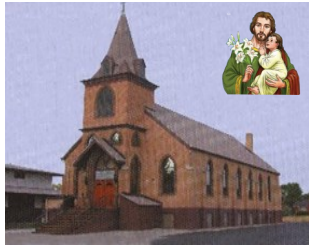


Second Sunday of Advent: December 10—16, 2023



**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  
 Director of Religious Education: Celeste Geier

**Mass Intentions**

Sun., Dec 10: For the People  
 Mon., Dec 11: No Mass  
 Tues., Dec 12: +For Richard Bowler by Jim & Sue Seykora  
 Wed., Dec 13: +For Connie Medhus by Lowell Medhus  
 Thurs., Dec 14: Anthony T Cacchione family St Labre Benefactors  
 Fri., Dec 15: Anthony T Cacchione family St Labre Benefactors  
 Sat., Dec 16: +For Richard Bowler by Larry & Deb Johnson



**Offertory Collections**

Sat., Dec 2: \$ 1,388.00	Month of October, 2023	Fiscal Year ending 6.30.23
Sun., Dec 3: \$ 1,537.00	Income: \$ 6,097.35	Income: \$ 96,416.60
	Expenses: \$ 8,610.07	Expenses \$ 104,547.68
	\$ 973.00	\$ (8,131.08)

**Mass Servers**

	Commentator	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat., Dec 9	Richelle Link	Julie O'Dell	Celeste Geier & Patty Kepp
Sun., Dec 10	Visencia Ramirez	Genne Taganahan	Sue Seykora & Candy Wells
Sat., Dec 16	Celeste Geier	Richelle Link	Patty Kepp & Julie O'Dell
Sun., Dec 17	Genne Taganahan	Sue Seykora	Visencia Ramirez & Candy Wells
Sat., Dec 23	Patty Kepp	Celeste Geier	Larry & Deb Johnson
Sun., Dec 24	Genne Taganahan	Candy Wells	Angela Ramirez & Sue Seykora
Christmas Eve	Candy Wells	Sue Seykora	Larry & Deb Johnson
Christmas Day	Visencia Ramirez	Genne Taganahan	Celeste Geier & Larry Johnson

**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**

**Mon., Dec 11:** Catholic Daughters monthly meeting, 6:00 pm, church basement  
**Tues., Dec 12:** Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass and Potluck beginning at 5:30 pm  
**Wed., Dec 13:** Religious Education class, 3:45pm  
**Wed., Dec 13:** Mass & Adoration, 5:30 pm  
**Thurs., Dec 14:** Advent Penance Service, 5:30pm  
**Sun., Dec 17:** Gathering of youth of our parish 3:00 pm, church basement  
**Mon., Dec 18:** Knights of Columbus monthly meeting, 6:00 pm, church basement  
**Tues., Dec 19:** Finance Council meeting, 2:00pm, in the Rectory



**GATHERING OF YOUTH OF OUR PARISH**  
**Sun., Dec. 17th - 3:00 pm**  
 in the church basement

**The Knights of Columbus**  
**Christmas trees are here for \$25 each. Pickup or delivery is available. Please contact Frank Krebs 679-1094**

**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD**

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas. Prophets Isaiah in the first reading (Is 40:1-5,9-11), and John the Baptist in the gospel (Mark1:1-8) told the people: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Both prophets are calling us to repentance to be ready to welcome the Lord.

Isaiah said: Fill up the valleys. Valleys represent our lack, our dark sides, our bad habits, our hidden faults. We are called by Isaiah to remove those bad habits and replace them with virtues.

Isaiah equally said: Bring low every mountain and hill. As valleys represent our hidden faults, mountains and hills represent those faults we would like to show. An example is pride. Pride is the number one of the seven capital sins. Jesus can hardly dwell in a proud heart. We must therefore practice humility. Humility helps us to acknowledge our limitations just like John the Baptist who in today's gospel confessed that Jesus is mightier than him.

Isaiah again said: make straight the crooked ways and make smooth the rough ways. The crooked ways and rough ways in our lives are our acts of deception and lies, our insincerity. Isaiah and John the Baptist call upon us to repent of this and embrace truth and justice.

Advent is equally a time to prepare for the second coming of Lord. St. Peter in the second reading (2Peter 3:8-14) emphasized on this. He said that only life of holiness will get us into God's kingdom. He encouraged us to remain spotless and blameless at the final coming of our Lord.

The sacrament of reconciliation is one major instrument we use in preparing for Christmas and for the second coming of Jesus. We have Advent penance service this week on Thursday. Endeavour to be present.



The **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** will be celebrated with Mass & Potluck **Tuesday, Dec 12th at 5:30 p.m.** Potluck will be served after Mass. You're welcome to bring any type of dish. Everyone is welcome!



**Advent Penance Service**

**Thursday, December 14th @ 5:30 p.m.**

The Church encourages Catholics to participate in preparation during Advent by receiving the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** as part of your preparation in getting ready for the coming of the King at Christmas.

A very simple, yet generous, way to share your gifts with our parish (without writing a check at all) is to name our church the owner and/or beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy you have which your beneficiaries no longer need. In addition, a gift of a paid-up policy would likely qualify you for the 40% Montana Endowment Tax Credit. To learn more, contact the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana: forever@catholicfoundationmt.org or 406-315-1765.



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



**Holiday Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve: Sun., Dec 24—5:45 p.m.**  
 Hardin  
**Christmas Day: Mon., Dec 25—9:00 a.m.**  
 Hardin  
 Mon., Dec 25—11:00 a.m.  
 Custer  
**New Year's Day: Mon., Jan 1—9:00 a.m.**  
 Hardin  
 Mon., Jan 1—11:00 a.m.  
 Custer

**2023 Giving Tree**

Remember to return your wrapped or unwrapped gift to the tree by **Sun., December 17th @ 10:00 a.m.**

