

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, Fort Benton

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, Geraldine

August 04th, 2024: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Rev. Mohan Raj Arockia

Website: iccfb.org

Pastor

Office: 406-622-3726

Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for August 04th – August 11th, 2024</u>
Sun Aug 04 th	18 th Ordinary Sunday: 9 am Mass @ St. Margaret's & 11 am Mass @ ICC.
Wed Aug 07 th	9 am Mass @ ICC.
Thurs Aug 08 th	10 am Mass @ Bluffs.
Fri Aug 09 th	9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am The Angelus, Novena & Mass @ St. Margaret's.
Sat Aug 10 th	9 am Mass @ ICC.
Sun Aug 11 th	19 th Ordinary Sunday: 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's. (Intention: Barbara A. Nelson RIP, R/B Kathy Nelson).

Sunday Collections:

July 28, 2024	ICC, Ft. Benton: \$ 671.00 + \$ 440 (Maintenance) = \$ 1111.00
17 th Ordinary Sunday	St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 835.00

Thank you to All who have generously donated. Your Generosity is very humbling.

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

Hunger for God

Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." [John 6:27](#).

The day before, Jesus fed the crowds at the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. The next day, the people were hungry again, so they went looking for Jesus thinking

that He might miraculously feed them again. In the passage above, Jesus uses their physical hunger to point them to a deeper spiritual reality.

Each one of us is hungry. We continually have cravings that we want satiated. Certainly, food and drink are among our cravings, but the deepest craving we each have is a spiritual one. The problem is that we often try to satiate ourselves in ways that will never satisfy us. Therefore, we each need to hear Jesus say, “Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” What is that food that the Son of Man will give to us? Of course, it is His very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. It is the Most Holy Eucharist.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus makes it clear that His flesh is true food and His blood is true drink. Eating Jesus’ flesh and blood is the only way to eternal life. Some who listen to this teaching find that it is too difficult to accept and, as a result, reject Jesus and His teaching. The discourse ends with Jesus asking the Twelve if they want to leave too. Peter gives the perfect response by saying, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

As we ponder this teaching of Jesus over the next few weekends, it is important to start with the foundation. The foundation is our spiritual hunger. We each experience it. We each are aware of it. We cannot escape it. The Eucharist is the source of all that we long for in life; however, too often we fail to see that. We can easily fall into the trap of seeing the Eucharist as an obligation we must meet each week. Sometimes Mass can even be seen as an inconvenience. If this is your struggle, try to use the next few Sundays to reexamine your understanding of the Most Holy Eucharist.

Sunday Mass, more than anything else in life, must be understood as the source of our deepest satisfaction in life. It must be seen as the answer to every interior longing and restlessness we have. It is not money, recognition, status, power, or anything else in life that fulfills us. It is God. And God comes to us first and foremost in the celebration of the Mass. Do you believe this? Do you understand?

Reflect, today, and for the next few weeks, upon the Gift of the Most Holy Eucharist. As you do, try to see it as the answer to every interior longing and hunger that you have in life. Try to make an act of faith in this spiritual truth. If you do not regularly experience the satiation offered by consuming the Eucharist, ask yourself why not. Believe in everything that Jesus teaches in this holy discourse of the Bread of Life. If you do, you will also begin to receive the nourishment that our Lord promises.

Salt and Light Conference for Young Adults: Ages 18 -39

We are pleased to announce nationally known Keynote Speaker, Lisa Cotter (can be found on FORMED) and Keynote Speaker, Rev. Fr. Nicholas Vetter (nephew of Bishop Vetter of Diocese of Helena). Lisa will be giving her Keynote Speech on the importance of trusting in God to live out a person's calling, as well as focusing on the Feminine Genius of Women as defined by doctrine, Scripture, and Saint Pope John Paul II. Fr. Nicholas will be giving a Keynote Speech about concrete steps for young adults to take to live an authentic Catholic life, while focusing on development of prayer in men to grow in their relationship with Christ for the Men's talk.

The theme for the conference is "Take Courage and Have Faith".

The conference will be held at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral, Friday, October 18th, 2024, through Sunday, October 20th, 2024. Please see the link for more information (or to forward to any Young Adult you feel might be interested to get registered to attend): <https://www.billingscya.com/info>

Retrouvaille: A Lifeline for Marriages

Stress in Your Marriage? – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate the conflicts with their spouse. Retrouvaille is NOT just for couples whose marriage is on the verge of divorce or considered irrevocably broken; it is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. Our next program begins October 18, 2024, at the Ursuline Centre, Great Falls. For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, contact registration team: at 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com Not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names are held in strictest confidence.

Reflection by Trish—Community

It is harvest time at our farm in eastern Montana. As has been the case for about the past 6 years, our son, wife and 3 boys have moved in with us for about 5 weeks. Our daughter, husband and 2 girls will be with us for 2 of those weeks. Everyone is here to work together to get the crops cut. What does it mean for 11 people of varying ages to share a space for several weeks?

My husband and I do not 'host' everyone. All are sharing a living space and participating in the work needed for comfortable daily living for all, along with focusing on the harvest of the crops. Meal preparation rotates between families. Sometimes we eat our favorite

food and at times we eat what others enjoy. Laundry is washed and each individual, young and old, is responsible to fold and put their laundry away. Each morning it is decided who will participate in the field work and who will share the tasks needed done to keep the house going and provide support services for the field workers.

Living in community means that the focus of each activity is based on what is best for everyone. No one gets to declare that they will take a long shower, using most of the hot water with no regard for others who need a shower. A compromise is needed for selecting what will be watched on TV in the living room when there is time to rest and relax. Jobs are doled out and often rotated; you may not get to do the job you prefer each day. It may be important to do your job/task earlier in the day than you would prefer so that others can do their work. Compromises are made by everyone to aid the comfort of all others.

In the United States we often hear people say they believe that freedom means the right to do whatever they want. Scripture tells us that all our actions are to come from a place of thinking of others. We are to help make life comfortable for as many people as possible. When working for the common good, you may feel like you are doing more than others. You may believe you are compromising more, offering a helping hand more, or just being accommodating more than others. I would guess that nearly everyone who works with a communal attitude believes they do more than others. Being in community is a process of continual giving.

Scripture calls everyone to live in community. It is doubtful most people will live in as close a community as my family is doing presently, but all are to care for their family, their neighbor, their community, and be mindful of what the world needs. Not everyone has the same skills, same energy, or when noticing what needs to be done see what you see. They may see the need for other tasks that you don't see. Comparing what you do to others does not help when living in community. Each is to do what they can to assist making life comfortable for others. Very often we do not know what others are doing. Many good deeds may not be readily noticeable.

In Scripture Jesus tells us to love our neighbor, and that everyone is our neighbor. St. Paul tells us that ALL are connected as one. We are like one body. Everyone belongs. We need to be mindful of what effect our actions have on others in our family, our community and our world. We are not to exclude anyone from our community. We are not more deserving than anyone else including those with different skin color, sexual orientation, age, gender, cultural background, language, or lifestyle choice. Everyone is part of our community and we need to treat them with dignity and respect.

Source of All Life, you created the great diversity of people.

May I grow in my understanding how to live in community

With those very different from myself

recognizing they come from The One Great Love.