

Readings for the week of October 22, 2023

Sunday:

Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10
(7b)/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21

Monday:

Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/
Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday:

Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a,
8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday:

Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/
Lk 12:39-48

Thursday:

Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 12:49-53

Friday:

Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/
Lk 12:54-59

Saturday:

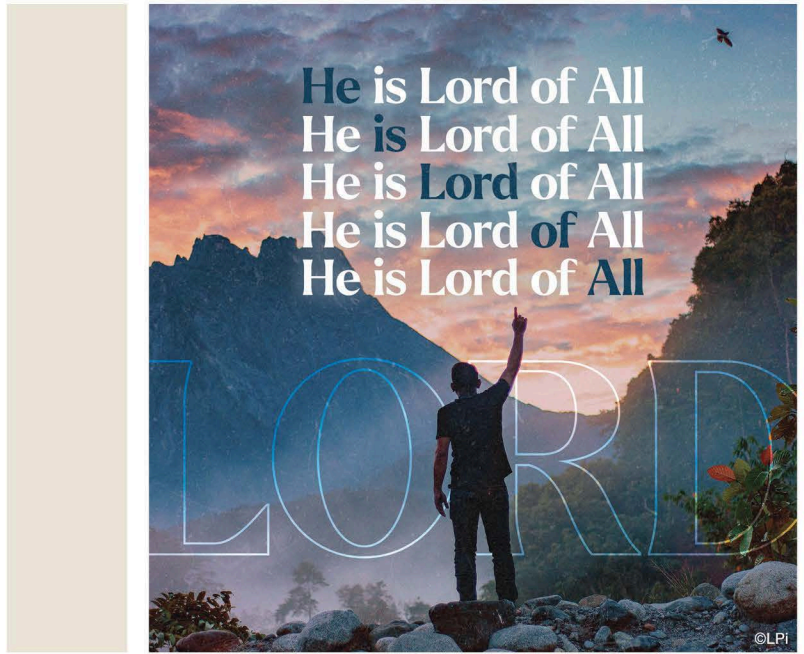
Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16

Next Sunday:

Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 (2)/
1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

With little more than a year until the United States' national elections, I find myself feeling, like many Catholics, both dread and energized. Dread, because our democratic republic can be a messy endeavor and campaigns a long, nasty, and unifying slog; energized, because hope for positive societal change can be enticing and engaging. As a pastor, I see similar conflicting attitudes in those whom I serve. How can Catholics best engage our political arena in a way which is truly helpful and worthwhile?

This week's gospel reading offers wisdom in this regard. Jesus says, "**Render therefore to Caesar the things are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**" This riddle forces us to answer for ourselves a hidden question: what is the relationship between political and divine authority? Two common but false answers lead to mischief. If we answer that the two are equivalent, politics becomes our absolute authority. This happens whenever religion is slave to the state, as in the travesty of the pro-Nazi German Christian movement in the 1930s and 40s. It also usually occurs when there is an official state religion. If we answer that the two are totally unrelated, we end up with an unchecked aggressive secularist state as we often experience now. Thus, religion becomes a weak and private pastime.

What's a better alternative? At our best, Christians hold that political authority does indeed have its own legitimate autonomy but is nested within God's all-encompassing authority. Think, for example, of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s respect for politics while also being able to criticize unjust human laws because he recognized a higher heavenly law. In other words, Caesar owns politics — *and God owns Caesar*. So, we should allow Jesus' words to lead us to have a deep respect and willingness to peacefully engage in politics without making that engagement our religion. We bring our faith to bear on our politics knowing confidently that Caesar isn't God — but he is indeed God's.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,
whose right hand I grasp,
subduing nations before him. (Is 45:1)

Psalm:

Give the Lord glory and honor. (Ps 96)

Second Reading:

We give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers,
unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and
labor of love. (1 Thes 1:2-3)

Gospel:

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God is greater than this world, and his truth is stronger than all its ideologies. Remember that no matter how we vote, who we agree with or what our background is, we belong to Him alone.

Observances for the week of October 22, 2023

Sunday: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Mission Sunday

Monday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest

Tuesday: St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Saturday: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

Next Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

Venerable Rafael Cordero y Molina dedicated his life to the free education of children in Puerto Rico. Born into a black family and, thus, barred from the local schools as a child, he established a school committed to inclusion and provided free education for any in need.

Prayer

Our Lord and God, You instilled in your Servant, Rafael Cordero y Molina, a Puerto Rican layman, an ardent zeal for the integral education of children and a luminous charity toward the poor and helpless. Help me to also respond with the generosity of service to those in need in around me. I ask of You, if it is Your will, that You grant me (my intercession) so that Your servant Rafael is elevated to sainthood.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://elvisitantepr.com/rafael-cordero-ejemplo-de-humildad-y-servicio/> translation by LPi.)

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Tax of Caesar

Too often, I confuse this world with the next.

Every day has its set of problems that need dealing with. Some are very easily discernible as problems of this world: I am tired, and I need a nap and a latte. Some are very obviously problems of eternity: I need to ask for forgiveness, but I'm not ready to admit it.

Most problems are a subtle, maddening mix of the two: my body feels tired, obscuring how tired my soul also feels, while making me very cranky, which is keeping me from asking for the forgiveness I need.

It's not that the nap and the latte *aren't* solutions. Heaven forbid! I would never propose such a thing. Sleep and coffee, I am confident, can fix almost any problem in this world. *This* world.

Too often, I slap a one-size-fits-all earthly band-aid on all my problems and rush on to the next thing. But if the problem is an issue of my soul, I may as well pay for a parking ticket in Monopoly money.

I render unto Caesar, and I forget about what is owed to God. I apply solutions meant for the here and now to problems that have eternal consequences. The spiritual problems are dismissed, shoved to the back of my mind. *For when I have time*, I tell myself. *For when I am ready*.

But the only time we have is now. God is no king of this earth, and he does not ask for a tax offering. He asks for our heart. He doesn't want us for minions but for children.

"I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not." — Isaiah 45:4

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

Answer:

This a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled? If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

“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.” - Mt 22:19-21

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

God revealed to the Persian King, Cyrus, that he would be an instrument of the Lord, proving that no other gods exist. What convinces you there is only one Lord of the universe?

Second Reading

In his opening words to the believers in Thessalonica, Paul offers a prayer of thanksgiving to God for their faith and hope in Jesus. For what or for who are you thankful to God?

Gospel Reading

The religious leaders in Jerusalem tried to “entrap” Jesus with the question, “Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” How often do you feel you have to defend your faith?



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