

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

June 29, 2025: Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles (Year C)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

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Pastor

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Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for June 29 – July 06, 2025</u>
Sun June 29 th	Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.
Wed July 02 nd	9 am Mass @ ICC.
Thurs July 03 rd	10 am Mass @ Hospital (St. Thomas, Apostle).
Fri July 04 th	11 am The Angelus, Novena & Mass @ St. Margaret's (Happy Independence Day).
Sat July 05 th	9 am Mass @ ICC.
Sun July 06 th	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9 am Mass @ St. Margaret's & 11 am Mass & Benediction @ ICC.

Sunday Collections:

June 22, 2025 Corpus Christi Sunday	ICC : \$ 1,194.00 + \$ 320 (Maintenance) & \$500 (Boiler fund) = \$ 2,014.00 ICC: Savings Balance: \$ 2,959.78 & Boiler Fund: \$ 49,196.29. St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 310.00
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Thank you to All who have generously donated. Your Generosity is very humbling.

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

Pillars of the Church

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” [Matthew 16:17–19](#).

Saints Peter and Paul are often referred to as two of the great “Pillars of the Church.” They each played an incredibly essential role in the establishment of the early Church. And though each of their roles was essential and foundational, their roles were as different as they were different as persons.

Peter was a family man, a local fisherman, uneducated and quite ordinary. From what we know about him prior to being called by Jesus, there was nothing that made him uniquely qualified to become one of the pillars of the new Church to be established by the Son of God. Jesus simply called him, and he responded. Jesus got into Peter’s boat, ordered him to lower the nets, and produced a huge catch of fish. When Peter saw this miracle, he fell down at Jesus’ feet and acknowledged that he was “a sinful man” who was unworthy of being in Jesus’ presence (See [Luke 5:8](#)). But Jesus informed Peter that he would from now on be catching men. Peter immediately left everything behind and followed Jesus.

Paul describes himself as “a Jew, born at Tarsus in Cili’cia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gama’li-el, educated according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as you all are this day” ([Acts 22:3](#)). Paul was well educated in the strictest interpretation of the Jewish law, understood philosophy and was quite zealous as a young man. Recall, also, that prior to becoming a convert to Christianity, he “persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it” ([Galatians 1:13](#)). In many ways, Paul would have been seen as the most unlikely person to be chosen to be a pillar of the Church, because he so vigorously opposed it at first. He even supported the killing of Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

Though each of these men would have been considered by many as very unlikely founders of the Christian Church, this is exactly what they became. Paul, after his conversion, traveled far and wide to preach the Gospel, founding several new Churches throughout Asia Minor and Europe. Eventually he was arrested in Jerusalem, brought to Rome for trial and was beheaded. Over half of the New Testament books are attributed to Paul and half of the Acts of the Apostles detail Paul’s missionary journeys. Paul is especially known for his missionary activity to the Gentiles, those who were not Jews.

Peter’s role was truly a unique one. His name was changed from “Simon” to “Peter” by Jesus. Recall Jesus saying, “And I tell you, you are Peter (*Petros*), and on this rock (*petra*) I will build my church ([Matthew 16:18](#)). “Peter” in Greek is *Petros*. However, the Greek word *petra* means a rock as a solid formation that is fixed, immovable, and enduring. Therefore, Jesus chose to make Peter a solid foundation of immovable rock on which the Church was to be built.

You, too, have been called by our Lord to a unique mission within the Church that has not been entrusted to another. In your own way, God wants to use you to reach certain

people with the Gospel as He did with Saint Paul. And like Saint Peter, God wants to continue to establish His Church upon you and your faith.

Let us pray today:

- for the whole Church all over the world,
- for our pope as the focus of unity for Christians everywhere,
- for those who, while remaining faithful to the core traditions, are creatively finding new ways to proclaim the message of the Kingdom to people everywhere,
- for those places where the Church is working under great difficulties,
- for our own parish community, that it may truly be loyal to the faith of our fathers,
- for us to have a true missionary spirit, effectively to proclaim Christ to all those among whom we live.

St. Margaret's Bulletin

Reflection by Trish--God's Kingdom

If there is a call out for help with a task or job, there are a variety of responses depending on how people see this task directly affecting them. If there is little that will impact them or their friends, one may say, "I'm not sure how good I am at this, perhaps I will do it wrong so I will pass on helping." Or, "this just isn't a good time for me. I will wait and see how things go." Or, "this task just doesn't seem feasible."

Sometimes we can see concrete results from the work we do, the tasks we undertake. Sometimes the impact is not easy to measure or to see. As believers in The Great Love, we have been given a task that seems to go unnoticed by many. When we pray the Lord's Prayer we say, "Your kingdom come." Many people are under the impression that we are all here just waiting for this kingdom to come. They think it would be nice if they get to go to 'the kingdom.' The fact is the kingdom is not a place you go to. Rather, it is something each of us needs to build, to create, to cause to happen.

You may have witnessed a child at play creating a whole different world. My granddaughter will work hours to create the atmosphere for her play, arranging furniture, setting out the needed toys and accessories. Only when everything is in place will she begin to enjoy experiencing this new space and time. For some reason many faith-filled people seem to think they do not need to invest in working to create the world they want to spend time in. But it is our job to make the kingdom come. The Good News of Scripture challenges us to grow God's kingdom, a kingdom of Love. Nearly everyone wishes there was more peace, less turmoil, anger, and conflict.

Making of a peaceful, loving kingdom means we first must find peace, compassion, gentleness, and joy in our hearts. By nurturing these things within ourselves, we can

spread them and have a positive impact around us. Being mindful takes practice. We must intentionally build a habit of being kind, respectful, and finding something good in each individual and every circumstance encountered. We cannot build the kingdom by being negative, finding fault, or repeating unfavorable information. In fact, many times, information about others is NOT our story to tell.

How do we help make the kingdom of The Divine Holy One grow here and now? The world craves love. A kingdom of love is where everyone is accepted. We need to treat each person with dignity. No one is excluded; all are created by God with gifts to offer. It is often difficult to recognize the gifts of others when those gifts are very different than our own. This means each of us must learn how to be more accepting, less judgmental, and more inclusive. We are to let everyone know that God loves them and forgives them. As Pope Francis said, “It is not ours to judge.” If we believe God forgives all sins, even our own, we must share this same belief with others.

It is our duty to help others grow in their understanding of forgiveness and love by sharing it freely. Are you holding a grudge against someone? Do you recognize that you are not perfect and make mistakes, sin and sometimes hurt others? The Great Love forgives us, yes, we are always forgiven. In turn we must do the same for others. We are to let others know they are forgiven. Holding anger or resentment in our heart is like swallowing poison and waiting for the other person to die.

Are there people you do not believe are worthy of kindness, or to have the basic necessities of life like housing, health care, or enough food? Why are many scared or resentful if society provides care for those less fortunate? Jesus said we are to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoners, etc. He did not put any exceptions or provision on this statement. Jesus preached many times that there is enough for everyone. All are to share their resources, and it will be doubled. No one has become poor by giving.

Perhaps at the beginning of each day you can reflect on what you will do bring about the Kingdom of Love and Peace. Or at the end of the day, pause and recall how you had a positive impact on the world. Do not scapegoat saying, “Others don’t seem to be doing their share.” It is up to you to build the kingdom you wish to spend time in. The only way you will experience the kingdom of God is to look for the love and forgiveness around you and to build up graciousness, joy, care and love in the world.

God of Love and Mercy,

May I be mindful of the love and mercy shown to me

So I can assure others that they are loved and forgiven.