

Weekly Calendar
Sun., Dec 14: Adult Catechism class, 4:00 pm
Mon., Dec 15: Knights of Columbus monthly meeting, 6:00 pm, church basement
Wed., Dec 17: Children’s Catechism class, 3:45pm
Dec 15—19: Misa de Gallo Mass, 5:30 pm, daily
Sat., Dec 20: Christmas Choir practice, 9:00 am

Mass Intentions
Sun., Dec 14: For the People
Mon., Dec 15: _____
Tues., Dec 16: _____
Wed., Dec 17: _____
Thurs., Dec 18: _____
Fri., Dec 19: †For Connie Medhus by Lowell Medhus
Sat., Dec 20: _____

Offertory Collections:
St. Joseph’s
Sat., Dec 6: \$ 730.15
Sun., Dec 7: \$ 1,744.00
Feast of Immaculate Conception: \$ 23.00
Flower offerings: \$ 339.00
St. Mary’s
Sun., Dec 7: \$ 340.00

Month of Sept. 2025
Income: \$ 6,610.17
Expenses: \$ 8,411.91
Loss (\$ 1,801.74)

Month of Oct. 2025
Income: \$ 7,268.17
Expenses: \$ 7,716.53
Loss (\$ 448.36)

God is good
all the time:
All the time
God is good!

Month of Nov. 2025
Income: \$ 9,432.87
Expenses: \$ 11,027.86
Loss (\$ 1,594.99)

	Commentator	Lector	Extraordinary Ministers
Sat., Dec 13	Patty Kepp	Richelle Link	Celeste Geier & Julie O’Dell
Sun., Dec 14	Sue Seykora	Sheila Mae Pocdol	Visencia Ramirez & Candy Wells
Sat., Dec 20	Richelle Link	Celeste Geier	Celeste Geier & Patty Kepp
Sun., Dec 21	Genne Taganahan	Sue Seykora	Visencia Ramirez & Candy Wells
Wed., Dec 24	Sue Seykora	Genne Taganahan	Visencia Ramirez & Candy Wells
Thurs., Dec 25	Patty Kepp	Celeste Geier	Celeste Geier & Patty Kepp
Sat., Dec 27	Julie O’Dell	Celeste Geier	Celeste Geier & Patty Kepp
Sun., Dec 28	Visencia Ramirez	Liezel Ferido	Sue Seykora & Candy Wells

2025 Giving Tree
Remember to return your wrapped or unwrapped gift to the tree by Sunday, December 14th no later than 10:00 a.m. If you have taken a tag and cannot return a gift, please contact Vera @ 406.690.4858.
Thank you for your donation. And for opening your hearts with generosity and the giving Spirit of Christmas.

Christmas Mass Schedule
Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Vigil Mass in Hardin at 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day Mass in Hardin at 9:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day Mass in Custer at 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 1: New Years’ Day Mass in Hardin at 9:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 1: New Years’ Day Mass in Custer at 11:00 a.m.

Pastoral Staff Volunteers
Parish Bookkeeper: Colleen Schaak
Parish Secretary: Celeste Geier, 406.679.1679
Bulletin: Patty Kepp, 406.665.5257
Website Editor: Julie O’Dell, 406.665.5178
Director of Religious Education: Celeste Geier

Misa de Gallo
“Mass of the Rooster”
will be celebrated daily
at 5:30 p.m. from
December 15th—19th &
December 22nd—23rd.
Everyone is welcome!

There will be no 8:00 a.m. daily Mass on the days listed for the Misa de Gallo.

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
of Eastern Montana

Today the Church rejoices Gaudete! — as we draw nearer to the coming of Christ. Advent joy grows when we place our trust in the Lord and give thanks for the gifts He has given us.

When giving to His Church at year-end, consider sending a gift to the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana. The address is PO Box 1345, Great Falls, MT 59403 – or you can give online at www.catholicfoundationmt.org/donate.

Please know every gift of every size makes a difference for our beloved Church; every Catholic is invited to participate! For those wanting to give appreciated stock or mutual fund shares, or to create a gift that qualifies for the 40% “Montana Endowment Tax Credit”, please contact the Foundation at (406) 315-1765 or forever@catholicfoundationmt.org.
Gaudete!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a Mt 21:23–27	Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 Mt 21:28–32	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Is 7:10–14 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–24

Dear Padre

December 14, 2025

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

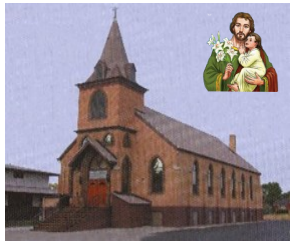
The announcement of Jesus’ birth in Luke begins, “In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph... and the virgin’s name was Mary” (Luke 1:26–27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that “in the sixth month” refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, “Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months” (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary’s pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, “And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren” (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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St. Joseph's Catholic Church

710 N Custer Avenue

Hardin, MT 59034

Father Callistus Igwenagu

406.665.1432

Website: stjosephparishhardin.org

Email: stjosephparishhardin@gmail.com

Facebook: St Joseph Catholic Parish—Hardin

Reconciliation: Saturday from 5:00-5:30 pm
For Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick,
please contact Father Cally

All questions—Father Cally, 406.665.1432

Mass Schedule

St. Joseph's Church—Hardin

Sunday Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Saturday Mass - 5:45 p.m.

Daily Mass - 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday—Friday

Exceptions: Wednesday Mass

and Adoration—5:30 p.m.

First Friday Healing Mass—5:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Mission—Custer

Sunday Mass - 11:00 a.m.

Good News!

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 / James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●

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Randy & Belinda Malensek

304 NORTH CENTER AVENUE
HARDIN MT 59034

PH: 406-665-2100
FAX: 406-665-2145



Hours: Mon-Sat 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

321 N Center Ave Hardin MT 59034

Phone: 406-679-0695

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The Flower Lady

Laura Hochhalter

Owner/Operator



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Hardin, Montana 59034

406-629-0004



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