



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

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Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 27, 2026

"Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God." Why? Because when they encountered Jesus Christ, who "did not regard equality with God something to be grasped," they found in him everything they needed to be happy. And that is what made it easy for them to leave behind their grasping ways and obey the one who himself became "obedient to the point of death." If someone "turns from wickedness and does what is right and just, he shall surely live, he shall not die"—because that person has found Jesus Christ, who is infinitely more attractive than the false delights of wickedness.

By turning from wickedness, a wicked person shall preserve his life.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28 ²⁵"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die for it; for the iniquity which he has committed he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Psalms 25:4-9 R/ Remember your mercies, O Lord.

⁴Make me to know thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. ⁵Lead me in thy truth, and teach me, for thou art the God of my salvation; for thee I wait all the day long. ⁶Be mindful of thy mercy, O LORD, and of thy steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions; according to thy steadfast love remember me, for thy goodness' sake, O LORD! ⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11 ¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia, Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. **Alleluia, Alleluia**

He changed his mind and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of heaven before you.

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32 ²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he repented and went. ³⁰And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him.

*We are all called to be great saints,
Don't miss the opportunity.*

~ Mother Angelica

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 - 10/25/26; 11/22/26; 12/27/26

Please pray for our seminarians:

Riley Helgoe

Jamie Severson

Matt Keck

Liam Aippersbach

Nathan Olmes

Jake Smith

Carter Anderson

James Semling

Ryan Frampton

John Cooney

Anthony Olmes

Shae Bills

Carson Gorton

Peter Fiocchi

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

Mark Your Calendars:

Great news, St. Joseph families! R.E. starts today, September 27. We will meet after Mass from 6:15 to 7:30pm. We have made some exciting changes to the R.E. program, including lessons on the Catechism and Scriptures, Sacrament preparation, activities, crafts, and fun! Parents are encouraged to stay for R.E. for classes. If you're interested in checking out the new R.E., please join us anytime! Fr. Joe is also asking parishioners to sign up to bring a light meal for those attending RE classes. St. Joseph will supply the food this week. There's a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

Marian Consecration will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday September 28.

Planned Parenthood is working on opening a new shop in Bozeman. Fr. Joe asks that we all pray that this does not come to pass. "Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen"

The St. Joseph Church Directory needs to be updated. If your information has changed or if you are new to the St. Joseph community and would like to be included, please let Father Joe or Claire know so the changes can be made.

St. Joseph Church will have a table at the Community Connection Day on Monday, September 28 from 11:00-7:00. If you are willing to help, please contact Father Joe or Claire.

Collection Information:

monthly budget	\$	5,916.67
monthly contributions	\$	5,698.05
% of monthly budget		96%
YTD contributions	\$	11,833.33
%YTD Total		94%

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

Fr. Joe's video 9/19/26

[Installation as Pastor - Google Drive](#)

The Humble Path: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Listen Here: The Humble Path: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - St. Paul Center](#)

Readings: Ezekiel 18:25–28; Psalm 25:4–9; Philippians 2:1–11; Matthew 21:28–32

Echoing the complaint heard in last week's readings, today's First Reading again presents protests that God isn't fair. Why does He punish with death one who begins in virtue but falls into iniquity, while granting life to the wicked one who turns from sin?

This is the question that Jesus takes up in the parable in today's Gospel.

The first son represents the most heinous sinners of Jesus' day—tax collectors and prostitutes—who by their sin at first refused to serve in the Lord's vineyard, the kingdom. At the preaching of John the Baptist, they repented and did what was right and just. The

second son represents Israel's leaders—who said they would serve God in the vineyard but refused to believe John when he told them they must produce good fruits as evidence of their repentance (see Matthew 3:8).

Once again, this week's readings invite us to ponder the unfathomable ways of God's justice and mercy. He teaches His ways only to the humble, as we sing in today's Psalm. And in the Epistle today, Paul presents Jesus as the model of that humility by which we come to know life's true path.

Paul sings a beautiful hymn to the Incarnation. Unlike Adam, the first man, who in his pride grasped at being God, the New Adam, Jesus, humbled himself to become a slave, obedient even unto death on the Cross (see Romans 5:12–17). In this He has shown sinners—each one of us—the way back to the Father. We can only come to God to serve in His vineyard, the Church, by having that same attitude as Christ.

This is what Israel's leaders lacked. In their vainglory, they presumed their superiority—that they had no further need to hear God's Word or listen to God's servants. But this is the way to death, as God tells Ezekiel today. We are always to be emptying ourselves, seeking forgiveness for our sins and frailties, confessing on bended knee that He is Lord, to the glory of the Father. ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 366 September Magnificat

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

With prayer and thanksgiving, we now make our petitions known to God the Father:

For the shepherds of the Church: for the pope, bishops, and priests, that their faithful teaching and preaching may lead all God's people into the one sheepfold of grace.

For an end to religious persecution and terrorism throughout the world.

For our parish to be ever more devoted to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

That Christian families be strengthened to face every challenge and difficulty, and to grow in holiness.

For all the poor, the suffering, and the lonely, and for all who do not know the love of Jesus.

For greater faith in the Lord and his providence, and a readiness to do his will.

Loving Father, let the peace of heaven that surpasses all understanding guard our hearts and minds. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Intercessions pages 368-369 September Magnificat

In the faithful and obedient Christ, we rise to a new life of fidelity to God's will. Let us pray:

R/ You are faithful for ever! Come to our aid.

You obeyed to heal our disobedience:

– make us obedient like you. R/

You returned to your Father in glory:

– may we return in repentance. R/

You died that we might live:

– help us to die to our evil desires. R/

Personal intentions Our Father....

God our Father, you sent your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to bring us back from the ways of blind disobedience to the reign of light where your love rules all hearts. Keep us faithful to the gift you have given through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY Learning to Love the Father's Will pages 373-374 September Magnificat

We have many questions in troubled times: "How can I go on?" "How long will this last?" "Why is this happening to me?" "Who's to blame?" "Is it normal for this to happen?" These questions are fair enough, and sometimes answering them can even help us solve our problems.

But often there are no answers. One can spend a lifetime, for instance, trying to assign responsibility for a situation without succeeding. Instead of being bent on getting answers, one needs the courage to leave certain legitimate questions unanswered - something always painful - and adopt a different perspective: "At the end of the day, what does God want from me in all this?"

It is good to remember a fundamental point: It is not knowledge that saves but faith. What saves...is finding the right attitude, the one to which God invites us. Faith lies in welcoming situations with confidence and submitting our conduct to the will of the Holy Spirit....

People in difficult situations who come to terms with their inability to understand everything and begin to ask what God wants of them here and now receive enlightenment little by little. Perhaps an act of confidence is made, or forgiveness is accepted, or there is a renewed effort to pray. Relief and release are the result, and a pathway to the future opens up. ~ Father Jacques Philippe

Father Philippe is a member of the Community of the Beatitudes and a renowned spiritual director.

Intercessions pages 376 September Magnificat

Through his obedience, Christ redeemed us from our disobedience and allowed us to become true children of God in love:

R/ Give us again the joy of your help!

We lose sight of God's love for us:

– awaken us once more to the truth of that love. R/

We choose our own will rather than God's will:

– bring us back to the loving obedience of the children of God. R/

We wander unaware in the ways of death:

– make us live once more in your truth and your love. R/

Personal intentions Our Father....

May the Lord rescue us from every evil threat and bring us safe to his heavenly kingdom. Amen. (cf. 2 Tm 4:18)

Marian Antiphon