

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

Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

Website: iccfb.org

Pastor

Office: 406-622-3726

Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for March 08 – March 18, 2026</u>
Sun Mar 08 th	<i>Third Sunday of Lent: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>
Wed Mar 11 th	<i>9 am Mass @ ICC & 6pm The Stations of the Cross – Soup supper.</i>
Thurs Mar 12 th	<i>10:30 am Mass @ Bluffs.</i>
Fri Mar 13 th	<i>11 am The Angelus, Novena & Mass @ St. Margaret's (Abstinence).</i>
Sat Mar 14 th	<i>9 am Mass @ ICC.</i>
Sun Mar 15 th	<i>Laetare Sunday: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>
Wed Mar 18 th	<i>6pm The Stations of the Cross, Penance Service & Soup Supper.</i>

Sunday Collections: Ash Wednesday & Second Sunday of Lent – March 01 (Year A)

ICC: \$ 1,525.00 + \$ 100.00 (Youth Group) - (Boiler Fund: \$.700)
St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 1,140.00

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

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

The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?" Jn 4: 28-29

Today, we are given the beautiful story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. The story begins with Jesus resting by the well, for He was "tired from his journey." A Samaritan woman approaches the well at noon, during the heat of the day,

most likely to avoid the scorn of the other women who looked down on her. Jesus then does something that greatly surprises her: He asks her for a drink of water.

Jews used nothing in common with Samaritans, yet Jesus was willing to drink from her utensil. When she questioned Him about this, Jesus responded, “If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

The “living water” Jesus desired to give her was the spiritual gift of grace to renew and refresh her soul. His divine eyes enabled Him to see her spiritual hunger, and His compassion filled Him with a desire to free her from her many burdens.

The passage above might sound harsh at first: “For you have had five husbands...” Why would Jesus bring up this woman’s humiliating situation? Because she had clearly been searching for fulfillment throughout her life, engaging in one failed marriage after another. Now, she was living with a man who was not her husband, a reality that left her dry and thirsty.

By speaking this way to the woman, Jesus lets her know that He knows all about her, loves her, and longs to fill her with the satiation she has been searching for throughout her life. He does not judge or condemn her; He invites her to experience the freedom He longed to bestow upon her. After the encounter, the woman left the well overjoyed and even left her water jar behind, symbolizing that she was no longer thirsty - spiritually speaking. She then confidently went to the people of the town and said, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?”

Each of us needs to see ourselves in this woman. Our sins fill us with shame. The guilt of our hidden sins weighs us down, leaving us thirsty. If we can identify with this sinful woman, then we can also expect the same depth of compassion from Jesus. Too often, we hide our sins, even from ourselves, justifying our actions, downplaying them, or ignoring them. That is not the path to freedom. Freedom only comes by allowing our Lord to reveal our sins to us, facing them, and encountering God’s abundant mercy.

Reflect today on the importance of opening your eyes to see the reality of your sins. Don’t run from your past - confront it, understand it, confess it, and receive the living water of mercy. The holier you become, the more clearly you will see even the smallest sins you have committed. That is good. It is necessary if we want to be healed and refreshed by God. Imitate this sinful woman today. God is never ashamed of us. Let the shame and guilt dissipate within God’s abundant mercy so that like this woman, you will know that God knows you through and through and loves you despite your sin.

Kindly Pray for “The Elect” ahead of their baptisms at the Easter vigil and the Sacrament of Initiation in May.

To Be Baptized at Easter Vigil	To be confirmed with the Church in May 03
Kevin Johnson	Lewis Johnson
Hunter Aragon	Kevin Johnson
Brooke Aragon	Blaine Roberts
Banks Kassmier	Hunter Aragon
Regina Kassmier	Brooke Aragon
Kip Jaynes	Banks Kassmier
Wyatt Johnson	Regina Kassmier
	Kip Jaynes
	Landen Langer

PARISH LENTEN ALMSGIVING PROJECT: Each Lent we collect for the Chouteau county food bank as part of Lent. This year they have requested breakfast items: pancake mix, syrup, cereal, oatmeal and granola bars. If you would like to contribute, there will be a box for your items at the entrance. Thank you for your continued generosity – Worship Commission.

St. Margaret’s Bulletin

Sedar Meal Sunday, March 29 after 11:00 am Mass. A potluck dinner is part of the ritual. Each family is to bring wine or grape juice, along with something for potluck. If you plan to participate in this ritual please let Trish Eklund know.

Reflection by Trish - Abundance vs Scarcity

A couple times a year I would ask my children to go through their toys and see what they would want to give away. One child had a giving spirit and was willing to give away toys or items that he no longer played with. Another child found it hard to part with anything. As we encouraged him to find something to give that some other child might enjoy, he would decide to give up a small plastic figure or a broken toy. Neither would be welcomed by someone else. He couldn’t stand to part with anything. He needed even the items he no longer played with. He would say, “I might play with them at some time.”

During Lent we are asked to fast, pray, and give alms. Giving alms means giving from your resources for the good of others. It is often thought to mean money, but it can also be food, clothing, time, or other resources that you have.

Our belief or view of the world is based on the idea of abundance or scarcity or somewhere in between. Jesus tells us that there is enough for everyone. The story of the

multiplication of the loaves and fishes illustrates this point. People had followed Jesus to a deserted place away from the villages. Someone began to pass a basket containing the few fish and couple loaves of bread, and as the basket made its way through the crowd, people put in what food they had brought with them. People began to willingly share their lunches. The baskets eventually made their way to Jesus, and everyone had eaten. No single individual could have fed the multitude of people. The miracle was that everyone was willing to share.

Many people believe there is a scarcity of resource. What if they ran out of money? Even though they have enough at this time to donate, they can't trust what the future will bring. They need to hold on to whatever they have and hope to acquire more. They doubt they would ever have quite enough. This may prevent them from being open to contribute to the needs in their own community, country or world.

It has been scientifically proven that giving improves happiness and wellbeing, reduces stress and anxiety, improves physical health and longevity, and contributes to spiritual growth and transformation. Contributing can have a profound impact on the giver as well as the recipient. It can be surprising to discover how well it feels to help lift someone else.

Scripture tells us All is gift. In practicing gratitude, we become aware of all the gifts given to us each day. A way of saying thank you to the Source of Our Being, the Provider of All Things, is to give in return. Giving is a way of saying we trust God will provide. Giving is a practice that says we believe we are connected to all people, animals, nature and the universe. Giving opens our hearts to see that we can make a difference.

It may be more important to give of your time or other resources instead of money. Instead of fretting if you have enough time, enough energy or enough of anything, ask the Spirit within you to give you whatever is needed so you can be a giving individual. Jesus tells us there is enough for everyone if we share. This does not mean to look at others and judge how much they should give, but to only look at ourselves and decide what we are able to do to help. We may give support to someone, a project or program, a church, or an institution for our own spiritual transformation and well-being.

I recently came across this quote, "All expenditures whether from the heart or the wallet, in the past or present, big or small, can be viewed as either depleting or enriching. Enriching works for me." Lent is time to reflect on how to say thank you to God, how to help the betterment of others by giving, Scripture says you will receive 10-fold for what you give. It can come in many forms.

Giver of All Things,

May we give thanks for what we have by having a generous spirit,

And trust that we will continue to be provided for.