



The Holy Family with St. Ann and St. John the Baptist
El Greco (1541-1614)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I always find it a bit disappointing when the Christmas season becomes compressed because of the calendar dates; and what I mean by that is that we have Christmas and the solemnity of the Holy Family back to back followed by the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and Epiphany, again, back to back. I don't find it disappointing because it complicates preparation for the weekends but because we do not have the opportunity to savor the holidays and enjoy the great solemnities of the season in a more measured manner. It is rushed. But you don't have to get swept away in the flurry.

Traditionally, the season of Christmas ends with the Feast of the Presentation, or *Candlemas*, on February 2nd, so keep your decorations up and don't be so quick to toss out that tree. Enjoy the season and prolong the cheer during the long dark month of January. We can all use a little extended joy. I would think.

Christmas however is not the only thing that will prove to be a bit rushed. Easter is on April 4th this year which means we will literally jump from *Candlemas* to Ash Wednesday in a span of two weeks and a day. Ash Wednesday is on February 17th this year.

Anyway, back to Christmas. Please keep the bulletin handy and incorporate Masses and time for a good confession over the next several days. January 1st is a First Friday this year but that does not mean that devotion goes on vacation because we have New Year's celebrations to attend. It is possible to do both, and I am going to go so far as to say that you would be much happier in the end by prioritizing your faith and offering God solemn worship during these times, and *then* go out and celebrate with your family and friends.

Enjoy what Christmas break you may have and may God bless each of you with the joy and peace at the birth of His Son in the new year to come.

God bless,
 Fr. Kevin Christofferson

The Holy Family *of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

27 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: lakecountyromancatholic@gmail.com

Website: www.lakecountyromancatholic.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lakecountyromancatholic

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 are heard each of these days at 11:30 am and again after the Mass on Wednesday during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.

FIRST WEEKEND DEVOTIONS

Immaculate Conception Church

Thursday, December 31st

Confessions at 11:30 am
 Mass at 12:10 pm - Seventh Day of the Octave of Christmas
 Holy Hour of Reparation at 7:00 pm
Confessions are heard during this time.

Friday (First Friday), January 1st

Confessions at 11:30 am
 Mass at 12:10 pm - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday (First Saturday), January 2nd

Confessions at 9:00 am
 Mass at 10:00 am - Votive Mass in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
 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.

Moonless Darkness
Gerard Manley Hopkins



Moonless darkness stands between.
Past, the Past, no more be seen!
But the Bethlehem-star may lead me
To the sight of Him Who freed me
From the self that I have been.
Make me pure, Lord: Thou art holy;
Make me meek, Lord: Thou wert lowly;
Now beginning, and alway:
Now begin, on Christmas day.

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
December 29th



I am ready to die for my Lord, that in my blood the Church may obtain liberty and peace.

Remember the sufferings of Christ, the storms that were weathered... the crown that came from those sufferings which gave new radiance to the faith... All saints give testimony to the truth that without real effort, no one ever wins the crown.

Many are needed to plant and water what has been planted now that the faith has spread so far and there are so many people... No matter who plants or waters, God gives no harvest unless what is planted is the faith of Peter and unless he agrees to his teachings.

Food Pantry Necessities

Peanut butter and cereal are 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.

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 26th

Vigil of the Holy Family
The Repose of Patricia Kelly rb The Radtke's

Sunday, December 27th

The Holy Family
The Deceased Priests of the Diocese/Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, December 29th

Fifth Day of the Octave of Christmas
The Repose of Ron Marquardt rb Sheila Marquardt

Wednesday, December 30th

Sixth Day of the Octave of Christmas
Sick and the Shut-ins of the Parish

Thursday, December 31st

Seventh Day of the Octave of Christmas
Reparation for the Sins of the Clergy

Friday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
The Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oullette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Lou Marchello, 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, Bob Mahon.

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

