THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus says in today's gospel: "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God". The snare, ruse or trap set against Jesus by the Pharisees and Herodians in today's gospel didn't work. It is happening today, not only in the past. It's every day that traps are set to ensnare Jesus's disciples. Wrongly so, people, mostly in our nation, think and say it's about the separation between Church and State. False. "Repay Caesar…". This comes first because we are children of this earth. Let's not pretend that we are angels. There are powers and responsibilities here on earth that we have to respect and to follow or obey. Nobody can and should escape from them. Unfortunately, more often than not, power and those in power can easily become dictators- "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely"- (just look at all leaders in ALL countries in Africa)."Repay to God…" We are also children of heaven (Remember what St Paul says in Ph 3,20: "Our citizenship is in heaven"). We were created in the image of God. We are the image not of a coin, but of the Host, Communion. So, politicians SHOULD give back to God every single human being. Politicians are not our owners. Rm 14,8 says "Whether we are alive or dead, we belong to the Lord". Caesar exists and makes sense only because of God. Between God and Caesar (government), we cannot choose. There is no either or. But Caesar should not stop nor prevent God to function, to be.

OLA FALL FESTIVAL NEWS

Thanks again to all who helped and supported the OLA Fall Festival. All our efforts reaped a total of $32,113.50. Last year's total was $29,028.32.

OLA FALL FESTIVAL WRAP-UP GATHERING

Final numbers for the OLA Fall Festival will be available soon. All volunteers are invited to a Wrap-Up gathering on Sunday October 25 @ 1pm in the OLA Hall. Contact Nikki at 570 335-8135 to RSVP

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ALL SOULS DAY REMEMBRANCE

November is traditionally the month when we especially remember in our prayers our faithful departed. Please remember the offertory envelope for All Souls Day in your envelope pack. Kindly inscribe the names of your deceased loved ones on the envelope and return it in the collection basket. These envelopes will be placed on the altar, and your intentions will be remembered at all the masses celebrated throughout the month of November.

CEMETERY VISIT IN NOVEMBER

During the month of November, every Catholic is asked by law to visit a cemetery. If followed properly, Indulgence is attached to this ancient pious practice.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE
WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 7 & 8, 2026

On the weekend of November 7th & 8th, OLA, SML & St Patrick parishes will each have the Mass of Remembrance for parishioners who died and had a funeral Mass at one of our parishes between November 2025 and October 2026.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Pastoral Council and Coordinating Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 10 @6pm in the OLA Hall.

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Our three Parishes continue to celebrate the SML tradition of Pro-Life Sunday (October 4) by having a container in each church for the whole month of October, to collect baby items for St Joseph Center Baby & Children's Pantry

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2026

This weekend, we join Catholics around the world in celebration of the World Mission Sunday. Through the Pope's Pontifical Mission Societies, our prayers and gifts help bring the gospel, food, education and healthcare to communities in need in more than 1,100 dioceses across the globe. Please pray for our missionaries & give generously in this special second collection. Together, we are the Church's helping hands around the world.

SAVE THE DATE
HALLOW PARISH MISSION MONDAY NOV. 9

Mark your calendars for a special evening of faith, fellowship, and inspiration as we explore what it means to live with courage and follow Christ more faithfully! Join our parish community for a Hallow mission event featuring an engaging speaker and a dinner. More details coming soon — we look forward to gathering together for this special occasion!

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

October 24 & 25

Eucharistic Ministers
4 pm (OLA) Barbara Williamson
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams Jr.
11 am (SP) Chris Stutzman

Musicians
4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams
11 am (SP) Maria Fay

Lectors
4 pm (OLA) Becky Mozeleski
9:00am (SML) Stephen Zdaniwicz
11 am (SP) Lucy Ziman

Altar Servers
4 pm (OLA) – Kevin & Margaret Jones
11am (SP) – Kali Harvatine
Shadow: Calla McHugh

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 22 - Bingo SP doors open at 5pm, bingo 6pm
Oct 22– Prayer Shawl Ministry, SML, 5:30pm
Oct 25 – OLA festival wrap-up gathering in hall, 1pm
Nov 10 – Parish Pastoral Council Mtg, OLA hall, 6pm

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

FFF for SML Sundays following Mass until 11:15am
Upcoming schedule:
Oct. 25 Class
Nov. 1 Class Combined parishes 9:45am St. Patrick's Nicholson followed by 11am Mass
Please contact Kerry Pieretti for more information Redlightgreen343@gmail.com

SP & OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Family Faith Formation at SP began on Sunday, 9/13 for grades K-8. If you haven't already registered, but are still interested, please contact Jill D'Antoni for more information at dantonijill@gmail.com.

REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any of those mentioned above has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, the matter is to be reported to law enforcement at 1-800-932-0313 or www.compass.state.pa.us./cwis.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES ANNUAL APPEAL

Please, if you haven't yet made a gift, do so from your heart.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday (October 20) St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
8:00am (OLA) Health & Blessings for Jennifer Evans Bestin
By James Bestin & Family

Wednesday (October 21) Weekday
8:00am (SP) Deceased Members of the Marrazzo & Riccardo Families
By John & Pat Marrazzo

Thursday (October 22) St. John Paul II, Pope
8:00 am (SML) Lori Pierce
By Timothy Pierce

Saturday (October 24) The Vigil of The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 pm (OLA) John & Deanna Beggin
By Monica Wilga

Sunday (October 25) The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 am (SML) Gertrude Billings
By James Billings
11:00 am (SP) Health & Blessings for Paul Zipprich
By Maria Fay

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly $ 1,677.00 Loose $ 98.80
OLA Weekly $ 1,921.00 Loose $ 26.00
SML Weekly $ 1,515.00 Loose $ 57.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. The Rosary is appealing and simple. The purpose of the Rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation. Every time we pray the Our Father we are reminded that Jesus' Father is the initiator of salvation. Praying the Hail Mary reminds us that we are joining with Mary in contemplating these mysteries. In addition, they help to make us aware that Mary was and is still intimately joined with her Son, Jesus, in all the mysteries of earthly and heavenly existence. The constant repetition of prayer creates an atmosphere of contemplation.

SAINTS WITH UNUSUAL LIVES

Today's Saint is Saint Paul. His name was Saul. He took the name of Paul after his conversion. We know that he used to persecute and killed the earlier Christians. He has blood on his hands. For sure, we know that he was the one leading the group of Pharisees who killed St Stephen. Paul went from zero to hero. He left a set of letters that are the most important set of letters on the history of mankind, talking about the one he used to hate, Our Lord Jesus Christ. If Saint Paul became a saint, so can we.