



**Christ Carrying the Cross**  
Titian (1490-1576)

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

This weekend we pause to celebrate one of the most striking feasts in our calendar: *the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*. At first glance it may seem odd that the Church exalts an instrument of execution. Yet in the mystery of God’s plan, the Cross—the symbol of shame and death—has become the sign of life and victory.

The origins of today’s feast go back to Jerusalem in the fourth century. After the Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity, his mother St. Helena recovered the True Cross of Christ. On September 14, 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was dedicated over Calvary and the empty tomb, and the relic of the Cross was lifted up for the faithful to venerate. From that moment on, the “exaltation” or “lifting high” of the Cross has been celebrated every year.

The readings appointed for this feast open up the mystery of the Cross. In the first reading (Numbers 21:4–9), the people of Israel are bitten by serpents in the desert and healed when they look at the bronze serpent Moses raised up on a pole. In the Gospel (John 3:13–17), Jesus applies this image to Himself: “So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.” And St. Paul, in the second reading (Philippians 2:6–11), describes Christ’s self-emptying obedience unto death—even death on a cross—and His exaltation by the Father.

The typology is clear: the bronze serpent foreshadows Christ on the Cross; what once brought death becomes the instrument of healing. By gazing on the Crucified with faith, we too are healed of the venom of sin.

To “exalt” the Cross means not only to honor it outwardly but to take up our own crosses daily in union with Christ. In the paradox of Christian discipleship, the Cross we carry is not an end but a path to life. When we trace the sign of the Cross over ourselves, we proclaim that God’s power is made perfect in weakness, that suffering accepted in love can become redemptive, and that death itself has been conquered.

May this feast renew in us a grateful love for the Cross of Christ. As St. Paul says, “Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14).

I hope you liked the little synopsis of today’s feast day courtesy of Chat...and yes, I am being that lazy this week. As you can imagine, like so many others, I am still processing this past

*(Continued on page 2)*

*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
14 September 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*

**No weekday Mass this week due to Priests’ Assembly**

**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.

**NOTICE: The Sacred Heart potluck dinner on September 14<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.**

**Religious Ed Kick-Off!**  
**Head Over Heels Gym**  
**36004 Memory Ln, Polson**  
**Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30–7:30 pm**



Please bring your kids for a fun time at the gym while registering them for upcoming religious education classes!

Classes begin September 24<sup>th</sup>!

Find class registration forms online at:  
[LakeCountyRomanCatholic.org](http://LakeCountyRomanCatholic.org)



**Knights of Columbus parish breakfast next Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, after the 11:00 Mass.**  
**Next KofC meeting: October 5<sup>th</sup>.**

week in history. Murder is repugnant enough, but a public assassination takes things to a level where there are no words to describe it. It is hard to imagine anything more hateful, and the magnitude of such a crime, measured by the sheer number of people affected, is impossible to calculate given the horror and the trauma that will affect millions in its aftermath. Pure unadulterated evil. I was never a follower of Charlie Kirk, but I am somewhat acquainted with him and his work in facilitating open and free dialogue with those with whom he disagreed. He was at least, as we all should be, mature enough as an adult to have a reasoned and logical discussion about faith, politics, and culture, with anyone who would be willing to sit down with him. We can only hope that his poor wife and two young children will find some way with the strength of their Christian faith to find a path of healing and forgiveness.

On another note, before I get too carried away and get all philosophical about C.K.'s assassination, which is certainly appropriate and needs to be done, I will just continue on to remind you that Fr. Brooks and myself will be in Butte next week for our annual presbyteral assembly. This year we have no special topic or speaker, just the Chancery staff to go over policies, procedures, and developments in the diocese. At least there will be scotch and cigars in the evening around the fire pit at the Copper King Convention Center, so there is that.

Have a great week and I will see you next weekend. Also, don't forget and please plan to attend the first parish breakfast at Immaculate Conception next Sunday after the 11:00 am Mass and help support our local council of the Knights of Columbus.

God bless,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



**Our Lady of Sorrows  
Feast Day September 15th**

*Mary, Mother of Sorrows,  
you know the ache of loss.  
Be near to those who mourn today.  
Whisper hope into their hearts,  
and hold them with your gentle  
strength.  
Amen.*

***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, Rod Clairmont, David Jenkins, Bruce Simpson, Debbie Tschida, Doug Morigeau, Grace Shafer.

*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 September**



**For our relationship with all of creation:** Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

***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.

Coffee and Donuts will be served in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall after 9:00 Mass on Sunday, September 28th.  
All are welcome!



**Ladies' Study Group**

All women are invited to gather on Thursday mornings at 10:30 in the Immaculate Conception Parish basement to study Brant Pitre's book: **Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary**. Books are \$5.00. First meeting will be a Meet & Greet introduction on

**Thursday, October 2, at 10:30.**

Questions? Call Sheila LeBrun: 406-208-5788.



*Let us be urgent, with constant groanings and frequent prayers. For these are our heavenly arms, which make us to stand fast and bravely to persevere. These are the spiritual defenses and divine weapons which defend us.*

—Letter of Pope St. Cornelius to St. Cyprian

**Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions**

**Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission**

**Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
Repose of the Soul of Jim Phillips, rb Trickey family

**Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Intentions of Bishop Vetter

**Immaculate Conception**

**Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

*Vigil of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
Repose of the Soul of Tom Vert, rb Tami Avison

**Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

## Song at the Beginning of Autumn

by Elizabeth Jennings (1926-2001)

Now watch this Autumn that arrives  
In smells. All looks like Summer still;  
Colours are quite unchanged, the air  
On green and white serenely thrives.  
Heavy the trees with growth and full  
The fields. Flowers flourish everywhere.

Proust who collected time within  
A child's cake would understand  
The ambiguity of this –  
Summer still raging while a thin  
Column of smoke stirs from the land  
Proving that Autumn gropes for us.

But every season is a kind  
Of rich nostalgia. We give names –  
Autumn and Summer, Winter, Spring –  
As though to unfasten from the mind  
Our moods and give them outward forms.  
We want the certain, solid thing.

But I am carried back against  
My will into a childhood where  
Autumn is bonfires, marbles, smoke;  
I lean against my window fenced  
From evocations in the air.  
When I said Autumn, Autumn broke.



Don't forget to bring your food pantry items for our local charities!

Polson Loaves & Fishes  
Ronan Bread Basket

### 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,  
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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.



## Knights of Columbus®

### K of C 2025-26 Event Calendar: (Save for future reference)

- † September 7: First Knights' meeting
- † September 21: Breakfast after 11 am Mass
- † October 5: Knights' monthly meeting
- † October 19: Harvest Dinner at Sacred Heart
- † November 2: Knights' monthly meeting
- † November 16: Breakfast after 11 am Mass
- † December 7: Knights' monthly meeting
- † December 14: Gaudete Sunday breakfast after Mass
- † January 4: Knights' monthly meeting
- † January 18: Breakfast after 11 am Mass
- † February 1: Knights' monthly meeting
- † February 15: Breakfast after 11 am Mass
- † March 1: Knights' monthly meeting
- † March 15: Laetare Sunday breakfast after Mass
- † April: BREAK
- † May 3: Knights' monthly meeting
- † May 17: Breakfast after 11 am Mass

### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Entrance Antiphon:

*We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection,  
through whom we are saved and delivered.*

Collect:

*O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son  
should undergo the Cross to save the human race,  
grant, we pray,  
that we, who have known his mystery on earth,  
may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven.  
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: Numbers 21:4b-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38

R. *Do not forget the works of the Lord!*

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Alleluia: *We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because  
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Gospel: John 3:13-17



**FROM 9/24/2025 TO 11/2/2025!**

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization effort to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000 volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in previous coordinated campaigns:

- Over 16,500 babies saved from abortion
- Over 250 abortion workers converted
- 150 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- **Vigil location:** Outside BLUE MOUNTAIN CLINIC – 610 N. California St. (near the corner of W. Broadway & California St.)
- **Vigil hours:** 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Mon. – Sat.)
- **Local contact:** Brad Tschida (406-546-4349 betschida54@gmail.com / Diane Rotering (406-274-3639) roteringd@gmail.com
- **Learn more ...** get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

PLEASE VISIT: [40daysforlife.com/missoula](http://40daysforlife.com/missoula)



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



SCAN ME



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, 59860).

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.

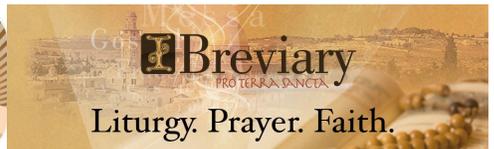


For more information or to apply visit: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)  
Or call: Paul & Tracy at 307-689-2820

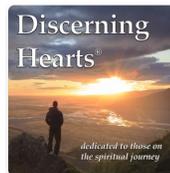
**restore** communication  
**rekindle** romance  
**renew** commitment  
**Oct. 3-5, 2025**  
**Missoula, MT**



**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.



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**Parish Offertory Progress Report**  
*Fiscal Year beginning July 1st*

**Immaculate Conception**  
\$42,662 of \$183,150 (23%)  
**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph**  
\$8,541 of \$48,393 (18%)

**I.C. Building Fund Progress:**  
\$425 of \$12,000 (4%)  
**S.H. Building Fund Progress:**  
\$1,020 of \$1,349 (76%)



**Thank you for your generosity!**