

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 Ascension of the Lord, Solemnity (Year A)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

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Pastor

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Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for May 17 – May 24, 2026</u>
Sun May 17 th	<i>The Ascension of the Lord: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>
Wed May 20 th	<i>9 am Mass @ ICC.</i>
Thurs May 21 st	<i>10:00 am Mass @ Hospital.</i>
Fri May 22 nd	<i>11 am Regina Coeli, Novena & Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>
Sat May 23 rd	<i>9 am Mass @ ICC.</i>
Sun May 24 th	<i>Pentecost Sunday, Solemnity: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>

Sunday Collections: May 10, 2026: Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

ICC: \$ 1,055.00 & \$ 50 (Maintenance) = \$ 1,105.00	[Boiler Fund: \$]
St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 306.00	

[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 Hour of Glory

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him." John 17:1–2.

The entirety of Chapter 17 of John's Gospel is traditionally referred to as Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. This prayer concludes the Last Supper Discourse, which we have been reading for the past two weeks. It marks a transition from the conclusion of Jesus' public

ministry to His Passion and glorification. With His teaching completed, Jesus begins His prayerful offering of His life to the Father. The prayer can be divided into three sections:

1. Verses 1–11a: Jesus’ intimate prayer to the Father focuses on their mutual glorification through the completion of His sacrifice. This “hour” of sacrifice and glory is now at hand.
2. Verses 11b–19: Jesus prays for the disciples who accompanied Him during His earthly ministry, asking for their protection, sanctification, and perseverance in their mission.
3. Verses 20–26: Jesus’ prayer extends to all future believers, the Church throughout time, including us today. He prays for unity among believers, rooted in the love of the Father and the Son.

This prayer highlights a central theme in John’s Gospel: Jesus’ “hour.” The theme of the “hour” was introduced at the wedding at Cana, the beginning of Jesus’ signs. When the Blessed Mother intercedes for the couple, saying, *“They have no wine,”* Jesus replies, *“Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come”* (John 2:3–4). From that moment, Jesus references the concept of His “hour” throughout His ministry, pointing to the appointed time for His Passion and glorification.

In today’s High Priestly Prayer, Jesus makes His final and definitive reference to His hour: “Father, the hour has come...” (John 17:1). The hour of His sacrifice, the pinnacle of His earthly mission, has now arrived. Though Jesus was fully aware of the suffering He was about to endure, He did not enter into that suffering with dread or fear. Rather, He did so with eager resolve, knowing that everything He had done throughout His life and public ministry pointed to this moment, which had finally come.

Jesus’ human disposition while praying at this pivotal moment offers us an invitation to approach His Sacrifice in the way He did. His “hour” continues in our lives every time we are invited to embrace His Cross. Therefore, every opportunity for sacrifice—no matter how small—must be prayerfully embraced in union with Jesus’ prayer.

Jesus’ prayer teaches us that sacrifice is not something to resist or begrudge. Instead, every sacrifice becomes an opportunity to glorify God and receive a share in His glory. When we embrace sacrifice with generosity and trust, we unite ourselves to Jesus’ perfect Sacrifice, participating in His work of redemption and giving glory to the Father.

Reflect today on the interior disposition Jesus manifested as He faced His imminent suffering and death. He did not cower or hesitate. He looked at His Cross with divine eyes, seeing His Sacrifice as the pinnacle of His life’s mission and the source of glory for Him and His Father. As we strive to embrace our own sacrifices, turn to Christ in prayer, asking for His grace and strength to offer His prayer as He offered it to the Father.

Annual Catholic Appeal

This year's theme, "A Season of Hope, A Future of Faith," reflects both the strength and generosity of our people. It invites us to look forward with confidence—trusting that what we nurture today will sustain the Church for generations to come. The Annual Catholic Appeal is more than a request for funds. It is an invitation for every Catholic household to participate in the shared mission of the Diocese. Your local leadership—in word, witness, and coordination—helps connect parishioners to the broader Church and strengthens our collective ability to serve.

Your generosity makes it possible for our Diocese to serve every parish and community across Eastern Montana. Please take a moment to prayerfully make your gift. Your participation helps ensure a future of faith for generations to come."

The Catholic Foundation's Grant cycle is open...

The Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana is now accepting applications for its 2026 grant cycle. Catholic churches, schools, organizations, and ministries in our diocese can submit an online application to receive a grant for up to \$10,000. This is DOUBLE the grant size from past years prior to 2025! Praise be to God for the donors who give to the Foundation's Greatest Needs Endowment which funds this grant program.

St. Margaret's Bulletin

Sunday, June 7 Community Baby Shower 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Senior Citizen Center. All donated items will be shared with Lewistown Inspire Pregnancy Outreach Center and HI-Line Pregnancy Center in Havre. These agencies are very appreciative of all we give them. They welcome new or gently used clothes, size newborn to size 4, hygiene items, diapers and anything a baby would use. Diapers are frequently requested by mothers. Bring your donations and view the variety of items donated.

Reflection by Trish - Restorative

A true story - Marietta Jaeger Lane's 7-year-old daughter, Susie, was kidnapped and murdered. Marietta said she would have been happy to kill the murderer with her bare hands after it happened. She spent a long year of wrestling with anger and spending time in prayer and with scripture. She said she felt if she stayed angry and tried to get revenge, she would be in control. If she forgave, she would be unfaithful to Susie.

Marietta says she learned 3 things:

- 1) In staying full of rage, I was in fact handing my power over to the kidnapper allowing his actions to change my value system and lead me away from the direction I wanted my life to go.*
- 2) In God's eyes the kidnapper is just as precious as my little girl.*

3) If I was to live my Catholic faith with integrity, I was called to forgive my enemies and pray for them.

Marietta is now part of an organized group working to abolish the death penalty. Putting the murderer to death is not the answer. She says, “We could kill people for the rest of my life, and it doesn’t compensate for my daughter’s life. All it would do would be make another victim.”

Most of us will not be faced with the extreme trauma of Susie’s mother and family, but how do we deal with situations that provoke anger and the feeling that we need revenge?

God’s idea of justice is restorative, not punishment. When we are wounded, we are to avoid wounding others. It is not helpful to us or others to pass on anger and vengefulness. Jesus came to heal, to help us to rehabilitate and reconcile. Restorative justice means to bring health to the situation. The only thing that overcomes hatred is love. Light is the only thing that can pierce the darkness.

When we retaliate or seek revenge ‘to even the score’, we do not find any peace. Revenge is not founded in love. Negative energy feeds on itself and grows, increasing the negative energy.

Ezekiel 20:44, “I will treat you as respect for my own name requires, and not as your own conduct deserves.” God does not react as humans do. God does not demand reciprocity. God continues to love and show mercy. Mercy changes the trajectory.

Kindness can spread just like violence spreads. The Prophets of the Hebrew Scripture tell us that God will love you more than ever. God will love you into wholeness. God’s love is restorative.

When my 4-year-old grandson became very angry because his brother moved the cars and blocks he was playing with, he pushed his younger brother. His mother sent him to his room and said he could come out when he was calm. As I sat in the living room not far from his bedroom door, I heard my grandson call out periodically, “It is not working.

I am still mad!” This child was intent on staying mad. He wanted some kind of retribution or punishment for his little brother. This anger prevented him from being able to play and enjoy the afternoon. We adults are no different when we hold onto anger. We can’t see the goodness, beauty, or kindness around us.

Let us not be like the 4-year-old, holding onto anger. It takes consistent prayer, reflecting on scripture and quiet contemplation, to find that place within ourselves that the Spirit of God fills with peace, love, and mercy. Let us not miss out the opportunity for a better life.

Glory to You, Source of All that is Good.

Trusting in your great love helps us to heal.

May we share your love to bring healing to others.