

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
Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Eph 2:1-10	Eph 2:12-22	Eph 3:2-12	Eph 3:14-21	Eph 4:1-6	Eph 4:7-16	Ex 22:20-26
Lk 12:13-21	Lk 12:35-38	Lk 12:39-48	Lk 12:49-53	Lk 12:54-59	Lk 13:1-9	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 INTENTINOS



Sat.–17 6:00PM † Jovita Alejandro by Lupe & Angie Alejandro
† Patricia Barnes
by Saturday Morning Prayer Group
† Ed & † Myrtle Houlihan by Jana Robinson
Those on the Saturday Morning Prayer Group
prayer list by Saturday Morning Prayer Group

Sun. - 18 7:30AM † Danny Trevino and † Minerva Trevino
by Anita Bazan
Living and Deceased Members of the
Sociedad Guadalupanas

11:00AM † Marrian Baldeschwiler by Patricia Kelso
† Martha McCloskey
by Scotty & Pam Herschap
In thanksgiving for grandchildren and
great grand child by Anita Bazan

6:00PM † Javier Diaz Arreola, † Jose Trinidad Centeno,
y † Jesus Becerril por la familia Diaz Chavez
Primer año de vida Hanna Montes Ordoñez
por Guadalupe Ordonez
Los feligreses de la parroquia

Mon.– 19 8:00AM Nurses and first responders
In thanksgiving to the sacred heart of Jesus and
the immaculate heart of Mary by Anita Bazan

Tues.- 20 8:00AM COMMUNION SERVICE
† James Joe Gwosdz (13th anniv) by his family
† Juan Guerrero (birthday)
by Bazan, Leal, & Hinojosa Families

Thurs.- 22 8:00AM servicio de comunión
† Patricia Barnes by Anita Bazan
Unwed mothers

Fri.- 23 8:00AM COMMUNION SERVICE
† David Gaza by San Juanita Gaza
† James Jake Wostal by Kathy McCown

Sat.–24 6:00PM † Juan Alaniz by A friend
† Trinidad Molina by Liza Ochoa
† Jack, † John, & † Myldred Robinson
by Saturday Morning Prayer Group

Sun. - 25 7:30AM † Damian Ray Garcia by Veronica Garcia
† Freddy Serna, Jr., by Murray Family

11:00AM † Sylvia Rios Munguia,
† Fabian & † Beatrice Lopez, and
† George Rios by Rios Family
† Bruce Rokohl (Heavenly birthday)
by Don & Kim Rokohl
† Santiago Soliz by Mr. & Mrs. Rene Rios

6:00PM † Marco Pena (8th anniv.)
by Luis & Nora Romanos
Los feligreses de la parroquia

Father Stembler will take the weekday
Mass intentions with him while he is away.

PRAYER LIST

We continue to pray for the needs of
those in our parish:



Diana Deanda, Art Forbes, Tyler Forbes,
Isabela Fuentes, Roel Galván, Antonio Medrano,
Edward Medrano, Daniel Pena, Hilda Rodriguez,
and Sissy Thomas

The names of newly added persons will remain for
three weeks. Contact the Parish Office if names
need to be added to the prayer list.

Praying for expecting mothers and their babies:

Stephanie Hernandez and Mary Margaret Skrobarczyk

PRAYER LIST

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, and Audry Winstead

Army: Rev. 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 Bundton 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’



Thank you,
Orange Grove Independent
School District
for providing the manlift and assisting the
Knights of Columbus in
repairing the flag pole and replacing the flags.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 @ 6PM

ALTAR SOCIETY NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 23 @ 6PM



ALTAR DUTY CLEANING SCHEDULE

October 22-24-- Mrs. Carla Berry, Mrs. Janey Henderson, Mrs. Jo Ann Rodríguez
October 29-31-- Ms. Amanda Sanchez, Mrs. Elaine Lopez, Mrs. Elena Medrano



The Altar Society is having a fall raffle fundraiser. The top two prizes are each \$1,000 in Visa gift cards. Each ticket is \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will take place on November 15, at 2PM, in the pairsh hall. You do not need to be present to win!

SOCIEDAD GUADALUPANA NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 19 @ 6PM

Hostess grp # 2: Jennifer Alejandro
Corporate Mass—October 18—7:30AM Mass Rosary at 7:00AM Leader: Anita Bazan
Offertory: Nora Romanos, Mary Villarreal, & Sabrina Lopez



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 3



Rosary: 6:40 PM at the KOC Building Men 18 yrs. & older are welcome

October is Respect Life Month.

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. Our Knights of Columbus are hosting a diaper drive in honor of Respect Life Month. Please donate newborn/ infant to toddler-size diapers to be donated to the Corpus Christi Hope House.



CASA DE LUCY MEETS ON TUESDAYS AT 9 AM.

Casa de Lucy Helping Hand Quilting Ministry sews Prayer Quilts for the terminally / critically ill persons needing prayers. Please contact the office if you know anyone in need of a quilt.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Students will not be allowed to walk to the front of the church to be picked up after their Religious Education class. Parents must pick their children up from the designated areas.

Thank you, Arabella Ochoa, for providing the meal for our jr. high—high school religious education students this week. Pizza is always a hit!

There will be no Religious Education classes next week, Wednesday, October 21, due to the Jim Wells County Fair. Classes will resume the following week, on October 28.

WORKS OF MERCY

Looming Ladies meet each Monday at 9AM in the parish hall to loom beanies and scarves for patients in the Driscoll Oncology Department. All are welcome to join this ministry.



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.



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

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's collection

Envelopes \$ 2,578.00

Loose \$ 1,722.00

Religious education \$ 901.00

World Mission Sunday ~ October 18, 2026, is the 100th anniversary of Pope Pius XI's creation of **World Mission Sunday** to help Catholics across the globe to unite in prayer for the missions, to learn better about the greatness of the missionary task, foster greater missionary zeal, and encourage offerings for the missions. The second collection taken up on **World Mission Sunday** helps extend the Church's missionary work to places where the Church barely exists, where the Gospel has never been heard, and where the Church is too young, too persecuted, or too poor to sustain herself.

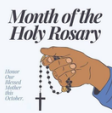
World Mission Sunday helps Pope Leo support the 1,130 missionary dioceses and territories under his special care. One in Christ, united in mission, we are called to collaborate with him in this mission work.

2026 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal



The SJoC BSA goal is \$22,629 of which \$13,370 has been pledged. That is 64% of the diocesan goal with 12% of the parish participating in the 2026 BSA. Your continued support of the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal is truly appreciated

PARISH HAPPENINGS



October is the month of the Rosary.

Each Friday a parish organization will lead rosary in the church at 6PM:

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

All Souls' Day Novena

All Souls' Day Memorial Candles are personalized candles that have a space for the name of the deceased who will be remembered in a special way during the Prayer of the Faithful. These All Souls' Day Candles are an opportunity to commemorate your faithfully departed. The candles are available to purchase in the parish office for \$5.00. They will burn for nine Masses—a novena. A picture may be set beside your loved one's candle for the duration of the novena. A Rosary will be prayed 30 minutes before every All Soul's Novena Mass.



Starting , Friday, October 16, Dcn. Cavada will be hosting an **Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA)** via ZOOM at 7PM. Any adult (18 +) interested in receiving Sacraments (Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Marriage) is invited to contact the parish office for more information about this opportunity to fully participate in the Catholic Mass.



DIOCESAN NEWS



A HOLY MASS HONORING ALL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

All healthcare professionals and support staff are invited to an evening of prayer and appreciation as we honor all who serve in the field and ask God's grace and strength upon those who continue Christ's healing ministry through their care and service to others.

The White Mass will take place on Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Cathedral, 505 North Upper Broadway. Immediately following Mass, there will be dinner at El Camino Restaurant and a talk on Ethics for Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit presented by Sean Hutzler, M.D., FACEP, FAAEM. No RSVP is required.

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! See the official flyer for details.

Contact Fr. Eric Chapa at echapa@diocesecc.org with any questions you may have.

