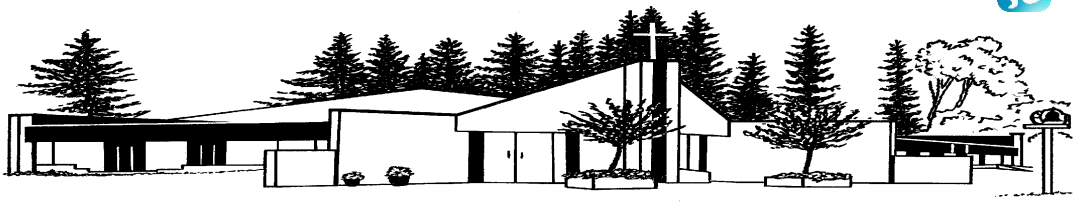


RISEN CHRIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

65 West Evergreen Drive • Kalispell MT 59901 • 752-4219

E-Mail: rcparish@montanasky.us and My Parish App



Website: www.risenchristkalispell.org

Formed Catechetical Resources: www.risenchristkalispell.formed.org

Father Stanislaw Róg, Pastor/Parish Administrator

Risen Christ Parish and St. Matthew Parish

Deacon Floyd McCubbins, 406-471-4379, deaconfloydmc@yahoo.com - Risen Christ

Deacon Charlie Harball, 406-752-6788, St. Matthew

Helen Tobiason - Religious Formation Coordinator, Grades K-6

Maryruth Fallon, Music Director

Sandy Carter, Office Manager ~ Rose Hall, Office Assistant

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT **December 10, 2023**
Saturday, December 9, Mass for December Intentions **6:30 pm**
Sunday, December 10, Mass for the Parish **9:00 am**
Tuesday, December 12, Mass for the Souls in Purgatory, rb Andrea Wright **8:45 am**
Thursday, Dec. 14, Mass for the Soul of Kacey Scott, rb Camille & Ron Scott... **8:45 am**

Wednesdays 8:30 & 12:10 pm, Fridays 8:30 am Masses at St. Matthew Parish
 Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 7:00 am and 11:00 am Masses at St. Matthew Parish

Ministry Schedule, December 16 & 17

MINISTRY	Saturday, 6:30 pm	Sunday, 9:00 am
Plate Minister	Deacon Charlie	Deacon Charlie
Cup Minister	Judy Hughes	Anita Lavin
	Jovita Kottraba	EM NEEDED
Lector	Suzanne Johnson	Kathy Shanahan
	Shelley Nease	TJ Higgins
Server	SERVER NEEDED	SERVER NEEDED
Greeter	Mary Jacobs – Rose Hall	Dan & Tammy Newton

PLEASE NOTE

Sacrament of Baptism by appointment

Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday, 9:00-10:30 am, or by appointment

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 10 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 Parish Breakfast, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus..... after Mass
 12 KC Ladies', Water's Edge Winery..... 5:00 pm
 Knights of Columbus 6:30 pm
 Choir 7:00 pm
- 13 Women's Scripture Study 10:00-11:30 am
 Religious Formation Classes 4:00 – 5:15 pm
- 17 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 Christmas baskets assembled and delivered..... After Mass
EVENING PRAYER FOR THE INTENTION OF PEACE 6:30 pm
- 19 Choir..... 7:00pm
- 20 Women's Scripture Study 10:00-11:30 am
 Religious Formation Christmas Party 4:00 – 5:15 pm

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23

4:30 at St. Matthew

6:30 at Risen Christ

Sunday, Dec. 24th

9:00 am at Risen Christ

7:00 and 11:00 am at St. Matthew



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Mass

4:30 pm at St. Matthew

6:30 pm at Risen Christ

Midnight Mass at Risen Christ

Monday, Dec. 25th -Christmas Day

9:00 am at Risen Christ

11:00 am at St. Matthew

Parish Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

To be sure your announcement gets into the bulletin,
please have your information in the Parish Office by noon, Wednesday.

The deadline for altar announcements is noon, Thursday.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER – 6:30 PM

Please plan to attend Evening Prayer for
The Intentions of the Holy Land and Ukraine
3rd week of Advent – December 17

YOUR GIFT TO GOD

Thank you to everyone who so generously supports our parish!
Your financial support enables us to continue the on-going work of our ministry.

December 2 & 3, 2023

Sunday Envelopes	\$7,771
Building	405
Mass & Stole Gifts	10
Total	\$8,186

USHERS NEEDED—Men & Women Invited

Risen Christ is growing and COVID has become less prevalent.

Our Church pews are becoming full again!

The ministry of Church Ushers plays a vital role in the hospitality and welcome ministry of the local church. Assigned ushers are needed.

Generally, the ministry of church ushers focuses on the following areas of responsibilities:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Assist in seating members and visitors. | Select families to bring gifts forward. |
| Collect the offering. | Pick up Liturgy sheets & books. |
| Be watchful & vigilant in case of emergency. | Attendance counting. |

Think of the ministry of church ushers as responsible for inside the sanctuary, starting from the interior entry doors—Not outside security.

Contact the Parish Office 406-752-4219 or Pati Heath 406-249-8149 to sign up.

Risen Christ Parish Safety and Security Projects



Risen Christ is pleased to announce the completion of our long-awaited lighting upgrades to our west side parking lot. We want to thank the Flathead Electric Cooperative, Round-Up for Safety Board of Directors, for their generous grant of three thousand dollars towards defraying the cost of this critical upgrade to increase our parishioners' safety.

We also look forward to completing our facility and grounds security system soon. This project will complement and enhance the capabilities of our current safety and security personnel.

Again, we thank our parishioners for your essential financial support of our church, our facilities, and its programs.

Your Risen Christ Finance Council

**MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023**

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Howard and Lorraine Carter, rb Kimberly Carter
Jim Thomas, rb Bobbie Thomas
Poat & Roberts Family, rb Chris Beyer
Karel & David & Terry Barrett, rb Ken Barrett
Shelley Hembd, rb Gary Hembd
Carol Trimble, rb Bruce Trimble
Eileen Babb rb John & Connie Babb
Tracy Iano, rb John & Connie Babb
Jim Jensen, rb Jackie Jensen
Elmer Alger, rb Hutchens Family
Mitzi Rice, rb Risen Christ Parish
Dorothy McVeigh, rb Risen Christ Parish

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Ruff & Falk Families, rb Mary Ruff

**RISEN CHRIST MASS REQUESTS
FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL INTENTIONS**

Greg Grace, Joe Riska
Eileen Kluesner, Maureen Neitzling, Amy Neitzling
Tim & Diane Slobojan, Bob & Barbara Vine
Mary Grace Galvin, Mike & Linda O'Neil, Larry Visocan
Mary Reckin, Ron Bauer, Peg Gebhardt, Mike Hanson

FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

Dillon Armstrong, Kaleb Mitchell, John Cooney, Riley Helgoe,
Brett Rotz, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson
Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Lane Buus, Matt Keck

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education, and care for those in need – usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. **Please give generously.**

**READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2023**

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

PRACTICE OF HOPE

On the Third Sunday of Advent our joy at what God has done for us bursts forth. We rejoice because our celebration of Jesus' birth is simultaneously a celebration of all that God has promised and will accomplish through his Son.

◆ Pray for those who have lost hope and are filled with sorrow, such as those who have fled their homeland or been unjustly imprisoned.

◆ When John the Baptist urged people to hope in Jesus, he directed attention away from himself. Thank someone in your community who works quietly and diligently to help others without seeking attention or recognition. At Home With the Word 2023

FORMING A COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY

If there is a birth, a sickness, or a death in our parish community, or that of someone you know, please call **Mary Sonju**, 250-8610. She will be happy to send a card.

RISEN CHRIST PRAYER LINE

Call Helen Tobiason, (406) 212-0063 or Jackie Jensen, (406) 756-1178 should you or someone you know need prayer. Please leave a message if they are not available and they will return your call.

RISEN CHRIST GIFT SHOP



We now have scapulars, holy water fonts, rosaries, children's bracelets and much more. Please see Connie McCubbins or Andrea Wright before or after weekend Masses. If you would like to make a purchase during the week, please stop in the office.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Council represents the interests and needs of the entire Parish community.

Jovita Kottraba, 212-8461 - Judy Stack, 752-4411- Ken Barrett, 755-0269

Jamie Miller, 257-9636 - Vicki Walbruch, 758-0170

FINANCE COUNCIL

Finance Council members are:

**Peg Gebhardt, Christopher Gill,
John Gunnerson, & Wally Walbruch**

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

St. Matthew's Parish will be offering The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of faith formation for the three to six-year-old children of our parish. The catechists who work with the children will participate in nearly 100 hours of formation training and will prepare a special environment for the children, which is called the Atrium. Registration for training is now open. Please join us in praying for the those who are called to this ministry.

If you are interested in becoming a trained catechist, would like a tour of the atrium, would like to know of ways you can help, or just want to learn more about The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at St. Matthew's, please contact Kim Maes or Trish Ridens at (406)752-6788. To register for our upcoming training, please visit <https://www.cgsinlandnw.org/event-details/cgs-level-1-formation-1>.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Christmas Food Baskets will be assembled and delivered on Sunday, Dec. 17th after Mass. Please bring donated food items to the church by the end of Mass on the 17th. Some food items needed are **ham** (we would like one for each basket), tuna, canned chili, cereal, rice, soup, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned fruit, stuffing, yams, potatoes, fresh fruit, buns, pie filling.

Call Julie Berquist at 406-253-4842 if you know of a family in need of a Christmas food basket.



Doughnuts and coffee will be served for all the helpers! 😊



Advent Giving Tree For The Flathead Warming Center

As you may recognize, Kalispell has a very large homeless population and an even more significant affordable housing situation. The Flathead Warming Center located on Meridian Drive has been housing about 50 homeless individuals and/or families over these cold winter nights. Everyone deserves a warm place to sleep!

This Advent, Risen Christ is again sponsoring the Flathead Warming Center. Over the last several years your generous contributions have helped provide needed comfort to save the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves through the Giving Tree.

Starting immediately the Giving Tree with donation receptacles is located in the Church entry. Cash or checks written to the Flathead Warming Center may be inserted in the receptacles or given to the church office. NEW hats, mittens and gloves are welcome and can be put under the tree.

Your cash or check donations will be greatly appreciated!

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
Flathead Warming Center**

**Blessings to you during this season of hope
and thank you for your support!**

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 10, 2023



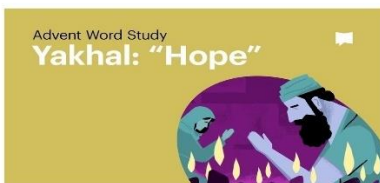
The Spirituality of Advent

Dr. Tim Gray discusses the spirituality of Advent and the joy of waiting for Christ.



The incredible true story of Our Lady of Guadalupe | Chris Stefanick Show

Check out this episode of the Chris Stefanick Show to learn the amazing story Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Yakhal/Hope | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

In the Bible people who have hope are very different from optimists! In this video, we'll explore how biblical hope looks to God's character alone as a basis for trusting that the future will be better than the present.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignaticus press

To register please go to: www.risenchristkalisPELL.formed.org Click on register now and create your account. Be sure to follow the password requirements and check the square that you have read and understood the Terms of Service. After you have created your account, you'll have access to FORMED-provided materials (like the one above) purchased for you by our parish. Please take advantage of this beautiful opportunity to learn more about your faith.

Fr. Stan

The Nazareth Page
A gospel meditation for your home
December 8, 2023 – The Immaculate Conception
Mark 1:26-38

I like to think that the early years of Mary of Nazareth were fairly ordinary. She learned the household duties of a young Jewish maiden, made friends with neighbors and went on short trips with her family to nearby villages.

Then one day something rather remarkable happened. She was by herself, perhaps quietly reciting a prayer psalm when suddenly she had a visitor, whose name she learned was Gabriel. The angel (Mark later wrote) informed her that she would give birth to a child, a boy she was to name Jesus. He would become a ruler over the people like King David. Jesus would come directly from God and be the long-awaited messiah.

As we read this gospel, we can only guess how disturbing this must have been for Mary. God had singled her out to be the most important mother ever!! She no doubt had many questions, but they were not to be answered yet. All the angel wanted was her initial agreement to be part of God's plan. She gave Gabriel a yes because that's what good people do when they believe God is calling them to do this or that.

And then unfolded "the rest of the story." A life for Mary that had its joyful and glorious moments, as well as many sorrowful ones. As her life progressed, she experienced many additional moments when she had to again say "yes" to walking the path God set for her.

In the spiritual life of each of us something similar happens in a thousand different ways. God creates each of us for reasons we struggle to know day by day, year after year. Sometimes God's ways with us are clear, but often they are not. In fact, I believe they rarely are clear. The gospel notes that Mary "pondered" her situation, always trying to know what would next challenge her. Eventually she was led to the foot of the cross, the instrument of her son's execution. She did not want to be there. Anywhere but there! But there she was. It was part of God's intent. After all, she was his mom.

God leads all of us on unique pathways into challenging moments. Sometimes we only recognize God's directing us after, as we say, "the dust has settled." So much of our lives, like Mary's, is clouded with mystery, uncertainty, and challenges that we might never embrace if it were left up to us. But deep down we come to know that life is not only about us. It's about that great mystery of God's spirit taking flesh within Mary and then in all of us. Ponder that!

David M. Thomas, PhD

The Nazareth Page
A gospel meditation for your home
December 10, 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent
Mark 1:1-8

I have been present at the baptisms of all our children, and some of our grandchildren. They are always happy blessed events, mostly performed by priest friends of our family. I stand quietly close by thinking about what's happening in our presence. Water is poured over the infant or child's head (two of ours were baptized as youngsters as they were adopted years after their births). God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is there being sacramentally incorporated into the very being of these precious little persons. It's all so apparently simple, yet in that moment, the heavens open and the power of God descends into their small bodies with the same divine power and energy that originally created the universe, 13.8 billion years ago.

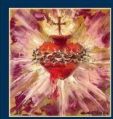
Today's astronomers search the heavens to find planets outside our solar system. They are called exoplanets, and their known number is already in the thousands. Once pinpointed, these heavenly bodies are examined to determine whether they contain liquid water because as we currently understand life, water is a necessary component for its existence.

Clean water is also increasingly valued here in Earth as human life's most important necessity. As war continues in the Gaza, the loss of potable water jeopardizes the very survival of its inhabitants. In other words, we humans have a new awareness of the value of water for life itself. The existence of water not only symbolizes the presence of life but also its survival.

John the Baptist is led into the desert by God where he experiences what it was like to live in a place, perhaps devoid of water. Then he leaves there to find the free-flowing waters of the Jordan River, a perfect place to invite listeners to change their ways. Do good and avoid evil, accept God and what God is about to bring into your lives. Someone is coming. much greater than I am. He will bring to you God's Holy Spirit. As the gospel concludes this Sunday, we read, "he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

I was baptized in a small back storage room in my parents' parish church when I was only a few days old. I was brought there likely on a Sunday afternoon by an aunt and a friend of my dad's who were my godparents. My parents stayed home. Baptism was not treated as a very special event. Thanks to the teachings of Vatican II the sacrament of Baptism became more importantly understood in church life. Rightfully so because the person I am today is directly connected with that moment. I am still trying to live up to its challenges.

David M. Thomas, PhD



BECAUSE
HE FIRST
Loved
US...

A CAMPAIGN FOR CATHOLIC LIFE

LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Together we have raised

\$414,525

94% of our \$440,000 goal

This Weekend, I invite you to participate in Leadership Weekend by placing your pledge commitment card into the collection basket with the weekly offering.



Please scan the QR code if you would like to make your gift online at the ***Because He First Loved Us*** website