

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

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

November 02, 2025: All Souls' Day (Year C)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

Website: iccfb.org

Pastor

Office: 406-622-3726

Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for November 02 – November 09, 2025</u>
Sun Nov 02 nd	All Souls' Day: 9 am Mass @ St. Margaret's & 11 am Mass & ICC.
Wed Nov 05 th	9am Mass @ ICC.
Thurs Nov 06 th	10 am mass @ Hospital.
Fri Nov 07 th	11am The Angelus, Novena & Mass @ St. Margaret's. (Intention: Chuck Nagengast RIP, R/B Leone Cleopfil).
Sat Nov 08 th	9 am Mass @ ICC.
Sun Nov 09 th	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass & St. Margaret's.

Sunday Collections:

October 25, 2025 30 th Ordinary Sunday	ICC : \$ 504.00 + \$ 140.00 (Maintenance) = \$ 644.00 ICC: Savings Balance: \$ 1,979.78 & Boiler Fund: \$ 59,659.29. St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 1,312.00
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Thank you to All who have generously donated. Your Generosity is very humbling.

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

*"For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day." **John 6:40***

All Souls' Day is a day specially set apart that we may remember and pray for our dear ones who have gone for their eternal reward, and who are currently in a state of ongoing purification.

Why Pray for the Souls of our Loved Ones?

First and foremost, we should pray for our loved ones' souls to show our love and support for them, even after they have passed away. Our prayers can help to comfort them and strengthen their souls on the way to Heaven.

Second, our prayers can help to purify the souls of those who are in purgatory. Purgatory is a place of temporary purification where souls go to be cleansed of their remaining sins before entering Heaven. Our prayers can help to shorten their time in Purgatory and bring them closer to eternal life.

Finally, praying for the souls of our loved ones is a way to grow in our own faith. When we pray for others, we are reminded of our own mortality and the importance of living a good and virtuous life.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church mentions the communion of all the faithful of Christ, including those living on earth, the dead who are being purified in purgatory, and the blessed in heaven (CCC 962). This is also known as the Church Militant, Church Penitent, and Church Triumphant.

How to Pray for the Souls of the Dead

There is no right or wrong way to pray for the souls of our loved ones as long as you pray with sincerity and from the heart. We can offer any specific prayer for our loved ones, including the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, novenas, and especially the Holy Mass.

Pope Francis reminds us of the power of having a Mass offered for a deceased loved one. "Church tradition has always urged prayer for the dead, in particular by offering the celebration of the Eucharist for them: it is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to the most abandoned ones,"

Reflect, today, upon the spiritual truth that God wants you to be a saint. If you are among those few who die in a state in which you are purified from every sin, then be assured that you have already completed your purgatory on earth. But if you or your loved ones are among the many who still hold some minor attachment to sin at the time of death, then rejoice that God is not done with you yet. Anticipate with much gratitude the final purification that awaits and look forward to the freedom that ultimately comes from that purification.

Prayer for Our Faithful Departed: *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Like the seed buried in the ground, you have produced the harvest of eternal life for us; make us always dead to sin and alive to God. Amen.*

Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana

All Saints Day reminds us that we are all called to be saints - and to leave a legacy of faith for those who follow. One meaningful way to do that is through a gift to the Church that continues to bear fruit long after we're gone. A contribution to an endowment at the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana can provide lasting support for Catholic parishes, schools, and ministries for generations to come.

To learn more or make a gift, visit www.catholicfoundationmt.org or call (406) 315-1765.

St. Margaret's Bulletin

Harvest Dinner and Raffle - Please reflect and plan what you wish to donate to the Country Store or Silent Auction. Sign-up sheet to donate for the dinner and where you wish to work are on the bulletin board in the church entry.

All the proceeds from this event will go toward the installation of our elevator/lift. Additional raffle tickets are available at the back of the church. Most importantly invite your friends and neighbors to our free ham dinner.

Reflection by Trish - The Large Community We Share

Rach year on the first Sunday in November, a large scroll/banner is displayed in our church. The community is invited to add the names of those who have died in past year. During our Sunday service everyone is invited to come forward and light a candle to remember the dead friends and family. In our small faith community, these rituals are very meaningful.

I treasure celebrating All Saints and All Souls Day the first of November each year. A core belief of our faith is the communion of saints. We say these words in our Creed. We believe the living and the dead are in community. I know those who touched my life continue to influence my life even after they have died through the values they shared, the insights I gained from them, the love and laughter shared. It is often that I recall or think of someone who is no longer here.

This is a good time to reflect on everyone who had an impact on your life. Make a list of those people and write down what they gave you. Do not write down physical items; instead identify the values, insights, wisdom and more they shared. During the month of November keep this list on your table and add to over the next couple weeks. Light a candle near your list at mealtime as you remember and pray for those who are not physically with us anymore. Be grateful for your relationships and what you gained from them.

As I write this, I think of people who complimented me for different attributes that at the time I was unaware of. They helped me gain insight into who I am. There are people who loved me with my faults and my gifts, and there are people who shared wisdom and humor. We grow and gain from the interactions we have with others. My list of those woven into the path of my life will be long by the end of the month.

As Christians, we believe that death in this earthly life begins a New Life in Christ. It is all part of the circle of life. We were knit in our mother's womb by the Source of Our Being. We were created by The Great Love to love. The Spirit of God lives in each of us every day of our lives. When we die The Source of Our Being is with us like a midwife guiding us as we are re-born to our New Life.

I believe it is impossible for us to truly embrace the vast wonder and splendor of the Great Love when we die. Catholics pray for the dead so that they may grow in their understanding and in their recognition of what it means to be united with The Great Mystery. We ask that the dead pray for us and continue to give us guidance. When someone dies, they live on in the love they gave and the lives they touch. The relationships do not end just because we can't touch them. Our relationship changes, and there is a transformation.

Good and Gracious God

Thank you for the large community of those living on earth

And those living their New Life with you.