



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 9, Issue 12

October 18, 2020

Dates to Remember

- October 17: 4:00 PM Mass
- October 18: 9:00 AM Mass
- Please see our parish website for reservation information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

Hope and Trust in God

Christian hope leads us to consider the example of Abraham, who, as St. Paul tells us, "hoped against hope (Romans 4:18) in God's promises. Trusting in the Lord's word that a son would be born to him, Abraham left his home for a new land. Although the fulfillment of God's promise was long delayed and seemed to be impossible, Abraham continued to hope. Abraham shows us that sure trust in God's word does not mean that we will not have moments of uncertainty, disappointment, and bewilderment. Hope is always directed to the future, to the fulfillment of God's promises. May the example of Abraham teach us not to be afraid to go out from our own tents, our limited outlooks and to lift our eyes to the stars.

—Pope Francis

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Psalm 96

R/ Give the Lord glory and honor.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples,
his wondrous deeds.

R/ Give the Lord glory and honor.

For great is the LORD
and highly to be praised;
awesome is he, beyond all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are
things of nought,
but the LORD made the heavens.

R/ Give the Lord glory and honor.

Give to the LORD,
you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory
due his name!

Bring gifts, and enter his courts.

R/ Give the Lord glory and honor.

Worship the LORD, in holy attire;
tremble before him, all the earth;
say among the nations:

The LORD is king,
he governs the peoples with equity.

R/ Give the Lord glory and honor.

Sunday Gospel Connection: October 18, 2020

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle A

Matthew 22: 15-21

Gospel Background: In today's Gospel Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem continue their tense exchange of questions and challenges. At this point the disciples of the Pharisees, together with the Herodians, try to entrap Jesus by their question about the payment of taxes.

Matthew sets up an unusual partnership between the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Herodians were supporters of Herod Antipas, a Jewish political leader who collaborated with the Romans. Such collaboration would have required a compromised observance of the Mosaic Law. The Pharisees, on the other hand, taught scrupulous observance of the Mosaic Law and opposed Roman occupation.

Herodians favored the payment of taxes; the Pharisees opposed it. The Herodians and the Pharisees approach Jesus, asking that he take sides in their dispute. If Jesus answers with the Pharisees, he shows himself to be an enemy of Rome. If he answers with the Herodians, he offends popular Jewish religious sensibilities.

Jesus' response to this attempt to trap him exposes the guile of his questioners. From his first words to them, Jesus shows that he is very much aware of what they are trying to do. He asks to see a Roman coin, which is readily provided to him. It may have come from the hand of a Herodian, but the Pharisees show themselves to be quite willing to accept this compromise. Jesus has already exposed the Pharisees as hypocrites.

Jesus takes his response one step further. He asks that his questioners examine the coin. Agreeing that it is Caesar's image on the coin, Jesus tells them that it must belong to Caesar. Avoiding the question of lawfulness altogether, Jesus answers their question with simple logic. Then, going further still, Jesus tells them that their obligation is to pay to God that which belongs to God.

Jesus' response to the Herodians and Pharisees suggests the ethic that Christians ought to adopt. It reminds us of the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honor that we owe to God?

Family Connection: Payment of taxes is unlikely to be a disputed issue in your family. Yet families can still learn something from this Gospel reading. Jesus' answer to the Herodians and Pharisees redirects their question to focus on the issue of greatest importance: loving and honoring God. Taking this perspective can help us make good judgments about the competing issues of importance in our lives.

As your family gathers, make a list of the activities that your family spends time doing together, such as household tasks, jobs, academics, and recreational activities. Talk about the importance of each of these activities. Ask what would happen if there were an imbalance in our attention to these activities and we spent too much time on one activity at the expense of another.

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of the necessity of giving things their proper importance. Read Matthew 22:15-21. The Herodians and Pharisees were giving too much importance to the issue of the payment of taxes. Jesus reminds them that loving and honoring God is of greater importance. In family life we do many important things, but we remember that God is of the greatest importance in our lives. Pray together that your family will learn to keep things in proper perspective, remembering to keep God first in your lives. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 96. (See pg. 1)

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/29th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-a-sunday-connection/>



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TREAT

WHEN: OCTOBER 23RD

TIME: 3-6PM

FEE: \$10 R/ \$12 NR PER FAMILY

WHERE: DIVINE SAVIOR PARKING LOT

HOW IT WORKS: MUST REGISTER FOR A TIME
SLOT, EACH SLOT IS 20 MINUTES. *NO
WALK-UPS WILL BE ALLOWED AT THIS EVENT.*
COME DRESSED IN YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME
AND WALK THROUGH OUR SPOOKY
TRUNK-OR-TREAT!
CHECK-IN AND MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CALL (708) 457-1244

To register online, go to:

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