

## Weekly Calendar

**Sun., Dec 21:** Adult Catechism class, 4:00 pm  
**Mon-Tues, Dec 22-23:** Misa de Gallo Mass, 5:30 pm. There is no 8:00 am daily Mass this week.

*Due to the Christmas break, there is no Children's Catechism class. The class will resume January 7th.*

## Mass Intentions

**Sun., Dec 21:** For the People 

**Mon., Dec 22:** **+For Connie Medhus by Lowell Medhus**

**Tues., Dec 23:** For the People

**Wed., Dec 24:** For the People

**Thurs., Dec 25:** For the People

**Fri., Dec 26:** For the People

**Sat., Dec 27:** For the People

## Offertory Collections:

**St. Joseph's**  
**Sat., Dec 13:** \$ 1175.00  
**Sun., Dec 14:** \$ 1200.00  
**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:** \$ 51.00  
**St. Mary's**  
**Sun., Dec 14:** \$

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

**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)

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

## 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

## Commentator

	<b>Commentator</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>
<b>Sat., Dec 20</b>	Richelle Link	Celeste Geier	Celeste Geier & Patty Kepp
<b>Sun., Dec 21</b>	Genne Taganahan	Sue Seykora	Visencia Ramirez & Candy Wells
<b>Wed., Dec 24</b>	Sue Seykora	Genne Taganahan	Visencia Ramirez & Candy Wells
<b>Thurs., Dec 25</b>	Patty Kepp	Celeste Geier	Celeste Geier & Patty Kepp
<b>Sat., Dec 27</b>	Julie O'Dell	Celeste Geier	Celeste Geier & Patty Kepp
<b>Sun., Dec 28</b>	Visencia Ramirez	Liezal Ferido	Sue Seykora & Candy Wells
<b>Sat., Jan 3</b>	Celeste Geier	Richelle Link	Patty Kepp & Julie O'Dell
<b>Sun., Jan 4</b>	Genne Taganahan	Sheila Mae Pocadol	Sue Seykora & Candy Wells

## Christmas & New Years' 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.



**Misa de Gallo**  
**"Mass of the Rooster"**  
**Dec 22nd & 23rd at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Everyone is welcome!**

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

## Good News!

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24

MIGUEL DULICK

**It is the fourth Sunday of Advent.** When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●

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**CATHOLIC FOUNDATION**  
 of Eastern Montana

**PROTECT THE FUTURE OF ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Give to the Father Fabian Fehring Endowment through the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana

**Why give to an endowment?**

**For the Church:** The Father Fabian Fehring Endowment that benefits St. Joseph's in Hardin is invested according to USCCB guidelines & **only benefits this church** securing a stable financial future for generations to come.



**Financial Stability:** The Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana provides dependable annual distributions from the Father Fabian Fehring Memorial Endowment to our church. Your donations will ensure this distribution increases every year.

**Tax Advantages:** Some donations to the Father Fabian Fehring Endowment may qualify for tax advantages, including the 40% Montana Endowment Tax Credit. That's a 40% tax credit against your Montana income tax!

**It's Easy & So Meaningful!** There are a number of ways to give and the Foundation is happy to help! Even \$1 can make a difference. If you'd like assistance giving before the end of the year, please call 406-315-1765.

## GIVE TO THE FATHER FABIAN FEHRING ENDOWMENT BEFORE YEAR-END

- The Father Fabian Fehring Endowment has a current balance of \$85,119
- The more this grows, the greater the annual distributions will be for St. Joseph's to support the church as needed



Scan the QR code to give today, OR mail a check to the Foundation's address below.

THANK YOU!

PO BOX 1345,  
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FAX: 406-665-2145



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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

**MONDAY**  
December 22  
Advent Weekday  
1 Sm 1:24-28  
Lk 1:46-56

**TUESDAY**  
December 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24  
Lk 1:57-66

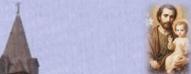
**WEDNESDAY**  
December 24  
Advent Weekday  
2 Sm 7:1-5,  
8b-12, 14a, 16  
Lk 1:67-79

**THURSDAY**  
December 25  
The Nativity of the  
Lord (Christmas)  
Is 52:7-10  
Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18  
or 1:1-5, 9-14

**FRIDAY**  
December 26  
St. Stephen,  
the First Martyr  
Acts 6:8-10;  
7:54-59  
Mt 10:17-22

**SATURDAY**  
December 27  
St. John, Apostle  
and Evangelist  
1 Jn 1:1-4  
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**SUNDAY**  
December 28  
The Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary,  
and Joseph  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14  
Col 3:12-21  
or 3:12-17  
Mt 2:13-15,  
19-23



## 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.

## Dear Padre

December 21, 2025

**I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?**

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. "From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, "How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?" The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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