

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Parish Staff:

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**Parish Office Hours**  
Tues. – Thur. 9:00AM - 3:00PM

**Heart of the Plains Cemetery**  
Linda Epple  
970-347-7597

**Religious Education**  
Deacon Ed Green (SH)  
Christina Workman (HF)

10.18.2026

## Twenty-ninth Sunday

### Parish Information

#### Mass Times

**Saturday: 5:00 PM Holy Family**  
**Sunday: 8:00 AM SH; 10:30 AM HF; 12 PM HF Spanish**  
**Tues: 6:00 PM SH preceded by Adoration & Confessions**  
**Wed - Fri: 8:30 AM Sacred Heart**  
**First Saturday of each Month: 8:30 AM Holy Family**

#### Confessions

**30 minutes before Weekend and Weekday Masses**  
**Tuesday: 5:00 - 6:00 PM at Sacred Heart**  
**Or by appointment**

**Baptism:** Call Deacon Ed Green 720-550-0356.

**Marriage:** Call six months prior to wedding date.

#### Status of Operating Fund

| (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027)  | Sacred Heart |            | Holy Family  |          |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| Weekly Budgeted (Oct 4)         | \$2,307.69   | \$240.38   | \$1,538.46   | \$67.30  |
| Actual Collection               | \$1,384.00   | \$117.00   | \$1,135.00   | \$110.00 |
| Over/<Under> Weekly Budget      | (\$923.69)   | (\$123.38) | (\$403.46)   | \$42.70  |
| Year-to-Date Budgeted           | \$32,307.66  | Capitol    | \$21,538.44  | Capitol  |
| Year-to-Date Actual Collections | \$25,098.00  | Funds      | \$19,264.95  | Funds    |
| Over/<Under> Yearly Budget      | (\$7,209.66) |            | (\$2,273.49) |          |
| Expenses Budgeted for the year  | \$40,793.90  |            | \$30,845.78  |          |
| Expenses for the year to date   | \$35,337.97  |            | \$30,608.63  |          |
| Over/<Under> Yearly Budget      | (\$5,455.93) |            | (\$237.15)   |          |

#### Caesar's Triple Edged Sword

The triple edged sword of Jesus' command cuts to the heart of obedience. This triple edge reveals our heart, not to Him, but to ourselves: Do we really render to God and Caesar?

The first edge, render to Caesar what is Caesar's, cuts us off from civil disobedience in that we are to obey our civil authorities, as well as any religious authority. If we fail to obey and render honor and respect along with prayer and supplication to our leaders, we will be cut off from Christ.

The second edge recognizes leaders and their authority does not come from themselves, but from God Himself and each leader must give an account to the image imprinted upon them: God's. So must we be accountable.

Authority figures need our allegiance and commitment for they are held eternally responsible for the decisions they make. Our loyalty along with our fraternal corrections help them serve and not be served.

The third edge cuts us again for we all have to give an eternal account for we too are leaders. Whether we have a position of leadership or not, we are disciples told to preach, obeying the command: render justice to your neighbor.

**One would like to add: Give unto man things which are man's; give man his freedom and personality And his rights and religion Pius XII**



Render Unto Caesar...  
But Is That All  
Jesus Said?

**The world has heard enough about the so-called rights of men. Let it hear something about the rights of God!**

October 18, 2026

We bear the image  
of God and are to  
give to God what  
is his—our lives.



## Mass Times & Intentions

|                          |                                              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Sat. Oct 17 Holy Family  | 5:00 PM: Patricia Cusack †                   |
| Sun. Oct 18 Sacred Heart | 8:00 AM: Michael Green by Ed & Teresa Green  |
| Sun. Oct 18 Holy Family  | 10:30 AM: Eldon Workman by Christina Workman |
| Sun. Oct 18 Holy Family  | 12:00 PM: Parish Family                      |
| Mon. Oct 19:             | No Mass Here                                 |
| Tue. Oct 20:             | No Mass Here                                 |
| Wed. Oct 21:             | No Mass Here                                 |
| Thu. Oct 22:             | No Mass Here                                 |
| Fri. Oct 23:             | No Mass Here                                 |
| Sat. Oct 24 Holy Family  | 5:00 PM: Boris Martinez † by Leticia Paz     |

† indicates Memorial Mass



Oct 18 Ministry Fair after 10:30 Mass with Welcome  
Breakfast for all new families, Holy Family Hall

Oct 19-23 Fr. Tom gone (No Daily Mass)

Oct 20 Adoration & Communion Service 5 PM, SH

Oct 25 Marriage Enrichment 3:30 PM, Sacred Heart

Oct 27 Spanish Healing Mass 7 PM, Holy Family

Oct 28 Altar Server Training 6:30 PM, Sacred Heart

**\*\*Daily Mass Schedule changing to 8 AM on Wed,**

**Thurs, Fri beginning November 2, 2026\*\***

Nov 2 All Souls Day Mass Schedule: 8 AM Sacred  
Heart, 6 PM Holy Family, 7:15 PM Spanish Holy F.

## Pray for Them

Janet Klausner, Don Bratrsovsky, Jason Klausner, Bailey  
Navarro, Fr. John Shedlock, Barb Marty, Robert McMillion,  
Sally Bratrsovsky, Fr. Peter Dinh, Jeanette  
Neuhalfen, Mary Ockenfels, Bowman Family, Bill  
Epple, Theresa Schindledecker, Leticia Paz, Rick  
Gerkin, Geri Green, Dennis Buchholz, Dale  
Boehner, Tim Lynch

**New! Scan the QR code now and  
make your prayer request via Flocknote!**

(Please let the parish office know if you or someone you know needs to be  
added or removed from the prayer list.)



## Whose Icon?

In the Gospel narrative concerning Caesar's coin, Jesus asks: Whose image (icon) is this? Whose inscription? Caesar's image is upon the coin, declaring Caesar to be the "Son of the Divine Augustus, the High Priest!" Now the dilemma begins. Who is truly the Son of God and High Priest? Caesar? Jesus? Even myself? Now we understand the importance of the question who am I? Is Jesus God? And do we worship and adore Him as God?

Knowing our image becomes the critical question we all must answer. Am I in the image of God, the Father of Jesus; or Am I in image of Caesar? Or worse, do I think I am a god unto myself?

What is the truth? We are not God, nor is Caesar. Jesus Christ is. He made us, His we are. He loved us into being, making us into his image. We are not made to be political persons, nor self-made gods. We are icons of the Father, stamped with the image of the Son, Who became one like us so we could become one like Him.

In response to their question: Do we pay the tax, Jesus answers distinctly yet marvelously. Give Caesar his due, but more importantly give to God his due. We are in God's image as Jesus is. He is the uncreated image and we are the created image.

So we ask: What belongs to Caesar? We owe our political rulers respect. St. Paul tells us, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities" (Rom 13:1). He tells Timothy,

**I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions,  
and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings  
and all who are in high positions, that we may  
lead a quiet and peaceable life (1 Ti 2:1-2).**

It is right and just to pray for our civil leaders. It is an act of justice. We owe them and the best way to pay them is to be good citizens. To complete St. Paul's thought, he warns us,

**Those that exist have been instituted by God.  
Therefore he who resists the authorities, resists  
what God has appointed, and those who resist  
will incur judgment (Rom 13:1-2).**

We cannot resist lawful authority. We subject ourselves to our political leaders, even paying the taxes they demand, as Jesus paid the temple tax.

Yet, we are not good citizens because of their leadership. In fact Jesus warns us, "Practice and observe whatever they (leaders) tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice" (Mt 23:3). We are good because we please God. This is integrity. We image the actions of Jesus because it is right and just. Even more so, we are right and just because we image God the Father, imitating his Son.

We owe God more than civil leaders. We owe God religion: honor, glory and praise. Through the virtue religion, we bind ourselves to God because He desires "All men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:3).

Religion, an act of justice, gives God honor. He made us, we belong to Him. We owe Him reverence because He gave us our image. He created us to be his icons, masterpieces of his universe.

## Voting Is a Catholic Duty

We have a paramount responsibility as Catholics to support candidates who will protect and defend human life, from conception to natural death.

**"The inviolability of the person which is a reflection of the absolute inviolability of God, finds its primary and fundamental expression in the inviolability of human life" (John Paul II).**

Much of our society's ills are rooted in a disregard for the innate dignity of every human being.

We are sacred beings for the simple reason that God created us and ignoring this truth has led to the greatest moral crises of our times, as well as to great suffering for individuals and families.

As Catholics, then, we can never morally support or vote for candidates, laws, or initiatives that will maintain or increase access to abortion, euthanasia, transgender, LGBTQ++, and wokeism.

Society proposes that we eliminate problems by tolerating others' ideologies. Yet this only increases the problems. It never decreases them.

The Church is clear on this issue: Catholics may not morally vote for a candidate who supports abortion just because they agree with the candidate on other, less important issues.

Catholic social teaching, which includes our obligation to protect and increase the quality of life for others through the corporal works of mercy, is a serious issue that we cannot ignore. If we do, do not expect to be welcomed into heaven.

We vote for candidates and laws that will help the most vulnerable among us obtain basic needs, and that includes education and healthcare.

**But protecting life itself must always take precedence when we are deciding who will best represent us.**

People of good will can disagree on how best to assist the poor or be good stewards of creation, because these are prudential issues and there can be more than one righteous solution. But some acts are intrinsically evil: taking human life through abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, violence, or sexual immorality. These are always objectively wrong, no matter the circumstances. We cannot support them as Catholics.

Regrettably, the United States' political system has, for practical purposes, evolved into a two-party system. This leaves many Catholics trying to support candidates who will best promote a true culture of life, feeling as if there is no satisfying--or even licit--choice offered by either party.

If your conscience leads you to that conclusion, then you have a moral right to cast your vote for a third-party candidate.

Discernment is key in voting. Our vote seeks righteousness. Voting for the lesser of two evils may not be completely righteous, but it may allow for the lesser candidate to move in the right way.

Remember in every act, Catholics "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

**Please Pray and Vote God's Will!**

## Boundaries and Barriers Create Greatness



### 7 STEPS TO GREATNESS

1. PERSEVERANCE
2. EXCELLENCE
3. WORK ETHIC
4. SELF BELIEF
5. DISCIPLINE
6. VISION
7. FAITH

Don't fence me in! This famous song reveals the freedom of wide open spaces, where roaming is free, but the question needs to be asked: Is it safe?

Barriers for many are prohibitive. They lock, enclose, and limit one from expressing themselves and exploring a self-identity. But barriers are put up for a reason. Yes, some barriers are put up to exclude, however, others are put up to include and protect.

Many times, barriers stop serious problems from overwhelming us. They protect our rights and our freedoms as well as our physical, mental well-being.

Too many think freedom means from something to do what I want. However, freedom also means for. A person is free to do the right thing.

We easily understand this in sports. They have boundaries and barriers marking the field. They also have rules so players can play safely and not cheat.

As with out-of-bounds lines, so too with moral boundaries and barriers; they are put in place to stop sin and evil from ruling and do what is right.

Jesus teaches this clearly telling the Pharisees, **Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God, what belongs to Him" (Matt 22:21).** We obey God and government, but God first.

Traveling the paths of moral excellence, even in someone else's footprints, is vital for human flourishing. Walking with Jesus, as did the disciples, we learn skills, creating inroads into excellence.

Moral excellence disciplines our time, talent, and treasure, setting up boundaries and barriers. These create channels and protections. So living our faith righteously, we have commitment and clarity, rather than subjective relativism: Do what I want!

Discipline does not prohibit and forbid me, but helps me to stay on the trail, so when opportunities arise, new trails in the wide open spaces, we deepen our faith in Christ rather than roam aimlessly.

## Marriage Enrichment & Dinner

Sunday, October 25th

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**Please RSVP by Oct. 23 for dinner count.**

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