



**Baptism of Christ**  
Pietro Perugino (1450-1523)

#### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

As I mentioned last week, or was it the week before, we would begin to look at the moral and ethical implications of developing and making use of vaccines that have been generated using cell lines from the fetal tissue of aborted children. I want to be honest right up front and say this, that when it comes to morality, an awful lot of Catholics (and people in general) are like the youth I taught in high school who ask, "how far can I go before I break the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment?" Is this meant as a put down? By no means. What I intend by saying this is that most people just want to know where the line is that cannot be crossed. I get it. Of all the disciplines, moral theology requires energy and determination. It is not an easy science.

I am not going to start off today by digging too deeply into the issue; consider this to be more or less of an introduction. You will notice that in today's bulletin I have reprinted the key parts of a statement issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on the issue of the presently deployed Covid-19 vaccines. I did not copy the three introductory paragraphs for the simple fact that they are just that, introductory. What I have copied is the main body of the text contained in 6 points. What I have done is also to highlight certain aspects of the text. These are not simply personal editorial highlights, I have rather chosen them because they represent key areas that require our investigation and sincere consideration. Please do not read this document and see in it a "green light." This is not the intention at all. Like many other such documents there is the proposal of truth that is meant to be interiorized so that our consciences may be genuinely formed before we make a decision or offer any kind of consent.

As we will see in the coming weeks there are many layers to be carefully considered before we decide whether or not to accept and make use of the vaccines, and immediately on the surface of things we need to seriously consider the risk of receiving a vaccine using a new technology that has not been tested to the extent that previous vaccines have been tested. (Frankly, anything produced under the rubric of "Operation

## *The Baptism of The Lord*

10 January 2021

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-Thursday-Friday

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm  
Confessions are heard each of these days at 11:30 am.

#### Tax Preparation

This past week you should have received an email regarding your contributions to the parish during 2020. If you would like a copy of the parish record for income tax preparation purposes, please respond to the email via Flocknote or slip a note in your offertory envelope. These will be processed as the requests are made and every attempt will be made to be prompt.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES RESUME THIS COMING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13TH AT 6:00 PM.**

*Warp Speed" ought to give great pause.)*

We will, in all sincerity, attempt to cut through much of the misinformation and partial truths that are being presented so that we can all arrive at the truth of things. I am already fully aware that this conversation is going to be like walking through a mine field, and the reason is that Covid-19 is more of a political issue than it is an health care issue. There are *very* strong feelings on the topic. Be that as it may, my vocation is to teach the Catholic faith in season and out. And so we shall proceed.

Peace,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

**St. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

January 13<sup>th</sup>

*The perfection of learning is to know God in such a way that, though you realize he is knowable, yet you know him as indescribable.*

*The Church is the Ship outside which it is impossible to understand the Divine Word, for Jesus spoke from the boat to the people gathered on the shore.*

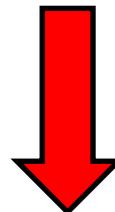
*The utter folly of our time is lamentable, that men should think to assist God with human help and to protect the Church of Christ by worldly ambition.*

*No matter how sinful one may have been, if he has devotion to Mary, it is impossible that he be lost.*



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, February 18th at 7:00 pm**. The Ronan Council will meet on **January 17th after the 8:30 am Mass** at Sacred Heart.

Please bear in mind that people eat year round and not just on Thanksgiving. Help keep this project going. Thank you!



**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 ordination of St. Hilary from a 14<sup>th</sup> century manuscript.*



**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, January 9<sup>th</sup>**  
*Vigil of The Baptism of the Lord*  
The Repose of Neil Miskimins
- Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**  
*The Baptism of the Lord*  
The Intentions of Joe Wulfekuhle/Intentions of the Parish Faithful
- Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**  
*Votive Mass in Honor of the Holy Angels*  
Merlyn B. Kuhl rb Mary Matelich
- Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**  
NO MASS SCHEDULED
- Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**  
*Votive Mass in Honor of the Holy Eucharist*  
Merlyn B. Kuhl rb Mary Matelich
- Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**  
*Votive Mass in Honor of the Holy Cross*  
Charles Sheridan rb Sheila Marquardt

**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, Joe Wolfekuhle.

*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 January**

**Human fraternity:** May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

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



**Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines**

1. As the Instruction Dignitas Personae states, in cases where cells from aborted fetuses are employed to create cell lines for use in scientific research, “there exist differing degrees of responsibility” of cooperation in evil. For example, **“in organizations where cell lines of illicit origin are being utilized, the responsibility of those who make the decision to use them is not the same as that of those who have no voice in such a decision”.**

2. **In this sense, (regarding the note above, ed.)** when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available (e.g. in countries where vaccines without ethical problems are not made available to physicians and patients, or where their distribution is more difficult due to special storage and transport conditions, or when various types of vaccines are distributed in the same country but health authorities do not allow citizens to choose the vaccine with which to be inoculated) it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.

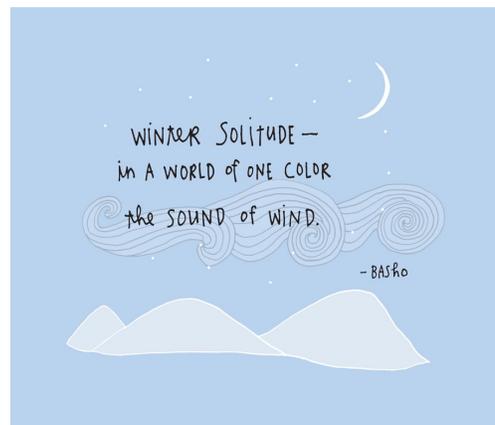
3. The fundamental reason for considering the use of these vaccines morally licit is that the kind of cooperation in evil (passive material cooperation) in the procured abortion from which these cell lines originate is, on the part of those making use of the resulting vaccines, remote. **The moral duty to avoid such passive material cooperation is not obligatory if there is a grave danger,** such as the otherwise uncontainable spread of a serious pathological agent--in this case, the pandemic spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19. It must therefore be considered that, **in such a case, all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience** with the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive. **It should be emphasized, however, that the morally licit use of these types of vaccines, in the particular conditions that make it so, does not in itself constitute a legitimation, even indirect, of the practice of abortion, and necessarily assumes the opposition to this practice by those who make use of these vaccines.**

4. **In fact, the licit use of such vaccines does not and should not in any way imply that there is a moral endorsement of the use of cell lines proceeding from aborted fetuses.** Both pharmaceutical companies and governmental health agencies are therefore encouraged to produce, approve, distribute and offer ethically acceptable vaccines that do not create problems of conscience for either health care providers or the people to be vaccinated.

5. **At the same time, practical reason makes evident that vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary.** In any case, from the ethical point of view, the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one’s own health, but also on the duty to pursue the common good. **In the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic, the common good may recommend vaccination, especially to protect the weakest and most exposed.** Those who, however, for reasons of conscience, refuse vaccines produced with cell lines from aborted fetuses, must do their utmost to avoid, by other prophylactic means and appropriate behavior, becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent. In particular, they must avoid any risk to the health of those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons, and who are the most vulnerable.

6. Finally, there is also **a moral imperative** for the pharmaceutical industry, governments and international organizations to ensure that vaccines, which are effective and safe from a medical point of view, as well as ethically acceptable, are also accessible to the poorest countries in a manner that is not costly for them. The lack of access to vaccines, otherwise, would become another sign of discrimination and injustice that condemns poor countries to continue living in health, economic and social poverty.

*The Sovereign Pontiff Francis, at the Audience granted to the undersigned Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, on 17 December 2020, examined the present Note and ordered its publication.*



**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph** \$8,870 of \$11,200 (79%)  
**Immaculate Conception** \$22,180 of \$29,900 (74%)



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**  
 \$76,011 of \$170,000 (44%)  
**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph**  
 \$25,296 of \$44,500 (56%)



**Thank you for your generosity!**