Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time: February 19—25, 2023



St. Joseph's Catholic Church **710 N Custer Avenue** Hardin, MT 59034 **Father Callistus Igwenagu** 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

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

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** 

Sun., Feb 19:	For the people	
Mon., Feb 20:	No Mass	F
Tues., Feb 21:		(ite 19)
Wed., Feb 22:		
Thurs., Feb 23:	For Connie Medhus by Lowell Medhus	
Fri., Feb 24:		
Sat., Feb 25:		

**Offertory Collections** Sat., Feb 11: \$ 900.43 Sun.. Feb 12: \$ 1.140.00

Month of Dec., 2022 Income: \$10,234.00 Expenses: \$7,308.56

\$ 2,925.44

March 19th — Feast of St. Joseph, the Husband of Mary

#### Mass Servers

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	<b>Commentator</b>	<u>Lector</u>		
Sat., Feb 18	Chris Fuchs	Katie Fuchs		
Sun., Feb 19	Angela Ramirez	Sue Seykora		
Sat., Feb 25	Patty Kepp	Bethany Fuchs		
Sun., Feb 26	Candy Wells	Visencia Ramirez		
Sat., Mar 4	Katie Fuchs	Celeste Geier		
Sun., Mar 5	Sue Seykora	Angela Ramirez		
Sat., Mar 11	Julie O'Dell	Larry Johnson		
Sun., Mar 12	Visencia Ramirez	Candy Wells		

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 guestions Patty Kepp, 406-665-5257: bulletin

#### Calendar

Sun., Feb 19: JCDA monthly meeting, 10:00 am, church basement

Mon., Feb 20: Knights of Columbus monthly meeting, 6:00 pm, church basement

Wed., Feb 22: Religious Education class, 3:45pm Wed., Feb 22: Ash Wednesday Mass, 5:30 pm Fri., Feb 24: Stations of the Cross, 5:30 pm, led by the Parish Council

Fri., Mar 3: Stations of the Cross, 5:30 pm, led by the Knights of Columbus, followed with Healing Mass

#### Scholarships:

The Elizabeth Brennan Memorial/ Knights of Columbus—Hardin Council 5527 for High School and College Students

Up to \$2000 in Scholarships will be awarded to high school and college students who are currently enrolled in an accredited institution.

Applications are available on the table at the entrance of the church.

Stations of the Cross				
Dates	Time	Led by		
Fri., Feb 24	5:30 pm	Parish Council		
Fri., Mar 3	5:30 pm	Knights of Columbus		
Fri., Mar 10	5:30 pm	Catholic Daughters		
Fri., Mar 17	5:30 pm	Father Cally		
Fri., Mar 24	5:30 pm	Parish Council		
Fri., Mar 31	5:30 pm	Father Cally		
Good Friday, April 7 12:00 noon CDA/JCDA				
Mary's Way of the Cross				

### Be Holy by loving and forgiving others even your enemies.

Holiness of life should be the aspiration of every Christian for that is the criterion for salvation. In the first reading (Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18) God tells us to be holy for he himself is holy. St. Paul in the second reading (1Corinthians 3:16-23) advises us to be holy for we are temples of God, and the spirit of God dwells in us. Jesus in the gospel (Matthew 5:38-48) enjoins us to be perfect/holy as our heavenly father is perfect/holy. One of the major ways to achieve holiness of life is through love and forgiveness. The opposite of love is hatred. God tells us in the first reading: do not bear hatred for your brothers or sisters; do not revenge. Rather love and forgive your neighbours. In the gospel Jesus tells us "When someone strikes you on the right cheek turn the other one as well." Striking on the right cheek has to do with insult, public humiliation (cf. Job 16:10; Lam 3:30) and turning the other check has to do with forgiveness. In other words, if somebody insults you; if somebody offends you, you are encouraged to forgive especially when the person apologizes. We should not revenge for revenge belongs to God. This is how to be perfect.

Jesus also commanded us to love and forgive even our enemies. This is a more difficult commandment. Our natural tendency is to love those who love us and to hate those who hate us. How can I love someone who hates me and may even harm me or kill me if given the opportunity? How can I love someone who slanders me and tarnishes my image and personality? It may be difficult, but it is possible. Jesus himself loved those who killed him, and he forgave them. God himself loves us even when we continued to sin against him. Our sins make us enemies of God. Yet God does not hate us rather he hates our sins. He loves us and forgives us and he does good to us. Today's psalmist (Ps 103) said: The Lord is kind and merciful.

So, we can still love our enemies. But loving our enemies does not mean playing into their hands or allowing them to harm us. We need to protect ourselves from our known enemies and be very careful in dealing with them. We need to resist their unjust aggression against us and never give them the chance to hurt us. Loving our enemies means not harbouring hatred, anger against them. It means not doing them harm. It means doing good to them if we have the opportunity. It means praying for them.

So, Jesus encourages us to love and forgive even our enemies and to be generous. This is what makes us his true followers and what differentiates us from others. We should imitate him. We however need the grace of God to love as he loves and to forgive as he forgives.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience: As married couples, none of us are perfect and sometimes we step on each other's toes – sometimes we do it without even realizing it. The Marriage Encounter Experience is an opportunity to discuss those little hurts before they become big hurts. What's even better is that you do it in the privacy of your own room and with a new communication technique that creates an atmosphere of safety and confidence. The next Experience will be in Elk Mountain, WY, April 21-23. Application fee is \$100 and an opportunity to make a donation on Sunday of the Experience. To register check out our website: wwme.org or call: (307)-298-0617. If questions do not hesitate to contact us: Tom and Mary Frances Burke tommfburke@gmail.com Tom Burke 307-259-5392, Mary Frances Burke 307-259-5394

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# We Are an Offering

Ministry Spotlight: Properties & Facilities

One of the ministries of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings is our "Properties and Facilities Management." Jerry Horton, Property Manager, covers the 94,000 square miles throughout the year to provide assistance with issues from construction, repairs and maintenance of our parishes and schools to with planning, guiding through the process and completion and will even help to navigate the insurance processes. Over the last 6 months he has helped with boiler issues, frozen pipes, tornado damage, roof damage, new construction, construction planning, etc. He does all of this at NO COST to the parish or school. The Diocese wants to ensure that we are providing support for the maintenance and stewardship of our churches, schools and facilities. Your gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal help to ensure that we are able to provide this service on an ongoing basis.