

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

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, Feast (Year C)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

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Pastor

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Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for November 09 – November 16, 2025</u>
Sun Nov 09 th	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass & St. Margaret's.
Sun Nov 16 th	33 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass & St. Margaret's.
Sun Nov 23 rd	Christ the King, Solemnity: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass & St. Margaret's.
Sat Nov 29 th	9 am Mass @ ICC.
Sun Nov 30 th	First Sunday of Advent: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass & St. Margaret's.

Sunday Collections:

November 02, 2025 All Souls' Day	ICC : \$ 1,613.00 + \$90.00 (Maintenance) = \$ 1,703.00 ICC: Savings Balance: \$ 2,069.78 & Boiler Fund: \$ 59,659.29. St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 1,743.00
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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!

We celebrate, today, the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the mother church of the entire Roman Catholic Church. It was given to the Bishop of Rome in the fourth century and remained the pope's primary residence until the building of St. Peter's Basilica, at a time when the Lateran Basilica was falling into ruins. However, the Lateran Basilica to this day remains the most important Church in the world, since it is officially the Cathedral Church of Rome.

Today's Gospel depicts Jesus entering the Temple and driving the money changers out with a whip and the animals they were selling for profit. As He did so, He cried out, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." Psalm 69 is then quoted: *Zeal for your house will consume me.*

As we honor this church, we honor more than a building. The Lateran Basilica is a symbol of the one true Church of Jesus Christ. Its interior is beautiful and awe-inspiring so as to point us to the unimaginable beauty of the Church Herself, which is the Mystical Body of Christ.

Jesus loves His Church as His own Body—because that is what it is. As His Body, the members of His Church are called and sent to act as His instruments, members of His saving action. Much more than a church building, today we honor the Church Herself—which means we honor you, insofar as you are a member of the Body of Christ. And in light of this Gospel passage for today's Feast, we are reminded of the zeal that our Lord has for the cleansing of His Church.

The most important temple is the temple of a person's soul because God dwells within each one of us. In the most secret center of our being is that sacred sanctuary where we meet God. Saint Teresa of Ávila called it the Presence Chamber, the most central and interior dwelling place within us.

In addition to the temple of the soul, there are many sacred places throughout the world. There are shrines, churches, basilicas, grottos, cathedrals, and other holy places that are set aside for the sole purpose of worship of God. They are to be a Heaven on earth, a place where we join with the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones in their angelic praises of the Most Holy Trinity. Today's feast commemorates one such place, the most important church on earth.

How is the Church purified? It is purified by the cleansing of Her members. That means that Jesus desires, with perfect zeal, to drive out every sin from your soul, cleansing the filth that keeps you from fulfilling your essential role as a member of His Body.

Sometimes we become slack in our own commitment to be purified. We can easily become comfortable with the sins we commit, and we can form habits that are hard to break. When this happens, it is useful to ponder this story of the cleansing of the Temple and see it as Jesus' desire to cleanse our own soul. At times, we need to be shaken up, challenged, confronted and encouraged with the unwavering zeal in the heart of our Lord.

Reflect, today, upon this powerful image of Jesus cleansing the Temple. As you do, apply it to your own life. The people selling and buying in the Temple must have been shocked at Jesus' zeal and actions. If you have become complacent with your sins, try to allow this holy shock to also wake you up. Allow our Lord's zeal to affect you, and know that His purifying actions are acts of love by which He desires to free you to become a more fully functioning member of His holy Church.

Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana

This weekend is Foundation Sunday! Across our diocese, parishes are sharing the good work of the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana. Why? Because many Catholics don't yet realize there's a beautiful way to support the Church forever - through permanent endowments for our faith.

Wherever our hearts lean, with our parish, our priests and seminarians, or any local Catholic ministry, our generosity becomes a permanent blessing when we support endowments for them. This Foundation Sunday, please pray for the growth of this important Catholic organization. If God is calling you to give to a current endowment, or to create a new one, please visit www.catholicfoundationmt.org or call (406) 315-1765.

St. Margaret's Bulletin

Reflection by Trish - You are a blessing

Recently I was in a room where a young father was showing everyone his child, an infant a couple weeks old. People began talking more softly. The baby was carried to each person. His cheeks were stroked, his tiny fingers gently held, words were spoken with awe and reverence about this infant. It seemed everyone recognized this was a precious, sacred human being.

Close your eyes and imagine when you were a baby and your mother or father passed you around for the family and friends to admire. They said you were beautiful, so precious, a wonderful gift, and so sweet. They kissed your cheeks, stroked your tiny fingers and declared what a blessing you are.

We are each created as an Original Blessing. We created by the Source of Our Being, who then breathed into our nostrils the breath of life. The word "breath" means "spirit".

The Great Love poured into each of us the Holy Spirit. We are formed and filled with the Spirit of God because each of us is unique and wonderfully made.

It is heresy to believe that our bodies are not as important as our souls. Jesus took on the human body when he was born. He became incarnate. This word means embodied in flesh, in human or bodily form. A human body was embraced by Jesus. Thus, we are each to love our bodies and cherish the divine in it. Our soul is very large and surrounds our bodies. The Great Love has poured love and mercy into our souls. We are totally sacred.

We are called by Our Creator to embrace the body we have been given. We are to care for our bodies and give thanks for them. Everyone's body is unique and different.

Everyone's personality, characteristics and gifts are special. We are to wrap the belief that we are blessed with divine power and beauty around us like a warm blanket. Treasure it.

Meister Eckart (1226-1399. A priest, theologian and mystic) preached that all people are blessed with divine power and beauty. But also, with a responsibility of justice-making and compassion.

This important understanding of our original blessing comes with a challenge. We come from Love to love. We are to increase the compassion in the world, work for justice, and dole out mercy just as The Great Love gives mercy and compassion to us. Just as we are blessed, we have a responsibility to add blessings to the world around us. Each day we are to touch a life, make a small improvement in our surroundings, and pray for a compassionate universe.

Each day this week take a few minutes to quietly sit and picture the Source of Our Being touching you, telling you how special and sacred you are. Picture the Spirit of God being breathed into you. As we grow in our appreciation and comprehension of our divine power, we can transform over time into the whole human we were created to be.

Each of us is capable of making a positive impact in our interactions; the people we meet, the events we encounter, and in our prayers for others.

Source of Our Being, Breath Within Us,

You have made each of us as a blessing to others.

May we live as a source of compassion, mercy and source of justice.