



**Última Cena**

Juan de Juanes (ca. 1507-1579)

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

***This week please enjoy a good reflection on the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Bishop Robert Barron whose memorial we celebrated on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.***

The Catholic Church annually celebrates the feast of the Queenship of Mary on Aug. 22. Most people, upon hearing of this celebration, would think of it as something rather sweet and sentimental, a quaint devotion for grandmothers with a taste for saccharine spirituality. But when we examine this feast as we should, through biblical eyes, a very different picture emerges.

The clearest scriptural indication that Mary of Nazareth is a queen is a remarkable passage in the 12th chapter of the Book of Revelation. The visionary author sees an extraordinary sign in the sky: a woman clothed with the sun, the moon at her feet, and a coronet of 12 stars on her head.

Twelve, of course, is a designation of the tribes of Israel, and the crown is a rather unambiguous indication that we are dealing with a royal figure. It soon becomes clear that this woman is not only a queen but, more precisely, a queen mother, for we hear that she is laboring to give birth to a king, one who is “destined to rule the nations with an iron rod.” Both the queen mother and the infant king are involved in a terrible struggle. The visionary tells us that a fearsome dragon is poised to devour the baby as soon as it comes forth. But God sweeps the child up and brings him to the safety of the divine throne, while the mother flees to the desert where she finds refuge. In the wake of this, a war breaks out between “Michael and his angels” and the dragon and his angelic supporters. This image is, of course, symbolically rich and multivalent, but at the very least it indicates that the queen and her kingly son are protagonists in a spiritual warfare of some magnitude. They are, in a word, warriors.

Just before this passage, at the very end of Chapter 11 of the Book of Revelation (and remember that the chapter designations came many centuries after this text was originally composed), we find the vision of the heavenly temple. Amid flashes of lightning, peals of thunder, and a mighty hailstorm, the seer spies the Ark of the Covenant within the temple.

The ark, we recall, was the container of the remnants of the Ten Commandments, and hence the most sacred object for ancient Israel. Placed within the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem Temple, the ark was understood to be the link between heaven and

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**24 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**  
**Katie Devlin, Office Manager**

**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

**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 this Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.



Congratulations to the Spencer family!

*Mary Opal Spencer*

Baptized at Immaculate Conception on Sunday, August 24, 2025.

earth, the definitive bearer of the divine presence.

When King David brought the ark into the Holy City, he danced before it with reckless abandon. Moreover, at various points throughout its history, Israel brought the ark into battle, most notably when the priests marched with it seven times around the walls of Jericho, before those battlements came tumbling down.

Now the juxtaposition of the vision of the ark in the heavenly temple and the vision of the queen mother clothed with the sun cannot have been accidental. The author of the Book of Revelation is telling us that Mary, the bearer of the Word of God made flesh, was the Ark of the Covenant par excellence.

Indeed, when she visited her cousin Elizabeth, pregnant with the unborn John the Baptist, he leapt in his mother's womb for joy, a beautiful infant imitation of the dance of David before the true ark. Both ark and queen are associated with spiritual warfare.

In her Magnificat prayer, recorded in the Gospel of Luke, Mary speaks of the God "who has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly." Like her Son, Mary does not fight with the puny weapons of the world but rather with the weapons of love, forgiveness, compassion, and provocative nonviolence.

Those who have experienced a Jesuit retreat based upon the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius will recognize the "two standards" meditation. Ignatius asks the retreatant to imagine a great field of battle. Arrayed on one side, under the standard of the Church, is the army of Christ; and on the other, under the standard of Satan, is the army of the dark powers. Then Ignatius compels the retreatant to make a decision, indeed the most fundamental and important choice imaginable, the election that will determine everything else he will say and do for the rest of his life: Which army will you join?

Bob Dylan posed the same stark spiritual option in his 1979 song "Gotta Serve Somebody:" ("It may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you're gonna have to serve somebody.") In other areas of life, a fair amount of nuance and subtlety is called for, but at the most basic level, where one determines the fundamental orientation of one's life, things actually become quite simple and clear.

The feast of the Queenship of Mary has to do with this choice: Where do you stand in the great spiritual struggle? With whose army do you fight? Do you march under the banner of the Queen Mother and her Son, or with their enemies? Do you go out with the Ark of the Covenant or against it? Say what you want about those questions, but they are neither sweet nor sentimental.



**The Death of John the Baptist**

For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison, for the sake of Hero'di-as, his brother Philip's wife; because John said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they  
*(Continued on page 3)*

**Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions**

**Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission**

**Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** *Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Intentions of the Sick and Shut-Ins of the Parish

**Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**  
For our local nursing home residents

**Immaculate Conception**

**Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>** *Vigil of 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Repose of the Soul of Ken Avison, rb Tami Avison

**Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** *Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

**Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Repose of the Soul of Craig Matelich, rb Semmens Family

***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.

held him to be a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Hero'di-as danced before the company, and pleased Herod, so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." And the king was sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison, and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came and took the body and buried it; and they went and told Jesus.

### St. Monica's Joy in Her Son's Conversion

*"There was nothing left for me to hope for in this world," she said to me, "now that I have seen you become a Catholic Christian."*

— Saint Augustine, Confessions, Book IX, Chapter 10

## 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](http://wwme.org)

OR

contact Paul & Tracy at  
307-689-2820

#### 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.*

### Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

*Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.*

Collect:

*O God, who cause the minds of the faithful  
to unite in a single purpose,  
grant your people to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,  
our hearts may be fixed on that place  
where true gladness is found.  
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: Is 66:18-21

Responsorial: Ps. 117:1,2;

*R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.*

Second Reading: Heb 12:5-7,11-13

Alleluia Verse: Jn 14:6: *I am the way, the truth and the life, says  
the Lord;*

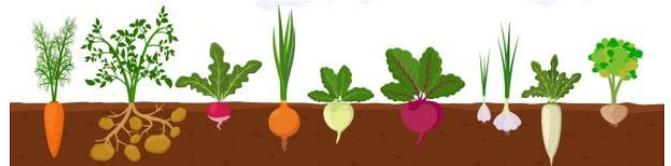
*no one comes to the Father, except through me.*

Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

*Christ enables us to live in him all that he himself lived, and he  
lives it in us. "By his Incarnation, he, the Son of God, has in a cer-  
tain way united himself with each man." We are called only to  
become one with him, for he enables us as the members of his  
Body to share in what he lived for us in his flesh as our model:*

*We must continue to accomplish in ourselves the stages of  
Jesus' life and his mysteries and often to beg him to perfect  
and realize them in us and in his whole Church. . . For it is the  
plan of the Son of God to make us and the whole Church par-  
take in his mysteries and to extend them to and continue  
them in us and in his whole Church. This is his plan for ful-  
filling his mysteries in us. (CCC 521)*



#### 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?



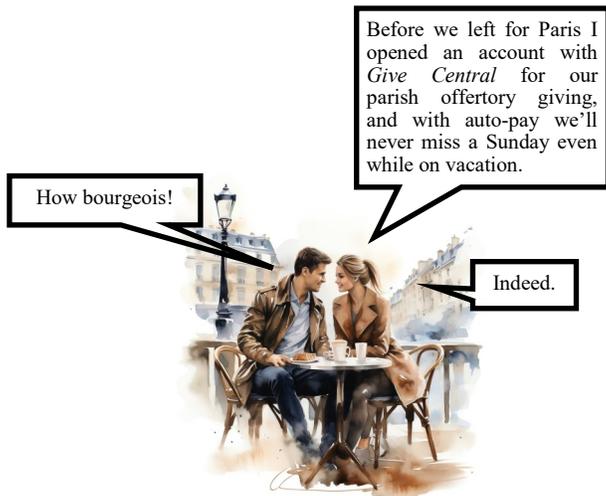
LEARN MORE TODAY  
childbridgemontana.org



Call 406-442-4130 or visit [www.cssmt.org/mental-health/](http://www.cssmt.org/mental-health/) to get started today!



Payments to **Immaculate Conception** may be made online at [GiveCentral.org](http://GiveCentral.org) (click on the big orange "Find Your Charity" button and type in our zip



## The First 100 Days of Pope Leo XIV

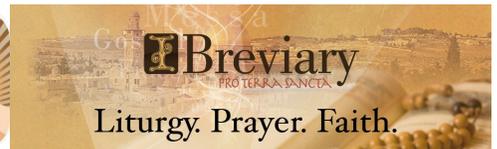
A panel discussion with Bishop Vetter and members of the Carroll College Faculty



**Aug. 28 | 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**Lower Campus Center**

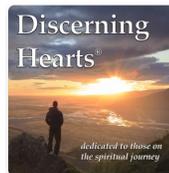
Sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs, the Department of Theology, and the Department of Philosophy/Catholic Studies

**PRAY as YOU GO** 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.



Hallow

The #1 Catholic Meditation App



**Discerning Hearts Catholic Podcasts**  
Available on your favorite podcast streaming apps!

### Parish Offertory Progress Report Fiscal Year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>

**Immaculate Conception**  
\$33,998 of \$183,150 (19%)  
**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph**  
\$6,594 of \$48,393 (14%)

**I.C. Building Fund Progress:**  
\$425 of \$12,000 (4%)  
**S.H. Building Fund Progress:**  
\$620 of \$1,349 (46%)



Thank you for your generosity!