

The Importunate Neighbour
William Holman Hunt (1827–1910)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I do not think that it can be argued that there is not something of a crisis these days among young men, and men in general for that matter, when you consider the chaotic world in which we live which seems to have no sense of direction or purpose, and how for decades men have been shamed and brow beaten for their masculinity and relentlessly told that their virtues and natural attributes are “toxic.” Although I may be oversimplifying the issue and its causes for the sake of brevity, it does at least set the stage or at least gives us a context for understanding a surging interest and fascination with the “warrior spirit” among young men, especially exemplified in the Catholic imagination as the Templar Knight.

The warrior spirit was present in many traditional cultures; the Japanese gave us the Samurai, Greece had its Spartans, and of course we cannot forget the Vikings, just to name a few. In each of these cases though, the warrior spirit was not merely about physical strength in battle, although it obviously included that, but this spirit was situated within the interior of a man, his nobility, honor, discipline, and loyalty. In other words, the warrior spirit was more about the interior integrity and virtue of a man, who through a process of self-mastery, became equipped to pursue the difficult good and overcome obstacles with bravery and honor, even in the face of opposition and the risk of being misunderstood.

The warrior spirit is not foreign to Catholicism, nor to the Sacred Scriptures for that matter, especially since God reveals Himself as a “warrior” and “the Lord is His name” (Ex 15:3). St. Ignatius of Loyola, being a military man, sought to make “soldiers for Christ” and used military imagery in his *Spiritual Exercises*. It was St. Bernard of Clairvaux who wrote the rule of life for the Knights Templar, again just to name a couple of examples. However, this is where the word of caution comes in—it is quite easy to get caught up in a romanticized ideal of what a warrior is and lose sight of who he ought to be. A warrior, to be sure, is recognizable by the strength of his character and the nobility of his spirit.

Think also of Jesus Christ himself, and this was one of the points that I was attempting to make a couple of weeks ago in one of my homilies, that while He certainly embodies a warrior spirit, he nonetheless identified Himself as a Shepherd, just so that we might not become confused about the nature of a warrior, one who is gentle and whose strength cloaks the sheep with safety and security. Gentleness, after all, belongs more to the strong than to the weak, since gentleness requires and expresses a man’s self-mastery of his strength and thus becomes a virtue.

Think of the Lord’s Passion, a lot, and learn from Him
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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 July 2025

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

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

Parish Office

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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

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.



Grateful thanks and blessings to all that furnished food and helped in the kitchen for the Phyllis Houle and Marie Smith memorial receptions at Sacred Heart.

Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$15,284 of \$183,150 (8%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$2,624 of \$48,393 (5%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:
\$50 of \$12,000 (0%)
S.H. Building Fund Progress:
\$180 of \$1,349 (13%)



Thank you for your generosity!

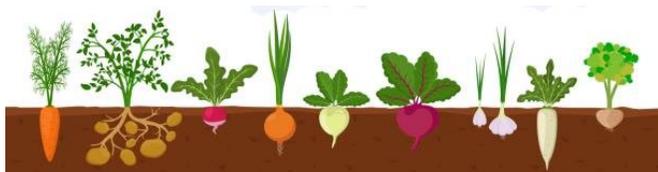
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what it means to be a true warrior and from where it is that we derive our strength as men. The Lord was given an extraordinarily difficult task, the thought of which caused Him to sweat blood and overwhelmed Him with fear. But look now at the courage and bravery with which He carried His cross to Calvary — the strength, determination, and loyalty to His Father, and His love for us, which would not allow Him to forsake His sacred mission, even in the face of ridicule and misunderstanding. Jesus was not interested in what other people thought, nor did He require their understanding. He knew and sought the difficult good with serenity and patience and nothing could deter Him from it until it was accomplished. Jesus is a warrior, and the Lord is His name.

But now, let's add an unexpected twist and salute our favorite saint, St. Joan of Arc, a young woman who was as brave as she was beautiful, and she was very beautiful. There was something ferocious inside of her, wasn't there? A fire of conviction burned inside of her that could not be extinguished but was tempered nonetheless with heroic virtue. Her courage, valor, and sense of honor, duty, and service could be called "unexampled," at least among her contemporaries, and certainly aligns her with the great heroines of old: Jael, Esther, and Judith come to mind. St. Joan of Arc was misunderstood, ridiculed, thought to be deluded and something of an eccentric, and was ultimately betrayed and accused of being a witch and a heretic, condemned to be burned at the stake, and through it all we see nothing but the virtue with which she mastered her inner strength. After having been burned at the stake, her body was destroyed but her heart was found intact, because the heart of a warrior belongs to God and is judged by Him, and not by the fires set by human indignation. This young girl is just, wow.

Icons of warriors, especially of the Templar Knights, are inspiring and inspire many young men. Good, but good insofar as they remain true icons, a visible and tangible reminder of what lies in the interior of a man who is striving to embody a true warrior spirit and develop his inner strength in the pursuit of the noble task of being a husband, a father, or a priest. Your wives, your children, and the Church are counting on you.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



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, 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.

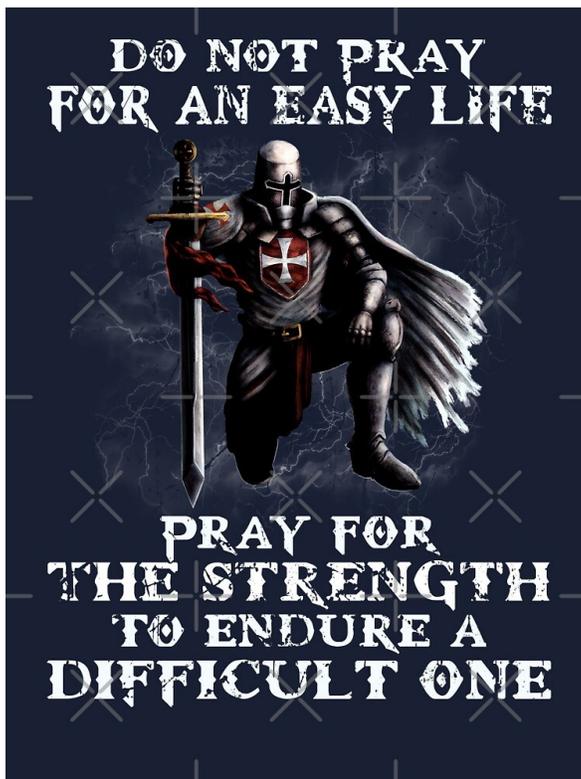
Grace be to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for you all; Making a remembrance of you in our prayers without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

The Holy Father's prayer intention for July

For formation in discernment: Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

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.



Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, July 27th *Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Intentions of the Sick and Shut-Ins of the Parish

Friday, August 1st

Intentions of Laura Horn & Family

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, July 26th *Vigil of 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Repose of the Soul of Craig Matelich, rb William & Colleen Green

Sunday, July 27th *Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, July 30th

Mass of thanksgiving for prayers, rb Teri Daigneault



Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

July 29th



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!

"Let Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is he who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: he is God with us. Seek him without tiring, welcome him without reserve, love him without interruption: today, tomorrow, for ever!"

- Pope Saint John Paul II



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.

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PARISH WEBSITE



ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital Chapel



Fridays at 9:00 am

DIOCESE OF HELENA WEBSITE



DIVINE MERCY RADIO 90.7 FM



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

Download the **myParish app** on your App store or Google Play store on your iOS or Android!



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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Collect:

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
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: Gn 18:20-32

Responsorial: Ps. 138:1-2,2-3,6-7,7-8

R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

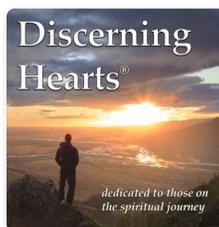
Second Reading: Col 2:12-14

Alleluia Verse: Rom 8:15bc: You have received a Spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, Abba, Father.

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The acts of faith, hope, and charity enjoined by the first commandment are accomplished in prayer. Lifting up the mind toward God is an expression of our adoration of God: prayer of praise and thanksgiving, intercession and petition. Prayer is an indispensable condition for being able to obey God's commandments. " (We) ought always to pray and not lose heart." (CCC 2098)



Discerning Hearts Catholic Podcasts

Available on your favorite podcast streaming apps!

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.

Celebrating
MARRIAGE

WITH BISHOP AUSTIN VETTER

**MASS // INDIVIDUAL BLESSING OF COUPLES //
RECEPTION //**

ST. ANTHONY PARISH – MISSOULA

Friday, August 8th

BISHOP VETTER EXTENDS A WARM INVITATION TO ALL MARRIED COUPLES,
FROM THE NEWEST OF NEWLYWEDS TO THOSE WHO HAVE
COMMEMORATED OVER SIX DECADES, TO A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION.

EVENT DETAILS

AUGUST 8TH // BEGINS WITH 6:00PM MASS AT ST. ANTHONY PARISH
// RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL // HEAVY
APPETIZERS AND DESSERT INCLUDED // SEMI FORMAL ATTIRE //
FREE CHILDCARE WHILE SPACES LAST // \$25 PER COUPLE

RSVP USING THE QR CODE OR AT
[HTTPS://DIOCESEHELENA.ORG/FAMILY-LIFE/](https://diocesehelena.org/family-life/)

