
Visit HopeAfterAbortion.com for more information.



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).



FUNDING THE MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

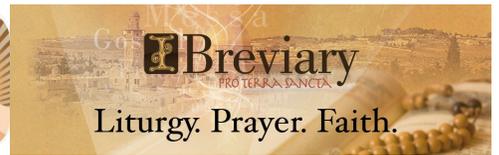
HABEMUS PAPAM



ACA 2025 PARISH PROGRESS

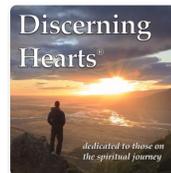
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	SACRED HEART
5.7%	16.5%
Goal: \$29,700 Committed: \$1,700	Goal: \$9,100 Committed: \$1,500

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.



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 1st*

Immaculate Conception
\$73,205 of \$183,150 (40%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$17,149 of \$48,393 (35%)

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!