



*Gaudete Sunday*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
**13 December 2020**

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

**Parish Office**

PO Box 1477 Polson, MT 59860  
Phone: 406-883-2506  
Cell: 406-594-0474

Email: lakecountyroancatholic@gmail.com

Website: www.lakecountyroancatholic.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lakecountyroancatholic

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

If we actually stopped to ponder it, we would come to the conclusion with no outside help that it is impossible to find deep and abiding joy in any created thing; in fact, to attempt to do so would be laborious and frustrating. The reason why this is so is that joy is closely related to having and possessing, and if those things possessed are created, they will not last, and then what will become of the joy we once had in possessing it? Not to mention that the joy of having certain things fades and we need to seek out new and better joys with new and better things. Then there is that one stone cold hard fact; on the day we die we will be forcibly detached from all of the things that we clung to in life as sources of consolation, but now what?

As St. Augustine said, we have been created by God and we have been created for God. In God is our supernatural destiny, and our only joy should be in possessing Him and His very own divine life, which He shares with us gratuitously. Our Christian faith does not forbid us to love created things and possess them, our Christian faith only forbids us to love things *more* than God and turn them into little idols that we seem to gladly reverence and serve.

While I have touched on the more *end-of-time* themes in my last two homilies that are presented to us during the Advent Season, I have made brief acknowledgements of Advent also being a time of *joyful preparation*, which I do not deny in the least, and this week I hope to present the case that serious penance is not adverse to preparing for something with joy; in fact, both can be considered two sides of the same coin when we consider what we must do to prepare and what it is that we are preparing for.

To make ready the way of the Lord is to do penance by removing all obstacles that hinder His coming to us, usually because of attachments, and open up a path to our heart so that in loving Him and possessing Him we might come to experience the joy for which we were created and is a real foretaste of the unending bliss of eternal life.

God bless,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

**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.

**The Legend of Krampus**

*Last week I wrote about Santa Claus and his place in Catholic folklore. Just to keep things balanced please enjoy this very brief article on "Krampus," the "anti" Santa as it is found on the online version of the Encyclopedia Britannica written by Amy Tikkanen. The movie "Krampus" (2015), while not a family film captures the essence of the legend pretty well.*

Krampus, in central European popular legend, a half-goat, half-demon monster that punishes misbehaving children at Christmastime. He is the devilish companion of St. Nicholas. Krampus is believed to have originated in Germany, and his name derives from the German word Krampen, which means "claw."

Krampus was thought to have been part of pagan rituals for the winter solstice. According to legend, he is the son of Hel, the Norse god of the underworld. With the spread of Christianity, Krampus became associated with Christmas—despite efforts by the Catholic church to ban him. The creature and St. Nicholas are said to arrive on the evening of December 5 (Krampusnacht; "Krampus Night"). While St. Nicholas rewards nice children by leaving presents, Krampus beats those who are naughty with branches and sticks. In some cases, he is said to eat them or take them to hell. On December 6, St. Nicholas Day, children awaken to find their gifts or nurse their injuries.

*Continued on next page.*



**Continued from front page.**  
Festivities involving Krampus include the Krampuslauf ("Krampus run"). In this activity, which often involves alcohol, people dressed as the creature parade through streets, scaring spectators and sometimes chasing them. Beginning in the late 20th century, amid efforts to preserve cultural heritage, Krampus runs became increasingly popular in Austria and Germany. During this time Krampus began to be celebrated internationally, and the monster's growing appeal was evidenced by numerous horror films. *Some claimed that the expanding popularity of Krampus was a reaction to the commercialization of Christmas.*



**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, January 14th at 7:00 pm.** 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.

**Humbly asking for your prayers**

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

*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.

**Please pray for our seminarians!**  
Dillon Armstrong, Tyler Frohlich, Matthew Christians, Kyle Tannehill and Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, John Cooney



**St. John of the Cross**  
December 14<sup>th</sup>

*In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how much we have loved.*

*Never give up prayer, and should you find dryness and difficulty, persevere in it for this very reason. God often desires to see what love your soul has, and love is not tried by ease and satisfaction.*



*Silence is God's first language.*

*In the inner stillness where meditation leads, the Spirit secretly anoints the soul and heals our deepest wounds.*

*Love consists not in feeling great things but in having great detachment and in suffering for the Beloved.*

*God passes through the thicket of the world, and wherever His glance falls He turns all things to beauty.*

**Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
*Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent*  
The Repose of David Kurt rb Cady McClurg

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
The Repose of Fr. Dan Driscoll/Intentions of the Parish Faithful

**Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
*Advent Weekday*  
Betty Pfeifer rb Rosanne Jones

**Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
*Advent Weekday*  
Debbie Jones rb Sheila Marquardt

**Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
*Advent Weekday*  
Sharon Coloroso rb The Santorno's

**Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
*Advent Weekday*  
The Sick and the Shut-ins of the Parish

**Deacon Andy Dorrington**  
*Ministry to the Sick and the Homebound*

Last Easter we were in a real turmoil about attending Mass. What came out of this turmoil for Linda and I was celebrating Holy Week and Easter in our front room in front of the TV. Unacceptable but, given the time and disarray, understandable. Now, Christmas is approaching. My daughter who lives with her family in a large city in Washington State must sign-up to attend Mass. Once on the list she and her family attend Mass once every three weeks. She doesn't even know if she will be able to attend Christmas Mass. I guess that is better than those in our Care Centers who haven't received Jesus in the Eucharist since the end of February. Thank God we live in a rural area and Mass is made available to us. This is something to be extremely thankful for. We can't wait for those in our Care Centers and our shut-ins at home to be able to receive Jesus. We can never, ever, take our freedom to attend Mass for granted.... NEVER!

In Ireland between 1695 to about 1750, life was difficult for Catholics: Churches were closed; bishops were banished; and, many priests were forced to leave the country. Even with these dangers, priests continued to celebrate Mass for the people in secret, isolated outdoor locations, using rocks as altars (Mass Rocks). Clearly, the Catholic Mass was the mainstay of Irish life to take such risks. A priest found celebrating Mass could easily be killed... same for their parishioners but... Mass was celebrated.

When I was in Viet Nam a priest would come by helicopter to our remote base to say Mass. Most of the time it was very dangerous for a chopper to land at our base... it was dangerous to even be there. Often we would get notice a priest was on the way... we would get busy and build an Altar out of sandbags (different version of a Mass Rock)... the priest would land... hear Confessions... celebrate Mass. His life was in great jeopardy saying Mass. He could easily be killed... same for the men but... Mass was celebrated.



If all it takes for us to have Mass made available to us is wearing a mask and using some precautions... that's a blessing... a huge blessing! It is better than being isolated in a Care Center, or better than being put on a list, or better than attending Mass out in the woods under the danger of death, or better than having those attending Mass being a target for enemy mortars.

Our Church, in its wisdom, gives us this season of Advent to reflect. This year there is no shortage of things to reflect on... especially our Celebration of the Mass!

*The Living Flame of Love*  
 St. John of the Cross

*O living flame of love  
 That tenderly wounds my soul  
 In its deepest center! Since  
 Now You are not oppressive,  
 Now Consummate! if it be Your will:  
 Tear through the veil of this sweet encounter!*

*O sweet cauterly,  
 O delightful wound!  
 O gentle hand! O delicate touch  
 That tastes of eternal life  
 And pays every debt!  
 In killing You changed death to life.*

*O lamps of fire!  
 In whose splendors  
 The deep caverns of feeling,  
 Once obscure and blind,  
 Now give forth, so rarely, so exquisitely,  
 Both warmth and*

*How gently and lovingly  
 You wake in my heart,  
 Where in secret You dwell alone;  
 And in Your sweet breathing,  
 Filled with good and glory,  
 How tenderly You swell my heart with love.*



**Christ of St. John of the Cross**  
 Salvador Dali (1951)



**Random Notes**

*Help will be needed on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> immediately after the 10:30 am Mass to help decorate Immaculate Conception church for Christmas. Please stick around and help make short work of a big project. Thanks!*

*Christmas Mass at Sacred Heart will not be published this year and three published Masses will be offered at Immaculate Conception. To the folks of IC; please respond asap with your Mass preference and how many people will be included in your group. An email has been sent out via Flocknote and I need to know numbers before next weekend for planning purposes. As always, the goal is to make sure that everyone who wants to go to Mass can do so.*



**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph** \$5,170 of \$11,200 (46%)  
**Immaculate Conception** \$19,330 of \$29,900 (65%)



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

**ROSARY GROUP**

St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

Monday at 6:00 pm  
 Friday at 9:00 am



**DIVINE MERCY RADIO**  
 90.7 FM



*DMR is a locally owned, listener supported non-profit 501(c)3*  
 PO Box 568  
 Polson, MT 59860

**Parish Offertory Progress Report**

*Fiscal Year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>*

**Immaculate Conception**  
 \$62,968 of \$170,000 (37%)  
**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph**  
 \$19,570 of \$44,500 (44%)



**Thank you for your generosity!**