



Supper at Emmaus
Caravaggio (1601)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

By now most of you should have had time to read Scott Hahn's book *Hope To Die*, and it is my hope that you found it to be a helpful read, especially with regards to your own thoughts on death and dying, and the importance of honoring the Christian faithful with the full burial rites of the Catholic Church. I will let you know up front that when it comes to opting for cremation instead of a complete and traditional Catholic burial, this is an issue that I am not going to let die. I will continue to insist that we honor our dead with the Catholic rites and ceremonies that their Christian dignity deserves.

To be fair, I will acknowledge that there are a few factors that are at play that has given rise to cremation among Catholics. The first factor is that pastors simply have not done due diligence with regards to any kind of catechesis, teaching people the meaning of Catholic burial and clarifying that the *permissibility* of cremation does not mean *desirability*, and it certainly does not mean that it takes the place of a proper Catholic funeral. Cremation may be sought for a good reason *after* the Funeral Mass, and a good reason for not having a body at the Funeral Mass might be that the person died in a horrific accident making such an arrange hard to bear. All of the other factors that play into a person's wish to be cremated are related in one way or another to the failure to catechize.

However, there is another factor that is playing into the increasing popularity of cremation among Catholics; convenience. Many times in our own parish children of faithful parents have had them cremated because they did not welcome the interruption of a death in the family. In such cases, some of the parish faithful have had no Funeral Mass or any kind of service, and on some occasions the children will call 6 or more months after the fact and ask for Funeral at a time that is convenient for the family (which always, interestingly enough, revolves around summer vacation plans). To unnecessarily delay the burial of one of the Christian faithful is a serious offence against justice, and if it is your parent that we are talking about, then we are flirting with a grave offence against the Fourth Commandment and impiety.

On a positive note I have personally found that every time I have intervened to preserve the body of one of the faithful for a proper Catholic burial, the family has received the message well. I am firm, but kind about it, and the implications of cremation need to be spelled out in black and white, not to mention that the clarification needs to be made that the very definition of a funeral includes the rites and ceremonies that require the presence of a body. There are however, rare instances of just

(Continued on page 2)

Third Sunday of Easter

18 April 2021

Sacred Heart, Ronan
Immaculate Conception, Polson
St. Joseph Mission, Charlo

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 after the 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesday during a period of Eucharistic Adoration.

To Be Remembered – FOREVER

Few of us remember Thomas Cahill, and his gift of the Parking Lot and Sidewalk project from 2015, and honestly, had the balance of his gift not been placed with the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena, Thomas Cahill's memory would have passed. The Finance Council voted in 2016 at the direction of Fr. Kevin Christofferson to place the remaining balance of the Cahill Estate plus some parish funds into the Thomas W. Cahill Memorial Endowment, which was about \$200,000; today that endowment pays annually to our parish nearly \$10,700, with the endowment balance currently at \$236,750.

Sacred Heart Parish also has their own endowment which is valued at \$78,537, and pays to the parish annually over \$3,500. In the past four years our parishes have been tithing monthly \$500 for Immaculate Conception and \$250 for Sacred Heart to establish an endowment which will continue to pay the parish well into the future. Currently that endowment listed above for Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Conception Parish Endowment now has a value of \$28,336, and generates the annual return of \$1,275.

The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena is a 501-C-3 corporation totally separate from the Diocese, and run by our Executive Director Dan Thies, and a Board of Trustees. We meet four times a year and today oversee total net assets of \$36,000,000 plus. Our Mission Statement is "The Foundation of the Diocese of Helena serves and strengthens the people, parishes, ministries, and the apostolic mission of the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

plain obstinacy and people choosing to be deliberately obtuse.

On a further positive note, as a priest, I have never ever seen anyone disappointed by the funeral rites of the Church, quit the contrary, I have experienced great gratitude and a sense of consolation among the family members of the dearly departed. To quote our resident deacon, Andy Dorrington, who once quoted to me something said by one of his previous and beloved pastors, "the Church has been burying people for 2000 years, bring me the body and I will take care of it." Indeed. Our Holy Mother the Church knows best how honor her children in death. Trust her.

Peace,
Fr. Kevin Christofferson

A Look Ahead...



Beginning **May 30th**, Sunday hospitality will return for the summer after the 10:30 Mass at Immaculate Conception!



Mark your calendars for the summer parish picnic!
Sunday, June 13th

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.

Humbly asking for your prayers

Marcy Bishop, Mary Oulette, Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Liz Hipp, Michael Conrad, 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 April

Fundamental Rights: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

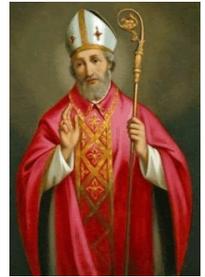
April 21

For I do not seek to understand in order to believe, but I believe in order to understand. For I believe this: unless I believe, I will not understand.

Remove grace, and you have nothing whereby to be saved. Remove free will and you have nothing that could be saved.

God does not delay to hear our prayers because He has no mind to give; but that, by enlarging our desires, He may give us the more largely.

Let no worldly prosperity divert you, nor any worldly adversity restrain you from His praise.



Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 17th

Vigil of the Third Sunday of Easter

Repose of Jim Scott

Sunday, April 18th

Third Sunday of Easter

Intentions of the Parish Faithful

Tuesday, April 20th

Repose of Dorothy Losleben r.b. Monica Talbot

Wednesday, April 21st

Memorial of St. Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Repose of Norbert & Esther Marquardt r.b. Sheila Marquardt

Thursday, April 22nd

Repose of Ron Marquardt r.b. Sheila Marquardt

Friday, April 23rd

Memorial of St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr

The Intentions of Bishop Vetter

Please pray for our seminarians!

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



(Continued from page 1)
Diocese of Helena."

Our funds are held by Christian Brothers Investment Service and Charles Schwab, our Advisor is an independent group holding none of our funds known as Highland Capital Services, and our compliance advisor is Aquinas Associates to assure our investors that all funds are well inside the USCCB investing guidelines.

I cannot think of a better way to be remembered, now or in our next life than to endow with the Foundation for the Diocese of Helena. Consider a planned gift and visiting with Dan Thies via his cell phone 406-871-0536 or email him at dthies22@gmail.com. Keep in mind that some tax credits are available and what better way to continue to support your parish than through your own endowment. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

-Pete Ridgeway

First Communion, April 18th, 2021



Maddie Emerson
Anna Fansher
Owen Godfrey
Kayla Grainey
Rivers Lewing
Lizzy Messenger
Rachel Messenger
Emily Simonich
Liam Venters

PARISH ACTIVITIES




Endow study group for women on Thursdays at 10:30 am. Please call Sheila LeBrun for more information at 406-208-5788.

FINAL MEETING!
April 22

That Man Is You!
Thursdays at 6:00 am. Meetings start with hot premium roast coffee and breakfast.



FINAL MEETING!
April 22



The Polson Council of the Knights of Columbus has resumed their monthly meetings. The next meeting of the Polson Council will be **Thursday, April 15th 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
\$139,354 of \$170,000 (82%)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
\$ of \$44,500 (68%)



Thank you for your generosity!

FISCAL REPORT

Fiscal Year through 3rd Quarter: July 1, 2020—March 31, 2021

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Offertory Income:	\$136,207.83
<u>Other Income:</u>	<u>\$39,970.73</u>
TOTAL INCOME:	\$176,178.56
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$146,120.43
NET INCOME:	\$30,058.13

SACRED HEART & ST. JOSEPH MISSION

Offertory Income:	\$34,979.00
<u>Other Income:</u>	<u>\$2,670.88</u>
TOTAL INCOME:	\$37,649.88
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$34,399.63
NET INCOME:	\$3,250.25

Thank you for all your generous contributions!