



**Moses**  
*Valentin De Boulogne (1591-1632)*

#### **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

This week we will wrap up our look at the *principle of cooperation*, and just to recap, it was my intention to look only at this principle because it was the one aspect of the vaccine issue that was new to nearly everyone, and for that reason uncharted territory. I have provided all the other necessary materials that you need to complete your investigation into the issue; you have the doctrinal statement from the CDF (The Holy See) and the USCCB offered a document of things that need to be taken in to consideration. I have sent documents, articles and links to online resources via Flocknote.

What we have had here these past few weeks was an opportunity that could not be passed over. The whole issue of abortion and experimentation on fetal tissue taken from those children is an ongoing and continuing evil; but honestly, most people probably had no idea how close to home this issue would eventually come until we were faced with not just a national, but an international vaccination campaign. This necessitated the need to study and become informed.

As I mentioned last week, the vaccine that is currently in use is the one from Pfizer, and mercifully it was not produced using fetal tissue taken from an aborted child, and therefore contains no fragments of that tissue; but, it was tested on fetal tissue, a lesser evil but manifestly unethical. Bear in mind that this child did not voluntarily offer the tissue for scientific research, it was taken in theft and those cells have been kept in production for decades. However, even having said that, when we look at the passive nature of material cooperation, there has to be that distance I spoke of, and that includes the removal of our will from that first evil act. We cannot be indifferent or suggest by our actions that we endorse that evil.

To protest the use of such vaccines and to demand a clean one is one of the necessary actions we take when we are given no choice in the matter and no clean vaccines are available. Once that obligation has been met then we need to carefully consider the grave necessity of making use of such a vaccine. We need to ask ourselves many questions in this regard with respect to the possible risks involved in both accepting and not accepting the vaccine. Many of these questions are adequately

# *Septuagesima Sunday*

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**31 January 2021**

*Pre-Lent Preparation Begins*

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-Friday**

Immaculate Conception at 12:10 pm  
*Confessions are heard on each of these days at 11:30 am and again immediately after the 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesday during a period of Eucharist Adoration.*

#### **FIRST WEEKEND DEVOTIONS**

*Immaculate Conception Church*

##### **Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

Confessions at 11:30 am  
Mass at 12:10 pm

Votive Mass in Honor of Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest  
Holy Hour of Reparation at 7:00 pm  
*Confessions are heard during this time.*

##### **Friday (First Friday), February 5<sup>th</sup>**

Confessions at 11:30 am  
Mass at 12:10 pm - Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

##### **Saturday (First Saturday), February 6<sup>th</sup>**

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.*

addressed in many of the materials that I have made available to you, so I will not belabor them here. The point would be that after all of our study and consideration we need to ask that one final question; *is there a gravely proportionate reason for accepting a contaminated vaccine when weighed against the risks of not accepting it?* Clearly the answer is not the same for everyone, and no one can make the decision for you. I have as it were, proposed all of the doctrinal and moral considerations that you need to make an informed prudential judgement; a judgement that is yours.

Two last things to consider; the first is that any vaccination must be voluntary (if you are coerced by the threat of loss of employment, for example, you may have your grave cause right there if there is no clean vaccine available), and the second is that there are those who will reject the vaccination on grounds of conscience, and these folk are perfectly free and within their rights to do so. However, in refusing the vaccine we are counseled to take care of ourselves and those with whom we come in contact, especially the most vulnerable among us. This is only common sense and it applies to any illness that can be passed on.

If you were thinking/hoping that I was going to lead you to some conclusion or course of action these past few weeks, I am happy to disappoint you. My role as a Pastor is to teach, inform and propose. God has given you liberty and intelligence. The two are complimentary. Christ speaks to us through the Magisterium that He gave the Church so that we might know His mind and heart in the challenges that we face in our daily lives. I appreciate all of the feedback that I have received from you and it makes me happy to see so many of you engaged, this has been a great opportunity, and I am sure it will not be the last. If you have any questions or any other concerns, please let me know and I will do my best to be of assistance to you.

Let us continue to pray for each other every day, and while we may not be able to gather to socialize, a severe hardship, we can all support each other in spirit. God bless and have a great weekend.

Peace,  
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



**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.

***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 February**

**Violence Against Women:** We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

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



***Septuagesima Sunday***

*Septuaginta* is the Latin word for "70," and *Septuagesima Sunday* simply means 70 days until Easter or at least more than 60. This Sunday begins the traditional preparation for the Lenten Season that was also know as *Shrovetide*, taken from the Old English "shrive" which has to do with confession, penance and absolution from sin. Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which is also called "Fat Tuesday" or more popularly, *Mardi Gras*; and thus concludes the pre-Lent season of preparation. While many of the traditions and customs of Shrovetide are no longer observed, we can still use this time to thoughtfully prepare for observance of Lent. Ash Wednesday and Lent is every year, it is not a surprise. Let's have a plan!

**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.

**Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Vigil Mass; Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
The Repose of David Eller rb Pat Pool

**Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Lilian Pablo rb Lawrence Walchuk/Intentions of the Parish Faithful

**Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas*  
Billy Batewell rb Janice Donovan

**Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr*  
Deceased Members of Our Parish Community

**Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Votive Mass in Honor of Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest*  
Reparation for the Sins of the Clergy

**Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Votive Mass in Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*  
Reparation to the Sacred Heart

**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 uncontrollable 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.*



The Polson Council of the Knights of Columbus has resumed their monthly meetings. The next meeting of the Polson Council will be **Thursday, February 18th at 7:00 pm.**

**NEW GROUP!**

Knitters and Crocheters meet in the parish hall of Immaculate Conception on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please contact Julie Hille at 715-882-2716 for more information. All are welcome!



**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



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 PO Box 568  
 Polson, MT 59860

**Parish Offertory Progress Report**

*Fiscal Year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>*

**Immaculate Conception**  
 \$108,206 of \$170,000 (63%)  
**Sacred Heart/St. Joseph**  
 \$26,931 of \$44,500 (60%)



**Thank you for your generosity!**