



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 2 // ISSUE 6 // OCT 19, 2023

29th
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

In the Beginning...

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Halloween is right around the corner! It's hard to believe. This year, let's try to recapture some of the Catholic roots of the holiday. Society has a way of secularizing Catholic holy days. Even the phrase "holy day" itself has been secularized. We know them as holidays now. What other holy days can you think of that have become holidays and which have lost much of their original Catholic meaning, to be replaced by cards, presents and beer?

Halloween, or All Hallows Eve, is the vigil of All Saints (Hallows) Day. It's a great day to dress up as your favorite Saint. If you're handing out candy, maybe add some prayer cards to your treats. Have you ever set up an ofrenda? It's a great tradition to remember loved ones who have passed. Check out [Catholic Icing](#) to learn how to celebrate the Day of the Dead as Catholics.

All Saints Day (Nov. 1) is a holy day of obligation (or opportunity as we like to say!). St. Jude will be having Mass that day, along with all of the other Catholic parishes around the world. Wherever you are, please attend Mass. Check the upcoming bulletins for details. On All Saints Day we look to those who have made it to Heaven as our role models and guides to a holy life.

All Souls Day rounds out the triduum. Together all three days are known as Allhallowtide. On All Souls Day we pray for the souls in purgatory. Join us for Mass on November 2 as well. It's not a Holy Day of Obligation, but don't let that stop you from going! Mass, as has been said, should be our reason for missing everything else. Not the other way around.



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Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM
Also, by appointment

Daily Mass

Tuesday: 8:30AM
Thursday: 8:30AM
Friday: 8:30AM

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

SUNDAY LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Isaiah 45:1,4-6](#)

[Psalm 96:1,3-5, 7-10](#)

[1 Thessalonians 1:1-5](#)

[Matthew 22:15-21](#)



[LISTEN HERE](#)

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.

15 Then the Pharisees went and took counsel how to entangle him in his talk. 16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, 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. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

MATTHEW 22:15-17

The Gospel at Home

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees send their disciples to test Jesus with a question about taxes.

Background on the Gospel Reading

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

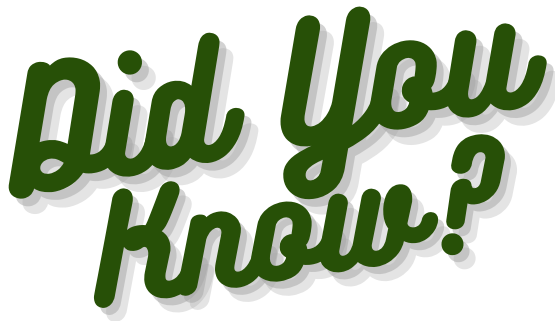
Payment of taxes is unlikely to be a disputed issue in your family. Yet families can still learn something from this Gospel reading. Jesus' answer to the Herodians and Pharisees redirects their question to focus on the issue of greatest importance: loving and honoring God. Taking this perspective can 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.

18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the money for the tax." And they brought him a coin. 20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21 They 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."*

MATTHEW 22:18-21



Halloween Has Catholic Origins

Although Halloween has been embraced by the secular world, its foundations are firmly rooted in Catholic tradition. Dr Malcolm Brown of the Alcuin Institute for Catholic Culture explains the significance of All Hallows' Eve.

In the modern world, and especially in English speaking countries, Halloween has become one of the most important holidays of the year, with millions of children and adults dressing up as their favourite heroes, superstars, ghouls and goblins.

While some people have connected Halloween to earlier pagan celebrations of the new year, Halloween actually has significant Catholic roots. The name itself comes from All Hallows' Eve – that is, the Vigil of All Saints' Day, when Catholics remember those who have gone before us to enter our heavenly home. Immediately afterwards, on November 2, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed still detained in Purgatory, and prays in suffrage for them.

The memory of those who have gone before us naturally leads to thoughts of mortality, and the liturgical focus on the end times during this period of the Church year adds to the atmosphere of gloom.

In a "Memorandum on the Celebration of Halloween" issued last year for his Diocese, Bishop David Konderla of Tulsa, Oklahoma, stresses the importance of "maintaining the Catholic meaning and purpose of all holy days, especially those which have been adopted and adapted by the culture around us". He explains the how customs such as dressing up for Halloween and appealing to frightful imagery can be done in a Catholic spirit, while warning that "we want to intentionally avoid those things that are contrary to our Catholic faith, but have become popularized through the secular adaptation of Halloween".

Vatican News spoke with Dr Marcel Brown, of the Alcuin Institute for Catholic Culture in Tulsa, about the Catholic roots of Halloween. "The feast of Halloween is one of those feasts on the Catholic calendar that is celebrated on the eve of a great solemnity", he said.

Dr Brown explained that the word Halloween refers to the Feast of All Saints. The word itself is taken an older English term, "hallows," meaning "holy"; and "e'en", a truncation of the word evening, in reference to the Vigil of the feast. "So really, Halloween is the feast of the celebration of the feast of All Hallows", he said. "So it's a day when Catholics celebrate the triumph of the Church in heaven, and the lives of the saints on earth".

The modern focus on the eerie or mysterious also has a Catholic aspect. "When we think of Halloween, I think we often think of ghosts and goblins, and ghoulish faces", Dr Brown said. "But even these, in the Catholic tradition, are supposed to be reminders of death and of the last things".

He continued, "So just as we commemorate the feast of All Saints on November 1st, beginning with All Hallows' Eve on Halloween, we also think about and turn our minds really, to the last things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. And really our focus should be, since we all must die and are destined to judgment, how then we to live?"

In his Memorandum, Bishop Konderla invites to the faithful to "urge one another this Halloween to express in every detail of our observance the beauty and depth of the Feast of All Saints".

"Let us make this year's celebration", he says, "an act of true devotion to God, whose saints give us hope that we too may one day enter into the Kingdom prepared for God's holy ones from the beginning of time".

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Saturday, October 21:

2:00pm - Reconciliation (until 3:30pm)

4:00pm - Mass

Sunday, October 22:

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass (with Children's Liturgy of the Word)

11:30am - RCIA in the Kelly Conference Room

5:30pm - Faith Formation Classes for Grades 1-8

Monday, October 23:

6:30pm - Living Your Strengths in the Brophy Center

7:00pm - Women's Bible Study in the Thaddeus Center - The study will be on "Salvation." We would love to have you join us. If interested or would like more information, please call Peg Manuszak at 616-361-5836.

Tuesday, October 24:

8:30am - Mass

9:00am - Eucharistic Adoration in the church until 7:00pm

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus in the Millennium Conference Room

7:30pm - Book Club in the Thaddeus Center

Wednesday, October 25:

8:30am - Senior Men's Group in the Thaddeus Center

Thursday, October 26:

8:30am - Mass

6:30pm - All Are Welcome: Music & Adoration in the church. Music by the JMJ Band

Friday, October 27:

8:30am - Mass

"Jesus replied,
'The first is
this: 'Hear, O
Israel! The Lord
our God is Lord
alone! You shall
love the Lord
your God with
all your heart,
with all your
soul, with all
your mind, and
with all your
strength.'"

MARK 12:29-30

Confession

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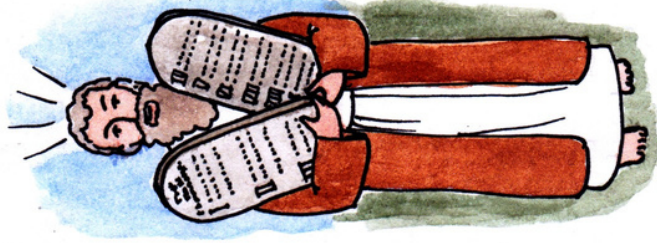
Should we Obey the Government?



The Pharisees in today's Gospel reading were trying to trick Jesus and make Him say something wrong. They asked Him whether they should pay taxes to the pagan emperor. If He said no then He would be speaking against the emperor, but if He said yes then it would seem like He was saying that it was good for the Jews to be ruled by the pagan Romans.

But Jesus knew what the Pharisees were trying to do. He told them to show Him a coin, and asked them whose picture was on it. They said it was Caesar's (the Roman emperor's,) so Jesus told them, "Then repay to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." He was telling them that they should obey the rulers of the land, but also that they should obey God.

We have two kinds of laws: God's laws and the laws of our governments. Both are for our own good, but God's laws are more important. We should obey the government's laws as long as they agree with God's laws, but we must always obey God's laws. Can you think of some laws that the government makes that are for our good?

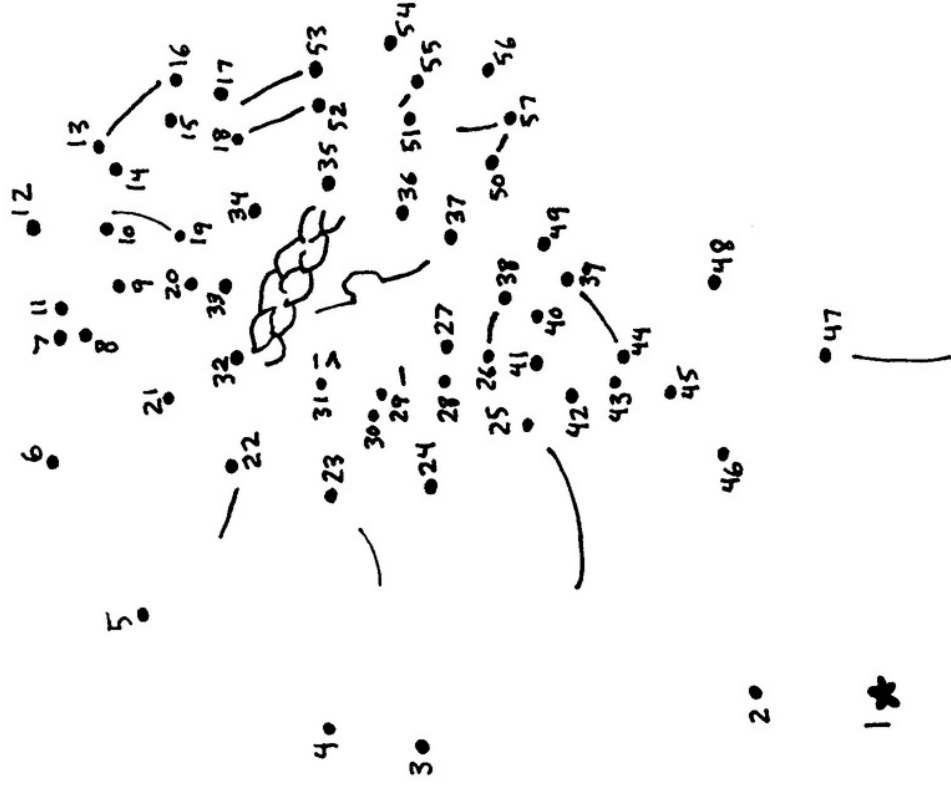


Answers to math puzzle: words are in this order: 8: Lord, 5: song, 6: singing, 7: nations, 2: peoples, 4: deeds.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 22nd, 2023



In today's Gospel reading, some men asked Jesus if it was right to pay tax. What did Jesus ask them to show Him? Connect the dots to find out!

Saint Anthony Mary Claret

October 24

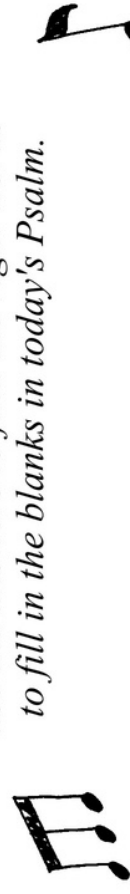


SAINT ANTHONY HAD A GREAT DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND OUR LADY. THIS GAVE HIM THE STRENGTH AND WISDOM TO BRING MANY SOULS BACK TO GOD THROUGH HIS PREACHING, WRITING AND HEARING CONFESSIONS. WE, TOO, GET STRENGTH TO DO GOD'S WORK FROM THE SACRAMENTS.

Sing 2 the Lord...!

a math puzzle

Figure out the answers to the math questions and use the answers to find the right words to fill in the blanks in today's Psalm.



Sing to the _____ a new _____;

$$4+4= \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad 1+4= \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

_____ to the Lord, all you _____.

$$4+2= \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad 6+3= \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

Tell his _____ among the _____;

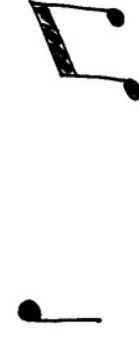
$$3+4= \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad 1+1= \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

among all _____,

$$2+1= \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$

his wondrous _____.

$$2+2= \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$$



- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| 2 nations | 6 sing |
| 3 peoples | 7 glory |
| 4 deeds | 8 Lord |
| 5 song | 9 lands |