



Paradise

Giusto de' Menabuoi (ca. 1320-1391)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Western civilization needs a complete overhaul or it will fall apart one day or another. It has realized the most complete perversion of any rational order of things. Reign of matter, of gold, of machine, of number, it no longer possesses breath, or liberty, or light.

~ **Julius Evola**

On my reading list this summer has been *Revolt Against the Modern World* by Julius Evola, an Italian philosopher who died in 1974. Whether or not he left this world a happy man I cannot say.

I realize that the title of his book might be unsettling to some given that he speaks of “revolt” and not just any revolt, but one against the modern world. Well, then, what exactly is wrong with the modern world? And why do we need to revolt against it? Great question, and Evola offers some very compelling answers that at the end of the day are very difficult to argue against. Just to be sure, all you Catholics out there, every pope of the 19th century and into the 20th has vigorously railed against the errors of modernism and its potential consequences in our world and in our societies. I am not trying to conflate the two, Evola’s thought and the teachings of the magisterium of the Church, but they do intersect. I can only ask that you investigate the errors of modernism yourself and read what the popes have written. It’s all very good stuff, and prophetic, really.

One of the main points that Evola makes, among others, is that the modern world has lost its sense of the transcendent which ought to govern the whole order of things in this world and in our societies. In other words, we have forsaken the natural order, established by God, an order that originates from above and which ought to govern all things here below, resulting in disorder and an inversion of fundamental values. For example, Evola would find, and did find, the whole idea of democracy, a government originating from below (by the people for the people) to be utterly repugnant precisely because it turns everything upside down and upon its head. To be fair, Evola was quite critical of other political orders as well, not just democracy, and bemoaned every and all loss of the divine order found in various political structures.

Let’s zero in on something specific. Evola would argue, and I wholeheartedly agree, that a particular law in any given society is just only insofar as it corresponds to the divine and natural order of things. Laws are to be manifestations of the will of God—my words, not his—and any law that contradicts this order is to be wholly and unapologetically rejected. At bare minimum, if I am understanding him correctly, Evola would admit of “human laws” to the extent that they at least refer themselves to the divine and support the natural order. All we have to do is look at all of the “human” laws that enshrine crimes against nature, in order to

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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 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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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.



Coffee and donuts will be served in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall following the 9:00 am Mass next Sunday, August 24th. All are welcome!

Beginning this fall! CGS Level 1 — Ages 3-6 years old

We will have an in-person registration on September 3rd at 5:30 pm for those who intend to enroll. This will be for the parents only. You will have the opportunity to hear more about CGS and ask whatever questions you might have. Watch your mail for a letter from Catherine Fansher with more info.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2



St. Michael's Lent:

How to Pray and Observe St. Michael's Lent

Hallow.com

eliminate any wonder as to why we are living in a world of violence and constant civil unrest. It's a no-brainer, actually. To put a fine point on it. Great Britain is falling. France is falling. Canada is falling. Spain is falling. We are falling. Why? Because we have abandoned the divine and natural orders of things, and nature, so to speak, is recoiling back upon us and we are simply reaping the fruits of what we have sown.

This is only a brief summary of why we have fallen into a state of such disorder, an unraveling that began centuries ago, and the problem is that we utterly fail to see the solution of how to work our way out of all the chaos. Consider our own nation for example and how enamored we are, and perhaps even proud, of the doctrine of the separation of Church and State. Now I am not going to want to argue the point that this doctrine arose from a distorted interpretation of the Constitution, that would be a matter for another day, but the reality remains that this doctrine is not so much about separating powers as it is about sidelining one in favor of the other. This is not a surprise given the Protestant influence in our nation which regards matters of religion simply to be a private affair of the individual. The reality then of our situation is that we govern ourselves without reference to the divine and natural order of things precisely because of our erroneous belief that politics and religion do not intersect. And so our political activity becomes sterile, yea toxic, because it lacks any aspect of worship, which is to say the honor due in the order of justice to the God, by whose providence we declare made the foundation of this country possible in the first place. Oh, the irony of it all.

So what is the point of all of this? Well, to be honest, philosophy is a science—the queen of all sciences, actually—and choosing to ignore it does not eliminate the fact that we all live in a world governed by ideas. We always have and we always will be. Understanding those ideas, however, does offer at least some kind of explanation of the dynamics that are constantly at play and are constantly evolving. Pretending that we are not living as the test subjects of someone's latest bright idea is to pretend that we are free when in reality we are not if we keep our eyes closed and simply disengage.

And this is the verdict: The Light has come into the world, but men loved the darkness rather than the Light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come into the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever practices the truth comes into the Light, so that it may be seen clearly that what he has done has been accomplished in God (Jn 3:19-21). The theme of light is central in St. John's Gospel, not because what Jesus proposes is just another idea or philosophy among so many others, but because the light of Jesus Christ is the life of the human race, or rather, because His life is our light without which we remain in darkness and in death. This life, and this light, is the truth that sets us free from slavery and the tyranny of unscrupulous human thought. *Awake, O sleeper! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you (Eph 5:14)*

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

Humblly 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.

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.

St. Michael's Lent is a spiritual practice rich in history and meaning, dating back to the 13th century. Saint Francis of Assisi, one of the Catholic Church's most beloved saints, received the stigmata on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14) and began this devotion in honor of Our Lady and Saint Michael the Archangel.

What is St. Michael's Lent? Origin and meaning

We learn about the tradition of St. Michael's Lent as described in "The Little Flowers of St. Francis" by St. Bonaventure.

Similar to Lent before Easter, St. Michael's Lent is a 40-day period of prayer and penance that begins on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15) and ends on the feast of the Holy Archangels: St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael (September 29). This time of devotion is an opportunity for the faithful to renew their faith and grow in union with God.

September 29, the Feast of the Archangels, is also known as Michaelmas (which combines "Michael" and "Mass") in certain countries, notably England and Ireland.

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Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, August 17th Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of the Sick and Shut-Ins of the Parish

Friday, August 22nd

Repose of the Soul of Allen Shirley

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, August 16th Vigil of 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repose of the Soul of Craig Matelich,

rb William & Colleen Green

Sunday, August 17th Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Wednesday, August 20th

Repose of the Soul of Teri Hughes, rb Pat Hughes

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The devotion of St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis had a great devotion to St. Michael the Archangel. He lived this 40-day period with deep reverence and a spirit of penance. According to St. Bonaventure:

“Two years before his death, having begun a Lenten retreat in honor of Saint Michael on a very high mountain called Alverne, [Francisco] felt more abundantly than ever the softness of heavenly contemplation, the ardor of supernatural desires and the profusion of divine graces.”

St. Michael’s Lent has been kept alive by the Franciscans over the centuries, making it popular with lay people as well as religious. Despite not being part of the Church’s official liturgical calendar, this devotion is a rich opportunity to immerse oneself in prayer and penance, as St. Francis did, in order to draw even closer to the Lord.

Spiritual Practices and Rules

The rules of St. Michael’s Lent are Ways to observe St. Michael’s Lent include:

- Daily Prayer: Pray the Litany of St. Michael or other prayers dedicated to him.
- Penance: Choosing some kind of fast or choose something to give up to offer to God, such as waking up at dawn or abstaining from a specific food.
- Charity: Find a way to demonstrate love to those most in need in a concrete way, such as through the corporal works of mercy.
- Confession and Mass: Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Mass regularly in order to be open to God’s graces.

Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us! St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle!



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.

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.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Collect:

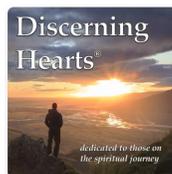
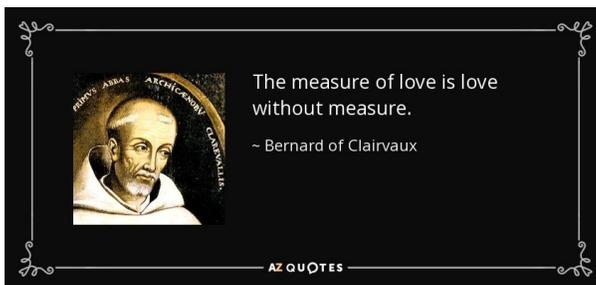
O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

Readings:

First Reading: Jer 38:4-6,8-10
Responsorial: Ps. 40:2,3,4,18
R. Lord, come to my aid!
Second Reading: Heb 12:1-4
Alleluia Verse: John 10:27: My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.
Gospel: Lk 12:49-53

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It disposes one even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause. "The Lord is my strength and my song." "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (CCC 1808)



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.

CALLED TO CARE

All across Montana, children in crisis are praying for safety, love, and belonging.

Catholic Social Services and Child Bridge are raising up families grounded in Christian compassion.

"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me."
Matthew 18:5

Could God be calling you to step in?



LEARN MORE TODAY
childbridgemonntana.org



Protect your family on the Internet.



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,

Breviary
Liturgy. Prayer. Faith.

Hallow
The #1 Catholic Meditation App

How bourgeois!

Indeed.

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.

LOVED THE WEDDING.
INVITE ME TO THE MARRIAGE.
LOVE, GOD

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can help you do that!
Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus just on each other.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Oct. 3-5, 2025
at the
St. Frances Xavier Parish
Missoula, MT

For more information visit wwme.org
or
contact Paul & Tracy at
307-689-2820

Parish Offertory Progress Report
Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$27,993 of \$183,150 (15%)

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$5,069 of \$48,393 (10%)

I.C. Building Fund Progress:
\$425 of \$12,000 (4%)

S.H. Building Fund Progress:
\$520 of \$1,349 (39%)

Thank you for your generosity!