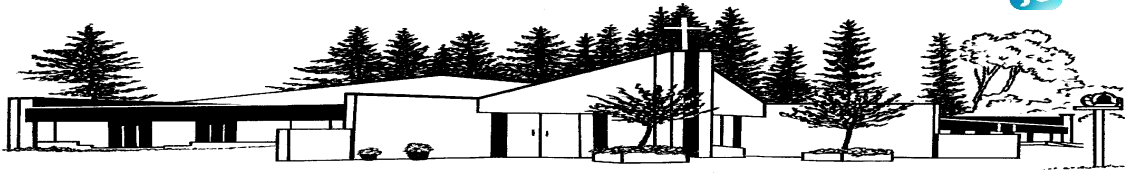


RISEN CHRIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Maryruth Fallon, Music Director, Helen Tobiason, R. Formation Coordinator, Grades K-6

Sandy Carter, Office Manager ~ Rose Hall, Office Assistant

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass for Deceased Parishioners **6:30 pm**

Midnight Mass for Peace and Justice..... **12:00 am**

Monday, Christmas Day, December 25, Mass for the Parish..... **9:00 am**

Tuesday –Friday, December 26 – 29 **NO MASS**

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH **December 31, 2023**

Saturday, December 30, Mass for Deceased Parishioners **6:30 pm**

Sunday, December 31, Mass for the Parish **9:00 am**

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, Monday January 1... **9:00 am**

Tuesday & Thursday, January 2 & 4 **NO MASS**

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 30, & 31, 2023 & January 1, 2024

MINISTRY	Saturday, 6:30 pm	Sunday, 9:00 am	Monday, 9:00 am
Plate Minister	Deacon Floyd	Deacon Floyd	Pati Heath
Cup Minister	Maureen Neitzling	Connie McCubbins	Paul Heath
	Judy Hughes	Charlene Harman	Neil Heino
Lector	Rick Nease	Andrea Wright	Betty Heino
	Shelley Nease	TJ Higgins	Jackie Jensen
Server	Deacon Floyd	Deacon Floyd	Rick Nease
Greeter	-Don Zimmerman	Howie & Marian Ficek	John & Toni Gunnerson

PLEASE NOTE

Sacrament of Baptism by appointment

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 24 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
12/25 – 1/1/2024 Parish Office Closed
- 31 **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**
- Jan. 1 **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)
- 2 Choir 7:30 pm
- 3 Women’s Scripture Study 10:00-11:30 am
Religious Formation Classes 4:00 – 5:15 pm
- 7 **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
- 9 KC Ladies’, Water’s Edge Winery, Evergreen 5:00 pm
Knights of Columbus 6:30 pm
Choir 7:30 pm
- 10 Women’s Scripture Study 10:00-11:30 am
Religious Formation Classes 4:00 – 5:15 pm
- 14 **SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
Seminarian Bake Bale After weekend Masses

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.

Ministry Schedule, January 6 & 7, 2024

MINISTRY	Saturday, 6:30 pm	Sunday, 9:00 am
Plate Minister	Deacon Charlie	Deacon Charlie
Cup Minister	Suzanne Johnson	Howie Ficek
	Judy Hughes	Marian Ficek
Lector	Dixon Rice	Kathy Shanahan
	Cecelia Notess	Jack Fallon
Server	Deacon Charlie	Deacon Charlie
Greeter	Mary Jacobs – Don Zimmerman	Tom & Terrie Alger

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM FATHER STAN

Sending prayers and hearty Christmas greetings to you. May you receive the most special of God’s blessings during this Christmas season.

Christmas has sense if Christ is born in you. If you are not close to Christ, Christmas has no meaning at all. Empty festival.

Have Christ on Christmas, meet Him at Mass, hear His words and receive His Body and Blood. This is what Christmas is about.

Have a Blessed Christmas Season! Show others God’s Kingdom of Peace, Justice and Love.

With prayers and best wishes.

Fr. Stanislaw Rog

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 16 & 17, 2023

Sunday Envelopes	\$5,178
Building	5
Mass & Stole Gifts	45
Christmas	55
Total	\$5,283

CHARITABLE GIVING

In order for charitable gifts to be credited for the current calendar year, 2023, please note the following: **IRS regulations require checks received by the church after January 1st, to be accompanied by the postmarked envelope dated no later than December 31st.**

Transfer of stocks or securities must take place on or prior to December 31st.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

EPIPHANY BLESSING "CHALKING THE DOOR 2024"

Each year, around the feast of the Epiphany, many parishes around the world participate in an annual blessing of chalk. An ancient tradition places God at the entrance of your home and your entire family under his protection.

The Epiphany blessing of chalk and homes is a centuries-old tradition where priests visit each family in their parish after the Feast of Epiphany. Over time, it became more difficult for priests to see all the homes of their parish. Thus, it became an accepted tradition that a household member could lead this blessing instead of the priest.

Using the Blessed Chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or porch step as follows):

20 + C + M + B + 24 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed God's Son's star, who became human two thousand and twenty-four years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen

Then, offer the following prayer:

Visit, O Blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; grant that we may manifest our love to each other and all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and your knowledge and love, guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Chalking the door is an excellent way to celebrate and mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and homes. With time, the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our hearts and manifest in our words and actions.

**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 Slobogan, 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

**READINGS FOR THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Genesis 15:1-6; 21: 1-3 Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Luke 2:22-40

PRACTICE OF FAITH

The faith of Abraham and Sarah and Simeon and Anna is a testimony that strengthens ours.

- ◆ Call or visit someone who suffered the death of a loved one this past year.
- ◆ Offer to be a liturgical minister.
- ◆ Before you go to sleep tonight, pray the prayer of Simeon from today's Gospel.

* ~~~~~

**READINGS FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 7, 2024**

Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2: 1-12

PRACTICE OF CHARITY

Little is known about the mysterious visitors who arrive in Jerusalem seeking the newborn king. They caused quite a stir there and probably also in Bethlehem when they found Mary and Joseph.

- ◆ Imagine being in the house when the Magi arrive. How do they interact with Mary and Joseph? The story of the Magi along with the other readings reminds us that we don't have to compete for God's love. God offers love freely and abundantly.
- ◆ Look at a map of the world or picture one in your head and pray for people from different countries.

At Home With the Word 2023

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**

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.

SEMINARIAN BAKE SALE

Great job everyone for your continued support for our Seminarians.

The total support amount for 2023 is \$4,605.00.

Our grand total for this ongoing fundraiser is \$7,640.00.

Watch the bulletin for more upcoming sales.

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>.

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.



*****RISEN CHRIST RUMMAGE SALE COMING SOON!*****

Please save your items for the Risen Christ Rummage Sale to be held **February 10, 2024.**

We can use all donations. Please consider volunteering for this fun event.

More details to follow soon!



*The stores say that this could be the best Christmas ever.
I always thought the first one was.*

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 24, 2023



The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller

Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts, but when they caught in one of their antics, Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 31, 2023



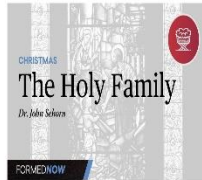
New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefefinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



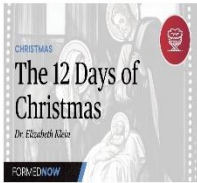
Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemo as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



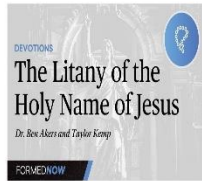
The Holy Family

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season!



The 12 Days of Christmas

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season.



Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

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

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An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and gratias agimus tibi

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and gratias agimus tibi

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 24, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:26-38

Earlier this month on the feast of the Immaculate Conception we recalled the visit of an angel to Mary informing her of the role God would like her to play in “the greatest story ever told.” Mary was taken back by this request from God. At first, she was confused and disturbed. What she was being told did not make sense to her. In a sense, she felt it was beyond her. Luke states in today’s gospel that she was *disturbed*. Who wouldn’t be?

But we know that eventually she agreed. “May it be done to me according to your word.” And she said this not really knowing all that was ahead. She was accepting a role without knowing the full script. In other words, she trusted that whatever happened later, she would be able to deal with it. Implied, of course, is her trust in God’s help when needed. And I’m sure many such situations came her way in the time ahead.

We all live lives where we are faced with challenges. We open ourselves to all that God plans for us. And like Mary, we sometimes find ourselves in moments when we need extra commitment and strength to deal with what’s before us. At first, we might imagine that we can’t accomplish what is asked of us. But then we move ahead, trusting in God’s help and our own effort. This is called at times “living faith.”

Our thoughts about Mary sometimes portray her as a beautiful woman, walking confidently through life, feeling God’s loving presence, a peaceful smile on her face. Especially based on the scholarship and writing of women theologians and experts in scripture studies, a different image of Mary emerges from their work.

What emerges from their insights is a more real woman, struggling with the challenges of her time. She was placed by God in a role more important than any other person in all of human history. Her willingness to do what God asked was monumental, unprecedented and has affected all of human history here on Earth. This despite the fact that women back then were dismissed as second-class, weak and dependent, needing the protection of men and living under their will and authority. It would not be erroneous to think of her as a true revolutionary. A model for all women and it must be added, all men as well.

Tomorrow, we celebrate the Nativity. Of course, we focus on the Christ child, resting on a bed of straw. We recall Joseph in his role as protector and provider. But pay special attention to Mary and think about her life, not so different from our own.

David M. Thomas, PhD

The Nazareth Page
A gospel meditation for your home
December 31, 2023 – The Holy Family
Luke 2:22-40

In recent weeks we have focused on Mary, the wife and mother of the Holy Family. In contrast to the lower status of women back then, Mary is presented to us as having an extremely significant role in God's plan for all humanity. What we can take from that is that in God's eyes women and men are fully equal in dignity, a view that contrasts with social systems of that time, and certainly later too. On today's feast to the Holy Family, the spotlight focuses on the very young Jesus and affirms his importance even as a child.

He is brought to the temple according to the Jewish customs of his day to be presented to God where, according to Luke's account, he was to be consecrated to God. In the presence of an old woman (even the detail that she was 84 years old is mentioned) named Anna and an older man named Simeon, Jesus is identified as one who will be a light for Gentiles and bring God's glory to Israel. In other words, Jesus was related to all of us, then and now. Scripture elsewhere calls him "the new Adam."

So, we have in today's gospel what might be thought of as an affirmation of the important role that all of us have in God's plan for humanity. The very young, and those advanced in years, children, women and men all count as equally important and equally valuable to God. We're all important in this wondrous world of God's creation where no one is to be considered unimportant or of lesser status than anyone else.

We have all seen in our lives where a lack of genuine human equality prevails. It happens both worldwide, and even in the churches, which trace their identity to Jesus Christ. But on this Sunday, I see this underlying affirmation for full equality as especially addressed to families.

That is the setting where all ages and all genders are found, recognized, and hopefully valued. In the family, no individual group should be considered superior to any other. All are equally valued and loved by God.

Although this ideal fails to be achieved all too often, we need not conclude it is impossible to achieve. We can affirm that perfection in this life is often more a goal than an achievement, so we can still attempt to be better. And if we find ourselves guilty of past shortcomings, we can always try to improve. How this goal of fully affirming human equality will differ with each family. It was that way for the Holy Family as it is for our own day.

David M. Thomas, PhD

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH – WHO ARE WE?

We are a People of God who believe in Jesus Christ and see ourselves as friends of Jesus. We believe that we, too, shall rise from death and live again. We live our faith in the love we show for all humanity, even our enemies.

We are God-centered people. Believing that God has created us in His image, we look for God's caring presence in each moment of our lives---our lives are prayers. We ask God's help when confronted with pain and loss; we sing God's praise when we worship with our faith community; and we act out God's Love for us when we show that love to others.

We are a sacramental people. Christ Himself is the fundamental sacrament. The church, too, is a sacrament. And we, the People of God, are sacraments to each other. As humans needing ritual, we have set aside some moments of our lives to be celebrations of the special signs that God is always with us. Foremost is our weekly gathering for our public prayer and celebration of the Eucharist. In that gathering, we express our commitment to the covenant and to our faith community. Each of us needs to renew this commitment within our community – just as the community needs each of us.

WELCOME

We warmly welcome
all who have come today
to celebrate this glorious feast.

We welcome the stranger,
the traveler and guest!

We welcome the students
home from college
for a good winter's rest!

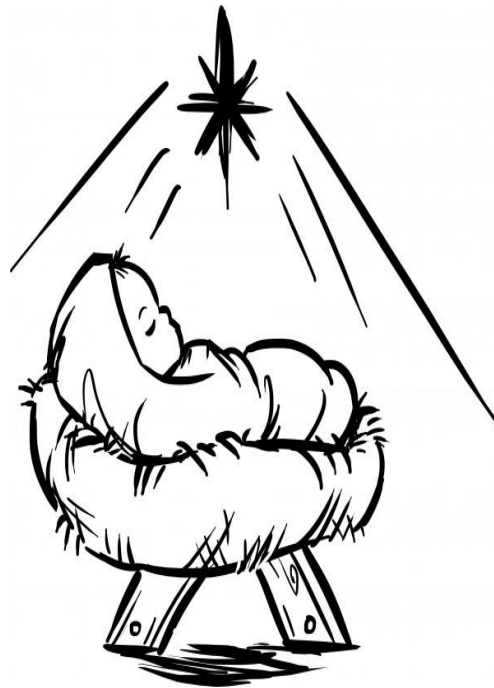
We welcome parishioners
who moved away but join us today
as old friends and guests!

We welcome all
who have not been active of late in
their Catholic faith;
and hope they will find new hope and inspiration
this Christmas
to come back again and again!

We welcome our faithful parishioners, loyal and true,
may the Lord bless you for all that you do!

Welcome to all!
May our gathering this day
gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds.

May we walk by the Light
and live by the Light – together in love.



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