

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

April 20, 2025: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (Year C)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

Website: iccfb.org

Pastor

Office: 406-622-3726

Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for April 20 – April 27, 2025</u>
Sun April 20 th	<i>Easter Sunday: 9 am Mass @ ICC (Intention: Irvin Pitsch RIP R/B Terri Halko).</i>
Wed April 23 rd	9 am Mass @ ICC.
Thurs April 24 th	10 am Mass @ Bluffs.
Fri April 25 th	11 am Regina Coeli, Novena & Mass @ St. Margaret's.
Sat April 26 th	11 am Funeral service for Phyllis Smith @ ICC.
Sun April 27 th	<i>Divine Mercy Sunday: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>

Sunday Collections:

April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday	ICC, Ft. Benton: \$ 1,145.00 + \$ 40.00 (Maintenance) = \$ 1,185.00 St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 675.00
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Thank you to All who have generously donated. Your Generosity is very humbling.

Christ is Risen, Alleluia, and Happy Easter

Dear Parishioners, As Easter dawns upon us, let's rejoice in the promise of new beginnings and the hope that springs eternal. On this holy day of Easter, may the light of Christ shine brightly in your life, illuminating your path with faith, hope, and love. May His presence be felt in your life today and always, guiding you with His wisdom and comforting you with His peace. May His resurrection bring peace to your heart and blessings to your home. Happy Easter to you and your loved ones.

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

The Message of the Angels

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. [Matthew 28:1–4](#).

The angels of God have been present at the most significant moments of human history. There are numerous mentions of angels in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the Incarnation of the Savior of the World was announced by an archangel. Myriads of angels were present at His birth. An angel spoke to Saint Joseph on four different occasions. As Jesus began His public ministry and overcame the temptations of the devil in the desert, angels from Heaven came to minister to Him. When Jesus prayed in solitude, especially during His agony in the garden, He was comforted by angels. At the empty tomb, it was an angel who first announced the good news that our Lord had risen. And at the end of time, it will be the angels of God who bring forth God's justice.

Today's angelic salutation to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary at the empty tomb should teach us that the message of the Resurrection is among the most important lessons we can ever learn. Furthermore, the message of this angel, given to these holy women, was intended not only for them, it is also spoken to us today.

The angel made an appearance that depicts absolute power and sanctity. He arrived with the speed of lightning. His countenance was radiant with Heavenly light. He instantly moved the large stone and sat upon it, pointing these holy women to the empty tomb. Today, if we have the eyes of faith, we will also receive an interior revelation from Heaven, just as these women did. Though we will not see with our eyes what they saw, we will see and hear through faith all that was spoken to them.

The message of the Resurrection of Christ is being spoken to you today. Do you hear it? Do you comprehend the voice of this angel from Heaven? If you do, the first thing you will hear are the words, "Do not be afraid!" Fear is one of the greatest obstacles to the reception of the Word of God in our lives. The evil one sows fear; the angels of God dispel it. So begin by considering whether fear clouds your ability to receive the Word of God.

The angel then said, “I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.” In other words, these women had not yet understood the Resurrection. They were still seeking the dead body of our Lord. Similarly, we often find ourselves focusing upon our losses, sufferings and trials. As a result, it can be difficult for us to see the ways that our Lord desires to transform the crosses in our lives and bring from them the glory of the Resurrection. The angel then said, “He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.” When we allow God to transform every cross in our lives, those crosses and sufferings disappear as they give way to the new life God brings forth from them.

Finally, the angel tells the women, “Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead...’” When we come to faith in the death and Resurrection of Christ, we cannot keep it to ourselves. We must go forth and proclaim the Resurrection of Christ to others. It cannot be contained.

Reflect, today, upon the most glorious, awe-inspiring, life-changing message of Christ’s Resurrection. If you find that you do not understand this message, then this Easter Season is an important time for you. It must be a time in which you dispel any fear that clouds your thinking. It must be a time when you listen most attentively in faith. It must be times when you hear God speak to you about His glorious triumph over sin and death. It must be a time when you more fully penetrate the mystery of the Resurrection. And it must be a time when you recommit yourself to go forth and share that message with others. Listen to the angels of God. Receive their message and allow Christ’s Resurrection to change your life forever.

[Catholic Foundation: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord](#)

He is risen! Alleluia! We are always so happy to see those who are returning home for Easter. Even if you don’t live here and are just visiting, you might consider making a gift to help our church build a thriving financial future. Visit www.catholicfoundationmt.org/endowments and click on “parishes” to find our endowment(s) and make a safe, secure gift online. This is a beautiful way to thank God for the special liturgy this weekend or remember a loved one who is with Him now—and has the added bonus of helping our parish forever. If you want help or have questions, please donate online at www.catholicfoundationmt.org or contact the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana (406-315- 1765 or forever@catholicfoundationmt.org).

[Reflection by Trish - New Life](#)

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 5. With ashes on our foreheads we resolved to journey toward Easter with the intention to grow in our relationship with the Great

Mystery, The Divine Holy One. We are now at Easter, celebrating Jesus' Resurrection and the promise of New Life.

Easter is more than a time to take a deep breath and give thanks that we no longer need to fast and keep the practices we struggled with through Lent. Easter is more than a weekend to gorge on sweets, and a good meal shared with family and friends. All Scripture stories are relevant in our present lives, not just stories that took place several thousand years ago. We believe that we will experience New Life when our present life on earth ends, but we also believe the Resurrection is ongoing here in our lives.

We believe that The Comforter, the Divine Holy One, never leaves us and carries us through the difficulties of life. Just as the earth appeared barren and dead for most of the winter, it is now springing forth with life. When life is difficult and it seems nearly impossible to cope - whether it is the loss of a loved one, the loss of financial security, receiving the diagnosis of an illness, a relationship that falls apart, the constant struggle with chronic illness (mental illness, addiction, or physical health issue), or other issue that is a heavy burden - we believe that The Comforter, Our Strength and Our Hope, will not leave us.

Just as Jesus came through to New Life following his torture and death knowing the Great Love and Companion that was with him, we can be assured we are never alone. We will also experience transformation as we gain strength to cope and find the resources to work through our situation.

We experience this when we transition from being overwhelmed to feeling empowered to move through our challenging experience. We are not to lose hope but lean on the promise of new possibilities. Our belief in the Resurrection is a belief that life is full of possibilities and experiences, the belief that the outcome can be like the greening earth and the song of the birds. Yes, new life, new energy, new strength is ours. This is the gift of the Resurrection.

However, you celebrate Easter - a special meal, friends and family, or a quiet festive day - rest assured that the Resurrection did not end with Jesus but continues in our lives today. Perhaps for the next few weeks you can pay close attention and write down the Resurrections you notice. Write down when you see new life emerging in nature, circumstances in your life or around you that transition to new possibilities or new ideas, and moments of new appreciation of gifts previously not seen.

Constant Companion and Great Love,

Thank you for the many transformations

That take place all around us.

