



Mary Praying
Giovanni Battista Slavi (1609-1685)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

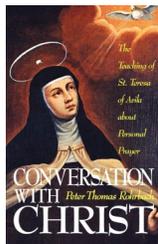
The Season of Advent is a time of preparation in which we strive to open our hearts to receive Christ therein with greater joy. And because we are referring to the heart and our communion with Christ, we are talking about prayer. For the preparation to be meaningful with regards to our prayer, and most importantly effective, it must be supremely practical.

Of all of the saints in the Church, there is perhaps none as supremely practical as St. Teresa of Avila, foundress of the Discalced Carmelite nuns and unquestionable master of the interior life and Doctor of the Church. Her books, which have inspired many, including other saints such as St. Alphonsus Liguori, are filled with the practical wisdom of a woman of uncompromising faith and steely determination. Her doctrine of the interior life is one that is suited to the most learned of individuals as well as the most simple. However, it must be admitted, that distilling her doctrine down to something that everyone can have access to would take a great deal of time and study.

Fortunately, we do not have to spend a great deal of time studying the doctrine of the interior life, we can take advantage of someone who has already done the heavy lifting and made the teaching of St. Teresa of Avila as accessible as possible, even for those whose lives seem busy and complicated. *Conversation With Christ* by Peter Thomas Rohrbach is a book that I cannot recommend enough, and it is a book that I have read over and over again myself. Rohrbach cuts through the 1000's of pages written by St. Teresa and presents her method of prayer in a way that is easily understood and again, most importantly, practical.

To pray like the saints is not something too mysterious and too difficult for the average person, parish priest and laity alike; to pray like the saints is simply to visit with Christ from the heart, conversing with Him as one friend talks to another,

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*First Sunday
of Advent*

29 November 2020

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

Parish Office

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

Immaculate Conception at 6:00 pm
Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 8:30 am
Immaculate Conception at 10:30 am

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm
Confessions each day at 11:30 and after the Wednesday Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.

FIRST WEEKEND DEVOTIONS

Immaculate Conception Church

Thursday, December 3rd

Confessions at 11:30 am
Mass at 12:10 pm – Memorial of St. Francis Xavier
Holy Hour of Reparation at 7:00 pm
Confessions are heard during this time.

Friday (First Friday), December 4th

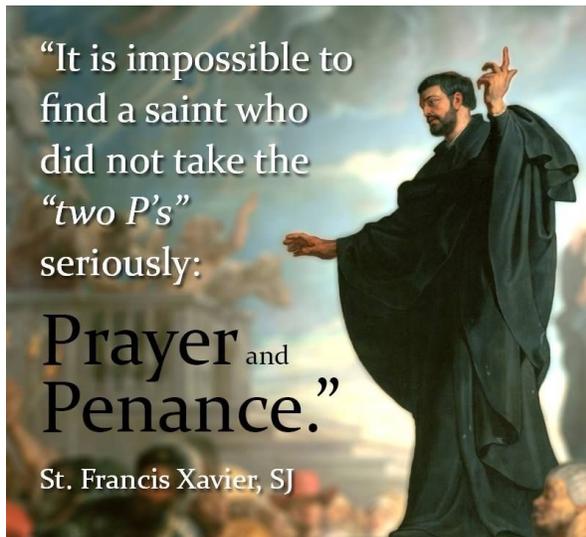
Confessions at 11:30 am
Mass at 12:10 pm - Advent Weekday

Saturday (First Saturday), December 5th

Confessions at 9:00 am
Mass at 10:00 am - Advent Weekday
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (after Mass)

During the period of Eucharistic Adoration the 5 Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed, followed by a further 15 minutes of silent meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary as Our Lady had requested at Fatima.

Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament



Continued from front page.

enjoying the company of the One we know loves us very much (a paraphrase of St. Teresa's definition of prayer.)

I have found great benefit in reading this book, and as one who has read the works of St. Teresa of Avila several times over, I can promise you that this book is a treasure. The price is something like 15 bucks on Amazon and it is only 139 pages long. A great investment in the life and health of your soul. Enjoy!

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



Food Pantry Necessities

Peanut butter is a constant need; as well as oats, flour and rice. As the holidays approach please consider contributing canned pumpkin, cranberries, gravy and desert mixes. And don't forget the stuffing mix ! Items may be left in a bin at the entrance of the church.



The Polson and Ronan Councils of the Knights of Columbus will be resuming their monthly meetings. The next meeting of the Polson Council will be **Thursday, December 10th at 6:00 pm**. They are also selling Christmas cards after the weekend Masses in the parish hall. Tootsie Rolls are also available for \$1 and the proceeds will go to support Helping Hands. The Ronan Council will meet on December 20th after the 8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart.



Endow study group for women on Thursdays at 10:30 am. Please call Sheila LeBrun for more information at 406-208-5788.



That Man Is You!
Thursdays at 6:00 am. Meetings start with hot premium roast coffee and breakfast.

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions
Saturday, November 28th <i>Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent</i> The Intention of the Donor
Sunday, November 29th <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> The Sick & Shut-ins/Intentions of the Parish Faithful
Tuesday, December 1st <i>Advent Weekday</i> The Deceased Priests of the Diocese of Helena
Wednesday, December 2nd <i>Advent Weekday</i> Debbie Jones rb Sheila Marquardt
Thursday, December 3rd <i>St. Francis Xavier</i> Reparation for the Sins of the Clergy
Friday, December 4th <i>Advent Weekday</i> Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oullette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Lou Marchello, Patricia Kelly, Glen Rogers, Liz Hipp, Michael Conrad, Neil Miskimins, Ellen Holland, Kevin Normandeau, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Leonard & Gail Pied-alue, Kate Shrider Olsen, Don Herbst, Bill Nash, Donna Jacobs, Derrie Edge.

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 December

For a Life of Prayer: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

<p><i>Please pray for our seminarians!</i> Dillon Armstrong, Tyler Frohlich, Matthew Christians, Kyle Tannehill and Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, John Cooney</p>
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The following letter was written by Mother Teresa to her children of The Missionaries of Charity on March 25 of 1993. The theme might be Lenten, but nonetheless a good message with which to start the Season of Advent.

My Dearest Children—Sisters, Brothers, and Fathers, This letter being very personal, I wanted to write in my own hand—by there are so many things to say. Even if not in Mother's hand, still it comes from Mother's heart.

Jesus wants me to tell you again, especially in this Holy Week, how much love He has for each one of you—beyond all you can imagine. I worry some of you still have not really met Jesus—one to one—you and Jesus alone. We may spend time in chapel—but have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love? Do you really know the living Jesus—not from books but from being with Him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you? Ask for the grace, He is longing to give it. Until you can hear Jesus in the silence of your own heart, you will not be able to hear Him saying “I thirst” in the hearts of the poor.



Never give up this daily intimate contact with Jesus as the real living person—not just the idea. How can we last even one day without hearing Jesus say “I love you”—impossible. Our soul needs that as much as the body needs to breathe the air. If not, prayer is dead—meditation-only thinking. Jesus wants you each to hear Him—speaking in the silence of your heart.

Be careful of all that can block that personal contact with the living Jesus. The devil may try to use the hurts of life, and sometimes our own mistakes—to make you feel it is impossible that Jesus really loves you, is really cleaving to you. This is a danger for all of us. And so sad, because it is completely opposite of what Jesus is really wanting, waiting to tell you. Not only that He loves you, but even more—He longs for you. He misses you when you don't come close. He thirsts for you. He loves you always, even when you don't feel worthy. When not accepted by others, even by yourself sometimes—He is the one who always accepts you. My children, you don't have to be different for Jesus to love you. san damiano cross Only believe—You are precious to Him.

Bring all you are suffering to His feet—only open your heart to be loved by Him as your are. He will do the rest. You all know in your mind that Jesus loves you—but in this letter Mother wants to touch your heart instead. Jesus wants to stir up our hearts, so not to lose our early love, especially in the future after Mother leaves you. That is why I ask you to read this letter before the Blessed Sacrament, the same place it was written, so Jesus himself can speak to you each one.

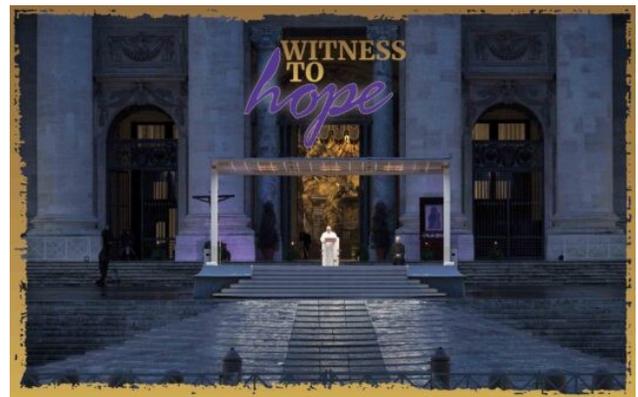
Why is Mother saying these things? ... the time has come for me to speak openly of the gift God gave Sept. 10—to explain as fully as I can what means for me the thirst of Jesus. For me Jesus's thirst is something so intimate—so I have felt shy until now to speak to you of Sept. 10—I wanted to do as Our Lady who “kept all these things in her heart.” That is why Mother hasn't spoken so much of I Thirst, especially outside...For me it is so clear—everything in MC exists only to satiate Jesus. His words on the wall of every MC chapel, they are not from the past only, but alive here and now, spoken to you. Do you believe it? If so, you will hear, you will feel His presence. Let it become as intimate for each of you, just as for Mother—this is the greatest joy

you could give me.

Mother will try to help you understand—but Jesus himself must be the one to say to you “I Thirst.” Hear your own name. Not just once. Every day. If you listen with your heart, you will hear, you will understand. Why does Jesus say, “I Thirst”? What does it mean? Something so hard to explain in words—if you remember anything from Mother's letter, remember this—“I thirst” is something much deeper than Jesus just saying “I love you.” until you know deep inside that Jesus thirsts for you—you can't begin to know who He wants to be for you. Or who He wants you to be for Him... ..Believe me, my dear children—pay close attention to what Mother is saying now—only the thirst of Jesus, hearing it, feeling it, answering it with all your heart, will keep the Society alive after Mother leaves you. If this is your life, you will be all right. Even when Mother leaves you, Jesus's thirst will never leave you. Jesus thirsting in the poor you will have with you always...

...Our Lady will help all of us in this way, since she was the first person to hear Jesus's cry I Thirst with St. John, and I am sure Mary Magdalene. Because she was there on Calvary, she know how real, how deep His longing for you and for the poor. Do we know? Do we feel as She? Ask her to teach—you and the whole Society are hers. Her role is to bring you face to face, as John and Magdalene, with the love in the Heart of Jesus crucified...How do you approach the thirst of Jesus? Only one secret—the closer you come to Jesus, the better you will know His thirst. “Repent and believe,” Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor—He knows your weakness, He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you. He is not bound by time. Whenever we come close to Him—we become partners of Our Lady, St. John, Magdalene. Hear Him. Hear your own name. Make my joy and yours complete. Let us pray.

God bless you.
Teresa, MC



Annual Catholic Appeal

Sacred Heart/St. Joseph \$3,775 of \$11,200 (34%)
Immaculate Conception \$13,245 of \$29,900 (44%)

Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

Immaculate Conception
\$57,266 of \$170,000 (33%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$17,136 of \$44,500 (38%)



Thank you for your generosity!