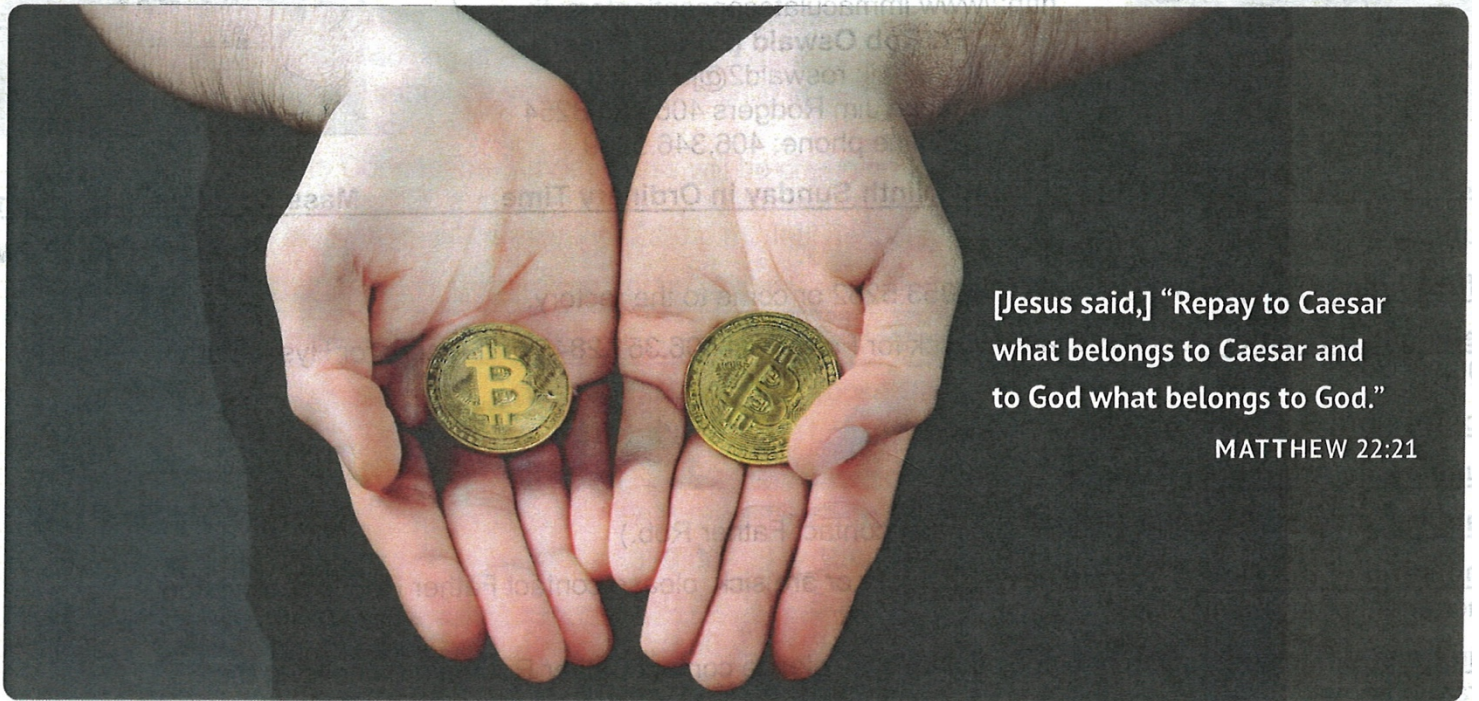




[Jesus said,] “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

MATTHEW 22:21

Sidestepping Side-taking

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. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

When confronted, do I prefer to “take the bait” or find common ground?



**Immaculate Conception &
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Mass Schedule – Forsyth

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule – Hysham

Sunday at 10:30 AM

Sunday at 12:30 PM

Office hours: By appointment – call 406.853.5252 or come to the rectory.

Religious Education: Contact Diane Wyrick for Forsyth at 406.351.2845 and Amber for Hysham at 406.342.5448.

Confession: Saturdays @ 2 PM.

Eucharistic Adoration: Saturday 2-3 PM

Baptism: Adults and children under 7 (please contact Father Rob.)

Anointing of the Sick: If you are having surgery or are sick, please contact Father Rob to receive the Sacrament of Anointing.

Funerals: When anticipating or planning a funeral, please contact Father Rob before finalizing the arrangements.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered and be listed in the bulletin, please contact Father Rob.

Homebound & Sick: If you or someone you know can no longer attend Mass due to physical inability, please contact Father Rob or Diane Wyrick at 406.351.2845 or Rosemary in Hysham at 406.740.1457 to receive Holy Communion and Anointing.

Immaculate Conception Prayer Chain: For requests, call Cherie Heser at 406.351.9048.

Mass & Liturgy Schedule:

Sunday	10/18	8:30 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Kenneth Morrison from Dolly Morrison.
Sunday	10/18	12:30 PM	Mass for Hysham for Barb Weber from Joan Thibault.
Tuesday	10/20	5:15 PM	Mass in Forsyth for Fr. Mark Beard from Dolly Morrison.
Friday	10/23	9:00 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Jeff Wigen from Jon & Carol Wigen.
Saturday	10/24	4:00 PM	Mass at the Nursing Home for Kathy Kahrenbruck from Marie Rangel.
Sunday	10/25	10:30 AM	Mass in Forsyth for Terry Wilson from Ann Kanta.
Sunday	10/25	12:30 PM	Mass for Hysham for Denise O'Reilly from Joan Thibault.

✠ Rosary every Monday at 8:15 AM, Tuesday at 4:45 PM and Friday at 8:30 AM.

✠ Religious education for children Sunday at 9:30 AM.

✠ Bible Study in Forsyth is Friday morning after Mass.

✠ CCD & Sacramental Prep Classes on Sunday morning. Questions: Please contact Diane Wyrick in Forsyth and Amber in Hysham.

✠ Mass times at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Colstrip Sunday 8:30 AM.

✠ CCW meeting the 2nd Sunday after Mass.

Announcements:

St. Joseph, Hysham: REMEMBER that Mass next weekend is on Saturday, October 24th at 6 p.m. instead of Sunday the 25th due to the Harvest Dinner in Forsyth.

After Mass this Sunday (October 18th) please help setup the dining area for the upcoming Harvest Dinner. Thanks for your help!

We will be having a silent auction at our Harvest Dinner on October 25. If you would like to donate items for this fundraiser, please bring them to the Church. There are forms on the table in the Hall to go along with each item. Thank you! Any donation is much appreciated.

There are signup sheets for help at the Harvest Dinner in the Parish Hall. Please help us out if you are able - it takes a lot of help to make this important fundraiser a success!

Attention: Winter is approaching and the Knights of Columbus (Forsyth Council 3039) is conducting its annual winter coat drive. If you or someone you know has a child in need of a winter coat please contact Lloyd Nelson, Brian Sullivan or Dr. Bill Anderson.

Reminder: Immaculate Conception Sunday Mass will be changing to the Winter/Spring schedule beginning November 1st with Mass at 8:30 a.m. That is also the day we return to Standard Time, so clocks go back one hour. Mass at St. Joseph in Hysham will remain at 12:30 p.m. until next July.

Finance Update: Last Sunday Collection: 10/11/2026

Immaculate Conception – Forsyth		St. Joseph – Hysham	
Loose Cash	63.00	Loose Cash	22.00
Loose Checks	40.00	Loose Checks	285.00
Envelope Cash	90.00	Envelope Cash	0.00
Envelope Checks	1735.00	Envelope Checks	675.00
Other (Bathroom)	350.00	Other (Stipend)	0.00
Music	0.00	Building Fund	0.00
Special Collection (Stipend)	0.00	Special Collection	0.00
Special Collection	0.00	Capital Campaign	0.00
Current Operating Fund	65.00	Current Operating Fund	0.00
TOTAL:	\$ 2342.00	TOTAL:	\$ 982.00

Forsyth & Hysham Ministry Schedule for next Sunday: 10/25/2026

Forsyth:			
	Time	Service	Names
	Mass at 10:30 AM	Eucharistic Ministers	Ryan Silvis & Phil Steinberger
		Cross Bearer	Ryan Silvis
		Lector	Lloyd Nelson
		Ushers	Dave & Diane Wyrick
		Gifts	Dave & Diane Wyrick
		Col. Counters	Diane Wyrick & Ryan Silvis
		Sacristan	Diane Wyrick
Hysham:			
	Mass at 12:30 PM	Eucharistic Ministers	Joan Thibault & Del Warren
		Lector	Renee Zent

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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