



**The Prophet Ezekiel**  
Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

Is anything enjoyable anymore? This is a trick question by the way. But in order to answer the question we have to agree on what it means to enjoy something. The word “enjoy” is not really that old, and despite the variety of meanings that can be attached to this word, I tend to prefer a more literal rendering like “to cause” or “to make” one “rejoice.” If we take a more literal approach to understanding this word, we would not completely deny any sense of pleasure that the word implies, but we would rather focus more on the intellectual satisfaction that a thing can give.

What I have been noticing more and more as the years roll by, and that is that there is an extent to which it can be said that we have forgotten how to take satisfaction in things and quite the contrary to look for faults so that we might justify our complaining, and in the process harden our hearts to the good in the world. And quite frankly, so that we can get to the point a little quicker, I point to politics as being one of the major culprits that is robbing us of an awful lot of potential joy and enjoyment that could be had.

We are so divided. And the division is not a simple us versus them kind of proposition, but more like a complete fracturing and a near loss of all that might lend cohesion to the fabric of our society. And the reason, the cause? The errors of modern thinking that began centuries ago; errors that taught us to separate our use of reason from the gift of supernatural faith, and to divorce our form of government from the authority of the Church, whose very mission is in part to form people of virtue without which a nation ultimately becomes ungovernable. We have compartmentalized religion and the practice of the faith and made it something that is personal, private and usually done on Sundays (if at all). Christ is no longer a king, but as some bumper stickers might still admit, “God is my co-pilot.”

Without God, without faith, nothing is real and nothing has any value. Without God there is no real joy to be had and nothing is enjoyable precisely because we are losing the eyes of faith through which we see and recognize the good that is in the

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*Twenty-third Sunday  
of Ordinary Time*

**6 September 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 each day at 11:30 and after the Wednesday Mass during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.

*At the Cross her station keeping,  
stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
close to her Son to the last.*

*Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,  
all His bitter anguish bearing,  
now at length the sword has passed.*

*O how sad and sore distressed  
was that Mother, highly blest,  
of the sole-begotten One.*

**-Stabat Mater**



*The month of September is specially dedicated in honor of  
Our Lady of Sorrows.*

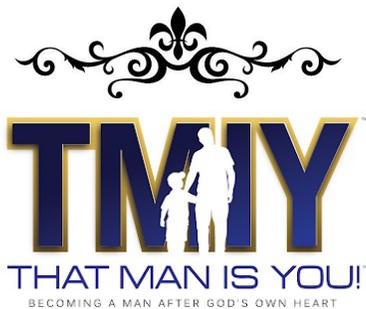
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world, and give thanks for it. *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, said the Blessed Virgin Mary, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.* The great joy and the satisfaction that the Blessed Mother experienced was the result of her being able to see the good, to be inclined, disposed to seeing the good and give thanks to God for it.

If we allow our politics to be the manner of thinking by which we judge others and the world in which we live, then we have more or less chosen to be blind, since it is faith that gives light to our eyes; and without that same faith that makes us one, we chose to live in a divided house that will one day fall because it has no real foundation.

St. Paul instructs us, *do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect (Romans 12:2).* The renewal that St. Paul has in mind is brought about by faith in the Gospel; the truth of Jesus Christ that reveals to us that God is a loving Father and we are brothers and sisters to one another. We are called to unite around a common purpose and to use our gifts in service of each other and in service of the common good, which is none other than God Himself, and the establishment of the peaceful reign of His Son, where even the lamb and the wolf will dwell together (Is 11:6).

God bless,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



***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>.**

***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.



**St. Peter Claver**  
September 9<sup>th</sup>

*We must speak to them with our hands by giving, before we try to speak to them with our lips.*

*To love God as He ought to be loved, we must be detached from all temporal love. We must love nothing but Him, or if we love anything else, we must love it only for His sake.*

**Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Vigil Mass*

Repose of Fr. Jeremiah Sullivan

**Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**

*Twenty-third Sunday*

Intentions of the Sick and Shut-ins/the Parish Faithful

**Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Intentions of Teresa Rebein

**Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

*St. Peter Claver, Priest*

Intentions of Julie Uhle

**Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Votive Mass in Honor of the Holy Eucharist*

Intentions of Bp. Vetter/Priests/Deacons of the Diocese

**Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Votive Mass in Honor of The Holy Cross*

Deceased Priests/Deacons of the Diocese

***Please pray for our seminarians!***

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

