



**St. John the Baptist Preaching**  
Luca Giordano

### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

*Today humanity, in all the radiance of her immaculate nobility, receives its ancient beauty. The shame of sin had darkened the splendor and attraction of human nature; but when the Mother of the Fair One par excellence is born, this nature regains in her person its ancient privileges and is fashioned according to a perfect model truly worthy of God.... The reform of our nature begins today and the aged world, subjected to a wholly divine transformation, receives the first fruits of the second creation.* Andrew of Crete, Sermon 1 On the Birth of Mary (A.D. 733).

Sometimes it is said that the Church “created” a new dogma in 1854 when Pope Pius IX solemnly declared the truth of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Is this what happened? Did the Church “create” a new dogma? Clearly not, and this is not how the Magisterium of the Church functions.

When Christ gave His teaching authority to the Church He left with Her all of the treasures of His sacred doctrine to be carefully preserved until He returned in glory. The deposit of the faith is like a bag of goodies that Christ gave to His Church, or we can simply think of it in terms that our Lord once used, a “storeroom” out of which one obtains supplies: *every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings forth from his storeroom new treasures as well as old.* (Mt 13:52).

The teacher is the Church, and after having rummaged around the storeroom among the things that are “old,” She brings forth and presents, or rather presents “anew” something that has always been there. And that is the key, it has to have always been “there.”

As Pope Pius IX was working on the issue of the Immaculate Conception, he began the task by sending scholars and theologians into the “storeroom” of the treasures of the Church to do some rummaging around, and suffice it to say that with very little effort they were able to produce and bring forth evidence that the Church has always believed in the utter uniqueness of the Blessed Virgin Mary precisely so that she might become the fitting Mother of God. How could it not be otherwise?

I began with a quote from Andrew of Crete from the year 733, which might not sound all that old, but I choose it because it is personally one of my favorites, but I want you to note the dates on the following quotes from the Fathers of the Church so

(Continued on page 2)

## Second Sunday of Advent

8 December 2024

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

**Fr. Kevin Christofferson, Pastor**  
**Fr. Robert Brooks, Pastoral Associate**

### 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:*

By appointment —Katie on maternity leave.

### 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*

**Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday** at 12:10 pm

*Confessions are heard at 11:30 am and again after Wednesday*

*Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.*

### SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday** at 9:00 am

**Monday** at 5:30 pm, Holy Day Mass

**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

### DING-A-LINGS NEEDED!

Holiday bell ringers needed to represent our parish at **Walmart on Friday, December 20th**. Time slots are 12 noon to 2:00 pm, or 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Proceeds from the effort remain here locally in Lake County. If you are willing and able please email the parish office with your preference. Thank you!



### UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

**Sunday the 15th:** Breakfast will be served after the 9:00 am Mass at **Sacred Heart**. Biscuits & gravy with fruit and muffins will be offered.

**Sunday the 15th:** The annual *Guadete Sunday* dinner will be served after the 11:00 am Mass at **Immaculate Conception**. This year the dinner is in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe with fine Mexican food on the menu. ¡Qué rico!

**Sunday the 22nd:** Coffee and carbs will be served in the parish hall immediately after the 9:00 am Mass at **Sacred Heart**.

*Come join us for food and fellowship!*

that you may tell me whether or not the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was "made up" in 1859 or not. Enjoy!

*He was the ark formed of incorruptible wood. For by this is signified that His tabernacle was exempt from putridity and corruption. Hippolytus, Orations Inillud, Dominus pascit me {A.D. 235}.*

*Thou alone and thy Mother are in all things fair, there is no flaw in thee and no stain in thy Mother. Ephraem, Nisibene Hymns 27:8 {A.D. 370}.*

*O noble Virgin, truly you are greater than any other greatness. For who is your equal in greatness, O dwelling place of God the Word? To whom among all creatures shall I compare you, O Virgin? You are greater than them all O Covenant, clothed with purity instead of gold! You are the Ark in which is found the golden vessel containing the true manna, that is, the flesh in which divinity resides. Athanasius, Homily of the Papyrus of Turin 71:216 {ante AD 373}.*

*Mary, a Virgin not only undefiled but a Virgin whom grace has made inviolate, free of every stain of sin. Ambrose, Sermon 22, 30 {A.D. 388}.*

*A virgin, innocent, spotless, free of all defect, untouched, unsullied, holy in soul and body, like a lily sprouting among thorns. Theodotus of Ancyra, Homily 6, 11 {A.D. 446}.*

*The very fact that God has elected her proves that none was ever holier than Mary, if any stain had disfigured her soul, if any other virgin had been purer and holier, God would have selected her and rejected Mary. Jacob of Sarug {ante A.D. 521}.*

And these are just a few samples.

Have a Blessed Advent Season!  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



**Miles of frost-  
On the lake  
The moon's my own.  
-Buson**

#### ***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, Brett McCrumb, Betty McMillen, Laurel Cheff, Zane Kelly, Kathy Collicot, Rod Clairmont, John Freemole, Barbara White, David Jenkins, Bruce Simpson.

*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 December**

**For pilgrims of hope:** We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

#### ***Please pray for our seminarians!***

Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthoney Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, Matt Keck.

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

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

**Sunday, December 8th** *Second Sunday of Advent*  
For the Repose of the Soul of Judy Janssen rb The Sampson's  
**Monday, December 9th** *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conc*  
TBA

**Friday, December 13th** *Memorial of St. Lucy*  
TBA

##### **Immaculate Conception**

**Saturday, November 7th** *Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent*  
For the Repose of the Soul of John Flemming rb Kate Hertz

**Sunday, December 8th** *Second Sunday of Advent*  
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

**Monday, December 9th** *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conc.*  
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

**Tuesday, December 10th** *Advent Weekday*  
For the Intentions of Mike Hertz rb Kate Hertz

**Wednesday, December 11th** *Advent Weekday*  
For the Intentions of Our Seminarians

**Thursday, December 12th** *Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
For the Intentions of Matthew Hertz rb Kate Hertz

#### **ODDS AND ENDS**

- Extension Society calendars have been delayed due to printing and binding difficulties. Hopefully they will be here by Christmas.
- Mass schedule for Christmas and the Christmas Season will be published next week on *Guadete Sunday*.

#### **SEASONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Candle Lighting Ceremony:** Holidays can be a difficult time for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. If you wish to join others in paying tribute to those who have passed this past year, you are invited to a candle lighting ceremony at **The Lake Funeral Home on TOADAY, December 8th at 2:00 pm.** Refreshments will be served afterwards.

**Mission Valley Choral Society:** Two Christmas concerts are scheduled: **Saturday, December 14th at 1:00 pm** at St. Ignatius Church and **Sunday, December 15th at 4:00 pm** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Polson. A free will offering helps to support the choral society.





## MARIAN FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK!

**Monday, December 9th:** The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred this year to December 9th since the 8th falls on a Sunday. The Solemnity *is a Holy Day of Obligation* and the Patronal Feast of the United States. Mass will be offered at **Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm** followed by the annual consecration of our parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and at **Sacred Heart at 5:30 pm**.

**Thursday, December 12th:** Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at **Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm** and a further celebration is planned after the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday with a special Mexican dinner.

**O**ur Lady of Guadalupe,  
Mystical Rose,  
make intercession for the holy  
Church,  
protect the Sovereign Pontiff,  
help all those who invoke thee in  
their necessities,  
and since thou art the ever Virgin  
Mary  
and Mother of the true God,  
obtain for us from thy most holy Son  
the grace of keeping our faith,  
sweet hope in the midst of the bitter-  
ness of life,  
burning charity  
and the precious gift of final perse-  
verance.  
Amen.

-Pope Pius X



## Second Sunday of Advent

### Entrance Antiphon:

*O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

### Collect:

*Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.*

*Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever*

### Readings:

FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

SECOND READING

Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

ALLELUIA

Lk. 3:4,6

GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

### Communion Antiphon:

*Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

### Catechism of the Catholic Church:

John the Baptist is "more than a prophet." In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the "voice" of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John "came to bear witness to the light." In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfills the longing of the angels. "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God. .. Behold, the Lamb of God." CCC #719

## Food Pantry Necessities—Polson

Peanut butter and cereal are a constant need; as well as oats, flour and rice. Clients tend to prefer healthy options for food that are not so loaded with sugar. The Food Pantry will also accept money donations as well. Charitable donations may be left in the Food Pantry basket at the entrance of the church. They also accept fresh garden produce!

The Food Pantry also utilizes plastic grocery bags!

In **Ronan** a bin is again available for collecting food items. Please talk to Fr. Brooks for more information and how you might help with this effort.

### 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



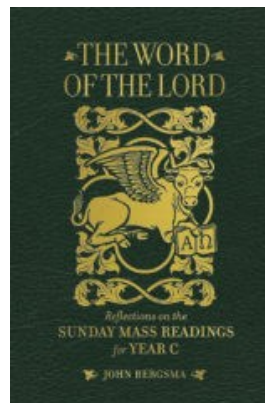
Fridays at 9:00 am

### DIVINE MERCY RADIO 90.7 FM

**EWTN**  
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.



## Resources to Deepen Your Love of the Church's Liturgy

Every New Year it is customary to make a "new year's resolution." Advent marks the beginning of the Church's "new" liturgical year, and so why not resolve to deepen your love of Christ and His Church by deepening your love of the Liturgy? *The Word of the Lord* (a commentary on the Sunday readings) can be purchased at [stpaulcenter.com](http://stpaulcenter.com) and a no-fault *Liturgy of the Hours* at [wordonfire.org](http://wordonfire.org).



# Your gift could give you a 40% Tax Credit

Imagine if you gave a gift and nearly HALF was returned to you in tax credits!  
Would it change the way you give?

We all love the Lord and want to support his work in our parishes and diocese. Annuities are a way to do just that AND save money on Montana taxes.

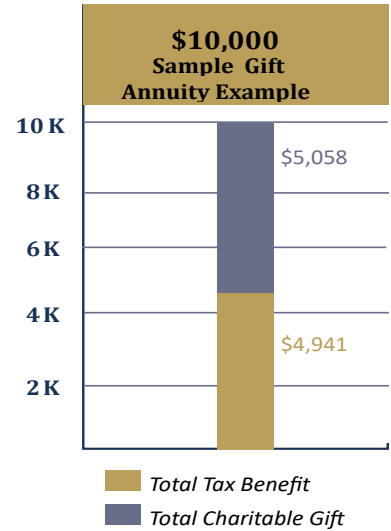
Montana is a unique state, committed to giving back to its nonprofits through the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. This piece of our tax code allows you to give to an endowment through a planned gift (charitable annuity), and then be able to claim a tax credit of 40% of the total charitable gift.

The Foundation offers annuities that support 161 different endowments within our diocese, including one for every parish as well as many Catholic ministries.



Each household is eligible for up to **\$10,000 Montana tax credit per spouse** (\$20,000 total). *Donate appreciated stock and your tax savings in capital gains could be even more!*

Contact the Foundation Executive Director, **Daniel Thies** for more information and your *personalized annuity illustration*, (406)389-7051 or email [dthies@diocesahelena.org](mailto:dthies@diocesahelena.org)



Make your online contribution today!  
**Diocesahelena.org/ACA**

**Immaculate Conception:**  
\$18,162.00 of 29,700.00 (61%)  
**Sacred Heart:**  
\$3,145.00 of 9,100.00 (35%)



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

**Immaculate Conception**  
\$84,071 of \$193,773 (43%)  
**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph**  
\$19,792 of \$ 48,393 (40%)

**I.C. Building Fund Progress:**  
\$267 of \$12,000 (2%)  
**S.H. Building Fund Progress:**  
\$1,000 of \$5,000 (20%)

*Thank you for your generosity!*



**CAMPAIGN PROGRESS**  
**Immaculate Conception:**  
Pledges: \$547,894.00  
Received: TBA  
Gift Annuity: \$100,000.00  
**Sacred Heart:**  
Pledges: \$83,475.00  
Received: TBA



*Processing checks is not free. Help us economize and use Give Central for your Offertory and other parish related collections.*

Online payments to ICC may be made at  
[GiveCentral.org](http://GiveCentral.org)

All parish communications are now through Evangelus! If you have accidentally opted out of text messages, you may text "Unstop" to **1-866-498-2036 (Immaculate Conception)** or **1-866-953-1870 (Sacred Heart)**. If you have not yet opted in for messages and would like to, please text "YES" to the appropriate number above.



Consider adding these numbers to your phone contacts so you always know when you are receiving a message from the parish!



*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” -Hebrews 11:1,3*

How do we teach someone such faith?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provides a place of discovery and wonder where the child and the adult explore the rich depths of the scriptures and the signs of the liturgy.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd was designed for children to discover their relationship with God. It does this by taking a tangible thing that can be seen (like a mustard seed), an aspect of God that cannot be seen (such as The Kingdom of God), and through wondering, encourages the child to discover how those two things are connected. Put another way, “Signs and parables...are composed of two elements, which we could call a departure point (for example, the mustard seed) and the point of arrival (in this case, the kingdom of God); what the ‘reader’ of the parable must do is to establish the relation between these two poles” (The Religious Potential of the Child, pg. 129-130).

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd works through the catechist, through the material, and through the environment.

The *catechist* proclaims the essential parts of Christ’s life in the scripture and in the liturgy in as few words as possible. The source the catechist uses is the whole parable, the whole text, which allows the child to respond to the whole of that part of the scripture or sign. In order to do this well, the catechist “will find himself in a position of extreme poverty” never being able to have the sense of knowing everything about the sign (The Religious Potential of the Child, pg. 132). That poverty allows the catechist to become a fellow listener with the child as they explore together the inexhaustible realities of the sign or parable.

Next, the *materials* appeal to the child’s senses and connect him to a concrete person (Jesus Christ). The material itself shows the catechists’ love for God through the way they craft the truths of the sign or parable into the physical object. Then these physical materials become the point of entry for the child and catechist to engage the unseen truths.

Lastly, the *environment* provides a place for life, not instruction, and the crafted environment provides a place for creative work.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provides an exhaustible environment for the child and adult to connect to God. And Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has a place for you.

We invite you to:

1. Come for yourself
  - a. If you do not know what some of the signs and gestures mean in the Mass, or if you are ready to explore the inexhaustible riches of the Parable of the Good Shepherd, the Parable of the Mustard Seed, and many other parables, then this training is for you.
2. Come for your family and your neighbor’s family
  - a. We need future catechists to help form our children. This training will provide necessary formation for you to be able to do that.
3. Come craft the love of God into our materials so our children can see that He is good.
  - a. We need your skills. Contact Jason Edwards at (406) 407-5973 or Barb Marshall at (406) 361-0849 to join us in crafting our environment for our children.