



Ascension of Christ

Benvenuto Tisi da Garofalo (1481-1559)

From a sermon by Saint Augustine

No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: *If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth.* For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: *Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?* and when he said: *I was hungry and you gave me food.*

Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him? While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.

He did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven. The fact that he was in heaven even while he was on earth is borne out by his own statement: *No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.*

These words are explained by our oneness with Christ, for he is our head and we are his body. No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: he is the Son of Man by his union with us, and we by our union with him are the

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The Ascension of the Lord

1 June 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 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

No Masses this week.

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

Sunday Summertime Hospitality

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend at Immaculate Conception!

Each Sunday following the 11:00 am Mass on the front porch of the church (weather permitting), Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Join us for food and friendship!

Mark your calendars!

Parish Picnic June 22nd at Boettcher Park

We are still seeking help for a few Sundays this summer.

If you are interesting in helping with hosting, food preparation, or Sunday setup, please call or text Patti Thomas at (281) 731-2660.



(Continued from page 1)

sons of God. So the Apostle says: *Just as the human body, which has many members, is a unity, because all the different members make one body, so is it also with Christ.* He too has many members, but one body.

Out of compassion for us he descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace. Thus, no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head.

SAINT BONIFACE

Bishop and Martyr

8th Century

Feast Day June 5th



Let us trust in Him who has placed this burden upon us. What we ourselves cannot bear let us bear with the help of Christ. For He is all-powerful, and He tells us: 'My yoke is easy, and my burden light.'

The Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship, but to keep her on her course.

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. Please contact the parish office if you need assistance.



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



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, Kathy Collicot, Rod Clairmont, Barbara White, David Jenkins, Bruce Simpson, Debbie Tschida, Doug Morigeau, Diane Monahan.

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 June

That the world might grow in compassion: Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

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.

Father Kevin celebrates 28 years in the priesthood on June 5th! Congratulations!



Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, June 1st *The Ascension of the Lord*
Intentions of the Sick and Shut-Ins of the Parish

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, May 31st *Vigil of the Ascension of the Lord*
Repose of the Soul of Shirley Sheridan, rb Sheila Marquardt

Sunday, June 1st *The Ascension of the Lord*
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, June 4th
Intentions of Pope Leo XIV

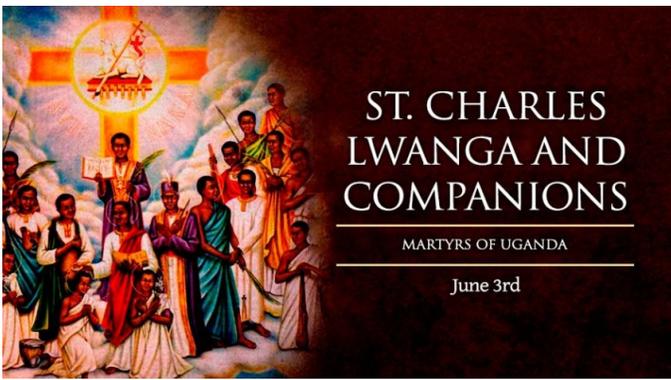
A note regarding Mass intentions:

Mass Intentions



Now that we are in our summertime Mass schedule, public Masses will be offered during the week only on Wednesdays. We are still accepting Mass intention requests for other days of the week, celebrated privately in Father's chapel. Please specify in your Mass request if you have a preference for a public Mass (or no preference).





St. Charles and many other martyrs for the faith died between November 15, 1885 – January 27, 1887 in Namugongo, Uganda. St. Charles and his companions were beatified in 1920 and canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1964.

In 1879 Catholicism began spreading in Uganda when the White Fathers, a congregation of priests founded by Cardinal Lavignerie were peacefully received by King Mutesa of Uganda.

The priests soon began preparing catechumens for baptism and before long a number of the young pages in the king’s court had become Catholics.

However, on the death of Mutesa, his son Mwanga, a corrupt man who ritually engaged in pedophilic practices with the younger pages, took the throne.

When King Mwanga had a visiting Anglican Bishop murdered, his chief page, Joseph Mukasa, a Catholic who went to great length to protect the younger boys from the king’s lust, denounced the king’s actions and was beheaded on November 15, 1885.

The 25 year old Charles Lwanga, a man wholly dedicated to the Christian instruction of the younger boys, became the chief page, and just as forcibly protected them from the king’s advances.

On the night of the martyrdom of Joseph Mukasa, realizing that their own lives were in danger, Lwanga and some of the other pages went to the White Fathers to receive baptism. Another 100 catechumens were baptized in the week following Joseph Mukasa’s death.

The following May, King Mwanga learned that one of the boys was learning catechism. He was furious and ordered all the pages to be questioned to separate the Christians from the others. The Christians, 15 in all, between the ages of 13 and 25, stepped forward. The King asked them if they were willing to keep their faith. They answered in unison, “Until death!”

They were bound together and taken on a two day walk to

PARISH WEBSITE



ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

 Fridays at 9:00 am

DIOCESE OF HELENA WEBSITE



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Polson, MT 59860

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

Namugongo where they were to be burned at the stake. On the way, Matthias Kalemba, one of the eldest boys, exclaimed, “God will rescue me. But you will not see how he does it, because he will take my soul and leave you only my body.” The executioners cut him to pieces and left him to die alone on the road, which took at least three days.

When they reached the site where they were to be burned, they were kept tied together for seven days while the executioners prepared the wood for the fire.

On June 3, 1886, the Feast of the Ascension, Charles Lwanga was separated from the others and burned at the stake. The executioners slowly burnt his feet until only the charred remained. Still alive, they promised him that they would let him go if he renounced his faith. He refused saying, “You are burning me, but it is as if you are pouring water over my body.” He then continued to pray silently as they set him on fire. Just before the flames reached his heart, he looked up and said in a loud voice, “Katonda! – My God!,” and died.

His companions were all burned together the same day all the while praying and singing hymns until they died.

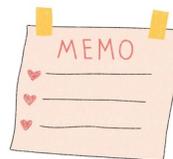
There were 24 protomartyrs in all. The last of the protomartyrs, a young man named John Mary, was beheaded by King Mwanga on January 27, 1887.

The persecutions spread during the reign of Mwanga, with 100 Christians, both Catholics and Protestants, being tortured and killed.

St. Charles Lwanga is the patron saint of African Catholic Youth Action.

Reference: Catholic News Agency

During Summertime, let us learn how to take a break, turn off the mobile phone to gaze into the eyes of others, cultivate silence, contemplate nature and regenerate ourselves in dialogue with God.
-Pope Francis



Notice to our summer parishioners!

Please register with the parish office so we can better keep in contact with you.

This information is also valuable for our annual parish count, which is used by the parish and the diocese to track statistics.

And if you are new to the parish, please register with the parish office. Thank you!

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.

Franciscus



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:
 \$24,501 of \$29,700 (82%)
Sacred Heart:
 \$7,725 of \$9,100 (85%)

Parish Offertory Progress Report Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
 \$148,712 of \$193,773 (77%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
 \$41,963 of \$48,393 (87%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:
 \$1,367 of \$12,000 (11%)
S.H. Building Fund Progress:
 \$1,830 of \$5,000 (37%)

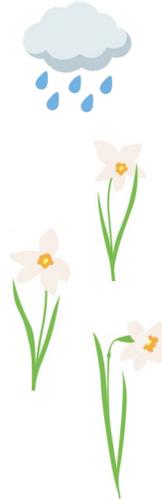
Thank you for your generosity!



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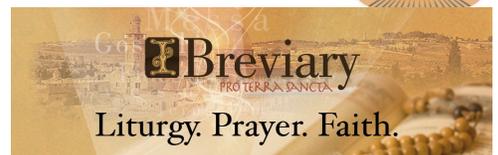


Questions about the **Because He First Loved Us** Campaign?

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

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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

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:
Formation Level 1, Part A, has been
completed! Thank you to our instructors
and to all our lovely participants!

Thank you to the Foundation for the
Diocese of Helena, whose grant made this
training possible.



Back row (from left): Lisa Bertogio, Julie Hille, Jack Edwards, Sara McNeil,
Avery Edwards, Riley Edwards, Sr. Christiana Marie, Jenny Luetkemeyer.

Front row: Barbara Marshall, Lindsay Fitzmorris, Natalie Nixon, Shai
LaFleur, Catherine Fansher, Sofia Fray.



FOUNDATION
for the Diocese of Helena

Since the Foundation's
Faith-in-Action Grant Program
began in 2007,

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

has received a total of

\$18,401.89

including . . .

\$3,500 awarded in August

*to help launch the
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
religious education curriculum.*

The Foundation gave
32 grants
for a total of
\$86,950
in this grant cycle.

YOUR support of the
Foundation makes this
possible. Help build your
favorite parish or ministry
endowment with an
online gift at
fdoh.org.