

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

First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

Website: iccfb.org

Pastor

Office: 406-622-3726

Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for November 30 – December 08, 2025</u>
Sun Nov 30 th	First Sunday of Advent: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.
Wed Dec 03 rd	9 am Mass @ ICC
Thurs Dec 04 th	10 am Mass @ Hospital.
Fri Dec 05 th	11 am The Angelus, Novena & Mass @ St. Margaret's.
Sat Dec 06 th	9 am Mass ICC.
Sun Dec 07 th	Second Sunday of Advent: 9 am Mass @ St. Margarets & 11 am Mass & Benediction @ ICC.
Mon Dec 08 th	Immaculate Conception of BVM, Solemnity. 6pm Mass @ ICC – <i>Holy Day of Obligation.</i>

Sunday Collections: November 23, 2025 - Christ the King, Solemnity.

ICC: \$ 772 .00 + \$2055.00 (Maintenance) = \$ 2,827.00. (Boiler Fund: \$ 59,659.29)
St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 1,159.00

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

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

Being Prepared

“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Matthew 24:42–44.

How does one “stay awake” as our Lord commands us? We receive this holy exhortation as we enter a new liturgical year. In Advent, we begin at the beginning. We ponder the Incarnate Son of God dwelling as a human Child in the precious womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We anticipate the celebration of His birth into the world at Christmas. As the liturgical year progresses, we will prayerfully walk through each moment of His life, from the events of His childhood to His public ministry, and ultimately His death, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven.

Our Lord’s exhortation to stay awake invites us to be attentive to the ways that the Son of God’s human life speaks to us, calling us to become fully united to Him to share in the glorious gifts of holiness in this life and eternal salvation in the next. After exhorting us to stay awake, the Son of God said, “For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Of course, we know He came into this world over 2,000 years ago in physical form. This exhortation is not only a call to ponder that event long ago; it’s also an invitation and exhortation to become continuously more attentive to the effect that His historical coming has upon us today. Advent is a season that invites us to reflect on Christ’s first coming in Bethlehem, His daily coming to us in grace, and His final coming at the end of time. These moments are intimately connected, as each prepares us more fully for the next.

From Heaven, the Son of God continues to descend to us, inviting each of us to conceive Him in our souls by grace, to be attentive to His divine presence within us, and to nurture His divine presence so that He will grow and live within us, making us true members of His Body, the Church. Staying awake means being aware of Christ’s presence in every moment and cultivating a personal relationship with Him that is alive and growing. This Advent, ask yourself: How am I nurturing my relationship with Jesus so that I am ready to meet Him whenever He comes?

Jesus calls us to be prepared at every moment of every day, “for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Though this is a promise that He will return one day to judge the living and the dead at the end of time, it is also a promise that He relentlessly pursues us here and now, communicating to us by grace and inviting us to be transformed more fully, so as to love Him and manifest His love to the world around us. As we mature in our faith, God often speaks in subtler ways, inviting us to listen with the ears of our hearts. These gentle whispers of grace require us to be even more attuned to His presence, ready to respond to His call in the quiet moments of our day.

Reflect today on Jesus’ exhortation to be awake, vigilant, attentive, and ready to love Him in the smallest ways. To stay spiritually awake, cultivate habits that keep you attuned to God’s presence: set aside time for daily prayer, receive the sacraments

frequently, and be mindful of opportunities to serve others. These practices will help you remain vigilant and ready to encounter Christ at any moment. Search for Him this Advent and never tire of loving Him in your prayer and in those around you. The Son of God continuously comes to you “at an hour you do not expect.” By building a spiritual habit of being prepared, you will meet and love Him throughout your day.

Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana

This weekend marks both the First Sunday of Advent and the Feast of St. Andrew—one of the first disciples called by Jesus. Like Andrew, we are invited to follow Christ wholeheartedly and to invite others to encounter Him.

One meaningful way to extend that invitation for generations to come is by helping ensure that Catholic parishes throughout our diocese remain vibrant and strong. By supporting endowments at the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana, you can help make it possible for future generations to come to know, love, and serve Christ.

To learn more, visit www.catholicfoundationmt.org or call (406) 315-1765. Year-end is a great time to consider the tax-advantages of giving to support the Church.

Reflection by Trish - Advent

We hang our very large Advent wreath from the ceiling of our church. This old metal wheel decorated with greens and four candles tells us there are 4 weeks until Christmas. This information nudges people to focus on the gifts to purchase, decorating to do, baking, cards to send and all the prep work for the big holiday.

What does Advent mean for my spiritual wellbeing? It is a time to prepare and to reflect on what we will be celebrating on December 25. Many people celebrate Jesus’ birth over 2,000 years ago. Whenever we read scripture, we are not reading about something that happened years ago, but reading about something that is present in our lives today.

Advent is a time to prepare for Jesus’ birth this year.

Mary carried Jesus for nine months in her womb, preparing for his birth. We are given four weeks to prepare for Jesus to be born in our hearts. The Great Mystery came to us in flesh and blood named Emanuel. Emanuel means, “God with us”. Jesus preached repeatedly that God is not distant, but very close. God is with us.

Jesus is the light of the world. We are to make space for the Divine Light in our hearts. As we journey through life, we are to follow the light he shines for us. We can also

remember that there is a Divine radiance within each of us. The Spirit of God dwells with in us.

Since God is with us now and always, we can grow in hope. Hope is a willingness to live without resolution, not knowing what the future will hold. This hope helps us avoid falling into discouragement, doubt, or frustration. We gain strength from Emanuel.

Everyone longs for peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Peace comes from the ability to be calm and serene even when there is chaos around you. Practice quieting our inner self and being patient can increase our inner peace. Don't be in a hurry to fix and change everything. Pause, remember Emmanuel is with you, and rest in that presence.

We can find joy knowing that we are loved more than we can comprehend. No matter what we do God loves us. We are held in the hand of the Divine Holy One. Notice what is right in the world rather than focusing on the wrong. See beauty in nature. Look for small, pleasant gestures from others.

During the weeks of Advent, we can focus on Jesus being born in us. We can help others see Jesus in the present, God is with us. We can bring more light, love, hope, and peace to our small corner of the world.

Our busyness does not bring Christ. Our quiet and intention build a willing womb, a place that nourishes love, hope, peace and joy.

Emanuel, you came so long ago but assured us that God is with us.

May we take time to ponder and reflect

So that Jesus can be born in us this year.