



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Harlowton, Montana

Missions:

Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut

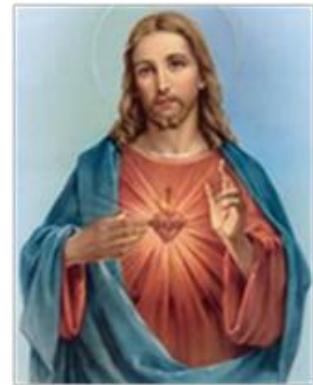
Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 18, 2026

Because God formed John the Baptist “as his servant from the womb,” John’s whole being is ordered to God. Thus, when John “saw Jesus coming toward him,” he instantly cried out, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” John immediately recognizes that Christ is the one the world has been waiting for. This leads John to “testify that he is the Son of God.” The same grace has been given to us. By baptism, we “have been called to be holy with all those who call upon the name of the Lord.” By professing the one “who takes away the sin of the world,” we become a light to the nations, through whom God’s salvation reaches to the ends of the earth. As we glorify the Lamb of God, God shows his glory through us.

I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth

First Reading: *Isaiah 49:3, 5-6* ³And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” ⁵And now the LORD says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-10 **R/** Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. ³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. ⁶Sacrifice and offering thou dost not desire; but thou hast given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering thou hast not required. ⁷Then I said, “Lo, I come; in the roll of the book it is written of me; ⁸I delight to do thy will, O my God; thy law is within my heart.” ⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; lo, I have not restrained my lips, as thou knowest, O LORD.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:1-3* ¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sos’thenes, ²To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

To those who accepted him, he gave power to become children of God. **Alleluia, Alleluia**

Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Gospel: *John 1:29-34* ²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness, “I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

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 - 1/25/26; 2/22/26; 3/22/26

Please pray for our seminarians:

Riley Helgoe

Jake Smith

Dcn. Kaleb Mitchell

Bret Rotz

Anthony Olmes

Jamie Severson

Carter Anderson

Shae Bills

Matt Keck

James Semling

Carson Gorton

Liam Aippersbach,

Ryan Frampton

Mason Yochum

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

Mark Your Calendars:

The notes for the first half of the Church Fathers series are available on our website. The next Church Fathers series session is on Thursday, Jan 22nd at 5 pm. The Spring portion begins on Jan 29 at 5 pm.

Youth Group will resume on Thursday, Jan 22nd at 7pm.

The next Chosen Movie Night is Thursday, Feb. 12th at 7 pm at the Harlowton Theater.

We are at 65% of our ACA goal with only \$4025 left to go. Please consider making a donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal to support both our parish and the Diocese.

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, January 25th after Mass. Please join us for some great food & fellowship.

Father Cody's Corner: Basics of Catholicism Part 119: Marriage

Before we venture into the degradation of marriage caused by the fall, we need to examine God's specific words about the true nature of marriage found within our first parents. God created Eve to be a special partner for Adam, different from all the other creatures. How? By taking part of Adam to make Eve, God established a bond which is "bone from my bone and flesh from my flesh." Adam's exclamation proclaims Eve's incredible value to Adam and the uniqueness of their relationship. Eve is the same substance as Adam, they share the same body, they are wed and one. This oneness gives a new dimension to their relationship. Their relationship is unlike any other creation and unlike any other relationship they can have with any creature. Now, their mission. We cannot ignore the detail that God took Adam's rib. He could have taken an arm, leg, piece of skin, hair, anything else. Some would have been inconsequential. God didn't; he took a rib. A bone that encases and protects the heart. Adam's job was to protect Eve's heart and keep her safe in the Garden. From what? From all temptations and challenges. Eve was given the task to be Adam's helper. The only other time the word "helper" is used is in relation to God to humanity. Note this incredible detail: Eve took the place of God to Adam in this relationship. Adam and Eve were now tasked with caring for the Garden and each other.

We know what happened next. Yet, we don't take the time to realize how this affected their relationship and marriage. When Eve ate the fruit of the tree and thus incurred the first sin, where was Adam? Right next to her watching the whole event unfold. The one who was tasked with protecting her heart failed in his job. Thus, the marriage relationship entered into a sorry and pitiable state. God told them what was about to happen. Adam would have dominance over his wife and Eve would pine for Adam. They could no longer be in an equal and mutualistic relationship. Marriage took a dark and sinister turn.

With this introduction in mind, we can now appreciate Jesus' words to the Pharisees about marriage. Marriage from the beginning was meant to be a state of equality between husband and wife. It was meant to be a state of mutual help and care. It was meant to be a place of encounter with God and a calling to protect each other so that God could remain in their relationship. Jesus reminds us of these core values through which God founded the covenant of marriage.

For us, however, we do not believe that marriage is simply a covenant or pact but a Sacrament. How do we get from the covenant of marriage enacted with Adam and Eve to a Sacrament that expresses the will of God and the ministry of Jesus to the world? ~ Fr. Cody

Perfect Offering: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Listen Here: [Perfect Offering: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - St. Paul Center](#)

Readings: Isaiah 49:3, 5–6; Psalm 40:2, 4, 7–10; 1 Corinthians 1:1–3; John 1:29–34

Jesus speaks through the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading.

He tells us of the mission given to Him by the Father from the womb: "You are My servant," He said to Me."

Servant and Son, our Lord was sent to lead a new exodus—to raise up the exiled tribes of Israel, to gather and restore them to God. More than that, He was to be a light to the nations, that God's salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (see Acts 13:46–47).

Before the first exodus, a lamb was offered in sacrifice and its blood painted on the Israelites' door posts. The blood of the lamb identified their homes and the Lord "passed over" these in executing judgment on the Egyptians (see Exodus 12:1–23, 27).

In the new exodus, Jesus is the "Lamb of God," as John beholds Him in the Gospel today (see 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18–19). Our Lord sings of this in today's Psalm. He has come, He says, to offer His body to do the will of God (see Hebrews 10:3–13).

The sacrifices, oblations, holocausts, and sin-offerings given after the first exodus had no power to take away sins (see Hebrews 10:4). They were meant not to save but to teach (see Galatians 3:24). In offering these sacrifices, the people were to learn self-sacrifice—that they were made for worship, to offer themselves freely to God and to delight in His will.

Only Jesus could make that perfect offering of Himself. And through His sacrifice, He has given us ears open to obedience and made it possible for us to hear the Father's call to holiness, as Paul says in today's Epistle.

He has made us children of God, baptized in the blood of the Lamb (see Revelation 7:14). And we are to join our sacrifice to His, to offer our bodies—our lives—as living sacrifices in the spiritual worship of the Mass (see Romans 12:1). ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 274 January Magnificat

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

Dear brothers and sisters, gathered as one to celebrate the sacred mysteries of our redemption from sin and death, let us ask the Father to send his Spirit upon us, so that we may offer prayers that are worthy of his hearing:

That the pastors of the Church may become zealous preachers of the Gospel, stirred by the wisdom of Jesus Christ Crucified.

For all public officials: that the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children may bear good fruit throughout our nation.

For the success of the March for Life in our nation's capital later this week: that the Lord may accompany those who walk, heal those who mourn, and protect those who are yet unborn.

For our beloved country as we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: that justice, peace, and concord may reign.

For the Church, especially during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: that the Lord may lead all Christians to be one in faith, hope, and charity.

For the grace this week to keep our eyes on Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Father in heaven, hear your people who profess their faith in you, so that what we seek at your prompting we may obtain by your gift. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions page 277 January Magnificat

We seek to respond to the universal call to participate in the holiness of Christ, and so we pray:

R/ Make us holy, as you are holy.

As we join in the Church's work on earth,

– may we further God's reign of love. **R/**

As we work for the betterment of society,

– may we grow in charity. **R/**

As we participate in the earthly liturgy,

– may we echo the praises of heaven. **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

Father of holiness, you sent your Son among us to show us the way to holiness. In your mercy, sanctify each moment of our earthly life, that we may live joyfully with you for ever in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY Behold the Lamb page 281-282 January Magnificat

How suddenly the Christmastide interval comes to an end! For nearly three weeks we have been playing truant from the grim school of life, among sights and sounds that brought back our childhood; the mystery of a cave, and the warm smell of a stable.

And then the Epiphany octave has for its tailpiece the gaunt figure of Saint John, pointing to the Man he has baptized and saying: "Look, this is the Lamb of God!" Just as we are wrapping away the last sheep from the Crib... [we are] reminded that the lamb's role is to be a victim! That is what the Baptist will have meant; to the Jewish mind, the lamb was not particularly a type of innocence. The last present the Wise Men brought was, after all, the wisest; Simeon was right—this Child was to be a sign men would refuse to recognize. The shadow of the Passion has fallen over our rejoicings.

Yes, it is like Saturday night in the schoolroom; our toys must be put away. At all times there have been Christians who were so far betrayed into error by temperament or by false logic, as to think that nature was utterly tainted by the Fall, that God's gifts were only snares, that we must refuse all comfort, fight shy of all mirth, shake our heads over all enjoyment. Against that wet-blanket doctrine, Christmas is a salutary protest; God suckled by a Mother's milk, among friendly creatures, recognized by simple hearts—yes, Bethlehem is the antidote. But Bethlehem - heaven finding a home on earth—is not all. Jordan, too, has its place in the Christian philosophy; baptismal Jordan, the type of death, and separation, and penance for wrong done. God's gifts are not simply his birthday presents; they are the stepping-stones of mortification as well.

By all means let us wish one another - ourselves even - a comfortable new year. But we might steel ourselves with the resolution not to demand comfort as a right or cling to it. ~ Monsignor Ronald A. Knox Monsignor Knox († 1957) was a British Catholic apologist and translator of the Bible.

Intercessions page 285 January *Magnificat*

***We seek to serve and love you in all that we do. So we pray:
R/ Make us worthy servants.***

*That our daily work may be done for the glory of God,
– and for the upbuilding of God's kingdom on earth. R/
That we may serve those who are less fortunate than ourselves,
– and be agents of God's mercy. R/
That we may serve God through our lives of prayer,
– and give him praise at all times. R/*

May the God of peace himself make us perfectly holy, and may we entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (cf. 1 Thes 5:23)

Marian Antiphon

World Youth Day 2027
Seoul, South Korea
Montana WYD Pilgrims

It's time to discern whether you are being called to be a Pilgrim to the next World Youth Day!

And time to prepare our hearts, get ready and do some fundraising for August 1-10, 2027!

Contact your Parish Youth Leader to find out more by reaching out to Father Cody Williams or Mandy Bell to get your name on the list!

Contact: Father Cody Williams or Mandy Bell
FrCWilliams@HolyCrossMT.org MT.WorldYouthDay@gmail.com

Y
WYD
SEoul
2027

**Take courage!
I have overcome the world.
(Jn 16:33)**

An invitation card for a marriage celebration. At the top, two interlocking rings (one gold, one pink) are displayed. Below the rings, the word "Celebrating" is written in a flowing, cursive script. Underneath "Celebrating", the word "MARRIAGE" is written in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below "MARRIAGE", the text "WITH BISHOP AUSTIN VETTER" is written in a smaller, serif font. A horizontal line separates the title from the event details. Below the line, the text "MASS // INDIVIDUAL BLESSING OF COUPLES // RECEPTION //", "FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH", "CATHEDRAL OF ST. HELENA", and "6:00PM" are listed in a serif font.