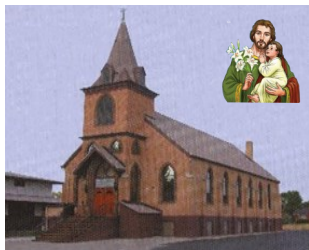


Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: July 2—July 8, 2023



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

Pastoral Staff Volunteers

Parish Bookkeeper: Colleen Schaak
Parish Secretary: Deb Johnson
Bulletin: Patty Kepp
Website Editor: Julie O'Dell
Religious Education: Celeste Geier & Bethany Fuchs

Mass Intentions

Sun., July 2: For the people
Mon., July 3: _____
Tues., July 4: _____
Wed., July 5: _____
Thurs., July 6: +For Connie Medhus
by Lowell Medhus
Fri., July 7: _____
Sat., July 8: _____



Offertory Collections **Month of May, 2023**
Sat., June 24: \$ 680.00 **Income: \$ 6,534.10**
Sun., June 25: \$ 834.00 **Expenses: \$ 9,381.18**
\$ (2,847.08)

*God is good, all the time!
All the time God is good!*

Mass Servers

	Commentator	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat., July 1	Patty Kepp	Larry Johnson	Deb & Larry Johnson
Sun., July 2	Visencia Ramirez	Sue Seykora	Angela Ramirez & Candy Wells
Sat., July 8	Richelle Link	Julie O'Dell	Bethany Fuchs & Celeste Geier
Sun., July 9	Angela Ramirez	Visencia Ramirez	Sue Seykora & Candy Wells
Sat., July 15	Katie Fuchs	Chris Fuchs	Bethany Fuchs & Larry Johnson
Sun., July 16	Candy Wells	Sue Seykora	Angela Ramirez & Visencia Ramirez

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
St. Mary's Mission – Custer
Sunday Mass – 11:00 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturday from 5:00-5:30 pm
For Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick, please contact Father Cally
Contact Numbers:
Father Cally, 406-665-1432: all questions
Patty Kepp, 406-665-5257: bulletin

Calendar

Tues., July 4: Mass 8:00 am, Independence Day
Wed., July 5: Mass and Adoration, 5:30 pm
Thurs., July 6: Finance Council will meet in the Rectory at 6:00 pm
Fri., July 7: First Friday Healing Mass, 5:30 pm

Thank you to everyone who has or who will be participating in our 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal. We are so grateful and blessed by your response to helping support the ministries and services of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings! While we will still be accepting donations throughout the remainder of the year - we want to share the results of our active campaign:

Total Amount Committed: \$1,507,513
3,447 gifts given, which is 25% participation overall.

We Are an Offering

Giving is Safe, Simple & Secure!

Visit Our Website to give electronically @ www.DioceesGFB.org/ACA

Mail To: Diocese of Great Falls-Billings Annual Catholic Appeal PO Box 1399 Great Falls, MT 59403-1399

Make a Stock Gift Call the Diocese Development Office @ (406) 604-1854

Donate Now! Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to give online!

DIocese of GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2023



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP AND ITS REWARDS

I believe you still remember the story of the college admission scandal of 2019 where some wealthy rich parents paid a huge sum of money to get their children admitted into the nation's top-ranking colleges. Those parents bribed the college authorities to have their kids admitted without due process and qualifications. When the scandal was exposed, the parents involved were prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced. One of the parents regretting her actions said: **"I did what I did out of love for my daughter."**

When you do the wrong thing so as to please your family members or friends or neighbors, you are loving those people more than you love Jesus. And Jesus said in today's gospel (Matt 10:37-42) that whoever loves parents or children more than him is not worthy of him. We must love God more than any person or things on earth. Commitment to Jesus which we made at our baptism must take precedence over any other commitment. That is what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus. Sometimes it may be difficult to keep to this commitment, but that is one of the costs of discipleship. Remember that on the judgement day, you will stand alone before God, not with your father, mother, son or daughter, or friends. And you will not tell God that you did the wrong you did because of the love of your son /daughter or parents. That will be no excuse.

Jesus in today's gospel equally teaches us another way to be a true disciple of his. He said, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." In this statement Jesus wants us to sometimes get out of our comfort zones and allow ourselves to be inconvenienced for the sake of the gospel and salvation of souls. When you deny yourself certain pleasures, when you make sacrifices for the sake of Jesus, when you donate generously to the needy and to the church you are losing your life, you are depriving yourself of the comfort of life for the sake of Jesus. And thus, the blessings of God including salvation will follow you-you will find your life. An example was given to us in today's first reading (2Kings 4:8-11, 14-16). A certain couple sacrificed their resources and conveniences to accommodate Prophet Elisha in their house. For this act of hospitality and generosity, the family was rewarded with a baby son as they had no child. And so will God reward every sacrifice and good works we do to promote the spread of his gospel. Then finally Jesus teaches us another mark of being a true disciple: To carry your cross and follow him.

Jesus said, "Whoever does not carry his cross and come after me is not worthy of me." We all have crosses to carry. Jesus did not promise us a life without challenges. He tells us to continue to follow him even with those challenges. Your ability to carry your own cross and remain faithful to God makes you a true disciple. Christians are like wounded soldiers. Even with the wounds the soldiers must keep fighting to avoid losing the battle. With our crosses we must keep following Christ till the end. The rewards will be great.

Inviting all Married* Couples and Priests!

- Worldwide Marriage Encounter is an experience for married couples and priests who value their relationships and desire a richer, fuller life in their marriage and priesthood.
- Attend a Marriage Encounter Experience and learn the tools needed to keep your marriage and priesthood strong and thriving.
- For over 50 years, Worldwide Marriage Encounter has helped millions of couples and priests find new ways to thrive together and live their vocations in love.



- This is an invitation being offered to all married couples and priests who are looking for a way to enrich their relationships through an online opportunity.
- Worldwide Marriage Encounter of Northern Illinois is hosting a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Virtual Experience being held on Thursday evenings starting October 5th through November 16th.
- The sessions run for 2 ½ - 3 hours each evening starting at 7:00 PM CT.
- Zoom access is required and you must be available to attend all 8 sessions.
- Early application is required in order for the materials for the experience to be mailed to you ahead of time.

3RE Virtual Experience - Thursday Evenings starting October 5 – November 16, 2023

For more information and to sign up for an Experience visit our website at: alifetimeoflove.org or wwme.org or call 888-574-5653

*WWME is faithful to the Roman Catholic Church's teaching that marriage is a covenant that exists between one man and one woman. Any reference to marriage or couple made by WWME is in this context.