

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, Fort Benton

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, Geraldine

NOVEMBER 28th, 2021: First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Fr. Mohan Raj Arockia

Website: iccfb.org

Pastor

Office: 406-622-3726

Day, Month & Date	<u>Mass Schedule for November 28th - December 05th, 2021</u>
Sun Nov 28 th	<u>First Sunday of Advent (C)</u> 9 am Mass @ ICC & 11 am Mass @ St. Margaret's (Mass Intention: For the family members of Leone Cleophil)
Weds Dec 01 st	9 am Novena & Mass @ ICC (Intention: Ken Engellant & Family) and 12pm The Angelus, Novena & Mass @ St. Margaret's.
Thurs Dec 02 nd	9 am Mass @ ICC (Intention: Chuck & Linda) and 10 am Mass @ Hospital (Intention: Tim Riddle & Family).
Fri Dec 03 rd	9 am Mass & Benediction @ ICC (Intention: Diane & Tim Kalanick)
Sat Dec 04 th	9 am Mass @ ICC (Intention: Lynor & Kirby Johnson).
Sun Dec 05 th	<u>Second Sunday of Advent (C)</u> 9 am Mass @ St. Margaret's & 11 am Mass @ ICC.

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

Advent, as the first season in the liturgical year, is an opening to these moments, “the dawn in time of the fullness of time, the entrance into history of the goal of history, and the appearance in one man of the ultimate future of all”. During advent, the Church prepares for two things: the proximate feast of the incarnation and the coming of Christ at the end of time. What a fitting phrase for a season that honors a pregnant woman awaiting the imminent birth of her son.

As Christian disciples, it's our mission and our responsibility to rediscover the joy, love, hope and peace of advent. Like John the Baptist, we have to see how God is already in

our midst. Advent reminds us that God never abandons his people. He is with us in our struggle. He is there to give us the strength and courage to persevere.

Scripture reveals many prophets and witnesses to God's salvation this season. Isaiah testifies to this truth of God's enduring presence. He saw the power of God leading his people out of captivity to rebuild their nation. Mary is a witness to the truth of God's presence as she watched her son, our Lord Jesus Christ, work miracles and all sorts of wonders for the poor and lowly. Paul is a witness to this as he went about the Mediterranean world evangelizing others about the power of Christ to set people free from their sins. John the Baptist is a witness to this as he cried out in the desert to prepare the way of the Lord.

We are called to be like John the Baptist and prepare the way of the Lord. Paul says we must "rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil 4:4). Rejoice always, for the Lord is coming! Are you ready? Have you prepared the path of your heart? Are you willing to praise him without ceasing? Are you willing to testify to what God has done in your life and share your story of discipleship rooted in joy, peace, hope and love? Like Isaiah, do you believe that God can set us free and make things new? Like Paul, do you know that God can do the impossible? And like John the Baptist, are you ready to prepare a way for the Lord in this world?

What better gift can we give to Jesus at Christmas than to have lived Advent in union with him? What better gift can we give to Jesus at Christmas than to have removed from our lives this advent anything that keeps us apart from Jesus? What better gift can we give to Jesus at Christmas than to be able to say to him, "During Advent I reformed my life because I love you as my Lord"? if there is anything therefore in our lives that is not pleasing to Jesus we can use this time of Advent to break with sin and leave sin behind so that we can stay awake and pray waiting for Jesus. We want to give Jesus this gift of our lives because just as Jeremiah looked to Jesus as God's promise we also look to Jesus this Advent as God's promise in our lives.

Rejoice and be glad; rejoice and be glad, for our Savior is coming – and he's coming soon! "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".

<u>Sunday Collection:</u>	ICC: \$ 1,098 .00
November 21 st , 2021	St. Margaret's, Geraldine: \$ 158.00

ICC-Raffle

YES dear Parish family---there WILL BE a raffle this year!! With almost all of the generously donated items back to making it very inviting to everyone to buy tickets! We will once again be distributing tickets beginning on Sunday, Oct.

24th. The same prices are 1 ticket for \$5 or a 'book' of 6 tickets for \$20. ***The drawing for the prizes will take place after the 11am Mass on Dec. 5th.*** This should give ALL of us 6 weeks to share (sell) the tickets with each other and everyone that we think would love to support our efforts....and of course, win great prizes!! Thank you for your continued support of this great project---it is truly appreciated!! ICC-Raffle Committee

The information for the daily Advent program on dynamic catholic

ADVENT REFLECTIONS: The *Best Advent Ever* an email program from dynamiccatholic.com is available for the Advent season. You can sign up on their website and receive daily reflections during Advent. The theme is *Move Toward the Light*. When you go to the website use the tab For Your Parish to find the Advent program.

Retrouvaille: A Lifeline for Marriages

Marriage Troubles? If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; even if you are divorced or separated, or are thinking about it, Retrouvaille can help, as it has helped tens of thousands of others. Our next program begins February 25, 2022. 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 held in strictest confidence. Here is the first Retrouvaille bulletin announcement for the upcoming Retrouvaille weekend on **February 25-27, 2022, at the Ursuline Centre, Great Falls.**

St. Margaret's Bulletin

Christmas Bazaar—On Sunday, December 4, 11:00 to 4:00, we will have a table for a Bake Sale and a table for the Raffle and Silent Auction. Everyone is asked to bring an item for the bake sale. Be sure to turn your tickets and money into Marie McGrann.

Reflection by Trish-Advent/Presence (Taken from my 2017 writing)

A couple weeks ago my pre-school granddaughters walked with me to get our mail. One ran all the way up our graveled lane to the mailbox; I was going slower with the younger child. I put the mail in a bag and the runner wanted to carry it back to the house. On the way back she walked a little ways behind us. Soon she said that she could not carry the bag, as it was getting too heavy. I took the bag and noticed it was heavy. She had put a number of rocks in the bag. I am sure she thought they were important rocks, something she should take with her, but they did add weight.

In the Scripture story of Mary and Martha, Martha invited Jesus to her home and then complains that she has to work, and her sister is not working. Perhaps Jesus' scolding of Martha is not that she is working, but about her attitude. She took on the attitude of a martyr, "Look at all I am doing and no one is helping me."

If Martha welcomed Jesus and then went about the task of preparing a meal while focusing on the work with an open heart and listening spirit, Jesus would have no need to scold her. Busyness keeps us from experiencing life while it increases resentment and frustration. No matter where we find ourselves, it is important to be present in the moment. Fretting over the past or worrying about the future is of no value. If we take each moment that comes and work to be fully present in that moment, we will discover the Spirit of God working in and through us.

Being present means you look the individual you are within the eye and give them your full attention while you are with them. You smell the ginger, vanilla, pine, or crisp air. You see what is around you, you hear what is happening in the moment, and you can be aware of what you are touching. You fill your heart with gratitude that you are able to do whatever you are doing at the moment, even if you had planned on doing something else. If we practice being present we will notice more of the miracles in our lives. Some say that by being present, life becomes richer, all our senses are active and aware, we remember what we experienced that day, and we allow the Trinity into our lives.

This Advent season how many extra rocks are you going to carry? Are you going to fret and comment on how busy you are as you get ready for Christmas? Are you focused on the many different foods you need to prepare, the many gifts you need to purchase, fretting over expectations others may have for you? OR as you prepare your list of things to do, will you say a prayer that the Spirit of God directs you and guide you to where you need to be? As you begin each task, focus on that task, be present to the moment. Engage your senses, open your heart and prepare to experience the presence of the Lord now. Do not add extra weight to Advent. Advent is a time to reflect, to be open to God's presence here now.

*God became human to shout to us – I Am With You, Emmanuel. May Christ be born in us
each day.*