



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Harlowton, Montana

Missions:

Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut
Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

Father Joseph Paddock, Pastor

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Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 18, 2026

Christ's response to the false dilemma put to him by the Pharisees reveals that, though we owe obedience to just laws and rightful authority, we must also give to God what belongs to God. And what does belong to God? Our very lives. The effects of original sin entice us to withhold

some part of ourselves from God, but Saint Paul reminds us: "You were chosen by God our Father." And the Lord says: "I have called you by your name, though you knew me not. I am the Lord and there is no other." Thus, the one to whom we owe everything is not a tyrannical ruler, but our Creator who loves us.

I have grasped the right hand of Cyrus to subdue the nations before him.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 *¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and ungird the loins of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I gird you, though you do not know me, ⁶that men may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.*

Psalms 96:1, 3-5, 7-10 **R/ Give the Lord glory and honor.**

¹O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! ³Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! ⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵For all the gods of the peoples are idols; but the LORD made the heavens. ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! ⁹Worship the LORD in holy array; tremble before him, all the earth! ¹⁰Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yea, the world is established, it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

Calling to mind faith, love, and hope

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 *¹Paul, Silva'nus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalo'nians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brethren beloved by God, that he has chosen you; ⁵for our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life. Alleluia, Alleluia

Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21 *¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Hero'di-ans, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully, and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the money for the tax." And they brought him a coin. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*

5:00 pm Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT

(4:30 in winter months) Confessions from 4-4:45pm or by appointment.

Daily Mass on Mondays at noon at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT

Adoration – 12:45-3:30pm & confessions- 12:45-1:45pm)

Please join us to pray the rosary for our nation and community 1/2 hour before Sunday Mass.

Sunday Mass at 9:00am at Holy Cross, Townsend. (confessions from 8-8:45am) & at 1pm at St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs (confessions from 12-12:45pm)

*****Eucharistic Adoration on Mondays – join us anytime between 12:45–3:30 pm.**

Please join us for our monthly parish potlucks on the 4th Sunday after Mass - 10/25/26; 11/22/26; 12/27/26

Please pray for our seminarians:

Riley Helgoe

Jamie Severson

Matt Keck

Liam Aippersbach

Nathan Olmes

Jake Smith

Carter Anderson

James Semling

Ryan Frampton

John Cooney

Anthony Olmes

Shae Bills

Carson Gorton

Peter Fiocchi

Congratulations to Fr. Kaleb Mitchell & Fr. Dillon Armstrong on their ordination to the priesthood! Please keep them in your prayers

Mark Your Calendars:

Mass time will change to 4:30 starting November 1

Planned Parenthood is working on opening a new shop in Bozeman. Fr. Joe asks that we all pray that this does not come to pass.

"Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen"

There is a need for RE teachers, volunteers for ministries - eucharistic ministers, sacristans, servers, visiting homebound, and musicians. Please contact Father Joe if interested.

A group study will be starting on Monday, Oct. 19th at 6pm. We will be using the book Men and Women are from Eden: A Study Guide to John Paul II's Theology of the Body. "This guide is designed to help you appropriate the Pope's astonishing message: True, lasting love that which humanity enjoyed in the beginning, before the Fall is possible here and now. In nine straightforward lessons, Men and Women Are from Eden introduces the reader to the pope's warm, deeply biblical understanding of God's original plan for men and women, a plan that brings with it healing of mind in regard to sexuality and the body." There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church for this group study. The deadline for the sign up is Oct. 12.

The Chosen will be shown the 2nd Monday of each month. The next viewing will be Nov. 9 at 6:30.

Thank you to those who have generously provided a meal for the RE group! Please sign up for this ministry - even if you don't have a student in the group. We need everyone to show our support for them as they grow in their faith!

Thank you to Father Kilian McCaffery for coming to St. Joseph so that Father Joe could participate in the grand opening of Resurrection Parish in Bozeman.

Weekday Mass will happen as normal tomorrow followed by Adoration and Confessions.

Fr. Joe's videos 10/17/26

[Service - Google Drive](#)

Collection Information: 9/20/26

monthly budget	\$	5,916.67
monthly contributions	\$	5,458.24
% of monthly budget		92%
YTD contributions	\$	16,561.29
%YTD Total		93%

Thank you for your support of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Caesar and the King: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Listen Here: [Caesar and the King: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time - St. Paul Center](#)

Readings: Isaiah 45:1,4–6; Psalm 96:1,3–5, 7–10; 1 Thessalonians 1:1–5; Matthew 22:15–21

The Lord is king over all the earth, as we sing in today's Psalm. Governments rise and fall by His permission, with no authority but that given from above (see John 19:11; Romans 13:1).

In effect, God says to every ruler what He tells King Cyrus in today's First Reading: "I have called you . . . though you knew me not."

The Lord raised up Cyrus to restore the Israelites from exile, and to rebuild Jerusalem (see Ezra 1:1–4). Throughout salvation history, God has used foreign rulers for the sake of His chosen people. Pharaoh's heart was hardened to reveal God's power (see Romans 9:17). Invading armies were used to punish Israel's sins (see 2 Maccabees 6:7–16).

The Roman occupation during Jesus' time was, in a similar way, a judgment on Israel's unfaithfulness. Jesus' famous words in today's Gospel, "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar," are a pointed reminder of this. And they call us, too, to keep our allegiances straight.

The Lord alone is our king. His kingdom is not of this world (see John 18:36) but it begins here in His Church, which tells of His glory among all peoples. Citizens of heaven (see Philippians 3:20), we are called to be a light to the world (see Matthew 5:14)—working in faith, laboring in love, and enduring in hope, as today's Epistle counsels.

We owe the government a concern for the common good and obedience to laws - unless they conflict with God's commandments as interpreted by the Church (see Acts 5:29).

But we owe God everything. The coin bears Caesar's image. But we bear God's own image (see Genesis 1:27). We owe Him our very lives—all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, offered as a living sacrifice of love (see Romans 12:1–2).

We should pray for our leaders, that like Cyrus they do God's will (see 1 Timothy 2:1–2) - until from the rising of the sun to its setting all humanity knows that Jesus is Lord. ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 268 October Magnificat

(Each local community should compose its own Universal Prayer but may find inspiration in the texts proposed here.)

The eyes of the Lord are upon those who hope for his kindness. Filled with confidence, we now ask the Father:

That this World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and awareness of the responsibility to announce it.

That all may defend true justice and the common good in order to shape our society according to God's wisdom and order.

For all who have abandoned the practice of the faith: that the grace of Christ will soften their hearts and move them to return to the sacraments.

For children with special needs, and their parents and families: that they be given all the love and support they need.

For the sick, the suffering, and all who feel abandoned or forgotten: that they may experience the consoling presence of the Holy Spirit.

For the grace this week to offer to God all that belongs to him: all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Loving Father, let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions pages 273 October Magnificat

Beloved of God, we pray:

R/ We bear your name, O Lord!

We belong to you, O God:

– let us worship no other god but you. R/

We are called to rest in you on this holy day:

– let us know the joy of gathering in your name for worship. R/

We praise you for your love:

– let us love one another as you have loved us. R/

Personal intentions Our Father....

O God our Father and our Maker, you have made us in your image and called us by our names; you have made us your own in Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose cross we glory on this holy day in the sacrifice of the Mass. Make us holy as he is holy, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY Paying to God What Is God's page 277-278 October Magnificat

[In the Old Testament] sacrifice meant two things: man giving life to God, and God giving back life to man. The tremendous difference between the Old and the New Testament sacrifices is that with us it is the life of our Lord and not of a calf or a lamb that is offered to God, and that it is the Body and Blood of our Lord which we receive from the priest at the altar.

The Mass is what it is because it completes and perfects the idea of religious sacrifice. There is nothing more perfect that can go up to God from this earth than the sacrifice of Christ. There is nothing more perfect that can come down to us from heaven than what the sacrifice of Christ has merited for us....

[This is why] the Church insists on having us assist at Mass at least on Sundays and special feasts.... The Church wants to be quite sure that we get right into the act of Christ offering himself on the cross for man, and the Church knows that neither by Benediction, by the rosary, by the stations of the cross, by the recitation of the psalms, nor by meditation on the Passion can this be fully brought about. The Mass does bring it about - and hence our Sunday obligation.

If it were simply a matter of feeling compassion for Christ in his sufferings, we could satisfy our obligation by staying at home and trying to stir up in our hearts a deep spiritual pity.... But God wants something more out of us than sympathy. And if we attend Mass properly, he gets something more out of us than sympathy. He gets our wills, which mean more to him than our feelings. He gets our obedience, which means more to him than the warmth of our devotion.

Christ was made obedient unto death, says Saint Paul, even to the death on the cross. By being obedient to the Church's law (whether about going to Mass or about anything else) we are taking on something of Christ's obedience. If our Lord stooped so low in his obedience as to take the form of a servant - God becoming the servant of man - the least we should do is to offer willing obedience to the Church, becoming humble servants of God. ~ Dom Hubert van Zeller, o.s.b. Dom Hubert van Zeller († 1984) was a Benedictine monk and an artist.

Intercessions pages 281 October Magnificat

Called by God from our birth, let us pray:

R/ Hear your children, Lord!

We are the work of your hands:

– make our lives the work of your love: R/

We are members of Christ:

– make us one in him: R/

We are called to everlasting life:

– make us ready to welcome your call with faith and joy: R/

Personal intentions Our Father....

May the God of all goodness make us holy in his love. Amen.

Marian Antiphon

World Mission Sunday page 269-270 October Magnificat

"To make Christ's love visible": that is how Pope Leo XIV describes the task of the Church in his letter to us for World Mission Sunday. I would like to sketch what this means for us.

The three disciples invited by the Lord to accompany him to the mountaintop were astonished and afraid when he was transfigured in their sight: His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. They had no idea what bright depths of glory lay just beneath the surface of his ordinary human flesh: There was in him no stately bearing (Is 53:2).

What they glimpsed in this moment was the glory of his divinity visibly shining through his human soul and body. What is this glory? How shall we name it? It is the love of God made visible in the person of the Word made flesh. For God is love (1 Jn 4:8). And we have seen his glory (Jn 1:14).

In Christ this love, this glory, moves him through the course of his earthly mission. It shines through his every gesture and word. For graciousness is poured upon his lips (Ps 45:3). He shows it in his unflinching witness to the honor of God the Father, in his healings and preaching, his compassion and mercy, his patient endurance, his love of justice, his selflessness, and ultimately in his wounded flesh on the cross. His life shows us God's love in human form.

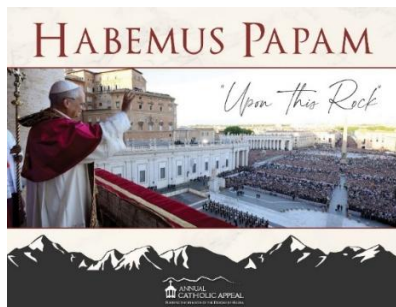
He shows his glory, from Tabor to Calvary to the mount of the Ascension, so that we might take it into ourselves, so that what lies beneath the ordinariness of his flesh might dwell within the ordinariness of our lives. This is why he comes. By the life of grace given to us by Christ through faith and the sacraments, we begin to share his glory. For, as Saint Paul says, the love of God has been poured into our hearts (Rom 5:5). And it is our task to make this love visible.

"But I'm not trained to be a missionary!" I hear this occasionally from committed Catholics who feel ill-equipped to evangelize. If we remember that the mission starts with "making Christ's love visible" in the world, then we realize that we are all better equipped than we might think. From his fullness we have all received (Jn 1:16). For Christ Jesus has given us a share by baptism, confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist in what Peter, James, and John glimpsed at the Transfiguration, and in what John and the Blessed Virgin drank in at the foot of the cross. And like the first disciples after Pentecost's gift of the Holy Spirit, we can cultivate this gift, fan it into flame, so that our everyday gestures of compassion, generosity, justice, and mercy might break through and make Christ's love, his glory, visible in the world. Simply and consciously to bear witness to Christ's freedom from the resentments of the age, the anger and selfishness that were evident in his time and are evident in ours, is a radical way of "making Christ's love visible." The charity of Christ urges us (2 Cor 5:14). Simply to defend the poor and outcast as Jesus did, both in word and deed, is an evangelizing sign. And those who have eyes prepared by Christ will see something of his glory there.

We have the graced ability to:

- Visit the sick, befriend the friendless, embrace the leper (as Saint Francis did).
- Make the sign of the cross before the plane takes off.
- Avoid a useless argument.
- Help someone without transportation get to Mass.
- Take food to an elderly neighbor or to one whose family is going through a crisis.

All these things, and so many others, are from the Lord, and make Christ's love visible; they share in the charity that is his glory. And by the grace of his life in us, these things advance the Kingdom he died and rose to inaugurate. ~ Most Reverend Daniel E. Flores
Bishop Flores has served as the sixth bishop of Brownsville, Texas, since 2010.



"I will build my church." – Matthew 16:18

The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) funds the yearly needs of our diocese. It supports the work of our parishes and, wherever possible, expands the mission of the Church. ACA funds are crucial for priest retirement needs, new deacon formation, and education costs for our 14 seminarians. The ACA supports formation and catechesis in Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Campus Ministry, Family Life, Catholic Formation, and Catholic Education. From ministry to prisoners in Montana to the remote Guatemala Mission and School, ACA funds help serve the marginalized and impoverished. As donors, we actively participate in these ministries and works of mercy that bolster parish life and extend to the fringes of society and the depths of human experience.

This year's Annual Catholic Appeal, **"Habemus Papam: Upon this Rock"**, builds on our hope in Jesus Christ and is refreshed by apostolic succession. As we welcome our new pontiff, Pope Leo XIV, Jesus continues to build his Church through him, and importantly, with us. Thank you for helping us build the Church here and now!