



**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.  
 Weekday Mass – 8:00 a.m. M-F  
**St. Mary's Mission – Custer**  
 Sunday Mass – 11:00 a.m.

**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 4:** For the people  
**Mon., Dec 5:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tues., Dec 6:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Wed., Dec 7:** For Thomas Tecca  
 by Larry & Deb Johnson  
**Thurs., Dec 8:** For Cleo Johnson  
 by Larry & Deb Johnson  
**Fri., Dec 9:** For Frank & Velma Dornberger  
 by Linda Mcarthur & John Dornberger  
**Sat., Dec 10:** For Connie Medhus  
 by Lowell Medhus



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

**Calendar**

**Sun., Dec 4:** JCDA meeting, card making, 10:00  
**Sun., Dec 4:** Christmas Choir Practice, 10:00  
**Tues., Dec 6:** Advent Penance Service, 5:30 pm  
**Wed., Dec 7:** Religious Education class, 3:45 pm  
**Wed., Dec 7:** Mass, Adoration, Rosary and Novena Prayer to St. Joseph, 5:30 pm  
**Thurs., Dec 8:** Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation Mass, 5:30 pm  
**Sat, Dec 10:** Catholic Daughters Christmas Party  
**Mon., Dec 12:** Catholic Daughters meeting, 6:30 pm, church rectory  
**Mon., Dec 12:** The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass at 5:30 pm followed with Potluck



The 2022 Little Blue Book for Advent and Christmas Season books are available at the entrance to the church. This is a six-minute reflection on the Sunday Gospels of Year A. Please take one.

*Christmas Carol of Nine Lessons*

*Tuesday, Dec 20th  
5:00 p.m.  
Followed with potluck dinner*



**Offertory Collections: Month of October, 2022**  
**Sat., Nov 26: \$ 415.82      Income: \$ 8,379.88**  
**Sun., Nov 27: \$ 914.00      Expenses: \$ 7,041.20**  
**Mass Servers                      \$ 1,338.68**

	<b>Commentator</b>	<b>Lector</b>
Sat., Dec 3	Bethany Fuchs	Celeste Geier
Sun., Dec 4	Sue Seykora	Angela Ramirez
Sat., Dec 10	Katie Fuchs	Chris Fuchs
Sun., Dec 11	Visencia Ramirez	Candy Wells
Sat., Dec 17	Richelle Link	Julie O'Dell
Sun., Dec 18	Angela Ramirez	Sue Seykora
Sat., Dec 24		Sue Seykora
Sun., Dec 25		Celeste Geier

**THE PERSON AND THE MESSAGE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

John the Baptist was sent by God to be the forerunner of Jesus Christ. He came to prepare the people and get them ready for the coming of Jesus.

John the Baptist was a great man. Jesus said of him in Luke 7:28 "Of all those born of women none is greater than John". John's greatness lies in his humility. His mission was to promote Jesus, not himself. And this job he did very well. In today's gospel he said of Jesus "I am baptizing you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with Holy Spirit and fire." This is an act of humility. Humility makes us know our limitations and acknowledge someone greater than us.

In John 1:29 pointing at Jesus, John the Baptist told the people "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." John the Baptist came to present Jesus to the world as the Savior of the world and he did exactly that. He was faithful to his mission. John could have claimed to be the Messiah, but he never did that. In John 3:30, talking about Jesus, John the Baptist said, "He will increase, and I will decrease." John understood very well his duty and he knew that once Jesus comes on stage, he will disappear from the stage. And that was exactly what happened. Immediately Jesus began his public ministry, John was arrested and killed by Herod. That was how he decreased out of existence.

There are two things the church wants us to do today. Number one is to imitate the humility and simplicity of John the Baptist. Number two is to listen to the message of John the Baptist. And John's message is the message of repentance. John the Baptist said "Repent for the kingdom of God is close at hand." This message of John is echoing in every church all over the world today as we prepare for Christmas.

Advent is a time to look inward; it is a time for self-questioning. Am I in good standing with God? Do I relate well with myself and neighbors? Are there areas of my life that need a change? Advent is a time for self-examination, a time to speak the truth to oneself and make necessary adjustments.

When John the Baptist was preaching repentance to the people of Israel, people were coming for

baptism and he was baptizing them, and their sins were being forgiven. Now we don't need baptism again for we have been baptized and we can't receive baptism twice. Jesus gave us the sacrament of reconciliation through which the sins committed after baptism are forgiven. We are going to have Advent confession here on Tuesday, Dec. 6th. This is to get ourselves ready for Christmas. True celebration of Christmas is to celebrate it in the state of grace. Through confession life of grace is restored in our life. Let us make great use of this opportunity.

**Catholic Daughters Christmas Party**  
**CDA Members & families are invited**  
**Sat., Dec 10—after the 5:45 pm Mass, church basement**  
 Bring your favorite potluck dish or dessert.  
**Don't forget your prizes for BINGO!**



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



**2022 Giving Tree**  
 Remember to return your wrapped or unwrapped gift to the tree by **Sun., December 11th @ 10:00 a.m.**



**Advent Penance Service**  
 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. Join for **Advent Penance Service on Tuesday, December 6th at 5:30 pm.**

