



Christ Cleansing the Leper
Jean-Marie Melchior Doze (1827-1913)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

More or less picking up where we left off last week, there are two things that I would like to treat this final Sunday before we enter the season of Lent. One is attachment and the other is fasting.

By way of review, last week we saw how in and through the things that God has made, He is continually serving us and providing for our needs. The universe is His creation and He designed it to be a place to be lived in and a source of endless wonder. As a place of pilgrimage, this world and all of its objects are given to us for our use so that we may be supported on our way towards our true home; heaven.

The problem with attachments is that we latch on to an object because of the sense satisfaction that it gives us, and instead of assisting us in our journey to heaven, it becomes an obstacle, precisely because it becomes a thing that we love more than God. But, attachments do not end there, they may also include our preferences and our way of doing things.

For the sake of ease, let's just look at preferences, because they can be applied to nearly all things, including objects. When a person has very strong preferences for one thing or another, they are prevented from finding joy or satisfaction in most things because they are attached to something else. Attachment then is really a type of slavery. Because we prefer *this* to *that* or *those*, we lock ourselves in and can find no happiness in anything else except in that one thing that we prefer. In the theology of St. John of the Cross, *detachment* is really an aspect of freedom that allows us to be content in all things because we really do not prefer anything, or at least we are not attached. St. John of the Cross would say that it makes no difference if one is bound by a thick cord or by a very thin thread, one is still bound.

This Lent, pick an attachment and truly strive to free yourself from it. You will be glad you did, because in a world that superabounds in the good things that God has created, why do we imprison ourselves within the love of a only a few of them, when all of them have been created for our enjoyment?

Continued on next page.

Quinquagesima Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 February 2021

Pre-Lent Preparation Continues

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 are heard on each of these days at 11:30 am. Please note that on Ash Wednesday there will be a Liturgy of the Word at 12:10 pm and no Adoration to follow; Mass for the day will be at 6:00 pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17th

On this day all Catholics 14 years and older must abstain from flesh meat (including meat broths and fats), and all Catholics 18 to 59 years must fast. A fast is one meal and two small meals that combined are not larger than one full meal. No snacking.

Immaculate Conception
12:10 pm

Liturgy of the Word and the Distribution of Ashes

6:00 pm

Mass (with the distribution of Ashes)

As was mentioned in last week's bulletin, the distribution of Ashes will now be administered in the manner of the custom of Rome and Italy. What this means is that you will not be signed on the forehead as has been our custom in the United States, but rather the Ashes will be sprinkled on the crown of your head. Instructions will be given before Mass.



Continued from front cover.

Our unhappiness generally has nothing to do with lack or want, but rather with our preferences, disordered desires and attachments. Free yourself for love. Free yourself for joy. This is a key doctrine of all of the saints.

Fasting. Please taking fasting seriously. Due to lack of space I am just going to get right to the point. The human person has two appetites; the concupiscible and the irascible. The concupiscible appetite has to do with how we respond to the pleasurable or loathsome thing that is immediately before us. Because concupiscence has to do with pleasure, it is traditionally reduced to two simple things, the two things that trip us up more than anything else; food and sex. It is essential to know that our attraction to food and sex involves the same appetite.

This little fact is essential because it helps us to understand how we must confront temptations to lust, especially in a culture that is saturated in sensuality. The point being that if we want to overcome lust, we must literally starve it into submission. A man or woman can pray until the cows come home, but they will never advance along the path of sexual purity if they do not master the appetite that controls our attraction to lust and makes it so attractive. And *master* is the key word. God created this appetite and it is good, but because of sin it has become disordered and unruly and needs to be tamed. To kill the desire for food and sex would be silly and contrary to our nature, but the desire itself can and ought to be mastered, and to control one (sex) we need to reign in and tame the other (food). Fasting is not an exercise in suffering, it attacks the root problem of lust and confronts it head on.

Fasting of course has many other benefits with regards to overcoming other attachments to life's little pleasures, but it also has great health benefits that are only now being understood. The One who created the body already knew this, and now we think we're smart because we just figured it out. Give it a try and make it part of your normal spiritual life.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson



Stations of the Cross

Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph Mission
Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday during Lent at 6:00 pm beginning on February 19th.

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, John Miller.

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 (Season)

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 known 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-Lenten 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. Pet foods are frequently in demand, and clients tend to prefer healthy options for food that are not so loaded with sugar. Items may be left in a bin at the entrance of the church.



Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 13th

Vigil Mass; Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Special Intention

Sunday, February 14th

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Tuesday, February 16th

Votive Mass in Honor of the Holy Angels

The Repose of the Deceased Priests of the Diocese

Wednesday, February 17th

Ash Wednesday (Check Front Cover for Mass Times)

The Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Thursday, February 18th

Thursday After Ash Wednesday

The Intentions of Bishop Vetter

Friday, February 19th

Friday After Ash Wednesday

The Lapsed Catholics in Our Parish



Pope Saint Leo the Great
From his Christmas Sermons

Awake, O man, and recognize the dignity of your nature. Recollect you were made in the image of God, which although it was corrupted in Adam, was yet re-fashioned in Christ. Use visible creatures as they should be used, as you use earth, sea, sky, air, springs, and rivers: and whatever in them is fair and wondrous, ascribe to the praise and glory of the Maker. Be not subject to that light wherein birds and serpents, beasts and cattle, flies and worms delight. Confine the material light to your bodily senses, and with all your mental powers embrace that true light which lights every man that comes into this world John 1:9, and of which the prophet says, Come unto Him and be enlightened, and your faces shall not blush. For if we are a temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in 1 Corinthians 3:16 us, what every one of the faithful has in his own heart is more than what he wonders at in heaven. And so, dearly beloved, we do not bid or advise you to despise God's works or to think there is anything opposed to your Faith in what the good God has made good, but to use every kind of creature and the whole furniture of this world reasonably and moderately: for as the Apostle says, the things which are seen are temporal: but the things which are not seen are eternal 2 Corinthians 4:18. Hence because we are born for the present and reborn for the future, let us not give ourselves up to temporal goods, but to eternal: and in order that we may behold our hope nearer, let us think on what the Divine Grace has bestowed on our nature on the very occasion when we celebrate the mystery of the Lord's birthday. Let us hear the Apostle, saying: for you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. But when Christ, who is your life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory Colossians 3:3-4: who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Ghost for ever and ever. Amen.

Knights of Columbus
Annual Lenten Fish Fry

This year the Polson Council of the Knights of Columbus will be preparing their annual fish fry for Lent; but with a few modifications. *This year orders will be for take-out and your fish dinner can be brought out to the curb. When you arrive, call the parish office (883-2506), and your order will be brought out to you.* Indoor dining is available, but seating will be limited. All meals will be prepared using safe food handling protocols, as always, and the dinners will be served with side dishes (mac 'n cheese and colslaw) offered in separated covered containers (not buffet or serving line style). The cost is \$10 per individual, \$15 for a couple or \$25 for the whole family. **The fish fry begins Friday, February 19th, at 6:30 pm.**

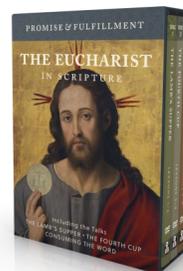


PARISH ACTIVITIES



NEW ACTIVITY!

Beginning on Sunday, February 21st, at 6:00 pm, a Bible study series on the Mass presented by Scott Hahn will be available to the *young adults* of the parish (married or single). The series is 6 weeks long and participant books are \$15. If you have any questions, please call Katie Devlin at 406-207-8186. Please respond soon so that materials can be ordered. Thanks!



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.



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.**

Knitting 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!



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 1st

Immaculate Conception
 \$113,377 of \$170,000 (67%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
 \$23,246 of \$44,500 (52%)



Thank you for your generosity!