



THE ONLY CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BERMUDA NAMED AFTER AN ANGELIC BEING.

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



[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?

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley, Vicar General (c) 705 0236

Parish Administrator: Karen Marsh (c) 799 0842

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & “LIKE” us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

WEEKEND MASSES 5:00 pm Saturday (English)
7:00 pm Saturday Neo-Catechumenal Mass
10:15 am Sunday (English)
4:30 pm Sunday Filipino Mass (Tagalog)

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance



Mass Schedule & Intentions

*We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend.
May you be blessed by your presence here today.*

MINISTRIES ...

October 17/18th - THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Laura Blee EM: Peter Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Willie Forbes EM: Joyce Lee
Collection: Karen Marsh

October 24/25th - THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Joshua Blee EM: Kathy Anderson
10:15AM Lector: Cherry Ramdass EM: Willie Forbes
Collection: Jesse Almeida

MASS INTENTIONS ...

October 17/18th - THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For Pope Leo's Recovery
10:15AM Normando Rodrigues +

October 24/25th - THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners
10:15AM Dionisio Correia +

October 10/11th MASS Collections: \$1,837.00

Votives \$61.00 Poor Box (SVdP): \$200.00

MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION

THIS WEEKEND

THANK YOU TO ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.



A Beautiful Call to Serve ALTAR SERVERS

St Michael's Church will soon
be inviting young people to
consider serving at the altar.

Bishops Corner ...

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Six months ago I informed you that our Diocese has arranged a Liturgical Retreat/ Workshop.

As we are getting closer and closer to this event, I am happy to share with you this gentle reminder.

The Workshop title is "Our Sacrifice of Praise – celebrating the mystery of our redemption."

It will take place from November 17th to 19th, 2026 (Tuesday to Thursday), at St. Theresa's Hall. Each day, there will be two identical sessions: one from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and another from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Our Workshop facilitator will be Ms. Christina Ronzio, M.A., Director of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops English-Language Office for Liturgy and the Sacraments.

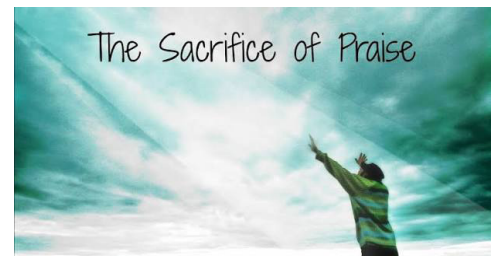
The purpose of this Workshop is to help us deepen our spirituality by gaining a better understanding of the liturgy of the Holy Mass, including the meaning of its various parts and symbols. The lens for this is how to participate in these sacred mysteries – the point being it is not just a formula to follow but entering into the life of God.

I strongly encourage especially those who are involved in ministries in our Parishes: Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion, Song Leaders, Organists, to attend the Workshop.

It is also hoped that this will guide us in developing a unified Ordinary of the Holy Mass for the entire Diocese.

Have a restful weekend and a good week!

+ *Wes*
Bishop Wes



The Sacrifice of Praise



LET'S TALK MENTAL HEALTH

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health illness or suicidal thoughts, please call: 236-3770 weekdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm (MWI) 911 or 239-1111 (24/7 Crisis hotline)

St. Vincent de Paul Society Donations

Donations can be made by Direct Deposit to: BNTB BD\$
20006060476711100 or US\$ 8400784730010.

Memo Field: Identify your name and purpose of donation. i.e. "In memory of..." (IMO and the name of person).

Email (Optional): send to svdp@northrock.bm for confirmation and acknowledgement.

DONATIONS IN CASH: Please use the Poor Boxes in your parish churches or the envelopes provided and place these in the collection baskets.

Pastor's Point . . .

Dear Parishioners,

Since this is the month of October which traditionally is associated with Our Lady, this week I am going to make you aware about HOTMART which one can purchase various items using your mobile device called A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE HOLY ROSARY. The details are as follows: Deepen your prayer life and discover the transformative beauty of the Holy Rosary.

A comprehensive 110- page digital guide crated for beginners, practicing Catholics, families, prayer groups, and anyone seeking a more meaningful encounter with Jesus through Mary.

More than a collection of prayers, this guide will help you understand, contemplate, and live each mystery of the Rosary with greater clarity, intention, and spiritual depth. Inside you will discover: clear, step-by-step instruction for praying the Rosary; the spiritual meaning behind its essential prayers; scripture based reflection for all 20 mysteries; guided meditations, intentions and practical exercises; advice for overcoming distraction, routine, and spiritual dryness; simple ways to build a consistent prayer habit; guidance for praying individually, with your family, or in a group; essential Catholic prayers for quick reference and a practical 30-day journey to deepen your devotion.

Part 2 will be next week.

God bless,


Fr. Joe, Pastor & Vicar General DOHB



WORDS OF LIFE

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. ...But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. ...The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

Pope Saint Jo  Paul II, Evangelium vitae, no. 99.   1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

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



GEMINI



URBI ET ORBI BLESSING / CATHOLIC

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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Confirmation Classes

Preparation classes for Confirmation will start at the beginning of November. There will be two options:

Miss Maura Almeida will hold classes on Mondays from 4:00pm – 5:30pm in St. Theresa's Hall with the first class beginning on the 2nd of November.

Mr. Anthony Donaghy will hold classes on Wednesdays from 5:00pm – 6:30pm also in St. Theresa's Hall with the first class beginning on the 4th of November.

Confirmation is on Pentecost Sunday, 16th of May 2027, at 2:00pm in St. Theresa's

If your child was born in 2012 or prior, they are eligible to prepare for Confirmation. Please contact the Chancery Office to register for classes at orcc.bermuda@gmail.com if you have not already been contacted by them.



RCIA Programme

Please be informed that the schedule for our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Programme has now been finalized.

The programme will begin on Tuesday, 24 November, at either 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. Once we have a complete list of those wishing to participate, we will determine which starting time is most convenient for the majority.

The sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings and will last 90 minutes. The first part of the programme will be based on the Catholicism series by Bishop Robert Barron and Word on Fire.

The programme is also open to those who are already Catholic but would like to deepen their faith or refresh their knowledge of the Catholic Church.

To register, please contact the Chancery: 232-4414 or orcc.bermuda@gmail.com before 7 November 2026.

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- **The EMMAUS Bible Study** each Tuesday, 3:00pm.
- **Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist** - Saturdays at 7:00pm
- **The Holy Rosary** will be said each Wednesday evening at 5:30pm, led by Fr. Joe for the month of October. Everyone is welcome to come and spend some quiet time, please join us.
- **A Mass in Tagalog is celebrated each Sunday at 4:30pm.** All are welcome to attend.

St. THERESA'S

- **All Souls' Mass:** A Mass for all the faithful departed in the past year, will be celebrated on *Saturday, October 31st at 11am in St. Theresa's Cathedral.* There will be no Portuguese Mass on this day at 9am nor Eucharistic Adoration that usually follows the Mass.
- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- Saturday Portuguese Mass is at 9:00am
- The 12:10pm Mass is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- Praying the Rosary is each Wednesday at 10:00am
- A weekly Portuguese Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- Adoration and the Rosary on each Thursday at 7:00pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- St. Joseph's Church in Somerset is holding its **Annual Fall Supper on Saturday, 24th October, in the Parish Centre.** Tickets: Adults \$40; Children \$15 (12 and under): Availability: 70 Take-Out Tickets - meals must be collected between 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. 40 Dine-In Tickets: Seating Time 7:00 p.m. Menu: Soup, Chicken, Fish, Pasta, Stir-Fry Vegetables, Spring Rolls, Rolls, Cake/Cookies: For further information contact Liz Card: 234-0872 or lizziwhitney2015@gmail.com
- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, **THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH** at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the **LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH** at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP

- **Opening hours** - 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** that can assist for 2 hours/week on Saturdays from 12-2PM, or as a fill-in for any absences. If you can assist, please call 292-0416 or drop by in person. Thank you

Our Sunday Readings

ISAIAH 45:1,4-6
PSALM 96:1,3-5,7-10
1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-5b
MATTHEW 22:15-21

Who's in Charge?

ISAIAH 45:1,4-6

Reading closely

1. What seems to be the LORD's relationship to Cyrus?
2. What will God enable Cyrus to do?
3. Why is the LORD supporting Cyrus?
4. Why do you think the LORD insists that he alone is God?
5. How well does Cyrus know the LORD?
6. How might Cyrus feel about all this?
7. How might Cyrus respond to all this?
8. How might the Israelites have responded to this prophecy?

Living the word

9. How readily do you notice God's action in your life?
10. How do you think God is at work in your life right now?

THE FIRST READING

The *pagan messiah*

In the early sixth century BC the Israelites were conquered by the Babylonian Empire. About fifty years later the Persian Empire defeated the Babylonians, and King Cyrus of Persia issued a decree that allowed the Israelites to rebuild their city and temple.

Isaiah calls Cyrus the LORD's *messiah*, the Hebrew word for *anointed* (v.1). The title *Christ* is from the Greek word for *anointed*.

Kings, priests, and court-appointed prophets were anointed as a sign that God had chosen them for these particular roles. The Israelites, however, would have been shocked to hear this title applied to a foreign ruler. Cyrus remains the only Gentile in the Bible who is hailed as God's anointed.

By *divine decree*

Although Cyrus doesn't know the God of the Israelites, the LORD chooses this pagan king to defeat the enemies of Israel (v.1). Isaiah insists that the LORD has inspired Cyrus to permit the Israelites to return to their homeland and rebuild their ruined city and temple.

Once they rebuild, Cyrus and all people, Jews and Gentiles, will know that the LORD alone is the true king and lord of heaven and earth (v.6).

MATTHEW 22:15-21

Reading closely

1. How do the Pharisees' disciples and the Herodians feel about Jesus?
2. Why do you think they feel this way?
3. How do they act toward Jesus?
4. Who all might be watching this exchange?
5. How does Jesus respond to their behavior?
6. Do you think Jesus knows one of them will have a Roman coin?
7. How do you think people react when one of Jesus' adversaries produces the coin?
8. How would you describe Jesus' answer?
9. How do you imagine Jesus' tone of voice and gestures?
10. As Jesus' adversaries go away, what all might be going through their minds?
11. What might onlookers think of all this?
12. If you had been there, what would you have said or done?

Living the word

13. What do you have that "belongs to Caesar?"
14. What do you have that "belongs to God?"
15. Are you giving to God what belongs to God?
16. In what specific, concrete ways can you oppose or reform groups and/or institutions that harm people?

THE GOSPEL READING

Refuting Jesus

Jesus has delivered three parables of judgment against religious leaders. Now they're looking for a way either to make him look bad or to get him arrested. The Herodians are probably members of the Jewish aristocracy who were loyal to Herod Antipas, king of Galilee, one of the sons of Herod the Great.

"Teacher"

Jesus' opponents call him *teacher*, a bad sign. In Matthew's Gospel the only people who call Jesus *teacher* are those who either see him as merely one teacher among many or think he shouldn't be teaching at all. Matthew makes it clear that Jesus is the true face of God's teaching and the only one whose teaching and example should rule our lives.

Paying taxes

Paying taxes to the Roman Empire was controversial. Taxes were an economic burden and a reminder of foreign domination. Taxes also had to be paid in Roman currency, which was stamped with the image of the emperor. According to Jewish law God's people were not to make or use such images (see Exodus 20:4).

Setting traps

If Jesus tells people to pay the tax, then he sounds insensitive to the hardships of his people and supportive of an oppressive foreign power. If he says people don't have to pay the tax, then his opponents could report him to the Romans as a rebel.

Jesus avoids this trap while setting one of his own: he gets his adversaries to show that they have one of the very coins they're asking Jesus if they should use.

The real issue

Although Jesus answers in favor of paying taxes, he rises above the controversy. Throughout Matthew's Gospel Jesus challenges people to consider whether they're ultimately living as God intends. Here he suggests that people shouldn't be so preoccupied with particular issues that they neglect more important matters, like answering God's call to holiness and justice.

PRAYER

by Jacob Astley

Lord God,

Help me today to realize that you will be speaking to me through the events of the day, through people, through things, and through creation.

Give me the ears, eyes, and heart to perceive you, however veiled your presence may be.

Give me insight to see through the exterior of things to the interior truth.

Give me your Spirit of discernment.

O Lord, you know how busy I must be this day. If I forget you, do not forget me. Amen.