

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

1223 16<sup>th</sup> St (P.O. Box 849), Fort Benton, MT - 59442

## ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

700 Brewster St (P.O. Box 50), Geraldine, MT – 59446

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

Website: [iccfb.org](http://iccfb.org)

Pastor

Office: 406-622-3726

Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for May 03 – May 14, 2026</u>
Sun May 03 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter: 9 am Mass @ ICC &amp; 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>
Wed May 06 <sup>th</sup>	<i>9 am Mass @ ICC.</i>
Thurs May 07 <sup>th</sup>	<i>10:00 am Mass @ Hospital.</i>
Fri May 08 <sup>th</sup>	<i>11 am Regina Coeli, Novena &amp; Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>
Sat May 09 <sup>th</sup>	<i>9 am Mass @ ICC.</i>
Sun May 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter: 9 am Mass @ ICC &amp; 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.</i>
May 11-14	<i>Annual Priests' Retreat in Red Lodge (May 11 – 14, 2026).</i>

**Sunday Collections:** April 26, 2026: Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

ICC: \$ 1,843.00 & \$ (Maintenance) = \$ 1,843.00.
St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 419.60

[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 Way to the Father**

*“Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:4–6.*

In this discourse, Jesus explains, in veiled form, that He will soon ascend into Heaven where He will prepare a place for His followers. He explains that because they know Him, they know the way to where He is going—the way to the Father—because He

Himself is that Way. As Jesus spoke these mysterious truths, we can imagine the Twelve listening attentively, yet with confusion.

Everything Jesus taught was true. His words, recorded in the Gospels, reveal to us the deepest divine mysteries. Within the Scriptures, we find all we need to know to attain perfect holiness and the eternal life of Heaven. Yet we cannot quickly digest Jesus' words as we might an intriguing novel or history book. There are many layers of depth to what He says, and we can only understand those layers through prayer.

As the conversation continued, "Philip said to him, 'Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (John 14:8–9).

Jesus' response likely surprised Philip and the other disciples because they did not understand what He was saying. Their intention was good—they wanted to understand—but Jesus' words were more than they could comprehend at that moment. Despite this, Jesus gently rebuked Philip as a way of drawing him deeper into the mystery He was revealing.

God often treats us the same way. There are many things that we do not understand. Why do innocent people suffer? Why doesn't God heal my loved one in answer to my prayers? Why do my children no longer practice the faith? What am I supposed to do with my life?

Just as Philip struggled to understand Jesus' words, we, too, face moments of confusion when God's ways seem beyond our grasp. God's answer to life's most challenging questions is rarely straightforward or immediate. Why? Because such an approach can never fully satisfy the depth of our hearts. Instead, God reveals a kernel of truth to us and then invites us to ponder it, revealing the divine mystery we seek to understand little by little, to the degree we are open.

The answers we seek come only as we conform our wills to God's, patiently opening ourselves to His Wisdom. Divine mysteries can only be understood through prayer and deep attentiveness to the truths in God's mind. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Only by uniting ourselves to Him in prayer will we discover the path we must walk, the truth we need to hear, and the life we are called to live.

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me? Do not let your hearts be troubled. What worries or anxieties are troubling my heart? How can I be a comfort to others who may be troubled? I am the way and the truth and the life. How does my faith help lead me to the truth? How can I make my faith an even greater part of my life? Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these,

because I am going to the Father. What practical actions can I take to live my faith? How can I learn from the examples of the saints?

Reflect today on anything you struggle to understand. See yourself as one of the Twelve, listening to Jesus speak but failing to comprehend. Do not be discouraged; instead, allow the fullness of Jesus' divine Truth to sink in gradually. Spend time in prayer, read the Gospels, be open, and listen from the depths of your heart. Seek out His gentle voice and know that He is your Way, Truth, and Life. Let Him lead you and reveal to you the mysteries of His divine Wisdom so that you, too, know the way to the Father in Heaven.

### 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: Reflection by Trish - Save Humanity

St. Benedict has come to my attention in the past few weeks from a variety of sources. He is being talked and written about as a significant individual who had a big impact on saving humanity in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. At that time the Roman Empire was crumbling. Christianity was getting enmeshed in authoritarian politics and corrupted by violence. It seemed the world was falling apart with political degradation and division. There was economic instability with different ethnic groups clashing for power. There was pillaging, plunder, burning, and destruction everywhere. The world was at war. Many people were fleeing but Benedict of Nursia said it was important to stay.

He believed it was possible, in the midst of chaos, to live the path of Jesus. He did not have to adapt to the crazy system around him. He said, “I will set out to establish an alternative community. It will focus on caring for the sick and dying, live by the law of love in the kingdom, welcome the stranger and create an order for life that has dignity. We will preserve learning and write down ancient wisdom. Each day, all day, we will enter deep listening with God and with one another to keep Jesus’ wisdom alive.” His motto was peace.

Benedict’s early followers rushed to rescue the contents of the libraries from illiterate hordes invading and plundering. The Monks managed to gather precious volumes for posterity, and diligently copied every book they could get their hands on, not just Bibles and writing of Church Fathers. They saved the writings of ancient Roman and Greek writers. They established schools when there were few sources of education. At one time, their books were chained to the library shelves due how precious they were.

Books needed to be painstakingly copied with quill and ink, so were very difficult and costly to purchase. Why were libraries so important to sustain Christianity? History is a record of the human experience. It tells us where we came from, how societies were formed, why cultures behave as they do. It shapes our identity and helps us make informed decisions for the future. The more we learn about humanity, the more we can effectively engage to work to be a source of compassion and care for all of creation.

Benedict provided a space of order and peace in the violent destruction around him. Instead of focusing on what you are against, pause and define what you are for. What is it you seek? Use prayer and silence to clear the emotional distortion of fear, power and speculation which can invade the soul rapidly. Jesus tells us in scripture hundreds of times to “fear not”. Instead of building defenses, we are to move forward with purpose to improve the lives of others around us.

St. Benedict founded the Benedictine Order which continues to be active around the world. Benedictines continue to treasure books; knowledge and information are important to their spiritual foundation. There are Benedictine monks, priests, and sisters who continue to follow The Rule of St. Benedict. What can we learn from the story of the man who saved humanity? Benedict did not save Rome from crumbling in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. He did save humanity through education, work, and prayer.

There is much we can’t change, but there is always something we can build. A presence of love, openness, and peace are badly needed today. You have the power to cultivate love, be a source of peace, and stay open to the diversity of people created by the Divine Holy One and their needs.

*Spirit of Peace and Love,*

*May we draw on your presence within us for a foundation*

*Of prayer and work for positive change.*