



Adoration of the Lamb
Jan Van Eyck (1390–1441)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

This week I just have a few housekeeping notes now that we have passed through Holy Week and are settling into the season of Easter, the 50 days that extends to the Feast of Pentecost. Yes, Catholics do not just celebrate Easter and then move on, we linger and savor the central event upon which our faith is built for seven weeks. Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead and we need this time to interiorize anew the reality of our sharing through baptism in this life that cannot be destroyed.

Let's start with the passing of our Holy Father Pope Francis, not something that anyone of us was necessarily prepared for the day after Easter Sunday. This Sunday, the day you are probably reading this, concludes the nine days of mourning since his funeral last Saturday at St. Peter's Basilica. They truly should have been days of mourning given that we are all one by virtue of our baptism which binds us together in the very charity of God, and being our spiritual father, his passing should produce a sense of loss. I will always be very grateful to Pope Francis for the many lessons that he has taught us, and especially grateful for his last encyclical letter *Dilexit Nos*, in which he elucidated the many mysteries of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. If you have not had a chance to read this document, I highly encourage you to do so and hold this teaching close to your own heart with gratitude for this gift to the Church, a gift that reveals something to us of our late Holy Father's own heart.

Having said that, I do have an announcement regarding who the next pope will be. Are you ready for this? The next pope will be the one that the cardinals will elect! And there you have it. There, I got that out of my system. The point being, and I do get it, that waiting for the election of a new pope is a time of pronounced anxiety, but let's just get one thing straight, speculation and hopes that are more political than spiritual are useless during such times and what we need is sincere heartfelt prayer. Without digressing into a lengthy rant about the politicization of the upcoming election, like all the other ones that have come before, the pope we need is the one that the cardinals will elect as the fruit of their own prayer and discernment. Without self-interest we ought to pray, and pray especially for the cardinals who must bear the burden of this fearful process. And so, next Wednesday, May 7th, the day the conclave begins, I will offer a Mass taken from the special section of the Roman Missal for *The Election of a New Pope*. On Wednesdays we normally have a period of Eucharistic Adoration which will afford us a time of time of prayer and prayerful support of the cardinal electors. If God so wills it, we will have a new Holy Father by that weekend and we can then all rejoice in the news.

Next, Bishop Vetter will be making his annual visit to our parish during the month of May. Please consult the

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Third Sunday of Easter

4 May 2025

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:

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

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday at 12:10 pm

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

Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.

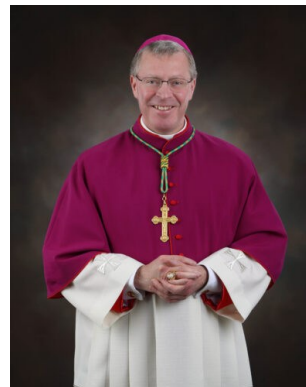
SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:00 am

Friday at 9:00 am, followed by a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

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

Bishop Vetter's annual pastoral visit to our parish



♦ He will celebrate Mass on **Saturday, May 17th** at St. Joseph Mission in Charlo at 4:00 pm, and at Immaculate Conception in Polson at 6:00 pm, followed by a dinner.

♦ He will celebrate Mass on **Sunday, May 25th**, at Sacred Heart in Ronan at 9:00 am, followed by a dinner.



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bulletin regarding the dates and the times of the Masses he will be celebrating and any social events that may follow. Also, do pray for the repose of the soul of his mother Loretta who passed away this past week while he was in Rome, and if you can it would be good to send him a note of sympathy (Bishop Austin Vetter, PO Box 1729, Helena, MT 59624).

Thirdly, I know you know that this is a Jubilee Year and the 1700th anniversary of the Nicæan Creed. Given all of the activities following upon the Christmas season, and then barreling into Lent and Holy Week, I have not had much time and opportunity to really speak about this, but I will. Each parish is being asked to celebrate a jubilee Mass during Ordinary Time, which we have not had much opportunity to do, and I may plan something once we settle back into some kind of routine after the summer months. The Jubilee Year ends on January 6th, 2026, and so we have time. Regarding the anniversary of the creed, I will be making available a new little book on the creed that has been prepared by Bishop Robert Barron and will let you know when those are available. More on all of this later.

Finally, I have been reviewing and updating the guidelines for a Christian funeral, and they will be published soon. As I have mentioned in the recent past, the bishops have been busy, and for many years, revising and updating all of the ritual books and so we must keep pace with all of the developments and put them into use. I will follow up with some catechesis on the subject and so please make every effort to stay informed and up to date. I will also bring everyone up to date on all things liturgical so that we can all be on the same page with regards to worship and the sacraments. Yes, it has been 60 years since the Second Vatican Council and we are still not quite there yet, but we will be, and little by little we all will be. Please God.

That is about it for now and in the meantime, please pray for the election of pope and for the good of the Church, and we will catch back up on the other side once the white smoke rises from the Sistine Chapel.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

Saint John of Avila (1499-1569), priest and Doctor of the Church, whose feast day is May 10th, is *not* the same man as the much more well-known Saint John of the Cross (1542-1591), who is also a priest and Doctor of the Church, and also Spanish. St. John of Avila was a missionary, a popular preacher, and a founder of several schools and universities.

Prayer for the Election of a New Pope

O God, eternal shepherd,
who govern your flock with unfailing care,
grant in your boundless fatherly love
a pastor for your Church
who will please you by his holiness
and to us show watchful care.

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. Amen.



Excerpt from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010
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**Bishop Vetter's mother, Loretta, passed
away on Divine Mercy Sunday. Please
pray for the repose of her soul.**

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, May 4th *Third Sunday of Easter*

Intentions of the Sick and Shut-Ins of the Parish

Friday, May 9th

Repose of the Soul of Robert Hanson, rb Rob Sterling

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, May 3rd *Vigil of the Third Sunday of Easter*

Repose of the Soul of Teresa Hughes, rb Pat Hughes

Sunday, May 4th *Third Sunday of Easter*

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, May 7th

For the election of a new Pope

Thursday, May 8th

Repose of the Soul of Loretta Vetter

Friday, May 9th

Repose of the Soul of Robert Patrick

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, Laurel Cheff, Zane Kelly, Kathy Collicot, Rod Clairmont, Barbara White, David Jenkins, Bruce Simpson, Debbie Tschida, Doug Morigeau.

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 May

For working conditions: Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.



Please pray for our seminarians!

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

Celebrate Easter's 50 Days: Family Activities to Celebrate the Easter Season

Easter is the most important feast of the Christian year—so important that the Church sets aside a seven-week season to rejoice in Christ's victory over sin and death.

How can a family sustain this “Easter spirit” of celebration all the way to Pentecost? Here are fifty ways to celebrate the fifty days. But don't try to do them all! Each week, just pick a few ideas that seem right for you. You'll be rejoicing long after the last jelly bean is gone!

1. Use a special candle at family meals to recall the light of Christ.
2. Every day, read together from the Easter story: Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21.
3. Plan fun family activities—one for every week of Easter.
4. Put up a sign or banner that proclaims, “He is risen!”
5. Was anyone received into the Church during your parish Easter Vigil? Have them over.
6. Add an “alleluia” song—or three alleluias—to your grace before meals.
7. Put on an Easter play. Invite relatives and friends to a performance.
8. Make a poster of a life-giving cross. Add paper flowers and leaves to it throughout Easter.
9. Celebrate new life by doing something as a family to support unborn children and their parents.
10. Keep fresh flowers around.
11. Use the old Easter greeting and response: “Christ is risen! – He is risen indeed!”
12. Visit a lonely neighbor or do some other family act of kindness to express thanks for the resurrection.
13. Talk about baptism. Tell stories of family members' baptisms.
14. Plan a family outing to a river, lake, stream, or ocean.
15. Drape your crucifixes and crosses with a strip of white cloth.
16. Make cookies in the shapes of Easter symbols. Freeze some to serve throughout the season.
17. Learn how other cultures celebrate Easter. Try out some of their customs and foods.
18. Make cards announcing the good news of the resurrection.
19. Use a special container for newly blessed water from church. Show your kids how to use holy water.
20. Throw some water balloons!
21. Listen to Handel's Messiah and other Easter music.
22. Read about the Emmaus disciples (Luke 24:13-35); take a family walk.
23. What about a short trip to an interesting shrine or church?
24. Place a resurrection icon or picture in a place of honor.
25. Discuss what it means to be Christ's “witnesses” (Luke 24:48)? Help each family member to see that their witness matters.
26. Wear more white, or even gold! They're the season's special colors.

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*.

27. Pray the Liturgy of the Hours together in the morning or evening (www.liturgyhours.org).
28. If your family likes to sing and play instruments, have people over for a musical Easter celebration.
29. Read about the disciples' amazing catch of fish (John 21:1-14). Then go fishing together.
30. Or imitate Peter, and go swimming (John 21:7).
31. The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. Explore this relatively new devotion (www.marian.org/divinemercy).
32. Talk about how the disciples hid (John 20:19) until the Spirit's coming at Pentecost. Follow up by playing hide and seek.
33. Plant some seeds.
34. Honor the risen Lord's mother by learning about “Mary gardens” (www.mgardens.org).
35. Read Luke 24:50-53 or Acts 1:6-11. Ask family members to imagine themselves present at Jesus' ascension. How would they have felt about it?
36. Watch a movie with an Easter theme (For ideas, see the list from the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference: www.usccb.org/movies/filmsforlent.htm).
37. Just before his ascension, Jesus blessed the disciples. Pray Numbers 6:24-26 together as a way of communicating his blessing to one another.
38. On Ascension Thursday, choose a family intention. Make the nine days till Pentecost a novena to the Holy Spirit.
39. Add some Pentecost red (for fire) to your Easter decorations.
40. Read Acts 2, the Spirit's coming at Pentecost. Read it in all the languages family members speak! (See the Bible translations at www.biblegateway.com/languages).
41. Decorate a cake with Pentecost flames and other symbols to celebrate the birthday of the church.
42. Talk about the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (see Isaiah 11 and 1 Corinthians 12; also the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1830-1832).
43. Make a Pentecost hanging or mobile that features a dove and tongues of fire.
44. Learn a prayer to the Holy Spirit to use in your family prayer time.
45. Play “twenty questions”: Have someone choose a Bible character or thing from the Easter and Pentecost stories. The group gets twenty questions (yes or no answers only) to guess the right answer.
46. List the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23; Catechism, 1832) on separate slips of paper. Have each family member randomly select a fruit to cultivate.
47. Fly a kite to celebrate the wind of the Holy Spirit.
48. Find ways to make Sunday meals special during the Easter season.
49. Continue the “special Sunday meal” tradition to celebrate Jesus' resurrection all year.
50. Discuss why Sunday is holy (see John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, On Keeping the Lord's Day Holy; Catechism, 2174-2195). Decide how you can keep the Lord's Day as a family.

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.

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.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

Franciscans



Call **406-442-4130** or
visit www.cssmt.org/mental-health/
to get started today!



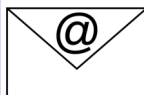
Payments to **Immaculate Conception** may be made online at GiveCentral.org (click on the big orange "Find Your Charity" button and type in our zip code,



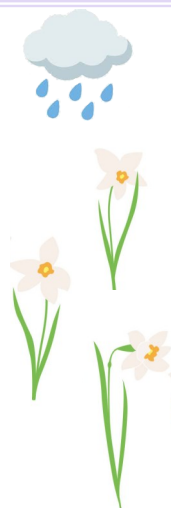
Make your online contribution today!
Diocesehelena.org/ACA

Immaculate Conception:
\$24,301 of \$29,700 (82%)
Sacred Heart:
\$7,695 of \$9,100 (85%)

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!

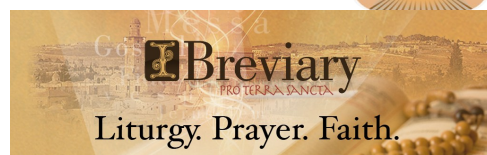


Questions about the
Because He First Loved Us
Campaign?

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

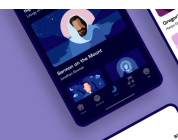
Contact the Foundation! We are happy to help!
Call (406) 389-7050 or
email foundation@dohmt.org.

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



Hallow

The #1 Catholic
Meditation App



Parish Offertory Progress Report Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$146,613 of \$193,773 (76%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$39,333 of \$48,393 (81%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:
\$1,367 of \$12,000 (11%)
S.H. Building Fund Progress:
\$1,560 of \$5,000 (31%)

Thank you for your generosity!



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS
Immaculate Conception:
Pledges: \$547,894.00
Received: TBA Jan 2025
Gift Annuity: \$100,000.00
Sacred Heart:
Pledges: \$83,475.00
Received: TBA Jan 2025