



St. Joseph Catholic Church
Harlowton, Montana
Missions:
Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut
Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

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Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 30, 2026

When Peter tries to deny the Lord his Passion - "God forbid that such a thing ever happen to you!" - the Lord rebukes him. Why? Because Christ's death on the cross would fulfill the "good and pleasing and perfect" will of the Father for our salvation. In union with Jesus, we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. And no matter how much our sharing in Christ's cross may make us an object of the world's laughter and mockery, the love of God is like a fire burning in our heart. This love, in all its life-giving glory, is what Christ reveals on the cross.

The word of the Lord has brought me derision.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9 ⁷O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived; thou art stronger than I, and thou hast prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; every one mocks me. ⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

Psalms 63:2-6, 8-9 **R/ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

¹O God, thou art my God, I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. ²So I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary, beholding thy power and glory. ³Because thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise thee. ⁴So I will bless thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on thy name. ⁵My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises thee with joyful lips, ⁷for thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy. ⁸My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me.

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2 ¹I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Alleluia, Alleluia, May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call. **Alleluia, Alleluia**

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27 ²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done.

Please pray for our seminarians:

Riley Helgoe	Jake Smith	Anthony Olmes
Jamie Severson	Carter Anderson	Shae Bills
Matt Keck	James Semling	Carson Gorton
Liam Aippersbach	Ryan Frampton	Peter Fiocchi
Nathan Olmes	John Cooney	

Congratulations to Fr. Kaleb Mitchell & Fr. Dillon Armstrong on their ordination to the priesthood! Please keep them in your prayers

5:00 pm Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT

(4:30 in winter months) (confessions from 4-4:45pm or by appointment)

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

Adoration – 12:45-3:30pm & confessions- 12:45-1:45pm)

Please join us to pray the rosary for our nation and community 1/2 hour before Sunday Mass.

Sunday Mass at 9:00am at Holy Cross, Townsend. (confessions from 8-8:45am) & at 1pm at St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs (confessions from 12-12:45pm)

*****Eucharistic Adoration on Mondays – join us anytime between 12:45–3:30 pm.**

Please join us for our monthly parish potlucks on the 4th Sunday after Mass - 9/27/26; 10/25/26; 11/22/26

Mark Your Calendars:

Our next parish potluck will be a summer picnic (weather allowing) TODAY, Sunday, August 30, 2026 following Mass. Please bring your favorite picnic/finger foods to share.

Julie and Tim are looking for volunteers to move tables to the lawn for the picnic on Aug. 30. Please talk to them for details if you are able to help.

There is a need for RE teachers, volunteers for ministries - eucharistic ministers, sacristans, servers, visiting homebound, and musicians. Please contact Father Joe if interested.

Father Joe is being installed as the parish pastor for Holy Cross in Townsend, St. Bartholomew in White Sulphur Springs, and St. Joseph in Harlowton. Bishop Vetter will be conducting the installation ceremony at the 9:00 am Mass in Townsend for all 3 parishes. Everyone from all 3 parishes is invited to attend the service in Townsend on September 20. Those attending from Harlo may want to investigate car-pooling with each other.

Father will still have Mass at the regular times in White Sulphur and Harlowton that Sunday.

33 Days to Morning Glory

Please join us in a small group retreat to renew and deepen our devotion to Jesus through Mary. We will meet on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the RE room to deepen our union with Christ through His Mother. Why through Mary? Since She knows Him better than any other human and since Christ gave Himself completely to Her, so why shouldn't we? Consecrating yourself to Mary is the easiest way to get to Heaven since by growing in relationship with Her you inherently deepen your relationship with Christ and receive strength for spiritual battles and a renewed commitment to holiness.

We will be using "33 Days to Morning Glory" as our guide and it features daily readings, meditations and reflection questions for individuals that couple with weekly videos that lead us into faith sharing discussions as a group. The books are \$20 each which includes access to the videos in case you miss one of our group sessions. Please note that there is scholarship money available if there is a need.

Collection Information:

monthly budget	\$	5,916.67
monthly contributions	\$	5,405.00
% of monthly budget	91%	
YTD contributions	\$	5,405.00

Happy Greetings to you all!

I'm writing to let you know about the new weekly videos that we'll be sending your way. At least once a week you will receive a short video (usually from me) about various topics. Instead of notes in the bulletin, this is a more dynamic way to get messages out to you, so hopefully you'll enjoy them!

This first video focuses on Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary, which we will be undertaking beginning next Monday.

Click [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1medFddLpyVo0xOe1tYL9m6iwoyLEsh2D/view?usp=drive_link) to access the video. OR https://drive.google.com/file/d/1medFddLpyVo0xOe1tYL9m6iwoyLEsh2D/view?usp=drive_link

Good night, God bless and I look forward to seeing you on Sunday! ~ Fr. Joe

For Your Life: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Listen Here: [For Your Life: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - St. Paul Center](#)

Readings: Jeremiah 20:7–9; Psalm 63:2–6, 8–9; Romans 12:1–2; Matthew 16:21–27

Today's First Reading catches the prophet Jeremiah in a moment of weakness. His intimate lamentation contains some of the strongest language of doubt found in the Bible. Following God's call, he feels abandoned. Preaching His Word has brought him only derision and reproach.

But God does not deceive—and Jeremiah knows this. God tests the just (see Jeremiah 20:11–12) and disciplines His children through their sufferings and trials (see Hebrews 12:5–7).

What Jeremiah learns is what Jesus states explicitly in today's Gospel. To follow Him is to take up a cross, to deny yourself - your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His Gospel. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we have to join ourselves to the Passion of Christ, to offer our bodies - our whole beings - as living sacrifices to God.

By His Cross, Jesus has shown us what Israel's sacrifices of animals were meant to teach: we owe to God all that we have.

God's kindness is a greater good than life itself, as we sing in today's Psalm. The only thanks we can offer is our spiritual worship, giving our lives to the service of His will (see Hebrews 10:3-11; Psalm 50:14, 23).

Peter doesn't yet get this in today's Gospel. As it was for Jeremiah, the cross is a stumbling block for Peter (see 1 Corinthians 1:23). This is our natural temptation, as well: to refuse to believe that our sufferings play a necessary part in God's plan.

That's how people think, Jesus tells us today. But we are called to the renewal of our minds - to think as God thinks, to will what He wills.

In the Mass, we once again offer ourselves as perfect and pleasing sacrifices of praise (see Hebrews 13:15). We bless Him as we live, confident that we will find our lives in losing them, that with the riches of His banquet our souls will be satisfied. ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 420 August Magnificat

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

Lifting up our hearts in prayer, we call upon the name of God as we now turn to the Father and ask:

For the renewal of the Church and an ever-greater commitment to Jesus, the Bridegroom.

That those in civil authority dedicate themselves to justice, peace, authentic freedom, and defense of the poor.

For blessings on all students, teachers, and administrators as they begin a new school year.

For the unemployed and all who are in financial difficulty.

For Christian husbands and wives: that the Lord will strengthen them in their vocation and make them witnesses of Christ's love.

For the grace this week to carry our crosses in union with Christ.

Loving Father, you are our help. Your kindness is a greater good than life. May we bless you in our daily lives, always calling upon your name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Intercessions page 423 August Magnificat

Jesus Christ gives his life to us; let us pray for the grace to give our lives to him without reservation:

R/ Into your hands we commend our spirit.

In time of prosperity and peace: R/

In time of turmoil and trouble: R/

In life and in death: R/

Personal intentions Our Father....

God our Father, you give us life through the sacrifice of your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. Accept our lives as we offer them to you in him. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY Taking Up the Cross pages 427-428 August Magnificat

How many eloquent reasons there are to love the cross, yet how we forget them in the current of life! In our days, how many plans we make, little calculations - very often unconscious, I must say - which are made simply to avoid suffering. We flee it in the first movement of our nature, which finds it so repugnant, and we must not be astonished by that.... Our nature's first reflexes are to avoid whatever threatens harm. Therefore, do not be surprised at this, but be in the state of soul, the disposition...where you can say to Jesus, "I do not fear any cross because I know that when a cross comes, you always come, too." The Crucified is never found without the cross, and neither is the cross found without the Crucified. It always bears Jesus. I press it to my breast to press him at the same time to my heart. So tell him, "With you I do not fear any cross."

Note that this is not to ask for the cross. Little Thérèse, a few weeks before her death, said, "Oh, I would never wish to ask the good Lord for greater sufferings, for I am too little. They would become my very own sufferings; I would be forced to endure them alone, and I have never been able to do anything all alone."... To say that we are ready to receive the crosses Jesus will send us, even without asking for the cross, makes us afraid, makes our nature tremble. I understand this well. But it is a magnificent occasion for generosity and confidence: "All you permit for me will be grace from you, and you will be there with me. I do not fear the cross, because I do not fear you, the King of Love."

Jesus will never let the cross crush you; on the contrary, it will lift you up toward heaven. It is no longer you who will carry it; it is the cross which will carry you. Jesus took upon himself the bitterest cross, and he will add a balm to it before giving it to you—that is certain. The sweetness of the crosses accepted with the joy of free will is a great mystery, yet very real. That is why you must embrace it with open arms. ~ Father Jean du Cœur de Jésus d'Elbée Father d'Elbée († 1982) was a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Intercessions pages 431 August Magnificat

The cross looks like unbearable suffering, but seen through the eyes of faith, it is the doorway to eternal glory. We pray:

R/ Let us follow you, O Lord.

When we fear the cost of discipleship:

— strengthen us in love. R/

When we cling to goods we cannot bear to abandon:

— grant us freedom of heart. R/

When we hold on to life because we do not trust your love:

— grant us final perseverance and a happy death. R/

Personal intentions Our Father....

May the Lord guard our going and coming both now and for ever. Amen. (cf. Ps 121:8)

Marian Antiphon

Note: I'm including this 'poster style' list one more time in case there is anyone who wants to save it and use it as a prayer card. The smaller list will remain in the bulletin.



SEMINARIANS

FOR THE DIOCESE OF HELENA

Riley Helgoe THEOLOGY IV	Carson Gorton PHILOSOPHY II
Anthony Olmes THEOLOGY III	Jake Smith PHILOSOPHY II
James Semling THEOLOGY III	Liam Aippersbach PHILOSOPHY I
Jamie Severson THEOLOGY III	Ryan Frampton PHILOSOPHY I
Carter Anderson THEOLOGY II	Peter Fiocchi PROPAEDEUTIC YEAR
Shae Bills THEOLOGY II	Nathan Olmes PROPAEDEUTIC YEAR
Matt Keck THEOLOGY II	John Cooney PASTORAL YEAR

Please continue to pray for our Seminarians