



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Harlowton, Montana

Missions:

Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut

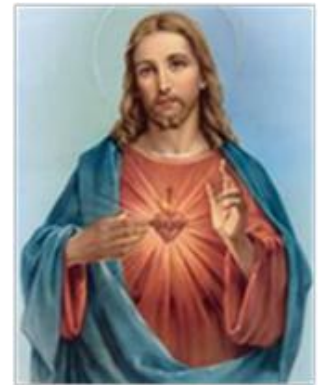
Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 2026

Through Sirach, the Lord says: "If you choose you can keep the commandments.... He has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose stretch forth your hand!" God's grace enables us to "observe his law and keep it with all our heart." We stretch forth our hand to the fire of the Holy Spirit, to the water of our baptism, letting our Yes mean Yes. Those who refuse to let lust master them, who are quick to reconcile with their brother or sister, and who obey and teach the commandments will enter the kingdom of heaven. God prepares those who love him to be willing to sacrifice their own comfort and pleasure for the sake of perfection. This is the righteousness that "surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees."

No one does he command to act unjustly.

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20¹⁵*If you will, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice. ¹⁶He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. ¹⁷Before a man are life and death, and whichever he chooses will be given to him. ¹⁸For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; ¹⁹his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows every deed of man. ²⁰He has not commanded any one to be ungodly, and he has not given any one permission to sin.*

Psalms 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

R/ Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

¹*Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! ²Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, ⁴Thou hast commanded thy precepts to be kept diligently. ⁵O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping thy statutes! ¹⁷Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live and observe thy word. ¹⁸Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. ³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I will keep it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, that I may keep thy law and observe it with my whole heart.*

God predestined wisdom before the ages for our glory.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10⁶*Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glorification. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him," ¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*

Alleluia *Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia*

So it was said to your ancestors; but I say this to you

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37¹⁷*"Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ²¹"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; ²⁶truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny. ²⁷"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members*

than that your whole body go into hell. ³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ³³“Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

Each year the Secretariat of Divine Worship of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) publishes the Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America. This calendar lists each day’s celebration, rank, liturgical color, citations for the Lectionary for Mass, and Psalter cycle for the Liturgy of the Hours. It is primarily used by authors of ordines and other liturgical aids published to foster the celebration of the liturgy in our country, but may also be used by anyone who downloads a copy. The Liturgical Calendar can be found at [2026cal.pdf](#)
Readings for this bulletin are from EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) which uses the RSV-CE Bible Translation.

12:00 noon Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.

Daily Mass on Thursdays at noon at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.

*****Confessions before Sunday Mass beginning at 11:30 am or by appointment. Please join us to pray the rosary for our nation and community 1/2 hour before Sunday Mass.**

Sunday Mass at 9 am at St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs & 4:30pm at Holy Cross, Townsend.

*****Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays – join us anytime between 12:30–3:30 pm.**

Youth Group meets each Thursday from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Please join us for our monthly parish potlucks on the 4th Sunday after Mass - 2/22/26; 3/22/26; 4/26/26

Please pray for our seminarians:

Riley Helgoe

Bret Rotz

Carter Anderson

James Semling

Ryan Frampton

Congratulations to Fr. Dillon Armstrong on his ordination to the priesthood! Please keep him in your prayers.

Jake Smith

Anthony Olmes

Shae Bills

Carson Gorton

Mason Yochum

Dcn. Kaleb Mitchell

Jamie Severson

Matt Keck

Liam Aippersbach,

Mark Your Calendars:

The Church Fathers series continues each Thursday from 5-6:30. A livestream version is available. Contact Fr. Cody if you would like to join. The Church Fathers series is cancelled for Thursday, February 19th but will resume the following Thursday, February 26th.

Youth Group continues each Thursdays at 7pm. No Youth Group on Thursday, February 19th.

The annual Pancake Supper is on Tuesday, February 17th from 5-7 pm.

The Chosen Movie night is cancelled for the month of February. The next Chosen Movie Night will be on Thursday, March 12th at 7pm.

Ash Wednesday Mass is on Wednesday, February 18th at 7 am. Our normal Thursday Mass is moved to Tuesday for the week of February 16th.

The Lenten Luncheons begin on Thursday, March 5th. We are hosting the 1st Lenten luncheon on March 5th. If you are willing to help, please contact Fr. Cody.

For the month of March, the daily Masses will be at 11:00 am on March 5th and at 11:30 am for the rest of the month.

As the winter season approaches, just a quick reminder. If you would like to receive texts or emails about Mass cancellations due to weather, please send your phone number or email address to stjosephmt@gmail.com.

Our next parish potluck is scheduled for Sunday, February 22nd after Mass. Please join us for some great food & fellowship.

A list of the various building and cleaning projects for our parish is posted on the bulletin board at the front of the church. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Father Cody’s Corner: Basics of Catholicism Part 123: The Symbols of the Sacrament of Marriage

Each of the Sacraments have symbols that help describe the event taking place and guide us to experience the invisible realities that can be difficult to grasp. The Sacrament of Matrimony has two symbols: the couple and the rings

The Couple

The most prominent and important symbol of marriage is the couple. Without the couple, the marriage doesn't happen. The couple symbolizes a partnership, a coming together of two parties, a joining or union, and a pact or covenant. We cannot start an agreement or a deal without two parties to form the agreement. We cannot have a partnership without at least two people being present. Notice also that the Church only allows a man and a woman to marry. Not two men or two women or a person and something else. The necessity of a man and a woman shows complementarity in the union. God created man and woman as two parts of a whole. They are not identical but they are equal, they are not two separate entities but complements. The couple is the sign of equality and union, of complementarity and wholeness.

The couple is valuable on another level. The Sacrament of Matrimony is the only Sacrament in which the persons who are receiving the Sacrament are also the ones celebrating the Sacrament. The exchange of vows is the moment in which the Sacrament takes place. The exchange of vows makes the woman and the man the celebrants of the Sacrament not the priest. The priest is there as a witness to the Sacrament on behalf of the Church. The couple perform the Sacrament, they are its agents and its recipients.

The Rings

The exchange of rings is another necessary part of the Marriage Rite. The ring is a circle with no beginning and end. The lack of beginning and end means that the love is everlasting. The exchange of rings is the sign of the everlasting love shared between the couple. The rings also symbolize the exclusiveness of marriage. The couple marks themselves with this universal sign to say to everyone else, I already have a partner for life. During the Marriage Rite, the rings are blessed as they are now a sacramental, an item that pertains to the Sacrament. ~ Fr. Cody

Affair of the Heart: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Listen Here: *Affair of the Heart: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - St. Paul Center*](#)

Readings: Sirach 15:15–20; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 17–18, 33–34; 1 Corinthians 2:6–10; Matthew 5:17–37

Jesus tells us in the Gospel this week that He has come not to abolish but to “fulfill” the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets.

His Gospel reveals the deeper meaning and purpose of the Ten Commandments and the moral Law of the Old Testament. But His Gospel also transcends the Law. He demands a morality far greater than that accomplished by the most pious of Jews, the scribes and Pharisees.

Outward observance of the Law is not enough. It is not enough that we do not murder, commit adultery, divorce, or lie.

The law of the New Covenant is a law that God writes on the heart (see Jeremiah 31:31–34). The heart is the seat of our motivations, the place from which our words and actions proceed (see Matthew 6:21; 15:18–20).

Jesus this week calls us to train our hearts, to master our passions and emotions. And Jesus demands the full obedience of our hearts (see Romans 6:17). He calls us to love God with all our hearts and to do His will from the heart (see Matthew 22:37; Ephesians 6:6).

God never demands more than what we are capable of doing. That is the message of this week's First Reading. It is up to us to choose life over death, to choose the waters of eternal life over the fires of ungodliness and sin.

By His life, death, and Resurrection, Jesus has shown us that it is possible to keep His commandments. In Baptism, He has given us His Spirit, that His Law might be fulfilled in us (Romans 8:4).

The wisdom of the Gospel surpasses all the wisdom of this age that is passing away, St. Paul tells us in the Epistle. The revelation of this wisdom fulfills God's plan from before all ages. Let us trust in this wisdom and live by His kingdom law.

As we do in this week's Psalm, let us pray that we grow in being better able to live His Gospel and to seek the Father with all our heart. ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 198 February Magnificat

(Each local community should compose its own Universal Prayer but may find inspiration in the texts proposed here.)

Brothers and sisters, let us pray to our heavenly Father, who looks upon us, his children, with compassion and love:

For the Church: that she may be blessed with wise and faithful shepherds who hold fast to the truth.

For the leaders of our nation: that they may promote the common good and seek justice for all people.

For those engaged in business: that they may strive to be just in all their dealings and to serve the true good of the human person.

For all married couples: that husbands and wives may become, by the grace of God, witnesses to charity and fidelity.

For the faithful departed, especially from our own families and parish community: that they may rise with Christ and enjoy eternal rest.

For the grace this week to remain honest and upright before the Lord, and to forgive those who have offended us.

Heavenly Father, incline your merciful ear to our prayers, and listen in kindness to the needs of those who call upon you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions page 201-202 February Magnificat

God's people are guided by his law, both as written in his word and as written on our hearts. With joyful trust we ask:

R/ Wisdom of God, fill us!

For civil authorities,

– that they would make wise decisions based not only on the laws in force but also on the common good: R/

For scientists and medical researchers,

– that their work would lead them closer to God, not further from him: R/

For those undertaking an academic study of theology,

– that, unlike the scribes and Pharisees in today's Gospel, their hearts might be open to the love of God: R/

Personal intentions

Our Father....

All-knowing Father, who has given us wisdom through your law of love, grant that we might always strive after this loving wisdom, and so to draw nearer to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY Set Free By Christ's Law page 207-208 February Magnificat

In God alone can the human will find absolute and perfect peace. God is the only end of man. All our life on earth is the truthful and exact image of a pilgrimage. Now Christ is the "Way," for we can never reach God, the supreme and ultimate good, by this toilsome and doubtful road of mortal life, except with Christ as our leader and guide. How so? Firstly and chiefly by his grace; but this would remain "void" in man if the precepts of his law were neglected. For as was necessarily the case after Jesus Christ had won our salvation, he left behind him his Law for the protection and welfare of the human race, under the guidance of which men, converted from evil life, might safely tend towards God. Going, teach ye all nations...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you (Mt 28:19-20)....

Various natural appetites attract man on one side and the other; the allurements of the material world impel his soul to follow after what is pleasant rather than the law of Christ. Still, we must strive our best and resist our natural inclinations with all our strength unto the obedience of Christ. For unless they obey reason, they become our masters, and carrying the whole man away from Christ, make him their slave.... In this contest, every man must be prepared to undergo hardships and troubles for Christ's sake. It is difficult to reject what so powerfully entices and delights. It is hard and painful to despise the supposed goods of the senses and of fortune for the will and precepts of Christ our Lord. But the Christian is absolutely obliged to be firm, and patient in suffering, if he wish to lead a Christian life....

It is reasonable, therefore, not to expect an end to troubles in this world, but rather to steel one's soul to bear troubles, by which we are taught to look forward with certainty to supreme happiness. Christ has not promised eternal bliss in heaven to riches, nor to a life of ease, to honors, or to power, but to long-suffering and to tears, to the love of justice and to cleanness of heart. ~ Pope Leo XIII Pope Leo XIII († 1903) reigned from 1878 to 1903.

Intercessions page 211 February Magnificat

The God of wisdom leads us to himself through knowledge of the truth. With confidence in his mercy, we ask:

Loving God, guide your people in all truth. R/

For the Church,

– *that her leaders would humbly seek the Lord in wisdom: R/*

For those who don't know how to pray,

– *that the Lord grant them the needs they would otherwise request: R/*

For those struggling with depression,

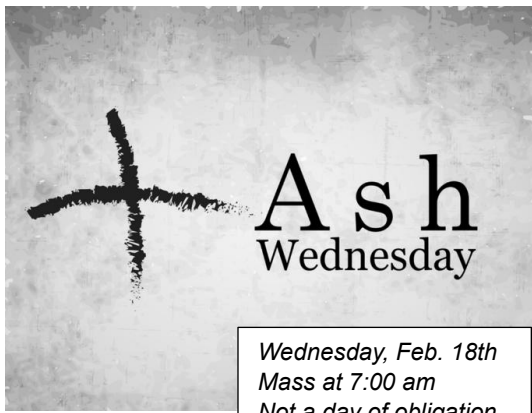
– *that the Lord strengthen them in wisdom and hope: R/*

Personal intentions

Our Father....

May God's holy Church be stamped with the seal of perfection, of complete wisdom and perfect beauty. Amen. (cf. Ez 28:12)

Marian Antiphon



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, Feb. 18th
Mass at 7:00 am
Not a day of obligation



You can make a difference!

- Grab a baby bottle.
- Fill it with cash, check, or change.
- Return it to church.

Learn more or give online!

Options clinic
Change for Life



BECOMING A MAN OF PRAYER

Men's
SKI RETREAT

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

Join Fr. Cody Williams and other men for a weekend of prayer, skiing/snowboarding, and fraternal time. For more information go to holycrossmt.org/skiretreat

\$50
(covers food & lodging, lift tickets not included)



Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17

5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Free will offering

St. Joseph Church Basement

28 3rd Street NW

Harlowton

All are welcome!