

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

Website: iccfb.org

Pastor

Office: 406-622-3726

Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for December 21 - December 28, 2025</u>
Sun Dec 21 st	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>
Tues Dec 23 rd	10:30 am Mass @ Bluffs.
Wed Dec 24 th	<i>Christmas Eve: 5:15pm @ St. Margaret's & 7pm @ ICC.</i>
Thurs Dec 25 th	Christmas Day: 9 am Mass @ ICC.
Sun Dec 28 th	<i>The Holy Family: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>

Sunday Collections: December 14, 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent (Year A).

ICC: \$ 975.00 + \$ 40.00 (Maintenance) = \$ 1,015.00.
St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 780.00

[Thank you to All who have generously donated. Your Generosity is very humbling.](#)

Dear Parish family,

*I am very happy to wish you all my **Prayerful Greetings** as we enter the Christmas Season. The story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ is a reminder to us all that God came to live among us, to be close to us, and to save us from our sins. Jesus gave us himself as a gift to us. It is a story that still rings true today.*

As we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus, we remain eternally grateful to God for all the blessings, especially for the gifts of life, family, faith community, friends and neighbors. I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely as you have been such a blessing to our parish by being active and supporting us with your gifts

of time, talents and timely financial help. My special gratitude goes to all the volunteers in our different ministries who do such a wonderful job in serving the various needs of our parish with much enthusiasm and commitment. I hope and pray that you will have a wonderful and blessed time during this Christmas Season. I wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026. May God bless you abundantly during this Christmas Season as well as during the New Year. Merry Christmas! Fr. Mohan.

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

“Those who love to be feared fear to be loved; they themselves are of all people the most abject; some fear them, but they fear everyone,” is what Jean Pierre Camus had said about fear itself. Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and few days from now; we are going to celebrate the birthday anniversary of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our gospel for today is about St. Joseph who has a plan to part ways with Mary secretly even if he is already betrothed to her when he finds out that Mary is pregnant. According to the commentary of William Barclay on this passage (Matt. 1:18-24) he said that in normal relationships represent normal Jewish marriage procedure in which there are three steps:

1. There was the *engagement*. The engagement was often made when the couple was only children. It was usually through the parents or through professional matchmaker. So it was often made without the couple involved ever having seen each other.
2. There was the *betrothal*. The betrothal was what we might call the ratification of the engagement into which the couple had previously entered. At this stage, the engagement entered into could be broken if the girl was unwilling to go on with it. But once the betrothal was entered into, it was absolutely binding. It lasted for one year. During that year the couple was known as man and wife, although they had not the right of man and wife. It could not be terminated in any other way than by divorce. It was at this stage that Joseph and Mary were. They were betrothed and if Joseph wishes to end the betrothal, he could do so in no other way by divorce and in that year of betrothal Mary was legally known as his wife.
3. The third stage was the *marriage proper*, which took place at the end of the year of betrothal.

So it was at the second stage that Joseph was told that Mary was to bear a child, that the child had been begotten by the Holy Spirit and He must call the child by the name Jesus. Many of us would think too that Christ is the family name of Jesus. Strictly speaking, it is not and it is not a name too but a title. Christ means “Anointed One” or “Messiah”, the liberator whom God had promised to send to the Jews and for whose coming they all longed.

Let us reflect further on this. Sometimes we are paralyzed by our fear to take responsibilities on God-given task to us. We are afraid to take care of God’s creation; we are afraid to reach out to those who are in need; we are afraid to take good care even of ourselves. Fear stops us from being creative and productive co-workers in God’s creation. Why? Perhaps because we are afraid of what other people might say or because of the lifestyle we have. This gospel passage comes as a challenge for us to willingly and actively participate in the building up of God’s kingdom here on earth. Let us pray for the transformation of our fears. May our fears be turned into joy! Above all, trust in God and do His will because God has a message on each one of us.

Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana

On this final Sunday of Advent, we look to Mary, who shows us how to welcome Christ with faith, humility, and generosity. As we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord, we remember that all we have is a gift from God.

As the year draws to a close, the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana wants to wish every person reading this message a beautiful, joyful celebration of our Savior’s birth!

Thank you for your kindness and your love. Your generosity is building our Faith and strengthening our Church!

Employment Opportunity with the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

The Diocese is currently hiring for a key position at the Pastoral Center! We are seeking a skilled Full Charge Bookkeeper-Accountant. If you or someone you know is interested in serving the Church through meaningful work, please visit www.diocesegfb.org for full position descriptions and application information for all open diocesan positions. Your talents could be just what the Church needs!

Part-time bookkeeper and facility coordinator

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Great Falls is hiring a part-time bookkeeper and facility coordinator to work in the parish office. If you or anyone you know would like to serve Christ’s Church in this way, please contact Our Lady of Lourdes, 406-452-6464, for more information on how to apply.

Reflection by Trish – Christmas wish for you



When you are troubled PEACE

When things are chaotic SILENCE

When things look empty HOPE

When you are lonely LOVE

When you are down JOY

