

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 18, 2026



BLESSED SACRAMENT

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741
www.blessedsacramentchapel.org or email at office@bscobo.org

Sunday Mass: 10:00AM

Mission Statement:

Established in the Spirit of Jesus Christ with an Afro-centric focus, Blessed Sacrament Chapel is committed to spreading the "Word" through fellowship and good works.

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Office: 270-683-6525

Pastor: Father John Thomas
jthomas@sscobo.org

Parochial Vicar: Father Christopher Grief
grief@sscobo.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU
office@bscobo.org



Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,
whose right hand I grasp,
subduing nations before him. (Is 45:1)

Psalm:

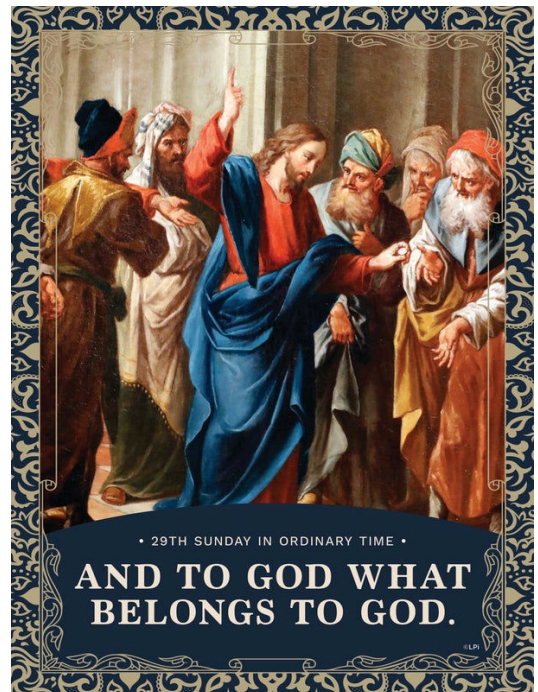
Give the Lord glory and honor. (Ps 96)

Second Reading:

We give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers,
unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love.
(1 Thes 1:2-3)

Gospel:

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)



• 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

**AND TO GOD WHAT
BELONGS TO GOD.**

My Dear Parishioners:

Every three years we are presented with today's gospel, one that interests many of us because it deals with the question of separation between Church and State. The first thing we should note is that the question put to Jesus was a tricky lawyer's question. It was not a question that sought enlightenment; it was not put to Jesus in order to learn from Him. No. It was put to Jesus to trap Him. Was He to be seen as an insurrectionist revolutionary and an enemy of the State or was He to be seen as a collaborator with the hated Roman authorities who so brutalized the Jewish people? The Pharisees, the religious fundamentalists of the day, hated the Roman tax. The Herodians, those Jews who supported the Roman puppet King Herod, supported the tax. Both groups, the Pharisees and the Herodians, hated each other. But here we find them joined together in a combined effort to trap Jesus, to discredit Him, and thus do away with Him, each trying to trap Jesus for their own reasons (*nothing like a common enemy to bring warring parties together*).

With a canny response Jesus discredits them both. Both the Pharisees and the Herodians were Jews. Both groups, as Jews, rejected graven images as violations of the First Commandment. No Jew of any stripe would countenance the idea that idols were to be worshipped. Statues and images were totally forbidden as false, man-made gods. Here we find Jesus in His response to their tricky question asking them for a coin, which they gave Him. Note that both they and Jesus were in the Temple area when this incident took place. Note, too, that the Roman coin had carved upon it the image of the infamous Tiberius Caesar, the one who had so desecrated the Jewish Temple. The coin also bore the inscription: "Tiberius Caesar – Son of the Divine Augustus". On the coin's other side it designated him as "Pontifex Maximus", supreme priest. For Jews, this was blasphemous idolatry. The fact that they had carried that coin with them into the Temple precincts tells us that they thereby discredited themselves. No good Jew would be caught with such a coin on the Temple's grounds. Furthermore, we need to realize that Jesus' response was directed at the precise issue of whether or not the Roman taxes should be paid. Jesus said nothing about the autonomy of Caesar in his secular role. Nor was Jesus making any statement at all about separating religion from society.

So these questions remain: What is Caesar's, and what is God's? Is there anything at all that is not God's – is there anything at all in human activity that does not stand under God's judgment? Are we, as modern day Americans, exempting anything from God's purview? Separation of church and state has served us well here in the United States. We have a democracy, not a theocracy, and that has served us well. We do not have a state religion; we have freedom of religion. We are free to practice our religious beliefs as we choose. But where is it written that freedom of religion means freedom from religion? Are people of faith obliged not to express their beliefs and put them into practice in the public domain? We must remember that while rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's we must still render to God what is God's. Does God have expectations of us with regard to our civic order? Are our public policies to be exercised freed from God's norms and apart from God's will? What is to be kept from God's purview?

What, then, is Caesar's and what is God's? That question is being argued out in our times in a great debate over the importance and value of religion in our society. Reasonable people may differ in the application of answers to that question. But however much they may differ it is unreasonable to assert the notion that our American republic was built on a secularist mantra that freedom of religion in these United States means freedom from religion in our public affairs. What is Caesar's and what is God's? The question is just as important to us now as it was when it was put to Jesus. And so is its answer. What is your answer?

Blessings, Fr. John



October Birthdays

19—Sister Monica Seaton

November Birthdays

1—Father John Thomas

5—Jamie Bisel

7—Lennox Williams

Hank and Quinn Fain

11—Jeff Sanford

16—Joyce Moorman

Greg Gough

19—Ron Moorman

Barbara Bisel

20 – Gary Wahl

22—Trey Hatchett

Mass Intentions

October 18 - Charlene and Peter Armendarez

October 25 - Kenneth Higgs

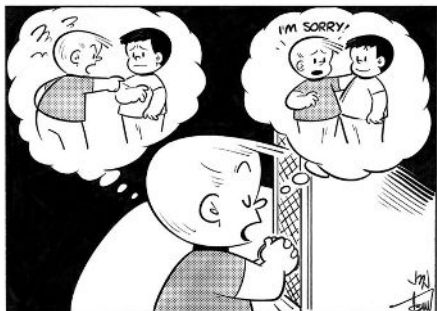
November 1 - James Curtiss 'JC' Greene

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Rayma Hollis, Judy Aronold, Ginny Singleton, Mary Ann Terry, Nicole Melton, Mike Dunn, Renee Perkins, Rita Moorman, Joanne Kendall, Rollie Pike, Larry Leachman, Dorothy Simmons, Steve Coble, Teresa Luebbert, Diane Selby, Kathi Skidd, Ray Higgs, Pam Wilson, Phil Armendarez, Cindy Heckmann, Judy Stinett, Shaun Winchell, China Dulin, Steven Moorman, Philip Moorman, Jr., Ronnie Hollis, Chandra Hagan, Ruth Coble, Carol Hatchett, Jordan Gertisen, Shelby Webster, Gary Moorman. **If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

Let us remember to pray for those who are dying and those who have recently died.

Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

"How is confession like autumn?"



"You turn over a new leaf."



FUN FACT!
God is good! We can encounter His mercy and love in confession, where His grace covers our sins and we leave with a clean soul.

"What do you call a gourd's family?"



"Pump-kin."



FUN FACT!
Not only is October the month of the Rosary, but it's also Respect Life Month, a great time to share love, support, and prayers for those in your family and beyond.

Coming Events



October 18- No Religious Ed-
Fall Break

October 18 - Anointing of the
Sick

October 25- Religious Ed
Resumes

November 22 - Thanksgiving
Meal - Noon



October 11--\$1,560.89
Budget--\$1,541.00
MTD Collection--\$2,700.23
MTD Budget--\$3,082.00
YTD Collection--\$22,897.14
YTD Budget--\$23,115.00

*May each give according to
what the Lord has blessed
us with.*

*Thanks to everyone who practices
stewardship on a regular basis. An
active parishioner attends Mass
regularly and practices stewardship
(time, talent, treasure).*

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Occasionally, I'll slip into a parish I've never visited before, pick up the bulletin, and find one of my Gospel reflections. My heart usually swells with a bit of affection for my creation. I imprint a bit of myself into my little "literary labors of love." Anyone who has created something — a piece of writing, a garden, a meal, a child — knows that feeling. We love the things into which we put ourselves. We are happy when they return to us.

With this in mind, listen to Jesus' classic line in this Sunday's Gospel: **"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God"** (Matthew 22:21). He presents this little riddle to deepen the theme from taxes to human beings. A Roman coin bears Caesar's image, so it belongs to Caesar. Therefore, he has a legitimate claim to it. Fair enough. But what belongs to God? What bears *His* image? Every human being. God has imprinted Himself on every person. Which means everyone — including Caesar — belongs entirely to Him. Jesus, who is God's perfect image, has come to draw everyone back to God.

We can be tempted to imagine that our lives are made up of "things for God" and "things not for God." The good news is that no such division is possible because *everything* in life is a gift from God to us. Therefore, all is meant to be placed at the service of God's kingdom. He loves everything He has created. We have the privilege of giving it all back to Him.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Eph 2:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4ab, 4c-5/Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday: Eph 2:12-22/Ps 85:9ab-10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday: Eph 3:2-12/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Lk 12:39-48

Thursday: Eph 3:14-21/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19/Lk 12:49-53

Friday: Eph 4:1-6/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 12:54-59

Saturday: Eph 4:7-16/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 13:1-9

Observances for the Week

Monday: Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs;
St. Peter of Alcantara

Tuesday: St. Paul of the Cross, Priest

Thursday: St. John Paul II, Pope

Friday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest

Saturday: St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

St. Peter of Alcantara (1499–1562)

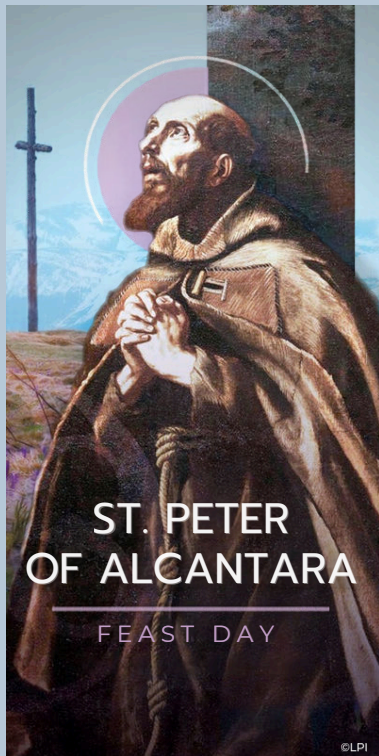
St. Peter of Alcantara was born in Alcantara, Spain, in 1499. His father was the Governor of the province, and his mother came from a noble family. He received private tutoring and attended the University of Salamanca. After he returned home from university, he was accepted as a Franciscan Friar of the Stricter Observance in 1515. He was ordained as a priest in 1524, and in 1525 he became Guardian of the friary of St. Mary of the Angels.

Throughout his life, St. Peter of Alcantara took up his spiritual cross and preached with great success to the poor, but also spent much of his time in solitude. From 1553 to early 1555, he spent this time alone in meditation and prayer. Soon after, St. Peter made a pilgrimage to Rome, barefoot the entire way. While in Rome, he obtained permission from Pope Julius III to establish friaries.

St. Peter was known for frequently experiencing ecstasy, a state where he was entirely consumed with the warmth and light of the Holy Spirit. These euphoric moments were common during his prayer and meditation.

When he was near death, St. Peter took to his knees and prayed. When he was offered water, he refused it, saying, "Even my Lord Jesus Christ thirsted on the Cross." He died while in prayer on October 18, 1562. On April 18, 1622, Pope Gregory XV declared him blessed, and Pope Clement IX canonized him on April 28, 1669.

St. Peter of Alcantara, pray for us!



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

Cyrus, king of the Persian Empire, learns that God plans to use him to rescue his people, Israel.
Have you ever felt God has used you to help someone else?

2nd Reading Question

Paul speaks in gratitude for the faith of the Thessalonians and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst.
What are you thankful for this week?

Gospel Question

The Pharisees and the Herodians are unable to trap Jesus in his words.
Do you feel equipped to defend the Faith from others who may challenge you?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The Pharisees try to trick Jesus into starting a political revolution. They don't realize he came to start a revolution of the heart, not the state. God's image is stamped on our soul, but still the world tries to claim us. Revolt! You belong to God.

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
October 18	Wayne Stephens Jacques Williams	Greg Gough Janet Clark Cindy Clark	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble
October 25	Greg Gough Misty Sanford	Greg & Denise Richardson Michelle Jones	Bernadette Thames Janet & Lila Clark

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

**MORE INFORMATION AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMING SOON.
JOIN OTHER PARISHIONERS IN BUILDING COMMUNITY AND
SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH OTHERS THROUGH HOSPITALITY!**





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IMP—Kroger

Thank you to everyone who has designated Blessed Sacrament as your community reward partner. If you do not have a community reward partner, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament's # is WX799.

Go to krogercommunityrewards.com to register. Thanks for your support.

Safe Environment The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian. Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities (800-422-4453); local law enforcement (800-752-6200); or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-597- 2331). To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church (paid or volunteer), call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) on the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish): 270-880-8360. The Diocese of Owensboro's sexual abuse policy is available at this parish (in the bookshelf in back of the church), in the parish office and hall, and on the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>). To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by bishops, go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562