



Abraham and Isaac
Titian (c. 1488–1576)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

If you have been tracking with me this past year you already know that I am pretty enamored with ChatGPT, Magisterium AI, and artificial intelligence tools in general, and that would ultimately be the point, they are “tools.” To put it in overly simplistic terms, a hammer is a tool used to build a house, but it cannot build the house for you. AI is a great resource for productivity and research, but it cannot replace our use of human reason. If we allow it to do so we do so at our own peril.

Before I get into the one thing that I wanted to caution you about regarding AI, I do want to say, though not infallibly, is that ChatGPT is NOT the anti-Christ. My goodness there is no shortage of folks who are terrified of this technology and are convinced that it is powered by demons in order to seduce and deceive the world’s population and bring it into submission to the dark powers at work in the world. Let’s be clear, AI was engineered and created by humans, and like all things that we have ever made we can use them for good or evil. A topic that is worth exploring at some point would be how it is us, human beings, who lack the moral and ethical sophistication to keep pace with the technological advances that we have made, often failing to foresee evil applications, consequences, and outcomes, like splitting an atom. Examples can be multiplied. In other words, technological advancements can seem to be moving at the pace of a runaway train and we are always running to catch up, mourning in hindsight our lack of inner perspective and thoughtful reflection on what it is that we think we are doing long after our ignorance has placed us in very compromised positions.

Having said all of this, we need to look at the situation rationally, and calmly. Is AI the anti-Christ? No. The anti-Christ is a person, not a machine, and when he appears we will all know it more or less at the same time, depending on our powers of perception. But, will the anti-Christ be able to harness the power of AI and use it for his nefarious purposes? Clearly, and no less so than any other tool that he would choose to place at his disposal. The fear of AI, if there is any, needs to be centered on the possibility of it being put to use by an unscrupulous human being, and again, in no less of a manner than any other technology used for evil purposes. Technology can be a good thing and to create is expressive of the Divine Image in which we were created; God is a creator, and He has made us like Himself in this aspect, but for good, not evil, for building up humanity, not destroying it.

All of this is leading to that one point that I was wanting to make, and that is to be careful, very careful. Why? Because it has already happened and is continuing to happen that there are folks out there who are creating social media content generated by AI and attributing their content to the Holy Father or some other prelate in the Church, Bishop Robert Barron for example. Such content includes summaries of the Holy Father’s homilies and speeches in the form of a voice over while showing an image of the

(Continued on page 2)

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10 August 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
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Parish Office

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This week’s office hours:

Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am—12:00 pm (closed Friday for Holy Day)

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.

*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **Friday** at 12:10 pm*

SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:00 am

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday at 4:00 pm at St. Joseph Mission

Mass is offered at St. Joseph Mission in Charlo the **third**

Saturday of each month at 4:00 pm.*

*No Mass on August 16th in Charlo—see details below.



Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, August 15th

Mass times:

12:10 pm Immaculate Conception

4:00 pm St. Joseph Mission

Picnic dinner of burgers and hot dogs following the 4PM Mass in Charlo. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. All are welcome!

*Note that the Mass in Charlo on Friday, August 15th, will take the place of the ordinary third Saturday Mass.

pope but not presenting the remarks as they were actually being spoken. The remarks were completely made up. The technology is so advanced that it is even possible to re-create the voice of another person and have them say whatever it is that you want them to say. I saw one instance of this where a YouTube video showed an image of Bishop Robert Barron and the audio was indeed his voice, but not his words. As the technology continues to advance and become more refined it will become increasingly difficult to distinguish between a real person's voice and one generated by AI.

By way of illustration, it is entirely possible for someone to access my YouTube channel where I post my Sunday homilies and upload them to an AI program that will learn to mimic my voice and the manner in which I speak, and then proceed to create content by writing their own script and then having AI read that script using my voice. It Happens. All. The. Time. I am not saying that it happens to me personally, just in general, and not just with regards to the Church, but also journalism and politics as well, sadly.

The only advice that I can give comes down to "know your sources," and by sources I am not necessarily talking about news outlets or social media platforms, because there is a recent case where a news source used an AI generated image of a crime scene as part of their story, which begs the question, why? Why indeed, but this is the world in which we live. By trusted sources I would say that if you want to know, for example, what the Holy Father actually said to a recent youth gathering in Rome, go to the Vatican website and read the remarks there. If something seems to be too fantastical, it probably is and needs to be further investigated. If you want to hear one of Bishop Barron's homilies, then go to the Word On Fire website and watch it there. Do you see where I am going with all of this?

I can't change the world we live in, and neither can you, but we can learn how to navigate murky waters while at the same time keeping our dignity and our use of reason intact, it will just require a bit more effort than in generations past. I still love AI and will continue to make use of it but always as a tool, fully aware that there are folks out there with ill-formed consciences who are doing the same thing but for far less noble purposes. Stay alert! And AI well.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



P.S. These remarks were approved by ChatGPT. Lol.

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 August

For mutual coexistence: Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

Friday, August 15th, at 5:00 pm

Polson Community Dinner

Hosted by Immaculate Conception every third Friday of the month in the parish hall.
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!
On the menu: Pizza

Congratulations

Johnny Marquardt & Joanie Mercer



Married at Immaculate Conception on July 25th!

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, August 10th *Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Repose of the Soul of Marie Smith, rb Charles & Joan Sampson
Friday, August 15th *Assumption of the BVM*
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, August 9th *Vigil of 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Repose of the Soul of Madge Vert, rb Tami Avison
Sunday, August 10th *Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Intentions of the Parish Faithful
Wednesday, August 13th
Repose of the Soul of Mark Fuchs, rb Mary Bergsieker
Friday, August 15th *Assumption of the BVM*
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

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.

Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe's Story (Feast Day August 14)

From FranciscanMedia.org

"I don't know what's going to become of you!" How many parents have said that? Maximilian Mary Kolbe's reaction was, "I prayed very hard to Our Lady to tell me what would happen to me. She appeared, holding in her hands two crowns, one white, one red. She asked if I would like to have them—one was for purity, the other for martyrdom. I said, 'I choose both.' She smiled and disappeared." After that he was not the same.

He entered the minor seminary of the Conventual Franciscans in Lwów—then Poland, now Ukraine—near his birthplace, and at 16 became a novice. Though Maximilian later achieved doctorates in philosophy and theology, he was deeply interested in science, even drawing plans for rocket ships.

Ordained at 24, Maximilian saw religious indifference as the deadliest poison of the day. His mission was to combat it. He had already founded the Militia of the Immaculata, whose aim was to fight evil with the witness of the good life, prayer, work, and suffering. He dreamed of and then founded *Knight of the Immaculata*, a religious magazine under Mary's protection to preach the Good News to all nations. For the work of publication he established a "City of the Immaculata"—Niepokalanów—which housed 700 of his Franciscan brothers. He later founded another one in Nagasaki, Japan. Both the Militia and the magazine ultimately reached the one-million mark in members and subscribers. His love of God was daily filtered through devotion to Mary.

In 1939, the Nazi panzers overran Poland with deadly speed. Niepokalanów was severely bombed. Kolbe and his friars were arrested, then released in less than three months, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

In 1941, Fr. Kolbe was arrested again. The Nazis' purpose was to liquidate the select ones, the leaders. The end came quickly, three months later in Auschwitz, after terrible beatings and humiliations.

A prisoner had escaped. The commandant announced that 10 men would die. He relished walking along the ranks. "This one. That one."

As they were being marched away to the starvation bunkers, Number 16670 dared to step from the line.

"I would like to take that man's place. He has a wife and children."
"Who are you?"
"A priest."

No name, no mention of fame. Silence. The commandant, dumbfounded, perhaps with a fleeting thought of history, kicked Sergeant Francis Gajowniczek out of line and ordered Fr. Kolbe to go with the nine. In the "block of death" they were ordered to strip naked, and their slow starvation began in darkness. But there was no screaming—the prisoners sang. By the eve of the Assumption, four were left alive. The jailer came to finish Kolbe off as he sat in a corner praying. He lifted his fleshless arm to receive the bite of the hypodermic needle. It was filled with carbolic acid. They burned his body with all the others. Fr. Kolbe was beatified in 1971 and canonized in 1982.

Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe is a Patron Saint of:

Addicts; Recovery from drug addiction

PARISH WEBSITE



ROSARY GROUP

St. Joseph Hospital Chapel



Fridays at 9:00 am

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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

*Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.*

Collect:

*Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.
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: Wis 18:6-9

Responsorial: Ps. 33:1,12,18-19,20-22

R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

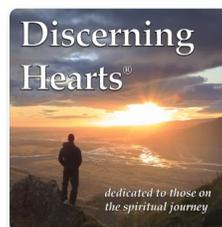
Second Reading: Heb 11:1-2,8-19 Or: Heb 11:1-2,8-12

Alleluia Verse: Mt 24:42a, 44: *Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day the Son of Man will come.*

Gospel: Luke 12:32-48

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

In Jesus "the Kingdom of God is at hand." He calls his hearers to conversion and faith, but also to watchfulness. In prayer the disciple keeps watch, attentive to Him Who Is and Him Who Comes, in memory of his first coming in the lowliness of the flesh, and in the hope of his second coming in glory. In communion with their Master, the disciples' prayer is a battle; only by keeping watch in prayer can one avoid falling into temptation. (CCC 2612)



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.

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.

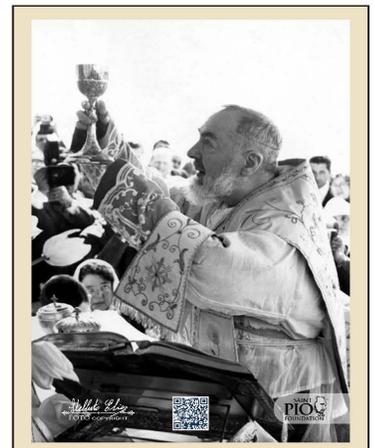


Consider adding these numbers to your phone contacts so you always know when you are receiving a message from the parish!



The Relics
of Saint Padre Pio
of Pietrelcina
to visit

St. Francis Xavier Parish
August 25 - 26, 2025



Questions about the
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Thank you for your continued support
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FOUNDATION
for the Diocese of Helena

The Relics of Padre Pio



Monday, August 25th Veneration from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Tuesday, August 26th Veneration from 11:00am to 8:00 pm

Mass in honor of Saint Pio at 6:00 pm

with Bishop Jeffrey Fleming of the Diocese of Great Falls - Billings

Sponsored by



St. Francis Xavier



saintpiofoundation.org

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Hallow

The #1 Catholic
Meditation App



Before we left for Paris I opened an account with *Give Central* for our parish offertory giving, and with auto-pay we'll never miss a Sunday even while on vacation.

How bourgeois!



Indeed.

Parish Offertory Progress Report
Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$27,477 of \$183,150 (15%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$5,069 of \$48,393 (10%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:
\$275 of \$12,000 (2%)
S.H. Building Fund Progress:
\$772 of \$1,349 (57%)

Thank you for your generosity!

