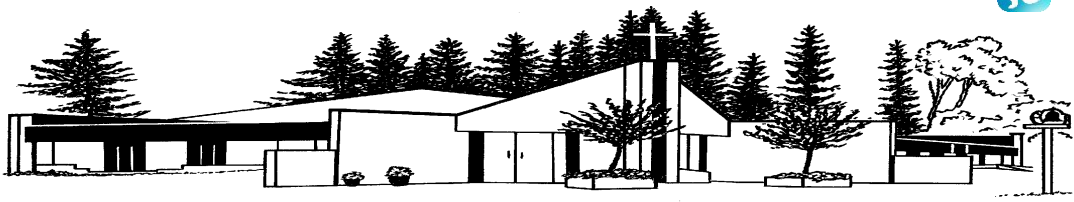


RISEN CHRIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 17, 2023

Saturday, December 16, Mass for December Intentions **6:30 pm**

Sunday, December 17, Mass for the Parish **9:00 am**

Tuesday, December 19, Mass for the Soul of Helmut Kassner, rb Iris Stephens **8:45 am**

Thurs., Dec. 21, Mass for the Souls of Herb & Florence Russell, 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 23 & 24 (4th Sunday of Advent)

MINISTRY	Saturday, 6:30 pm	Sunday, 9:00 am
Plate Minister	Judy Hughes	Shelly Nease
Cup Minister	Suzanne Johnson	Rick Nease
	Jovita Kottraba	Jack Lavin
Lector	Rachel Cincis	Jack Fallon
	Maureen Neitzling	Jackie Jensen
Server	Don Zimmerman	SERVER NEEDED
Greeter	Rose Hall – GREETER NEEDED	Pat Arnone – GREETER NEEDED

PLEASE NOTE

Sacrament of Baptism by appointment

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 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
 24 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
12/25 – 1/1/2024 Parish Office Closed
 31 **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

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

Ministry Schedule, December 24 & 25 (Christmas Schedule)

MINISTRY	Sunday, 6:30 pm	Midnight Mass	Monday, 9:00 am
Plate Minister	Neil Heino	Howie Ficek	Jack Lavin
Cup Minister	Bryan McMillan	Marian Ficek	Anita Lavin
	EM NEEDED	Deacon Floyd	Deacon Floyd
Lector	Suzanne Johnson	Pati Heath	Jack Fallon
	Kathy Shanahan	Paul Heath	Jim Galvin
Server	Don Zimmerman	SERVER NEEDED	Pat Arnone –GREETER NEEDED
Greeter	Dan & Tammy Newton	GREETERS NEEDED	SERVER NEEDED

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>.

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 9 & 10, 2023

Sunday Envelopes	\$9,075
Building	125
Mass & Stole Gifts	10
Christmas	70
Holy Day	400
Total	\$9,680

SEMINARIAN BAKE SALE

The proceeds from last week's sale were \$467.00.
Thank you all for your continued support throughout the year.
Watch the bulletin for more upcoming sales.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.



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!**

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

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FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

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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

DECORATING HELPERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be joyously decorating for Christmas. We need your help so please join us!

Thursday, December 21—after morning Mass.

More decorating! December 24th after morning Mass.

**READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2023**

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

PRACTICE OF FAITH

Each reading recalls the promises God has made and fulfilled, from providing an heir to King David to the salvation of all nations in Jesus Christ. Often God seems to fulfill these promises in unexpected ways.

♦ Slowly read through the Gospel passage. Imagine that you are Mary hearing this news or that you are the angel delivering it. Ponder a part of this story that you have not considered. Spend some time renewing your wonder at God's promises.

♦ If you can, share your faith in God's unexpected love by offering to help someone with childcare, housework, or the preparation of a meal. 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:

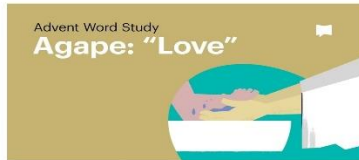
**Peg Gebhardt, Christopher Gill,
John Gunnerson, & Wally Walbruch**

ADVENT PRAYER

O Lord, our God, make us watchful and cheerful as we await the coming of your Son, Christ our Lord, that when he comes and knocks, he will find us not sleeping in sins but awake and rejoicing in his praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

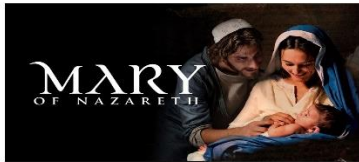
THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 17, 2023



Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.



Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

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

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius 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

A gospel meditation for your home
December 17, 2023 – Third Sunday of Advent
John 1:6-8, 19-28

I have spent over fifty years studying the ins and outs of family life. I have familiarized myself with its rich history, its cultural variations, its religious meaning, especially from an historical perspective, its role in the life of the church and its importance in human development, especially now in the Third Millennium. What I have learned is that the meaning and practices associated with family life are incredibly varied. Family life can be occasionally hurtful, even destructive of some or all its members. But it can also be a source of profound human goodness, and even great sanctity.

Some Christian communities, along with other religious groupings, have decided that there should be a certain hierarchy within the family. Many are along the lines of male superiority and authority over females and parents over children. This arrangement can create not only a master-slave type arrangement (always wrong), but it can also lead to serious lifelong damage to the human spirit. It can impede human growth, and I would add, stifle spiritual development. And it can be harmful to all family members whatever their position in the family.

As I reflected on today's gospel, I found that the attitude of John the Baptist toward Jesus contains helpful guidance for the way some people experience family life as a kind of struggle for power.

People came to John the Baptist in hopes that he would help them. They saw in him a certain sacred or divine power. They wanted a leader with exceptional powers who could lead them to victory over their enemies. John saw their intent and did all he could to say that he was not exceptional. Someone would come after him and John felt that he was unworthy to even untie the sandal strap of Jesus. But there's more to consider. Fast forward to the Last Supper.

Jesus has become the clear leader of a group of followers, some of whom were dining with him that evening. They found themselves in an argument over which of them was the greatest. (Like that old hierarchical thing mentioned above in family life.) Jesus called a time out and said something along the lines that actions speak louder than words.

He then proceeded to perform a common act assigned to servants. He washed their feet. This, he noted, was to be the kind of action that we are to do for each other. No one, in other words, is better than anyone else. We are all equal in all places and during all times. Family life included. I'll let you figure out the rest.

David M. Thomas, PhD

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

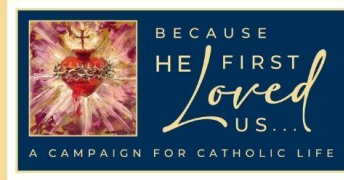
9:00 am at Risen Christ

11:00 am at St. Matthew

Together we have raised

\$468,025

106% of our \$440,000 goal

Total Gift	Yearly	60 Monthly
\$12,000	\$2,400	\$200
\$9,000	\$1,800	\$150
\$6,000	\$1,200	\$100
\$3,000	\$600	\$50

COMMITMENT WEEKEND

This weekend is the last weekend we will be inviting families to join us by participating in **Because He First Loved Us**. Our parish goal is to raise \$440,000. Gifts can be pledged over five years. Please pray about what sacrifice is right for you and your family.

Because of the dedicated support of our parishioners, this campaign will provide the resources for Risen Christ to provide service and ministries through faith and outreach and an endowment for future needs.

Please fill out a commitment envelope today during Mass or scan the QR code below to make your gift.



Please scan the QR code to make a gift to **Because He First Loved Us**