

Dear Padre,

What does it mean when it says we're in Cycle A or B or C? Or Years I and II?

When the bishops of the Church at the Second Vatican Council in 1963 called for a revision of our liturgy, they asked that “The treasures of the Bible...be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s word. In this way, a more representative portion of the holy Scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 51).

At Sunday Masses, the Scriptures are divided up over three years (called Years A, B, and C). At these Masses, the gospel is the primary reading. The first reading, taken from the Old Testament, and the responsorial psalm touch upon the same theme as the gospel. In the Easter season, the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. The second reading follows consecutive passages from the letters of Paul or the other apostles, independent of the other readings.

At weekday Masses, most of the Bible is read over a period of two years. Odd-numbered years are Year I, and even-numbered years are Year II.

All of this should help us open those treasures that the Church says are ours in the Scriptures. ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
October 19	October 20	October 21	October 22	October 23	October 24	October 25
<i>Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Eph 2:1–10 Lk 12:13–21	Eph 2:12–22 Lk 12:35–38	Eph 3:2–12 Lk 12:39–48	Eph 3:14–21 Lk 12:49–53	Eph 4:1–6 Lk 12:54–59	Eph 4:7–16 Lk 13:1–9	Ex 22:20–26 1 Thes 1:5c–10 Mt 22:34–40

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today let us ask Mary, Mother of the Church, to be able to serve, with Jesus and like Jesus, those men and women thirsting for truth and justice. This is not the time for opposition between one church and another, between “us” and “them”—those who worship God seek to be men and women of peace, who worship him in Spirit and in truth.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 8, 2026

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 18, 2026
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 45:1, 4–6 / 1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b / Matthew 22:15–21



Good News!

October 18, 2026
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 45:1, 4–6 / 1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b / Matthew 22:15–21

ANN M. GARRIDO

Jesus had to know something was up when both the Pharisees and the Herodians approached him together. Pharisees and Herodians were never together. Herodians survived by cooperating with the Roman Empire. The Pharisees found such cooperation an affront to God’s law.

“Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” they asked. It was a trap. If he answered “no,” the Herodians could report him to the Romans for fomenting rebellion. If he answered “yes,” the crowd watching would see Jesus as a sellout to an unpopular foreign power. But Jesus did not take the bait. He refused to give a “yes” or a “no,” instead allowing onlookers to see that his Pharisee and Herodian challengers were carrying the Roman coin in their pockets—hence participating in the Roman economy—whereas he did not even possess the coin they were asking about. He was living and working for a different ruler altogether. Their question was outside his realm of concern.

So often we, too, can find ourselves trapped in heated political conversations where questions are asked in such a way that they seem to allow only a yes-or-no answer. The askers want to reveal, “Are you with us or are you against us?” as if there are no other options. As followers of Jesus, we know that there are issues of ultimate concern for us—“battle hills worth dying on.” Jesus himself had one: Calvary. But Jesus himself did not feel as if he needed to take a stand on every hot political issue of his day. Sometimes he sidestepped those conversations. So can we. ●

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Mass Schedule

Saturday: 6:00 PM
Sunday:
7:30 AM & 11:00 AM ~ English
6:00 PM ~ Spanish
Daily Mass:
Mon., Tues., & Fri. ~ 8:00 AM
Thurs.(Sp.) ~ 6:00 PM
1st Saturday Mass: 8:00 AM
Adoration
Thurs.~ Spanish—6:30PM

Reconciliation

Thursday: 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Saturday: 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Sunday: 5:30 PM

Please contact Fr. James by phone or email if you need to make an appointment for Confession or Anointing of the Sick

Parish Office Hours

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs:
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Closed for Lunch
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Office is closed
Fri., Sat., & Sun.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. - 18 9:15AM † Darrell Hackfeld by Elizabeth Hackfeld
† Ted Snelling & † Irene Snelling
by Elizabeth Hackfeld
† Phylis Toler by Charles D. Toler
People of the parish

Sun.-25 9:15AM † Yolanda Ochoa by family
† Ted Snelling & † Irene Snelling
by Elizabeth Hackfeld
† Phylis Toler by Charles D. Toler
People of the parish

PRAYER LIST

May He bless all who are in need of His strength, especially:

Ana Culpepper, Isabela Fuentes, Henry Garrett, Kenton Heider,
Paula Heider, Gerald Lindsey, Melba Malik, Cheryl Marshall,
Adrian Nunez, Daniel Nunez, Pat Pantoja, Phillip Torres,
Paige Trevino, Adolfo Trevino, and Bo Weaver



Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:

Stephanie Hernandez and Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk

Please contact the parish office for any additions or deletions.

PRAYING FOR OUR MILITARY

We remember these service personnel in each
'Mass for the Families of the Parish'

Air Force: Juan Luis Alonzo, Jr.; Vincent Gordon;
Preston Holliday; Christopher Lauer II;
Alayah Moore; Deborah Thomas;
Audry Winstead

Army: Father Jim Craig, Madeleena Delaney,
Celine De Los Santos, Allen McDonald,
Jacob Madrid, Eduardo Perales, Robert Ponce,
Fernando Ramos III, Anthony Rios, and
Tyree Winstead

Coast Guard: Corey Bunton and Joshua Salinas

Marines: Aurora Alarcon, Hunter Frees, and
Andre Rodriguez

Navy: Cory Elyasevich, Diane Martinez,
Aubrey McCown, Andrew Saenz, Robert Silva,
and Noah Vasquez

Please pray for our ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY!

Please call the parish office or use the online form to submit
names & branch of service.

1. Go to www.st-johnog.org
2. hover mouse on ABOUT tab
3. click on 'Active Military Prayer Request'

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Greetings! I hope all is well in Orange Grove!



Some people are beginning to get nervous about how the upcoming elections will unfold. In the United States, we, the people, are able to vote for who will be our governmental leaders. The ability to vote is a wonderful thing; however, it does cause us to be at odds with one another. I have heard people state that they wished we had three major political parties in this country as opposed to two. In that way, maybe we would not be so divided as a nation. It certainly is something to think about...

The important thing in the upcoming elections is that those who are able to vote, do vote. Also, as Roman Catholics, we should vote by forming our consciences by Catholic teaching. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a good tool to understand Church teaching and how our consciences can be formed appropriately as we prepare to vote. Also, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a document, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, which gives good information on preparing for elections. You can find this document on their website: www.usccb.org.

It's not the time to take sides or use manipulation or anything like that. That is not in keeping with Roman Catholic teaching. It is a time for prayer, for unity, for forming our consciences around Catholic teaching - not what people say Catholic teaching is - but around Catholic teaching. We need to discern not the opinions of each other, but discern how God is calling each of us to vote for the common good of our country in very tense and difficult times.

When you pray, don't pray that God takes sides against certain people, or a political party. Let's pray as Roman Catholics - that we all open our minds and hearts to the will of God as we discern how we are being led to vote for the good of our country and for the common good of all our citizens.

I have never been supportive of a church sponsored Holy Hour or other form of public prayer for an upcoming election because in my experience, it has usually turned into a political rally one way or the other. The Church should not support one political party over another. God does not take sides and neither should we. But God forms our consciences and we should discern how God is moving us to vote at this time in this election. To quote Jesus, that is something we can do in our inner room with the door closed. After all, we are focused on God, not on politics or a political party. We are, as we always should be focused on God.

May God be with us as we ready ourselves to vote in the upcoming election, and may God bless America - all of us who make up this nation at this time.

Fr. James G. Stembler

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Current Week Collection

Envelopes \$ 310.00 Loose \$ 288.00

Religious Education \$ 88.00

Scan the QR code to access the online giving portal



2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal

Goal = \$2,811 Pledged = \$3,730

Pledged + recurring expected = \$4,415

157% of Goal 14% parish participation



PARISH HAPPENINGS

October is the month of the Rosary.

Each Friday a parish organization will the lead rosary at St. John at 6PM:

October 23 - Knights of Columbus October 30 - Casa de Lucy

Works of Mercy



The next **HEB bread and pastries distribution** will be at 9AM at SJoC on Wednesday, October 28, and at St. Francis on Saturday, November 14.

There will be **Coastal Bend Food Bank distributions** at St. John of the Cross on Thursday, November 5, and at St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, October 24, at 9AM.



DIOCESAN NEWS

Evangelization and Catechesis ~ All adult Catholics are encouraged to participate in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Institute for Evangelization and Catechesis. Topics for courses encompass catechetical fundamentals, evangelization training and ministry training. Whether one is just beginning in ministry, looking for how to be involved, or is into several years' worth ministerial experience, the Institute is for all! Explore the website (diocesecc.org/olgoinstitute), now online, for more information. Registration for each individual course begins now! The registration fee is \$5. Please take note of the deadlines for each course. Capacity is limited due to space, so register early to be sure of your spot! Contact Fr. Eric Chapa at echapa@diocesecc.org with any questions you may have.

