

Weekly Calendar

Sun., Aug 24: Adult Catechism, 4:00 pm,
church basement

Mon., Sept 1: Labor Day

Tues., Sept 2: Parish Council meeting, 6:00 pm,
church basement

Fri., Sept 5: First Friday of the month Healing
Mass, 5:30 pm

Mass Intentions

Sun., Aug 24: For the People

Mon., Aug 25: No Mass

Tues., Aug 26: No Mass

Wed., Aug 27: No Mass

Thurs., Aug 28: No Mass

Fri., Aug 29: No Mass

**Sat., Aug 30: †For Connie Medhus
by Lowell Medhus**



Offertory Collections:

St. Joseph's

Sat., Aug 16 : \$ 294.00

Sun., Aug 17: \$ 1,392.00

St. Mary's

Sun., Aug 17: \$ 80.00

Month of July, 2025

Income: \$ 8,237.09

Expenses: \$ 9,389.41

\$ (1,152.32)

Fiscal Year ending 6.30.25

Income: \$ 96,494.29

Expenses \$ 110,434.86

Net Loss \$ (13,940.57)

Pastoral Staff Volunteers

Parish Bookkeeper: Colleen Schaak

Parish Secretary: Celeste Geier, 406.679.1679

Bulletin: Patty Kepp, 406.665.5257

Website Editor: Julie O'Dell, 406.665.5178

Director of Religious Education: Celeste Geier

	Commentator	Lector	Extraordinary Ministers
Sat., Aug 23	Julie O'Dell	Richelle Link	Celeste Geier & Julie O'Dell
Sun., Aug 24	Sheila Mae Pocdol	Sue Seykora	Angela Ramirez & Visencia Ramirez
Sat., Aug 30	Celeste Geier	Julie O'Dell	Celeste Geier & Julie O'Dell
Sun., Aug 31	Genne Taganahan	Angela Ramirez	Visencia Ramirez & Sue Seykora
Sat., Sept 6	Richelle Link	Celeste Geier	Celeste Geier & Julie O'Dell
Sun., Sept 7	Liezel Ferido	Sue Seykora	Angela Ramirez & Candy Wells

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Lect 123-Year C)

It's a perfectly normal question to ask Jesus: "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" (Luke 13:23). In other words, what are my chances of making it to heaven? Jesus responds, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough" (13:24). Neither "narrow gate" nor "not strong enough" sounds good, and neither does the story of those refused entry, left wailing and grinding their teeth. But perhaps by not giving a straight answer, Jesus is telling us more. First, that it is important to strive to make it to heaven. We should repent, pray, do good, love God and neighbor, and serve the least of our brothers and sisters. Namely, we must live our faith. And second, to teach that none of us alone is strong enough, but by God's grace we all can enter the narrow gate. This gives us hope, for no matter how much we strive, we are human, imperfect and weak. Let us pray that by the grace of God there may be a constant flood, "from the east and the west, from the north and the south," through that narrow gate (13:29).

*What can you do to strive to enter
through the narrow gate?*

*God is good all the time:
all the time God is good!*

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**All across Montana, children
in crisis are praying for safety,
love, and belonging.**

Catholic Social Services and Child
Bridge are raising up families
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*"Whoever receives one child such
as this in my name receives me."
Matthew 18:5*

**Could God be calling you to
step in?**

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of Montana

CHILD BRIDGE

PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

**God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonders of
our being, for mind, body, and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin
a new school year.**

**Bless them and their teachers
and staff.**

**Give them strength and grace as
their bodies grow; wisdom and
knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their spirits.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

- from Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

dosp.org

Dear Padre

August 24, 2025

***My wife mentioned that neither the
Book of Mormon nor the Catholic Bible
mentions purgatory. Please comment.***

A not-uncommon frustration is when a person searches the Bible for a particular word or phrasing. Frankly, it is expecting too much from the religious text to be able to faithfully record a particular word or phrase that originated hundreds of years after the ancient text was composed. Purgatory is one such example of this frustration. The concept of purgatory is referenced in the biblical text, particularly in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 7:1, Hebrews 9:27 and 12:14, and 2 Maccabees 12:46, but the word is never used.

This should come as no real surprise because it was not until the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) that the concept was expanded and formed into a theological statement of belief that has become central to Roman Catholicism. And what is that belief? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is clear: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (CCC, 1030, 1031a). The Book of Mormon never references purgatory, but it does speak about the afterlife and the experience of "waiting" in the spirit world for the completion of earthly time. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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Father Callistus Igwenagu

406.665.1432

Website: stjosephparishhardin.org

Email: stjosephparishhardin@gmail.com

Facebook: St Joseph Catholic Parish—Hardin

Reconciliation: Saturday from 5:00-5:30 pm
For Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick,
please contact Father Cally

All questions—Father Cally, 406.665.1432



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

Exceptions: **Wednesday Mass**

and Adoration—5:30 p.m.

First Friday Healing Mass—5:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Mission—Custer

Sunday Mass - 11:00 a.m.

Good News!

August 24, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Isaiah 66:18-21 / Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 / Luke 13:22-30

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some people find love in their lives; others complain of loneliness. Some find peace, while others seem to be perpetually angry. Some live comfortably amid human diversity, yet others insist that the rest of the world be like them. There are those who are able to forgive and compromise and offer compassion and those who cannot. The difference seems to be the ability to forgo one's own desires for the sake of a greater good or the common good. Such may be the narrow gate through which some may not be strong enough to enter.

Phrases like *the kingdom of God* or *the kingdom of heaven* are not just references to places to which we go but also ways of being or states of existence. They all refer to God's presence, to life with God. You've heard people say they were so happy that they felt it was like heaven on earth. It wasn't a place they went but an experience of being filled with joy and peace. It's pure gift. No one ever finds it by focusing on oneself. It is the narrow gate by which we find our way into such a life. It is the doorway of caring for others. ●

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