

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Harlowton, Montana

Missions:

Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut

Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

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Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 8, 2026

Why don't the five wise virgins share their oil with the five foolish ones? Because it represents our love for Christ. We cannot substitute someone else's personal union with Jesus for our own. Fortunately, such wisdom is not a secret commodity only attainable by a few, but is "readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her." If only the foolish virgins had remained and confessed, "Lord, Lord, we have been foolish. But we know that you yourself can be our light! Have mercy on us!" Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, "with a word of command" can wake us up and take us to be with himself. If we bless him while we live and call upon his name, it will not be in vain.

Wisdom is found by those who seek her.

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16 *12Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. 13She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. 14He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. 15To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, 16because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.*

Psalms 63:2-8 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, 6when I think of thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the watches of the night; 7for thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy.

God, through Jesus, will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *13But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; 17then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Alleluia, Alleluia, *Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come.* ***Alleluia, Alleluia***

Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13 *1"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6But at midnight there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. 8And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9But the wise replied, 'Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' 10And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. 11Afterward the other maidens came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12But he replied, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

4:30 pm Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT

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 - 11/22/26;12/27/26; 1/24/2027

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

Mark Your Calendars:

Planned Parenthood is working on opening a new shop in Bozeman. Fr. Joe asks that we continue to pray that this does not come to pass.

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

"Men and Women are from Eden" study group continues to meet on Mondays at 6:00 pm. We will not meet on 11/16/26. The Chosen will be not be shown this month. These movies will resume after Christmas.

Thanks to all who have supplied the meal for the RE students! St. Joseph will bring the food for the RE group for Nov. 15. We will need food for Nov. 22.

The annual Men's Conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 13 at the Cathedral in Helena.

Pertinent Details:

- ***What: Men's Conference***
- ***Date: Saturday, November 14***
- ***Time: 8am-4pm***
- ***Cost: $40 (lunch included)***
- ***Keynote Speaker: Bear Woznick https://www.bearschoolofmanliness.com/***

More details and registration at mtcatholicmensconference.com

This weekend is the kickoff weekend for the upcoming year's Annual Catholic Appeal campaign. If you haven't gotten a donation envelope, you may go to https://dioceseofhelena.org/annual-catholic-appeal if you wish to donate.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all who helped with Jean's rosary, funeral and the luncheon afterwards! You are what make this parish so special.

The Harvest Dinner is Monday, Nov. 16. Please sign up to bring a side or dessert (pies are popular). The sign up sheet is in the back of the church. Please make this a successful event.

The Diocese of Helena invites you to attend the Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons of Riley Helgoe on Tuesday, November 24th at 3:00pm at the Cathedral of Saint Helena. A light reception will follow in the Brondel Center.

Fr. Joe's video 11/7/2026 #1 Welcome

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgMfrxpzypg&t=10s

Fr. Joe's videos 11/7/26 #2 Anatomy of a Homily

(81) Anatomy of the Homily - YouTube

Collection Information: 9/20/26

monthly budget	***$***	***5,916.67***
monthly contributions	***$***	***6,019.24***
% of monthly budget		***102%***
YTD contributions	***$***	***22,580.53***
%YTD Total		***95%***

Thank you for your support of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Members of the Wedding: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Listen Here: Members of the Wedding: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - St. Paul Center

Readings: Wisdom 6:12–16; Psalm 63:2–8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17; Matthew 25:1–13

According to marriage customs of Jesus' day, a bride was first "betrothed" to her husband but continued for a time to live with her family. Then, at the appointed hour some months later, the groom would come to claim her, leading her family and bridal party to the wedding feast that would celebrate and inaugurate their new life together.

This is the background to the parable of the last judgment we hear in today's Gospel.

In the parable's symbolism, Jesus is the Bridegroom (see Mark 2:19). In this, He fulfills God's ancient promise to join Himself forever to His chosen people as a husband cleaves to his bride (see Hosea 2:16–20). The virgins of the bridal party represent us, the members of the Church.

We were "betrothed" to Jesus in Baptism (see 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25–27) and are called to lives of holiness and devotion until He comes again to lead us to the heavenly wedding feast at the end of time (see Revelation 19:7–9; 21:1–4).

As St. Paul warns in today's Epistle, Jesus is coming again, though we know not the day nor the hour.

We need to keep vigil throughout the dark night of this time in which our Bridegroom seems long delayed. We need to keep our souls' lamps filled with the oil of perseverance and desire for God - virtues that are extolled in today's First Reading and Psalm.

We are to seek Him in love, meditating upon His kindness, calling upon His name, striving to be ever more worthy of Him, to be found without spot or blemish when He comes.

If we do this, we will be counted as wise and the oil for our lamps will not run dry (see 1 Kings 17:16). We will perceive the Bridegroom, the Wisdom of God (see Proverbs 8:12–21, 35; 9:1–6), hastening toward us, beckoning us to the table He has prepared, the rich banquet which will satisfy our souls. ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful **page 109 November Magnificat**

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

Christ the Lord will come to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him. Filled with faith, we make our prayer to the Father:

That, through the Church's faithful announcement of the Gospel, God's Word may give full meaning to pain and suffering:

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Holy Father: that he may be ever protected and guided by the Holy Spirit as he tends the flock entrusted to him: ***R/***
That the wisdom of God will guide and direct those who govern: ***R/***
For an increase of vocations to the priesthood and to consecrated life: ***R/***
That the Lord will secure justice for the oppressed and give food to the hungry: ***R/***
For the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed: that they will soon rejoice with all the saints in heaven: ***R/***
For the grace this week to have our hearts set on our heavenly homeland: ***R/***

Loving Father, secure justice for the oppressed, give food to the hungry, set captives free, and raise up those who are bowed down. We trust in your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions ***pages 111-112 November Magnificat***

Wisdom is as wisdom does. Let us pray to the source of wisdom to make us wise:

R/ Grant us wisdom of heart.

You are present always and everywhere:
– grant that we may seek and find you in all things. ***R/***
You are the peace at the heart of all quarrels:
– grant that we may seek and find you as the source of reconciliation. ***R/***
You are the light in the midst of all darkness:
– grant that we may seek and find you as we struggle to make right decisions. ***R/***

Personal intentions ***Our Father….***

O God of wisdom, you call us to keep watch for the coming of Christ. Grant us the wisdom to await him, to recognize him in his coming, and to prefer him above all else, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY **Bride and Bridegroom** ***pages 116-117 November Magnificat***

See, the bridegroom is coming. Go out to meet him…. The Bridegroom is Christ and human nature is the bride, whom God created according to his own image and likeness. In the beginning he placed his bride in the noblest and most beautiful, the richest and most luxuriant place on earth, that is, in Paradise. He subordinated all other creatures to her, adorned her with grace, and gave her a commandment so that through obedience to it she might deserve to be made firm and steadfast with her Bridegroom in eternal faithfulness and so never fall into any adversity or any sin. But then came an evildoer, the enemy from hell, who in his jealousy assumed the form of a cunning serpent and deceived the woman. They both then deceived the man…. Thus did the enemy seduce human nature, God's bride, through deceitful counsel. Poor and wretched, she was banished to a strange land and was there captured and oppressed and beset by her enemies in such a way that it seemed she would never be able to return to her homeland or attain reconciliation.

But when it seemed to God that the right time had come and he took pity on his beloved in her suffering, he sent his only-begotten Son to earth into a magnificent palace and a glorious temple, that is, into the body of the glorious Virgin Mary. There the Son wedded this bride, our nature, and united her with his own Person through the purest blood of the noble Virgin. The priest who witnessed the bride's marriage was the Holy Spirit. The Angel Gabriel brought the message. The glorious Virgin gave her consent. Thus did Christ, our faithful Bridegroom, unite our nature with himself.

He came to us in a strange land and taught us through a heavenly way of life and with perfect fidelity. He worked and struggled as our champion against our enemies, broke open the bars of our prison, won the struggle, vanquished our death through his own, redeemed us through his blood, freed us through his water in baptism, and made us rich through his sacraments and his gifts, so that, as he says, we might go out with virtues, meet him in the palace of glory, and enjoy him forever in eternity. ~ Blessed John of Ruusbroec

Blessed John of Ruusbroec († 1381), born near Brussels, was a priest and one of the Flemish mystics.

Intercessions ***page 120 November Magnificat***

As we keep vigil for the coming of Christ, we pray:

R/ Have mercy, Lord, and answer!

We await you in hope:

– make us firm in our fidelity. ***R/***

We look forward to your coming:

– make us wise in our perseverance. ***R/***

We place our trust in you:

– make us strong in our joy. ***R/***

Personal intentions ***Our Father….***

May we find happiness at God's right hand forever! Amen. (cf. Ps 16:11) ***Marian Antiphon***