

# 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

August 03, 2025: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Rev. Mohan Raj Samy

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

Pastor

Office: 406-622-3726

Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for August 03 – September 07, 2025</u>
Sun Aug 03 <sup>rd</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9 am Mass @ St. Margaret's & 11 am Mass & Benediction @ ICC. (Intention: Skip Ross RIP, R/B Sheila Ross).
Sun Aug 10 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's. (Intention: Jared Vielleux RIP, R/B Sheila Ross).
Sun Aug 17 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.
Sun Aug 24 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.
Sun Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's.
Sun Sep 07 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 9 am Mass @ St. Margaret's & 11 am Mass & Benediction @ ICC.

### Sunday Collections:

July 27, 2025 17 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday	ICC : \$ 387.00 + \$215.00 (Maintenance) = \$ 602.00  ICC: Savings Balance: \$ 3,324.78 & Boiler Fund: \$ 54,659.29.  St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 1,373.00
---	--

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

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

Our attitude to material things is the subject of today's readings. It is about the things that we really regard important in our lives. The readings also suggest that what we are is of far greater importance than what we have.

The Gospel begins by introducing a man who wants Jesus to act as a mediator in a property dispute: *Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.* It was quite common to bring such disputes to a rabbi to be solved. But Jesus has no interest whatever in dealing with this problem because it represents a point of view that is totally at variance with his own. Instead, Jesus gives a warning: *Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.*

It was quite irrelevant for Jesus that the man should get a fair share of an inheritance, especially if the man can satisfy his daily needs without it. This, of course, is not the way 'normal' people think. They would be prepared to hire lawyers and go through expensive court proceedings in order to get money that they believed was due to them—whether they needed it or not. We have frequently seen families torn apart in bitter disputes over the allocation of money.

Today's readings ask us to consider another approach altogether. It is important to emphasize that Jesus is not saying, "You must give up all these things and lead a life of bleak misery for my sake." On the contrary, Jesus is offering a much more secure way to happiness and a life of real enjoyment rather than the way that most people insist on believing in, even though it is seen to fail again and again. Against the greed that obsesses many people, Jesus offers an opposite alternative to security and happiness—sharing.

How many can identify with the rich man in the parable that Jesus tells today? In his own eyes, this man had been really 'successful'. He had just made a 'killing' not on the stock exchange, but in a particularly good harvest. It was so good he would have to pull down his barns and build even bigger ones. And then he could sit back and say to himself: *Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.* He had worked very hard all these years and this was what he deserved.

It is worth observing, however, that no other people are mentioned in the story. He himself was the absolute centre of everything - nothing else mattered, no one else mattered. The world and all its goods were there purely and simply for him to take hold of and keep for himself. And now there was nothing else to do but to enjoy it all. But this was not to be the case: *God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'*

"How much did he leave?" someone asked of a multi-billionaire who had just died. "Every cent," was the answer. Or as Ecclesiastes today puts it: *Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity...sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it.*

Reflect, today, upon the spiritual and eternal blessings that come from relying solely upon God and not upon material wealth. This is a hard lesson for most people to learn. If this is your struggle, then try to take on the eternal perspective. Try to look beyond the temporary stability and pleasures that come from accumulating earthly wealth, so that you will see the eternal riches that come from seeking God alone. Everything in this world will one day pass away. In the light of that fact, recommit yourself to the embrace of God's riches by loving others through every injustice you encounter in life.

### St. Margaret's Bulletin

#### Reflection by Trish—Quotes

*This is true Humility: Not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. ~Rick Warren*

*Happiness is not what makes us grateful. It is gratefulness that makes us happy. ~Brother David Steindl-Rast*

*We live in a time when science is validating what humans have known throughout the ages: that compassion is not a luxury; it is a necessity for our well-being, resilience, and survival. ~Roshi Joan Halifax*

*Life does not accommodate you, it shatters you ... every seed destroys its container or else there would be no fruition. ~Florida Scott Maxwell*

*Abundance is not something we acquire, it is something we tune into. ~Wayne W. Dyer*

*It is wise to accept that human faults are inevitable. Factor that in and keep going, ~Alice Walker*

*In a world that lives like a fist mercy is no more than waking with our hands open. ~Mark Nepo*

*At the height of laughter, the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of new possibilities. ~Jean Houston*

*"I Am Gift." All that I am is something that's given, and given freely. Being doesn't cost anything. There's no price tag, not strings attached. ~Thomas Merton*

*Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. ~Leo F. Buscaglia*

*Love derails world weary strategy, loosens cynicism from your heart, laces every single one of your bones with a complete re-boot of Wonder. ~Martin Shaw*

*Only by dealing with the difficulty does the creativity come forth. ~Brian Swimme & Thomas Berry*

*Sometimes our light goes out, but is blown again into instant flame by an encounter with another human being, ~ Dr. Albert Schweitzer*

*To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch heaven. ~Johannes A Gaertner*