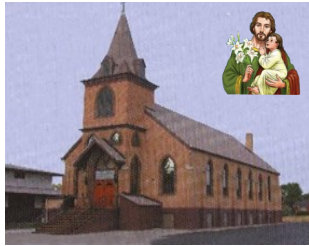


Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time: September 3—9, 2023



## 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., Sept 3: For the people  
Mon., Sept 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tues., Sept 5: +For Connie Medhus  
by Lowell Medhus  
Wed., Sept 6: +For Velford VanOrden  
by Larry & Deb Johnson  
Thurs., Sept 7: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fri., Sept 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sat., Sept :9 \_\_\_\_\_



**Offertory Collections** Fiscal Year ending 6.30.23  
Sat., Aug 26: \$ 221.00  
Sun., Aug 27: \$1,237.00  
Income: \$ 96,416.60  
Expenses \$ 104,547.68  
\$ (8,131.08)

**Month of July, 2023**  
Income: \$ 8,858.38  
Expenses: \$ 9,254.04  
\$ (395.66)

### Mass Servers

	Commentator	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat., Sept 2	Patty Kepp	Richelle Link	Larry & Deb Johnson
Sun., Sept 3	Candy Wells	Visencia Ramirez	Angela Ramirez & Visencia Ramirez
Sat., Sept 9	Richelle Link	Patty Kepp	Celeste Geier & Julie O'Dell
Sun., Sept 10	Angela Ramirez	Paula Bowler	Visencia Ramirez & Candy Wells
Sat., Sept 16	Julie O'Dell	Celeste Geier	Larry & Deb Johnson
Sun., Sept 17	Sue Seykora	Genne Taganahan	Angela Ramirez & Visencia Ramirez

### 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

**Sun., Sept 3:** Breakfast will be served after Mass in honor of Father Cally's 55th birthday. Everyone is welcome!  
**Wed., Sept 6:** Mass and Adoration, 5:30 pm  
**Thurs., Sept 7:** Parish Council, 6:00 pm, church basement

*In anticipation of some possible grant funding, could you please advise Father Cally of any flood damages you may have incurred as a result of the flooding the end of June.*

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



Birthday Breakfast celebration for Fr Cally after 9:00 a.m. Mass. Everyone is invited!

## Happy Birthday Fr Cally!

Have a safe Labor Day



### THE CROSS IS OUR IDENTITY

Jesus said to his disciples in today's gospel (Matt.16:21-27) "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me..." This implies that whoever wants salvation must be ready to suffer for it. Nothing good comes easy. No cross-no salvation; no death-no resurrection; no suffering-no glory; no Good Friday-no Easter Sunday. Cross is like a shadow that goes with each of us. We cannot avoid it in life. Jesus gained salvation for us through his suffering and death on the cross. Satan doesn't want the way of the cross. That is why he tried through Peter to stop Jesus from suffering and dying. Satan doesn't want our salvation. Thus, Jesus responded to Peter in today's gospel, "Get behind me Satan." Jesus doesn't mean that Peter himself is Satan, but his action is satanic. Any action against the will of God is satanic. It is God's will that his Son, Jesus should save us through the cross. Peter wanted to oppose this intention of God. That's why Jesus pushed him out of his way calling him Satan.

The cross is never sweet. It is always bitter, but it is a way to success. It is the gateway to heaven. Everybody has his/her own cross to carry. Crosses have to do with the challenges of life, pains, and sufferings we encounter on our journey of life. Crosses come to us regularly. Carry your own and keep on following Jesus. Jesus said that we must take up our cross and follow him. Here lies the difference between the suffering of a Christian and the suffering of those who don't know Christ. Christian suffering is a redemptive suffering. The crosses we carry as Christians are united with the cross of Jesus Christ.

Like prophet Jeremiah in the first reading (Jeremiah 20:7-9), may we stand firm despite the trials and continue to do God's will. St. Paul in the second reading (Rom. 12:1-2) encouraged us never to allow the corrupt world to influence us but to always live holy lives pleasing to God. This advice goes in line with the question Jesus asked in today's gospel: what profit will there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? Or what can one give in exchange for his soul?




**OCIA is the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.** This class begins in the fall and concludes with Easter Vigil celebration on March 30, 2024. This is a process of learning about the Catholic Faith. This class is offered to anyone who wants to learn more about catholic faith, desires to be a catholic, wants to be baptized as an adult, or wishes to complete the sacraments of initiation (Confirmation and First Eucharist). If you are interested please contact Fr. Cally (406) 665-1432 or the Director of Religious Education, Celeste Geier (406) 679-1679.

Inviting all Married\* Couples  and Priests! 

- Worldwide Marriage Encounter is an experience for married couples and priests who value their relationships and desire a richer, fuller life in their marriage and priesthood.
- Attend a Marriage Encounter Experience and learn the tools needed to keep your marriage and priesthood strong and thriving.
- For over 50 years, Worldwide Marriage Encounter has helped millions of couples and priests find new ways to thrive together and live their vocations in love.



- This is an invitation being offered to all married couples and priests who are looking for a way to enrich their relationships through an online opportunity.
- Worldwide Marriage Encounter of Northern Illinois is hosting a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Virtual Experience being held on Thursday evenings starting October 5th through November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The sessions run for 2 ½ - 3 hours each evening starting at 7:00 PM CT.
- Zoom access is required and you must be available to attend all 8 sessions.
- Early application is required in order for the materials for the experience to be mailed to you ahead of time.

 **3RE Virtual Experience - Thursday Evenings starting October 5 – November 16, 2023**

For more information and to sign up for an Experience visit our website at: [alifetimeoflove.org](http://alifetimeoflove.org) or [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or call 888-574-5653

\*WWME is faithful to the Roman Catholic Church's teaching that marriage is a covenant that exists between one man and one woman. Any reference to marriage or couple made by WWME is in this context.