

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

1223 16<sup>th</sup> St (P.O. Box 849), Fort Benton, MT - 59442

## ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

700 Brewster St (P.O. Box 50), Geraldine, MT – 59446

### The Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity (Year A)

*Rev. Mohan Raj Samy*

*Website: [iccfb.org](http://iccfb.org)*

*Pastor*

*Office: 406-622-3726*

<i>Day, Month &amp; Date</i>	<u>Mass Schedule for January 04 – January 11, 2026</u>
<b>Sun Jan 04<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>The Epiphany: 9 am Mass @ St. Margaret's &amp; 11 am Mass &amp; Benediction @ ICC (Intention: Kevin &amp; Debbie Kittredge, R/B Sheila Ross).</i>
<b>Wed Jan 07<sup>th</sup></b>	9 am Mass @ ICC.
<b>Thurs Jan 08<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am Mass @ Bluffs.
<b>Fri Jan 09<sup>th</sup></b>	11 am The Angelus, Novena & Mass @ St. Margaret's.
<b>Sat Jan 10<sup>th</sup></b>	9 am Mass @ ICC.
<b>Sun Jan 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>The Baptism of the Lord: 9 am Mass @ ICC &amp; 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's (Intention: Bub &amp; Shirley Frielin RIB, R/B Sheila Ross).</i>

**Sunday Collections:** Dec 28, 2025 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Year A)

ICC: \$ 2,057.00 ( <i>Christmas &amp; Holy Family</i> ) + \$ 205.00 ( <i>Maintenance</i> ) = \$ 2,262 .00.
St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 1,000.00

Thank you to All who have generously donated. Your Generosity is very humbling.

Reflection by Pastor: Dear Loving Sisters, Brothers and Children in Christ!

*They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ~[Matthew 2:10-11](#).*

All of God's creation gives Him glory and praises Him by its very existence. Psalm 143 states, "Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all shining stars. Praise him, highest heavens, you waters above the heavens. Let them all praise the LORD's name; for he

commanded and they were created...” Though creation gives praise to God simply by existing and thus, revealing its Creator, today’s solemnity commemorates the one moment in time when God used a star to manifest His eternal glory.

At the time of Jesus’ birth, it was commonly believed that a new star would appear whenever a new ruler was born. The Father in Heaven used this belief to honor His Son Who was born as the new King. The three Magi from the East were astrologers. When they saw this “new star,” they chose to follow it to discover the new King. Creation itself, in the form of a star, pointed the way, thus giving glory to the newborn King, manifesting Him to the whole world as symbolized by the Magi.

The word “Epiphany” means “manifestation.” Therefore, as we honor this moment in time when the Christ Child was made manifest to the world, we need to look into our own hearts. There, we discover Christ’s ongoing manifestation to us so that we can worship Him Who has also chosen to be born within our hearts. We must diligently seek out that manifestation of God within us and respond to it in the same ways that the Magi responded.

First of all, the Magi were determined. When they saw a sign from the heavens that pointed to a new King, they stopped everything and departed in haste to find Him. When God speaks to you and manifests Himself to you in some way, nothing could be more important than to be attentive to His voice and follow His manifestation with the same haste.

The Magi brought the Christ Child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God was honored and glorified through His creation by the giving of these gifts. God created gold to manifest His beauty and dignity. It was a gift that symbolized kingship. When we ponder the natural gift of gold given to the Christ Child, we are inspired to give Him our own gift of symbolic gold by prayerfully acknowledging Him as our own King to whom we pledge our complete submission.

Made from the sap of trees found in India, northeastern Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula, frankincense and myrrh are also fruits of God’s creation. Used in worship to symbolize prayers rising to heaven, frankincense symbolizes the Christ Child’s divinity. We offer frankincense to Christ when we acknowledge His divine nature, since He is God in the flesh. Often used in burial, myrrh honors the Christ Child Who came to give His life as a sacrifice for many. We offer myrrh to profess our belief in the saving power of Christ’s death on the Cross and our need for that gift of salvation.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, try to see it as a historical event in which you are invited to share. God wants to manifest Himself to you today. When this happens, you must respond with faith and worship, giving God the greatest glory by giving Him your very life and offering Him your spiritual gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### St. Margaret's Bulletin

#### Reflection by Trish - Quotes for the New Year 2026

- Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man. *-Benjamin Franklin.*
- And now we welcome the New Year. Full of things that have never been. – *Rainer Maria Rilke.*
- The New Year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. – *Melody Beattie.*
- Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. – *Harriet Tubman.*
- New Year – a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours. – *Alex Morritt.*
- The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. – *Eleanor Roosevelt.*
- Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts. – *Winston Churchill.*
- Every single year, we're a different person. I don't think we're the same person all of our lives. – *Steven Spielberg.*
- Life is about change, sometimes it's painful, sometimes it's beautiful, but most of the time it's both. – *Kristin Kreuk.*
- What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year. – *Vern McLellan.*

- The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now. – *Chinese Proverb*.
- The New Year is a painting not yet painted; a path not yet stepped on; a wing not yet taken off! Things haven't happened as yet! Before the clock strikes twelve, remember that you are blessed with the ability to reshape your life! – *Mehmet Murat ildan*.
- Success is not about the destination, but the journey you take to get there. Embrace the process, learn from failures and let every experience shape you into the person you are meant to become. – *Zig Ziglar*.
- It's never too late to become who you want to be. I hope you live a life that you're proud of, and if you find that you're not, I hope you have the strength to start over. – *F. Scott Fitzgerald*.
- Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending. – *Carl Bard*.