

November 18, 2021

Dear Parishioner of Blessed Trinity + Spirit of Christ:

WE WAIT IN JOYFUL HOPE! The coming season of Advent sets us on a new path of hopeful transformation. The darkness of isolation and fear during the past two years seems to be succumbing to the light of hope and the promise of restoration. Still, we must be cautious. *"The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise, I made...!"*
Jeremiah 33:14 (First Sunday of Advent 2021)

We trust in the promises of the Lord! We long to hear God's voice.

Most of our parishioners have returned to regular and faithful presence and participation in Sunday Mass. All of us offer thanks and praise to God, who through the work and care of scientists and medical professionals, has gifted us all with a life-saving vaccine, not only for our own personal health and safety but for the care and protection of all. On the First Sunday of Advent (November 28) we will hear Saint Paul's prayer: *"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... so as to strengthen your hearts..."* 1 Thessalonians 3: 12

The new year of the Church begins with a deeper faith, nurtured in the struggles and challenges of these past two years. A new year, a new day, in the words of the Prophet Baruch on the Second Sunday of Advent, *"to take off the robes of mourning and misery, and put on the splendor of glory from God..."* Baruch 5:1

To *"put on the splendor of God"* can mean for us a greater appreciation for our "full, conscious and active participation," in Sunday Mass, *"rejoicing that we are remembered by God."* Baruch 5:5

We gather Sunday after Sunday in memory of God's Christ, to become what we eat and drink and to be sent forth to "love and serve..."

As the psalmist sings, we can be *"filled with joy!"*
Psalm 126, Second Sunday of Advent

We can *"take off the robe of mourning"* and rejoice that *we are remembered by God*, as we embrace the opportunities to "love and serve" through a sharing in the many ministries our parish provides.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES: Music: choir; Readers. Ministers of Holy Communion; Hospitality, Ushers, Servers, liturgy committee. Many additional ministers are needed to serve the Liturgy.



PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND.

This vital ministry has been severely limited due to the pandemic. **Now it must be cautiously and safely restored.**

- ❖ **Ms. Pat Logan** has accepted the position of volunteer coordinator of this vital ministry. Thank you, Pat!
- ❖ **Holy Communion:** Additional persons to serve the homebound are needed. Presently we serve parishioners **in their homes**; and those at **Community Medical Center, Beehive** residential community, **Hillcrest** nursing facility and **The Village Senior Residence**.
- ❖ Soon we will restore the **Friday Mass at Village Health Care Center**, and we are hoping to inaugurate a once-monthly Mass at **The Village Senior Residence**. Both of these gatherings depend on the presence and assistance of parishioners.
- ❖ **The Parish Nurse Ministry** continues, coordinated by Terry Halls at Blessed Trinity and Bernadette Roy at Spirit of Christ.

Continued >>

If you would like to serve in these ministries, or desire further information, please contact Pat Logan at the Parish office or visit with her after Mass. Preparation and training sessions will be announced soon.

LISTEN CAREFULLY!

THE LORD MAY BE CALLING YOU.

PARISH OUTREACH & SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

Family Promise: Cathy Burleson coordinates our parish volunteers at the Meadowlark.

Thank you, Cathy!

Food Bank, Poverello Center and Habitat for Humanity are supported by parish volunteers.

Our relationship with **Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (MIC)** and **Common Good Missoula** (organizing effort of MIC) continues to grow; we are forming a **Core Team** to direct that relationship. MIC oversees programs for those returning to the community after incarceration; and provides a job service placement program. Excellent educational and training programs are the foundation of MIC.

More volunteers for the parish **Outreach team** are always needed and welcomed. Contact Sr. Mary Jo for further information.

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WHOLE PARISH FAITH FORMATION. Our monthly Whole Parish Faith Formation is unique among many parishes. The opportunity to share faith monthly; to discover deeper aspects of our beliefs; and reflect on the mystery of God among us in Christ, is a precious gift. EVERY AGE, EVERY GENERATION, EVERYONE IS CALLED TO PARTICIPATE. This year we are **"On the Way"** together with Christ, as we are embraced in the healing love of the risen Lord.

LISTEN CAREFULLY!

***THE LORD MAY BE CALLING YOU
ONCE A MONTH TO SHARE, LISTEN,
PARTICIPATE, AND DISCOVER.***

While many other opportunities for ministry and service exist at Blessed Trinity and Spirit of Christ the ministries listed above are most crucial as we begin to move forward from the dark days of this pandemic.

Moving forward toward the Nativity of Christ anew among us all, we also remember the great value we place on our faith community, on one another, and on the vision we embrace during these Advent days: *"Here, God dwells among the people!"*

The ministry in which we share—beginning and ending at the Lord's Table of Eucharist—is the **good stewardship** to which we are all called. We are an amazingly generous parish. Throughout these challenging days we have remained faithful. We have offered our financial gifts for the life and ministry of our parish and Diocese. We have been generous in our support of the coming renovation project for our church building, which, we hope, will soon begin (we are in continuing negotiations for the sale of the excess land).

As we move forward, "preparing a way for the Lord," your continued good stewardship is even more necessary as needs continue to grow and expenses escalate. I trust your faithful spirit will inspire a continued heartfelt generosity.

In the coming year we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversaries of the founding of the parishes which have given us birth—Pope Saint John XXIII, Holy Family and Spirit of Christ. Plans are beginning for several celebratory events. **Carolina Bridges** is chairing the planning team. Thank you Carolina!

May the coming Christmas Feast, for which we now "prepare," fill us, and the whole world, with new hope and clear vision.

**LISTEN!
THE LORD IS CALLING YOU.**

Sincerely,



Fr. Ed Hislop, Pastor



**Remember to visit your parish website for
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PRAYER AT HOME.
blessedtrinitymissoula.org**

*You are invited to enter the stillness
of the season at VESPERS
on the Sundays of Advent at 4:00 pm.*