

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Life is full of trade-offs. Lay people marry and raise families, and eventually the day comes when they become empty nesters and then retire (when that is possible). Priests don't get to retire, strictly speaking, but we do get to go on retreat. In fact it is mandated by Canon Law. And so from time to time a priest gets to slip away from it all and spend time in silence and solitude with nothing else except his faith and love of God that is in his heart, as well as a good book on theology that he has been wanting to tackle for quite some time.

The point I am trying to make is that it is not utterly lost on me that most people simply do not have the luxury of escaping the insanity of this world of passing things and plunge headlong into the silence of the presence of God and simply rest there. It is a luxury and it is a treat. A part of me feels guilty that I get to enjoy this privilege, but most of me does not.

Everything we do is composed of mixed motives. We would like to think that we are always capable of acting selflessly, and we are, but deep down we know that most of the time we get something out of it. For example, a person may want to chose a particular career because it would be personally satisfying, but at the same time it could potentially provide a great service to others. The two motives can coexist but from the standpoint of our Christian faith, the satisfaction of being of service to others ought to outweigh any other benefits, such as advancement, wealth and the accumulation of goods.

When a man and a woman meet and fall in love, they pursue marriage in order to start a family. Why? Because intuitively it is known that love is a gift that is shared and passed on

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Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

12 July 2020

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

Parish Office

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Mass Schedule

Saturday at 6:00 pm

Immaculate Conception

Confessions are available at 5:00 pm

Sunday

Sacred Heart at 8:30 am

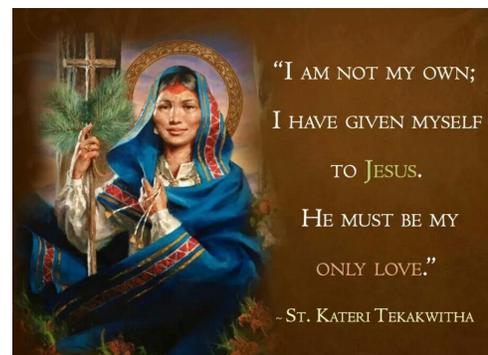
Immaculate Conception at 10:30 am

Wednesday at 12:10 pm

Immaculate Conception

Confessions are heard at 11:30 am and again immediately after Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration. The rite of Benediction is celebrated at 1:30 pm.

NOTE: Until Phase Three begins the occupancy of Immaculate Conception is greatly reduced. Please maintain a respectful distance from other parishioners who are not of your household, and please use alternate pews between the Masses: pews with a green dot are for Sunday and the red dots are for Saturday. The 8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart is now able to be published. Please bear in mind that the maximum occupancy is 50 people and there are no distancing requirements. Thank you for your continued understanding and patience.



The Lily of the Mohawks

Feast Day July 14th

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to others. And this is precisely how God ordered things to be. The marriage of men and women is ordered to the procreation and education of offspring. In other words, something other than themselves. Clearly a husband and wife share in a mutual exchange of goods, and greatly benefit and are enriched by that exchange, but in the end isn't it still the kids who reap the fruits?

The Blessed Trinity could have always been just the Blessed Trinity and remained perfectly content with nothing lacking. Did God *have* to create the universe and make creatures like us in His image and likeness? No. But, did God *have* to create? Yes. It's one of those both/and propositions. Creation adds nothing to God's greatness and glory, but the sheer expression of His perfection in the things He has made gives a kind of vent to His desire to share His life and love with others. In other words, He created us for our own sake and everything else He has made was designed for our good for our benefit.

It seems that by design everything is made for something else and in this design a beauty and harmony arises that could only be the product of a divine mind. Sin, sadly, disrupts the plan when we decide to live for ourselves and grasp and grab for as many things as we can. It is all so disordered.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy
O Divine Master, grant that I may
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life
Amen

Everyone loves this prayer because it speaks to one of the deepest truths about ourselves. It creates a longing to be *that* person because we know that is who we are supposed to be.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oulette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Lou Marchello, Deanna Hermes, Patricia Kelly, Glen Rogers, Vicki Rogers, Liz Hipp, Michael Conrad, Neil Miskimins, Ellen Holland, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Samantha Huber (Found and in need of healing), Leonard & Gail Piedalue, Anonymous Request (Serious), Kate Shrider Olsen, Don Herbst, Len Moeder

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 July

Our Families We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

Please pray for our seminarians!
Dillon Armstrong, Tyler Frohlich, Matthew Christians, Kyle Tannehill and Kaleb Michell



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Ronan council of the Knight of Columbus will be meeting on Sunday, July 19th, immediately after the 8:30 am Mass.



Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel
July 16th

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel,
fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the
Son of God,
Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity.
O Star of the Sea, help me herein and show me here you
are my Mother.
O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth,
I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to suc-
cor me in my necessity. *(make request)*
There are none that can withstand thy power.
O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee *(three times)*.
Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands *(three times)*.

