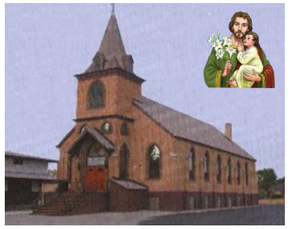
Third Sunday of Advent: December 17—23, 2023



St. Joseph's Catholic Church

710 N Custer Avenue
Hardin, MT 59034
Father Callistus Igwenagu
406-665-1432

Website: stjosephparishhardin.org
Email: stjosephparishhardin@gmail.com
Facebook: St Joseph Catholic Parish—Hardin

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

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 17:	**For the People**
Mon., Dec 18:	**No Mass**
Tues., Dec 19:	**+For Connie Medhus by Lowell Medhus**
Wed., Dec 20:	**Robert & Pearl Vandersloot 67th Wedding Anniversary by Candy & Jon Wells**
Thurs., Dec 21:	**+For Richard Bowler by the Catholic Daughters**
Fri., Dec 22:	**Anthony T Cacchione Family St Labre Benefactor**
Sat., Dec 23:	**Anthony T Cacchione Family St Labre Benefactor**

Calendar
Sun., Dec 17: Gathering of youth of our parish Ages 14-34, 3:00pm, 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
Wed., Dec 20: Religious Education class, 3:45pm
Wed., Dec 20: Mass & Adoration, 5:30 pm

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

2023 Giving Tree

Remember to return your wrapped or un-wrapped gift to the tree by **Sun., Dec. 17th @ 10:00 a.m.** Thank you for your generous donations.

Offertory Collections
Sat., Dec 9: $ 792.39
Sun., Dec 10: $ 1,199.00

Month of October, 2023
Income: $ 6,097.35
Expenses: $ 8,610.07
$ (2,512.72)

Fiscal Year ending 6.30.23
Income: $ 96,416.60
Expenses $ 104,547.68
$ (8,131.08)

Mass Servers

	Commentator	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
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
Sat., Dec 30	Julie O'Dell	Patty Kepp	Celeste Geier & Deb Johnson
Sun., Dec 31	Angela Ramirez	Visencia Ramirez	Sue Seykora & Candy Wells

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

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR OUR JOY

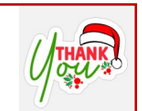
Today, third Sunday of advent is called Gaudete Sunday. That means Sunday of joy. Gaudete is a Latin word for "rejoice." The church invites us to rejoice for the Lord is nearby. Jesus is our joy and our hope. Without him life is useless. Without him there is no hope for humanity. Isaiah in the first reading (Is.61:1-2,10-11) with joy prophesied his coming. He is coming to heal the broken hearted, to liberate the captives, to comfort the sorrowful, to strengthen the weak and bring good tidings of joy to the poor and the afflicted. The responsorial psalm (Luke1:46-54) of today is the song of joy of our blessed mother, Mary-the Magnificat. She sang: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.' St. Paul in the second reading (1Thess 5:16-24) repeats the same words of joy. He said: "brothers and sisters rejoice always. Pray without ceasing..." John the Baptist in today's gospel (John1:6-8,19-28) with joy testified that Christ is the light of the world. John came to prepare the way for Christ, and he presented him when he came.

The church teaches us today that our joy should be rooted in the person of Jesus Christ and in good relationship with him. Our Joy should not be dependent on the circumstances of our lives because these circumstances can change but God does not change. St. Paul said in today's second reading "In all circumstances give thanks..." that means in all circumstances whether good or bad let your inner joy and peace remain unaffected. Always be happy that Jesus is your friend, and he cares most for you. In Nehemiah 8:10 the scriptures say, "The joy of the Lord is our strength." This means that we are sustained by knowing that God is with us. There are expiring dates for human problems but "God's faithfulness, his mercy and love for us never cease; they are fresh every morning" (Lamentation 3:22-23). The joy that comes from the Lord endures and outlasts our ugly life circumstances.

The church also reminds us that God has anointed us as Christians to continue the mission of Christ: to be a comfort to the afflicted and the sorrowful, the lonely, the broken-hearted, those imprisoned by physical illness and those in various psycho-social and spiritual needs. We are to bring good tidings of joy to these people as Jesus did. We are messengers of joy.

GATHERING OF YOUTH OF OUR PARISH
Ages 14—35
Sun., Dec. 17th - 3:00 pm
in the church basement

The Catholic Daughters, Court Our Lady of Fatima, #1979 would like to thank all those who attended and assisted with the Soup & Salad Luncheon on Wed., Dec. 6th. We had a wonderful holiday gathering of parishioners and our community.



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

CSSM
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES of Montana
Mental Health Services

NEW Counseling Program Available!

Catholic Social Services of Montana is excited to announce the launch of its new mental health counseling program. We are actively accepting new clients. Below are more details:

- We have licensed counselors available to talk or listen.
- No topic is too big or too small for us to address. If we can't tackle it, we'll work with you to provide a referral.
- You can meet with us from your computer, cell phone, or any other online mobile device. If you live in or want to travel to Helena, you can meet in-person with us.
- We're Catholic. Faith can be a part of our conversation if you'd like, but that is not required. We are here for everyone.
- Your first session is free. If you choose to schedule another session, we accept insurance and private pay and offer reduced private pay rates if you meet qualifying standards.

To get started, you can call (406)442-4130 or visit www.cssmt.org.