



# **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church & St. Theodore Mission**



**December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas**



[www.icdeerlodge.org](http://www.icdeerlodge.org)

***The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”***

**(Lk 2: 10-12)**

# MASS SCHEDULE **Event Calendar**

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES

### **Immaculate Conception —Deer Lodge**

Confessions/Reconciliation  
Saturday 3:30 till 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.

### **St. Theodore—Avon**

Sunday Mass 11:15 a.m.

## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Tuesday through Friday

8:00 a.m.—Immaculate Conception  
Rosary before daily Mass @ 7:40 a.m.  
(Monday—No Mass)

Funeral Masses will generally be held at 11:00 a.m. and the 8:00 a.m. Mass that day will be cancelled.

The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation may also be scheduled by appointment.

## **Upcoming Events:** (Mark your Calendars)

Mon. Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Joe's Day Off  
Tue. Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am, Money Counting @ Rectory  
Tue. Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, RCIA Meeting in SLC  
Wed. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am, Pastoral Visits at MSP  
Wed. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:20 pm, Mass at MSP  
Thu. Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, Pastoral Visit at MSH



The demand for crucifixes was much greater than anticipated so we ran out after the first Mass on Saturday. Fr. Joe has ordered some more and they should be in after Christmas.

## Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

### **The week of Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Sat. 5:00 pm** Kevin Sullivan rb Kathy Isaacson

**Sun. 9:00 am** Pro Populo (For the People)

**Mon.** No Mass

**Tue. 8:00 am** Glenn & Dede Cook rb Dallis & Maggie Hunter

**Wed. 8:00 am** Stephen Denty rb Rose Marie Bradshaw

**Thu. 8:00 am** Diane Thompson rb Laurie Hunter

**Fri. 8:00 am** Rose Heisdorf rb Donna McGuire

### **St. Theodore Mass Intentions:**

12/25/22 - Dan & Karen Flanigan

1/1/23 - Cheryl & Sarah Thomas

1/8/23 - In Memory of Bruce Thomas

RCIA will meet Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, in the Spiritual Life Center. We will meet approximately every other Tuesday for 1 1/2 hours to discuss various aspects of our Catholic Faith. It is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and especially for anyone that is interested in becoming a member of our Catholic community. If you or anyone you know is interested, give Fr. Joe a call at 846-4114.



## Make a Holy Moment



**FOUNDATION**  
for the Diocese of Helena

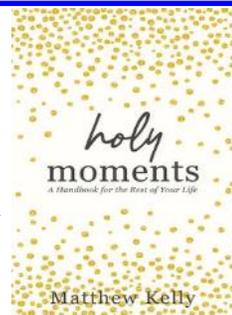
We received the quarterly Foundation for the Diocese of Helena endowment checks as nice Christmas gifts for our parishes. Even though the stock market is down, we still received a nice return of \$973.58 for Immaculate Conception and \$96.45 for St. Theodore Mission. Foundation endowments are gifts that keep on giving each and every quarter of every year. If you are looking for a way to leave a lasting legacy to our churches, consider a gift to our endowments and maybe even one of their great tax deductible annuities. Just call Dan Thies at 406-389-7051 if you would like more information.



It will soon be a new year and time for taxes. The year-end report for taxes will likely be mailed in January. According to the IRS, donations must be physically received in the year they are claimed.

So be sure to get your checks and envelopes turned in by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Also, if you have moved and your mailing address has changed, make sure you notify us so we can update our address files for when we send out the mailings.

We still have a few copies of "Holy Moments" available as well as "I Heard God Laugh" written by Matthew Kelly. There are also a number of other books available for purchase in the Kiosks in the back of the church as well as other free books people have left for others on the heater and in the rack on the right in the back of the church.





The Caduceus as a symbol for the medical profession comes from the story of Moses in Numbers 21:4-9. The Israelites were complaining about their journey in the desert so God sent the serpents to bite and kill them. Following God's command, Moses created the staff with the bronze serpent to

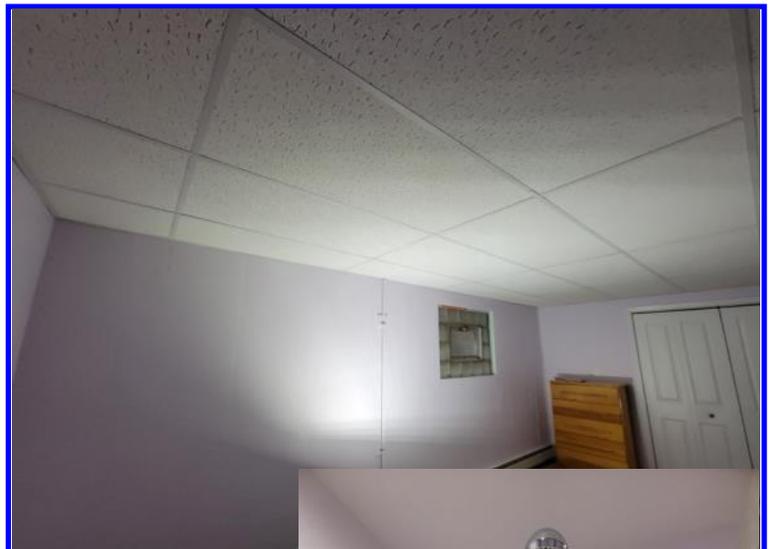
heal the people that were being bitten by the serpents by simply looking at the symbol. In later scripture it is compared to the image of Jesus being hung on the cross and how that is a symbol of our salvation if we have faith in Him and what He did for us dying on the cross for our sins. For over 3 1/2 years now Fr. Joe has been struggling with increasing pain in his feet, hands and other joints that was initially diagnosed as Rheumatoid Arthritis along with Osteo Arthritis and Neuropathy. He has been given many different medications over the years, some providing a little relief, but for the most part the pain persists and continues to increase. Fr. Joe offers up his pain and suffering as a sacrifice for others but he still hopes to find some partial relief someday. At a recent visit to the Dr. they decided that maybe the initial diagnosis may not have been 100% correct as none of the medications which have helped others seem to work for him. So, they decided to experiment with treatments for Psoriatic Arthritis which has similar symptoms but has a different regimen of drugs that may be helpful. In the mean time, you will notice that Fr. Joe will often grimace when he genuflects and when he raises the Eucharist for consecration. Both these actions have been causing increasing pain. Fr. Joe says a quick prayer before each action, offering up his pain and suffering for those he knows are struggling in the congregation. He is following in the footsteps of Fr. Stu Long who did the same in his last years as a priest in our Diocese.



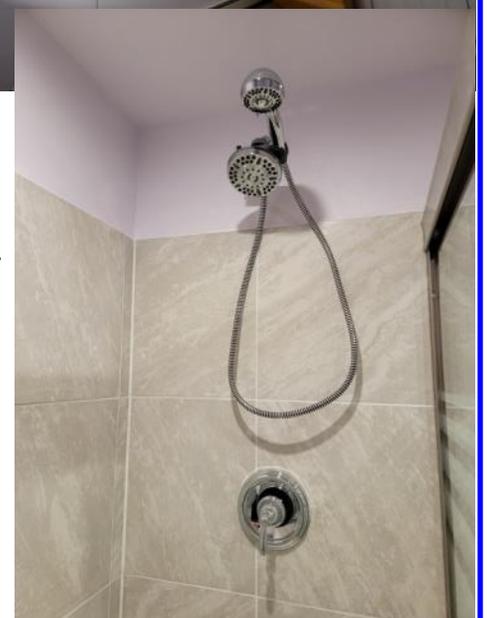
The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) is doing well. Immaculate Conception has reached 112% or **\$31,013** of the \$27,700 goal. This is with just 39% participation. Saint Theodore is at 61% or **\$2,065** of the \$3,400 goal so things are going a little slower. Please take the time to review the materials and make your pledge or donation to support the efforts of our Diocese. You can also donate online at [www.diocesehelena.org](http://www.diocesehelena.org). There are envelopes and brochures in the back of the church that can be used to facilitate your contributions.



Santa's Knights of Columbus Elves were busy at the meeting this past week busy stuffing bags of candy for kids stockings. Rumor has it Kris Kringle will be handing them out at the Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm on Saturday.



We have a fully functioning shower now in the Rectory basement. The seminarians will be able to clean up in style this coming Summer. The suspended ceiling in the second bedroom is done and now we are waiting for the electrician to get back from vacation to put in the lights. Once this is done it will be time for a good cleaning and then move in the rest of the furniture in the living room.



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A generous parishioner has bought up the remaining ad space and offered it up for inspiring quotes each week. So be sure to check out the back page each week for the quote of the week.



**ROTO-ROOTER**

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“Death is inevitable. Regrets are optional. It’s time to live the rest of your life with no regrets.”  
(Allen Hunt & Matthew Kelly)



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**SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION**

**Infant Baptism:** Parents must be registered & active members of this parish or of another parish with family here in the parish (i.e., parents). Letter of permission from Pastor if parents are from outside the parish. Two Godparents who are registered and active members of their parish, one male and one female. Contact the Pastor before infant's due date to arrange date and time.

**Holy Matrimony:** Couples discerning this sacrament should contact the Pastor immediately after becoming engaged. NOTE: the diocese requires a minimum of 6 months advance notice regarding the intention to marry. Couples wishing to marry in the parish must be registered and active members of the parish, or individuals who have moved away whose parents are still active in the parish. Couples from other parishes must obtain a letter of permission to marry outside of their own parish.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Individuals who have been diagnosed as terminally or gravely ill or are preparing for invasive surgery should request this sacrament. Confession ordinarily proceeds receiving the sacrament of the sick, call the church office at 846-4114 to make arrangements.

**Adult Confirmation, Adult Baptism (RCIA), and Adult Reception into Full Communion with the Church:** If you, a family member, or a friend has not received the sacrament of confirmation, or are interested in being baptized into the Faith, or received into full communion with the Church, please contact the Pastor. Process will be discerned on an individual basis based on preparedness.

**PARISH OFFICE INFORMATION**

611 Clark St./P.O. Box 786  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722  
Phone: 406-846-4114

Email: [icdeerlodge@outlook.com](mailto:icdeerlodge@outlook.com)

**Fr. Joe Fleming-Pastor**

**DIOCESE OF HELENA**  
Chancery Office

P.O. Box 1729/515 North Ewing Street,  
Helena, MT 59624

Phone: 1-800-584-8914

[www.diocesehelena.org](http://www.diocesehelena.org)

The Foundation for the Diocese of Helena  
1-800-584-8914 [www.fдох.org](http://www.fдох.org)

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. Dec. 1/1/22 - YTD

\$ 3,047 Immaculate Conception \$ 73,131

\$ 1,020 St. Theodore \$ 19,709

Online Giving for Dec.: \$ 6,020 \$ 88,885