



**Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**  
*Claude Vignon (1593-1670)*

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

Tomorrow, September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Church celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. But why in September? The answer is found deep within our Catholic history. Given the little space available I will try to make this short and to the point.

St. Helena, as you all know was the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine. Constantius, his father, abandoned the two for another more politically expedient marriage with another woman, and when he died, Constantine inherited his rule. Constantine was a most devoted son to his mother St. Helena, and elevated her to quite an exalted position within the empire, even giving her authority over the treasury and bestowing on her the title of "Augusta."

In 326 St. Helena traveled to the Holy Land to look for and recover any Christian relics that she could find. *Remember that Jerusalem for all practical purposes was still recovering and rebuilding after have been sacked by the Roman general Titus at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century.* As an affront to the Christians who were still living in Jerusalem at the time, the Emperor Hadrian had a temple to Venus built over the site of Christ's resurrection; the empty tomb. This would turn out to be most providential.

Given the history of the temple to Venus, St. Helena had the site excavated and in the process discovered three crosses. Not knowing which of the crosses might have been the one upon which Christ was hung, if indeed this was the site where Christ was crucified, the local bishop interceded with a prayer asking God to cure a woman who was near death, simply by her touch, and by doing so reveal the true cross. When the true cross was touched, the woman was healed, and the rest they say "is history."

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, 335, the Emperor Constantine dedicated a church he had built over the place where Christ was crucified, the *Church of the Holy Sepulcher*, located in Jerusalem, and the remains of the relics of the crucifixion, including the cross, are now preserved and can be seen at the church of the *Holy Cross In Jerusalem* located in Rome, Italy. (I have visited both.)

So there you have it. We are celebrating a church dedicated by Constantine nearly 1700 years ago! Holy Mother Church has quite a memory.

Peace,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

# Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

13 September 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**

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

To My Church Family: I want to give you all my heartfelt "thank-you." First of all for Fr. Kevin for his wonderful service to the Lord, and to all the people; to the choir for using their singing to praise the Lord; and to everyone for their kind words, cards, flowers, and presence. May you all be blessed!



Sincerely, Tami Avison

### Online Natural Family Planning Class beginning in October

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is fertility awareness. Couples will learn how to observe, record, and interpret a woman's natural signs of fertility. The class also teaches about God's beautiful plan for married love.

### The first class in a 3-part series will be taught online on

**October 7 at 6:00 p.m.** The class will be taught by Ben and Rita Pehl, from Sacred Heart Parish in Terry, MT. Ben and Rita are a Certified Volunteer NFP Teaching Couple through the Couple to Couple League. There are also many other online class dates/times available by other CCL teaching couples. Contact Ben and Rita for more information, 406-600-3987 (Ben) or 402-640-9494 (Rita), or visit [ccli.org](http://ccli.org).





**Congratulations!**  
 Nick and Katie Devlin  
 United in Holy Matrimony  
 September 7<sup>th</sup>



**PRAYER TO SAINT HELEN**

Holy and blessed Saint Helen, with the anguish and devotion with which You sought the Cross of Christ, I plead that You give me God's grace to suffer in patience the labours of this life, so that through them and through Your intercession and protection, I will be able to seek and carry the Cross, which God has placed upon me, so that I can serve Him in this life and enjoy His Glory ever after. **Amen.**

800-311



**That Man Is You!**

This is the fourth year for our parish men's group! All men in the parish are invited and welcome to attend. We meet each Thursday morning at 6:00 am for a hot protein breakfast followed by a program and structured conversation. **Group begins this year on September 17<sup>th</sup>.**



**Endow** study group for women will begin meeting on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am. This year's study will examine Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical letter *Deus Caritas Est (God Is Love)*. Please call Sheila LeBrun for more information at 406-208-5788.



**Bishop's Disaster Fund**  
 The U.S. bishops have set up a disaster fund to help with the relief efforts of those afflicted by hurricane Laura and the wild-fires burning in the west. Bishop Vetter is asking for your support. Please make checks out to *The Diocese of Helena* and place your offering in the regular collection basket. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

St. Robert Bellarmine  
 August 17<sup>th</sup>

*When we appeal to the throne of grace we do so through Mary, honoring God by honoring His Mother, imitating Him by exalting her, touching the most responsive chord in the sacred heart of Christ with the sweet name of Mary.*



**Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Vigil Mass*

Repose of Fr. Jeremiah Sullivan

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

*Twenty-fourth Sunday*

The Parish Faithful who have died/the Parish Faithful

**Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

Special Intention

**Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian; Pope, Bishop and Martyrs*

Intentions of Nina Futina

**Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

*St. Robert Bellarmine; Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

Intentions of Mick McCaslin

**Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

*There is no Mass scheduled for today.*

**Humbly asking for your prayers**

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oulette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Lou Marchello, Patricia Kelly, Glen Rogers, Liz Hipp, Michael Conrad, Neil Miskimins, Ellen Holland, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Leonard & Gail Piedalue, Anonymous Request (Greatly Improved!), Kate Shrider Olsen, Don Herbst, Bill Nash, Marge Welty, Donna Jacobs.

*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**

**Respect for Resources:** We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

**Please pray for our seminarians!**

Dillon Armstrong, Tyler Frohlich, Matthew Christians, Kyle Tannehill and Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, John Cooney

