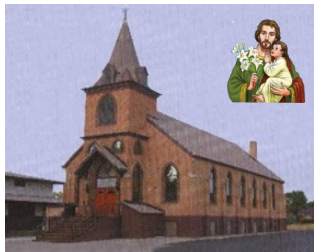


Nativity of the Lord, Christmas: December 25—December 31, 2022



## St. Joseph's Catholic Church

710 N Custer Avenue  
Hardin, MT 59034

Father Callistus Igwenagu  
406-665-1432

Website: [stjosephparishhardin.org](http://stjosephparishhardin.org)  
Email: [stjosephparishhardin@gmail.com](mailto: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., Dec 25: For the people  
Mon., Dec 26: +For Corinne Buechler  
by the Catholic Daughters  
Tues., Dec 27: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wed., Dec 28: No Mass  
Thurs., Dec 29: No Mass  
Fri., Dec 30: +For Connie Medhus  
by Lowell Medhus  
Sat., Dec 31: For recovery of Carol Fortune  
by Joe & Elaine Malensek



Offertory Collections: Month of November, 2022  
Sat., Dec 17: \$ 503.00 Income: \$ 7,271.82  
Sun., Dec 18: \$ 1,211.00 Expenses: \$ 8,732.96  
- \$ 1,461.14

### Mass Servers

|              | Commentator      | Lector           |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sat., Dec 24 | Patty Kepp       | Candy Wells      |
| Sun., Dec 25 | Angela Ramirez   | Celeste Geier    |
| Sat., Dec 31 | Julie O'Dell     | Patty Kepp       |
| Sun., Jan 1  | Candy Wells      | Visencia Ramirez |
| Sat., Jan 7  | Chris Fuchs      | Bethany Fuchs    |
| Sun., Jan 8  | Sue Seykora      | Candy Wells      |
| Sat., Jan 14 | Katie Fuchs      | Richelle Link    |
| Sun., Jan 15 | Visencia Ramirez | Candy Wells      |

Mass Schedule  
St. Joseph's Church – Hardin  
Sunday Mass – 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday Mass – 5:45 p.m.  
Weekday Mass – 8:00 a.m. M-F  
St. Mary's Mission – Custer  
Sunday Mass – 11:00 a.m.

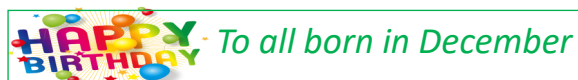
Reconciliation: Saturday from 4:45-5:30 pm  
For Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick, please contact Father Cally  
Contact Numbers:  
Father Cally, 406-665-1432: all questions  
Patty Kepp, 406-665-5257: bulletin

### Calendar

Wed., Dec 28: No Religious Education class  
Wed., Dec 28: No Mass  
Thurs., Dec 29: No Mass  
Sat., Dec 31: New Year's Eve Mass, 5:45 pm  
Sun., Jan 1: New Year's Day Mass, 9:00 am



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



Every Parish family can have unlimited access to life changing Catholic content that will enrich your life. Formed is an online platform that provides 24/7 access to the best movies, ebooks and video based studies from a trusted provider like the Augustine Institute. As a parishioner of St. Joseph's, you will have the opportunity to learn more about Formed and how to get started for free in the next couple of weeks.

### THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

Celebration of Christmas is celebration of God's love for humanity. John 3:16 says "God so much loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." So, out of God' love for us he gave us Jesus as a saviour.

But how did Jesus come into the world? As God, Jesus if he had wanted, would have jumped down from heaven and save the world. But he didn't come down through that way. He decided to go through the process of incarnation, taking human flesh and to be born like every human person. St. John in today's gospel (John 1:1-18) said "...the Word became flesh and lived among us..." Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary. Mary carried him in her womb for nine months and he was born.

God taking human flesh is degrading; it is a self-humiliating process. It can be compared to human person taking the flesh of animals to save the animal kingdom. That's what Jesus did. It was a radical change of status. He left behind his Godly attributes, powers, glories, honour, and became a human person to save us. St. Paul captured it well in Phil. 2:6-11 "Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had and took the nature of a servant. He became like human being and appeared in human likeness..."

Incarnation is a mystery. And love is the key to understanding this great mystery of incarnation. For it is out of love that Jesus who is fully God, underwent the shameful and humiliating process of 'taking human flesh'. He took our nature that we may participate in divine nature. Through his incarnation Jesus has made us sons and daughters of God, making us his brothers and sisters. We must be ever grateful for this.

Jesus decided to come as a baby so that everybody will have access to him. When a new baby is born, everybody is attracted to see him and touch him. Jesus wants everybody to have access to him, to gain salvation through him. What a love. So, we appreciate God the father for sending his son to save us. We appreciate God the son for accepting to take our nature to redeem us. We are all invited to draw nearer to Jesus and gain salvation.

Jesus through his incarnation identified with human conditions. He was deeply involved in the life situations of all his people especially the poor, the vulnerable. Christmas season is therefore a season of love; a time to show love to one another. It is a time to identify with the poor and the needy and share the joy of Christ incarnation. Merry Christmas to you all!



### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience:

Today is born to us a Savior, a newborn babe who cannot yet speak, but whose life will change the world. How is he calling you to be a voice of change in this world? The WWME Experience is an opportunity to find your voice as a couple, to make small changes in your everyday lives. These small changes have the capacity to change this world, certainly the lives of your children and those closest to you. Take the leap of faith and register for the next Experience, Feb 3-5 in Billings followed by Elk Mountain April 21-23. For more information or to register call Dan and Clare: 406-697-3275 or visit our website: [wwme.org](http://wwme.org)

Thank you to all to all who participated in this years "Giving Tree". Your generosity and loving spirit is sincerely appreciated!



### Cum Christo Weekends

Men's Weekend Dates:  
Feb 9 - 12, 2023  
Rector: Dean Mindt 406-687-3818 [mindtdean@gmail.com](mailto:mindtdean@gmail.com)  
Scripture Theme: "I go to prepare a place for you"  
Women's Weekend Dates:  
Feb 16 - 19, 2023  
Rectora: Wendy Wiltzen 406-480-9845 [wwiltzen@gmail.com](mailto:wwiltzen@gmail.com)  
Scripture Theme: "Be not afraid, I am with you always"  
More information on the table at the entrance of the church.

