



**Christ the King**

Unknown artist, Church of the Holy Cross, Géisdref, Luxembourg

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

**Christ the King and the Full Vision of Catholic Social Teaching**

On this great feast of Christ the King, the Church lifts her voice to proclaim that all creation, every human endeavor, and every social structure find their true order and peace under the gentle reign of Jesus Christ. His kingship is not political domination, but the sovereignty of love — a rule that frees rather than enslaves, that heals rather than divides. In Christ, the fullness of justice and mercy meet. Every truth of Catholic Social Teaching flows from this royal claim: that Jesus Christ is Lord of every human heart and every human institution.

Over these past weeks, we have reflected on the four permanent principles — the pillars of the Church’s social doctrine: human dignity, the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity. Each pillar reveals something of the way Christ’s kingdom takes flesh in the world. Human dignity declares that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. The common good reminds us that we flourish not in isolation but in community. Solidarity binds us together as one human family. Subsidiarity ensures that authority serves, rather than overwhelms, the freedom and initiative of persons and smaller communities.

Yet the Church also teaches that these four pillars are permeated by three cross-cutting aspects — the preferential option for the poor, participation, and the universal destination of goods. They are not additional principles so much as living threads that run through the entire moral fabric of Catholic social life. Together they reveal how the kingship of Christ is meant to transform every level of society — from the family and parish to the marketplace and the state.

The preferential option for the poor is the beating heart of the Church’s social witness. God’s love always bends toward the lowly, the forgotten, and the oppressed. As Our Lord said, “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Mt 25:40). This option does not arise from sentiment, but from the very logic of the Incarnation: the eternal Word became poor for our sake, that by His poverty we might become rich (cf. 2 Cor 8:9). In His Kingdom, greatness is measured not by wealth or power but by compassion and service. The poor, then, are not peripheral to society; they are the measure of its justice and the mirror of its soul.

The second cross-cutting aspect, participation, flows directly from human dignity. To be made in God’s image means to be capable of reason, love, and responsible action. Participation calls every person to engage in the building of the common good — in family life, in civic duty, in the life of the Church. It rejects both passivity and exclusion. The Catechism teaches that “it is

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

**23 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

**This week’s office hours:**

Monday 9 am—12 pm | Tuesday 2-5 pm

Closed for Thanksgiving vacation Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**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*

**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, November 27<sup>th</sup> — Thanksgiving Day**

Mass at 10:00 am

**SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday** at 9:00 am

**No Mass this Friday**

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

Coffee and Donuts will be served in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall after 9:00 Mass on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.



All are welcome!



**Advent Decorating Help Needed!**

**Sacred Heart: November 30 at 1:00 pm**

Helpers welcome to decorate the church and set up outdoor manger.

Chili/soup will be served in Parish Hall at approximately 3:00 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception: November 29 at 10:00 am**

Help is needed in changing decorations around our parish from fall to winter. Please join us on Saturday Nov. 29 at 10am in front of the main doors. Wear warm clothing and bring pruning shears to cut boughs. This will take an hour or so if several people show up. Call

Sheila LeBrun with questions or suggestions. 406-208-5788

Thank you in advance!

(Continued from page 1)

necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good” (CCC 1913). True participation restores the face of Christ’s Kingdom on earth, where each member of the Body plays a vital role and no one is treated as superfluous.

The third, the universal destination of goods, reminds us that the gifts of creation are not the property of a few but the inheritance of all. “The goods of creation are destined for the whole human race,” teaches the Catechism (CCC 2402). Private ownership is a legitimate right, but it carries a social mortgage: what we possess, we hold in trust for the benefit of others. This principle challenges every economic order that prizes profit over people, reminding us that the earth and all it contains belong first to God — and through Him, to the human family. It is a principle that lies at the heart of stewardship, justice, and peace.

These three cross-cutting aspects do not stand apart from the four pillars; they give them life and movement. The option for the poor keeps dignity and the common good grounded in reality. Participation ensures that solidarity and subsidiarity never become abstractions. And the universal destination of goods roots every social system in gratitude and generosity. Together they describe the moral landscape of a society ordered to the reign of Christ.

Under the Social Kingship of Jesus Christ, the Church dares to proclaim that no realm of human life — economic, political, or cultural — lies outside His dominion. His crown is made of thorns, His throne is the Cross, and His law is love. When the principles of Catholic Social Teaching are lived in the light of His Kingship, they cease to be mere theories of governance and become pathways to holiness. They form what Pope Pius XI called “the peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ” (Quas Primas).

To recognize Christ as King is to confess that every person, especially the poor and the powerless, belongs to Him; that every community, large or small, exists to serve His truth; and that every resource of creation is meant to glorify His name. When human dignity is honored, when the common good is pursued, when solidarity binds and subsidiarity empowers, when the poor are raised up and all are given a place at the table — then the Kingdom of Christ begins to shine forth, even now, upon the earth.

May this solemnity renew in us the courage to make Christ’s Kingship visible in our families, our parish, our nation, and the world — not by force, but by faith; not by conquest, but by charity. For “He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet” (1 Cor 15:25) — and the last of those enemies is not a person, but the injustice that wounds the children of God.

Viva Christo Rey!  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



The Knights of the Columbus would like to offer transportation services to Sunday Mass for parishioners who need assistance. Please call the parish office or John Winegart at (406) 270-6655, if you need help or know of anyone needing help getting to Mass.



Fr. Christofferson will be leading a brief study on the *Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales and taking a deeper dive into the bulletin inserts during the season of Advent. Classes will be **5:45 pm** on the Wednesdays of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and the 17<sup>th</sup> during Family Night.



LeRoy Gebhardt, a former long-time member of Sacred Heart Parish, passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 92 on November 14, in Seattle, Washington. May he rest in peace.



**Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions**

**Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission**

**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Repose of the Soul of LeRoy Gebhardt, rb Chris Gebhardt

**Immaculate Conception**

**Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Vigil of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Special All Souls Intentions

**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

**Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Repose of the Soul of Robert Carter, rb Katie Devlin

**Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Repose of the Soul of Carol Kelly, rb Vince Kelly

**Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**  
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, Shawna Lehner, Bill Efinger.

*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.



**St. Catherine of Alexandria Memorial November 25<sup>th</sup>**

Saint Catherine of Alexandria is known for her intellect, Christian martyrdom, and conversion of others to Christianity, which led to her becoming a patron saint of students, teachers, philosophers, and others. According to legend, she debated 50 pagan philosophers, who were then executed, and she survived an execution by spiked wheel after it broke upon her touch. She was ultimately beheaded.

Google AI Overview

**Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

Entrance Antiphon:

*How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honor. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.*

Collect:

*Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. 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: 2 Sm 5:1-3  
 RESPONSORIAL: Ps. 122:1-2,3,4,4-5  
*R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*  
 SECOND READING: Col 1:12-2  
 ALLELUIA: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed be the kingdom of our father David that is to come! - Mk 11:9,10*  
 GOSPEL: Lk 23:35-43

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

*Though already present in his Church, Christ's reign is nevertheless yet to be fulfilled "with power and great glory" by the King's return to earth.<sup>556</sup> This reign is still under attack by the evil powers, even though they have been defeated definitively by Christ's Passover.<sup>557</sup> Until everything is subject to him, "until there be realized new heavens and a new earth in which justice dwells, the pilgrim Church, in her sacraments and institutions, which belong to this present age, carries the mark of this world which will pass, and she herself takes her place among the creatures which groan and travail yet and await the revelation of the sons of God."<sup>558</sup> That is why Christians pray, above all in the Eucharist, to hasten Christ's return by saying to him:<sup>559</sup> Maranatha! "Our Lord, come!" (CCC 671)*

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**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

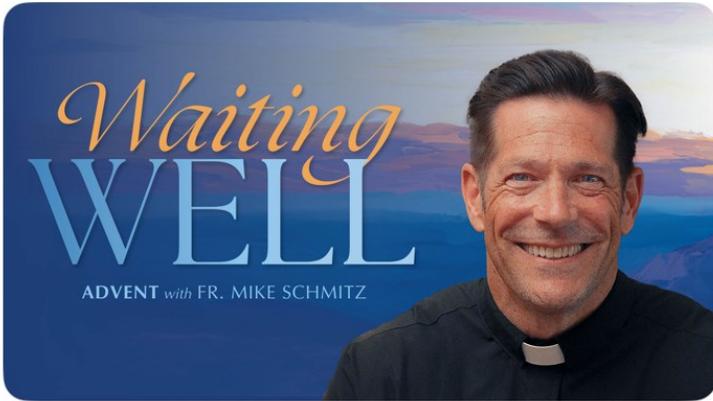


*DMR is a locally owned, listener supported non-profit 501(c)3*  
 PO Box 568  
 Polson, MT 59860



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!

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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).

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

FUNDING THE MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

# HABEMUS PAPAM



### ACA 2025 PARISH PROGRESS

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	SACRED HEART
<b>20.7%</b>	<b>42.9%</b>
Goal: \$29,700 Committed: \$6,150	Goal: \$9,100 Committed: \$3,900

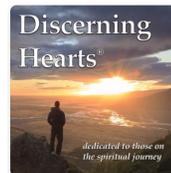
**PRAY as YOU GO** PrayAsYouGo.org is a daily online resource that offers guided prayer sessions to help individuals grow in their spiritual life. Each session typically includes scripture, reflective music, and prompts for prayer, making it easy to integrate spiritual reflection into your day. Designed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

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

**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!**

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## INTRODUCTION FROM BISHOP VETTER

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Greetings to you! In the past days and months, I have heard from many of you from across the Diocese of Helena questions regarding immigration and the stance of the Church. I am happy to share with you our Special Pastoral Message on Immigration by the Bishops of the United States in unity with one another and with our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, issued on November 12, 2025, at our Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore. I stand behind this message 100%.

In Christ, I am



Most Rev. Austin A. Vetter  
Bishop of Helena



## STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS ON IMMIGRATION

*From the Plenary Assembly in Baltimore - November 12, 2025*



As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (*Genesis 1:27*). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (*Zechariah 7:10*). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (*2 Corinthians 8:9*), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (*Luke 10:30-37*), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (*Matthew 25*). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (*John 13:34*).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (*cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26*). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

*As disciples of the Lord, we remain men and women of hope, and hope does not disappoint! (cf. Romans 5:5)*

*May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ.*