

Summer Newsletter 2020

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Christ the King Parish



Meet
Father Kirby,
he's
Awesome!

Greetings Christ the King Parishioners,

The young people of our time are ready to answer the call of God to be saints, to transform the world in God's image. As a university parish, it is our particular call to give them the gospel, challenge and encourage these young men and women who are hearing that call - what a gift! I cannot wait to enter into that great mission with you.

I will tell you a bit about myself. I'm the youngest of three, born in Billings to Sheree and Peter Longo. My mother raised me in a traditional Methodist Church, instilling in me an appreciation for the great Wesleyan hymns and good preaching. My father worked tirelessly to support our family, giving me every opportunity in athletics and academics. I grew up playing the traditional American sports: basketball, football, and baseball, and the friends I played with at Billings Central Catholic school are still my friends today.

My whole childhood, I was confident I would be a dentist. God had different plans. In the course of my conversion senior year of High School, I decided I would pursue a History degree at Carroll College with plans to enter graduate school or law school. It was during this time that God laid out a different mission for my life. By graduation, I knew I needed to pursue seminary studies to know whether this call was real. I also knew I needed to enter for western Montana. The wilderness of western Montana had become a part of me and I knew I would never leave.

The five years I spent at St. John Vianney seminary were amazing and helped me to know priesthood was my vocation. The Church confirmed my call, Bishop Thomas ordained me, and sent me to Butte. I loved everything about my time in Butte - you will hear plenty about that - but after three years, Bishop Vetter entrusted me to you, the good parishioners of Christ the King! I'm ready to serve you with all my energy and creativity, to bring Christ to you and with your help to recreate the University of Montana and this town in God's image!

Peace, Father Kirby Longo



Father Kirby Longo
klongo@ctkmsla.org

Did you know?

**The church is open most
days from 9 AM to 7 PM
for prayer.**

**Sunday evening mass is
back at 7 PM.**

Where do we go from here?

Shari (CTK Office Manager) asked me to reflect on the past year for this newsletter, and I immediately recalled a piece from one of my favorite writers, Fr. Ron Rolheiser. Here's an excerpt:

"The need to name being lost as a valid place is important for us, both communally and personally. (We are) in the desert, in a dark night, lost, being pruned, undergoing a purifying alchemy."

Our family of faith has seen its share of difficult times over the past year, and it's important that we recognize that pain and loss, and not just sweep it under the rug. We said goodbye to Fr. Jeff who had been with us for thirteen years. Fr. Brian was with us for only three months before he left, and we scrambled to make it to Christmas with less than half our regular staff. When Fr. Gasper arrived, we hoped to settle into some routine and normalcy, only to have a pandemic strike our world and racial tensions explode. Many have lost loved ones, jobs and health. It's been a lot of pain to process! I have enough years on me to know that difficult times are incredible opportunities for growth, but I admit that my prayer over the last year has often included "UNCLE, PLEASE don't ask me to grow anymore!" But as Fr. Ron reminded me in his piece, this is an important place.

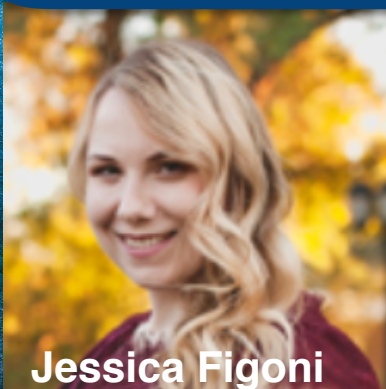
Now, as we prepare for another school year, we welcome a new Pastor to our community and have a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) team of four young people to help with campus ministry. We have five new, beautiful people joining our family of faith who bring with them a variety of strengths and talents. And we prepare, full-well knowing that any number of events can turn our plans upside-down.

So... where do we go from here? I have learned from the last year that I'm not in control... of anything! But I do trust that Christ is in the midst of the chaos! Sr. Nancy Davis once said to me, "I think God wants to see what you're going to do with this." So together, let's take it day-by-day, pray, and trust that Christ is in the midst of all of this. This has been a desert time for sure, but for more than fifty years, this has been a community rich with Christ's love and of incredible resilience. I have experienced Christ's love in so many of you and it strengthens me. And Fr. Ron reminds me:

"Beauty is ultimately more about the size of our hearts, about how much they can empathize, and how widely and unselfishly they can embrace. To that end, the desert-heat is helpful in softening the heart, enough at least to let it be painfully stretched."

I am grateful everyday to belong to this BEAUTIFUL family of faith.

Kirsten Hargas - Excavator of Human Awesomeness
CliftonStrengths: Input – WOO – Connectedness – Adaptability - Maximizer



Jessica Figoni



Andy Foy



Kaylee Ireland



David Bridge

"Hello everyone! We are the new FOCUS missionaries here at CtK, serving the students at the University of Montana. We are excited to be moving to Missoula and we hope to meet you after Mass!"

Current Schedule:

Weekend:

Saturday:
Reconciliation: 4:30 PM
Mass: 5:15 PM

Sunday:
Mass: 9 AM & 7 PM

Daily Mass

Tuesday & Thursday:
12:15 PM
Wednesday & Friday:
8:30 AM

Adoration:

Thursday: 6:00 PM

Find our channel on:



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvqGS8nFzle3VrND1MkKY3g>



Watch all of our LiveStreams

Your Story 5s

Will you be in middle school next year?

.....

Hi! I'm Taylor

YOUR

Youth Minister!

I WANT TO MEET YOU!

Let me buy you some ice cream! Swing by the DQ on South Higgins on 8/5 from 7-9pm, introduce yourself and enjoy a treat with me!

Instagram

Missoula.area.youth.group

High School

Connect with us on Instagram @missoula.area.youth.group and watch for updates or connect with Shai at 406-491-1970 to connect individually or with a small group!

Family Ministry

The pandemic has given us an opportunity to do something different and create a family ministry that will strengthen and empower us to build the kingdom of God in our homes and our community in new and meaningful ways. We need to evaluate our needs and what we are reasonably able to accomplish. Please take some time to fill out a survey. There are only 10 questions! We will prayerfully consider the needs of families as we put together a plan for 2020-21. Here is the URL for the survey:

<https://forms.gle/15U5Dm5vsLJYUu2k7>

CtK Steps Toward Safety:



Masks are required to be worn inside the building.



The office remains closed. We are still working and can be reached at (406) 728-3845 or office@ctkmsla.org.



We sanitize all pews and spaces after every mass.

There are new guidelines for those using our space. If you have a small group that would like to meet please email Shari:

sdouglass@ctkmsla.org



Sign Up Today!
The best way to stay connected to your parish:

Text the code
CTKMSLA to the
number 84576

Flocknote



You make a difference. Thank you for generously giving to our faith community, especially now during this difficult time. We continue to pray for all who have a financial burden due to this pandemic.