

Weekly Calendar

Sun., Sept 14: Adult Catechism class, 4:00 pm, church basement
Tues., Sept 16: Knights of Columbus monthly meeting, 6:00 pm, church basement
Wed., Sept 17: No Mass & Adoration, Fr. Cally out of town.

Mass Intentions

Sun., Sept 14: For the People
Mon., Sept 15: No daily Mass
Tues., Sept 16: No daily Mass
Wed., Sept 17: No daily Mass
Thurs., Sept 18: †For Connie Medhus by Lowell Medhus
Fri., Sept 19: †For Rose Alden by the Catholic Daughters
Sat., Sept 20: †For Kathryn Schindler by the Catholic Daughters



Offertory Collections:

St. Joseph's
Sat., Aug 23: \$ 234.00 **Sun., Aug 24:** \$ 960.20
Sat., Aug 30: \$ 387.00 **Sun., Aug 31:** \$ 1,373.00
Sat., Sept 6: \$ 868.00 **Sun., Sept 7:** \$ 1,124.00

St. Mary's
Sun., Aug 24: **Sun., Aug 31:** \$

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	Lector	Extraordinary Ministers
Sat., Sept 13	Julie O'Dell	Richelle Link	Celeste Geier & Julie O'Dell
Sun., Sept 14	Candy Wells	Sheila Mae Pocdol	Visencia Ramirez & Sue Seykora
Sat., Sept 20	Celeste Geier	Julie O'Dell	Celeste Geier & Julie O'Dell
Sun., Sept 21	Genne Taganahan	Candy Wells	Angela Ramirez & Sue Seykora
Sat., Sept 27	Richelle Link	Celeste Geier	Celeste Geier & Julie O'Dell
Sun., Sept 28	Visencia Ramirez	Liezel Ferido	Sue Seykora & Candy Wells

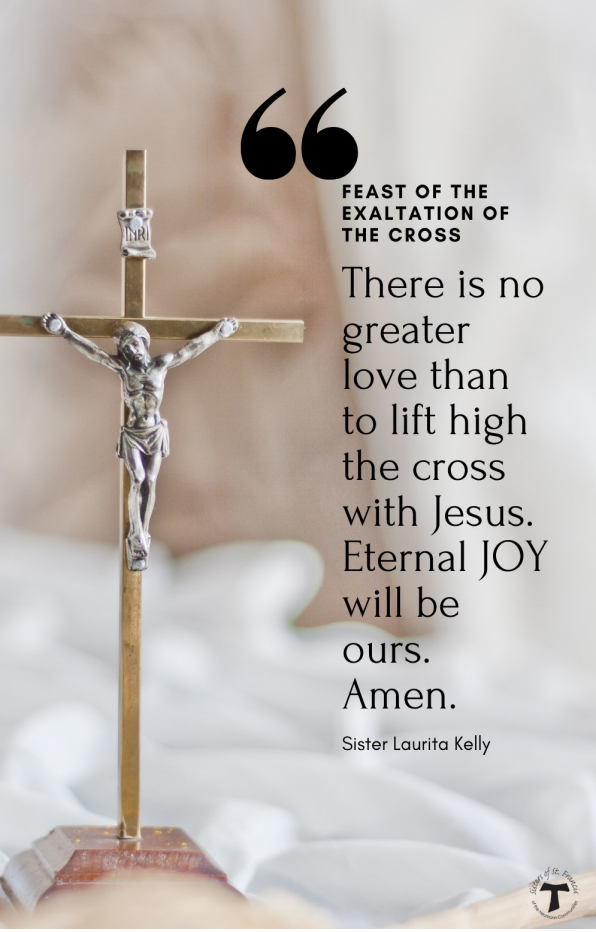
Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
(Lect 638)

Since the seventh century CE, Christians have celebrated a feast on this date to commemorate the cross that Jesus made holy by his exaltation. Before his crucifixion, a cross would have been the most unlikely of religious symbols. But Jesus transformed the cross from an object of torture and humiliation to one of triumph and salvation. In this feast's first reading, God directs Moses to mount a bronze serpent on a pole and lift it up so that all those who had been punished with lethal snakebites could look up at it and live. Jesus recalls this event when he tells Nicodemus that he too would be lifted up and that those who look to him would have eternal life. Note that the bronze serpent did not prevent venomous snakebites to begin with, but it restored life to those who had been bitten. We still suffer when we carry our crosses, but Jesus brings new life to those who look to him on the cross, willingly embrace their own cross, and place their faith in God's plan of salvation.

When do you look to Jesus' acceptance of his cross as an example of how you should do the same?

Month of July, 2025	Fiscal Year ending 6.30.25
Income: \$ 8,237.09	Income: \$ 96,494.29
Expenses: \$ 9,389.41	Expenses: \$ 110,434.86
\$ (1,152.32)	Net Loss \$ (13,940.57)

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



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If you need assistance contact Celeste at 406 679-1679

Dear Padre

September 14, 2025

A Protestant friend tells me that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. That doesn't seem accurate to me. What does the Church teach about the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross?

Jesus understood his mission to be sacrificing his own life "as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was even at the cost of death. However, saying Jesus' death was payment for our sins doesn't mean that a vengeful God was appeased by the slaughter of his own innocent son. Rather, we are redeemed because of the mutual love between Father and Son, as well as the love Christ had for us all when he offered his life. "It is love 'to the end' (see John 13:1) that confers on Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus' death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice "that completes and surpasses all other sacrifices," when "the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us with himself," and the Son of God freely and lovingly offered his human life to his Father "in reparation for our disobedience" (CCC 614). Christ "bore our sins in his body upon the cross.... By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Viewed in light of the resurrection, Christ's death has meaning in eternal life's triumph over sin. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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Father Callistus Igwenagu

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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!

September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21:4b-9 / Philippians 2:6-11 / John 3:13-17

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

As he stood in line in front of me, the back of his T-shirt read, “Pain is weakness leaving the body.” Though unsaid, it implied that the parting pain would be replaced by newfound strength. Yet, the more I thought about it, I wondered if that is always the case. Some pain simply leaves one empty, like the grief that comes with the death of one’s child. That emptiness never leaves, it is never replaced. So too, the pain of living with mental illness, as it seems to isolate one from many of life’s joys and satisfactions. Or, eventually, the aging process in all of us, as it slips in and steals the treasures of life, one by one. Pain is not always weakness leaving the body. Sometimes, it is the pain of an alien spirit settling in for the long haul.

If St. Paul’s assertion that Jesus came and “emptied himself...coming in human likeness... even [to] death on a cross,” then those times that seem to empty us of all we would hold dear are the times when we slowly take on the image of Jesus in our own lives. It is at such times when we are most powerless but also when God’s spirit shines through our broken and wounded lives, if only because we become totally dependent upon God. It is Saint Teresa of Kolkata who is said to have once remarked that even God cannot fill what is already full. ●

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