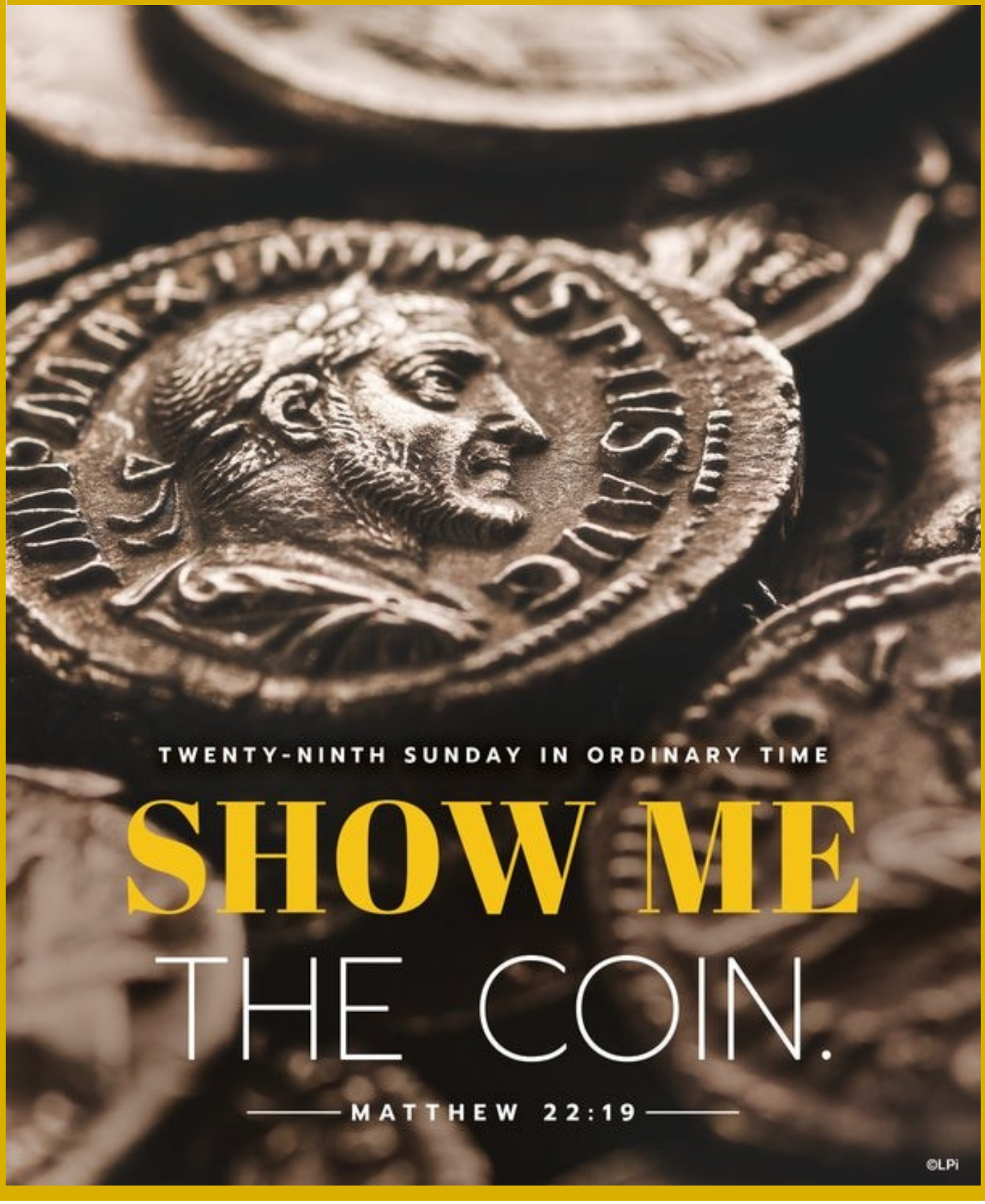
St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602



TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | October 18, 2026

St. Elizabeth Church (E)
5700 Bear Creek Blvd
Bear Creek, PA 18602

St. Mark Church (M)
1052 Bear Lake Rd
Thornhurst, PA 18424

Mission Statement

Humbly guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to help people:

~ Through prayer and worship, discover God's desire to be in a relationship with us ~ Discover and develop the gifts and talents God has bestowed on each person ~ Share our faith in Jesus Christ through a welcoming community, beautiful liturgy and ongoing faith formation ~ Be of service to one another, to the communities

SERVED BY

Rev. Rawel Toppo
Administrator
rawelt81@gmail.com

Rev. Anthony M. Urban
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. William J. Karle
Pastor Emeritus

PARISH WEBSITE

Churchofstelizabethstmark.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

The Roman Catholic Community of St Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Mark

Welcome to Our Church

Hospitality and God's gracious love to all

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday-Wednesday, Friday 9:00AM (E)

First Fridays —Adoration after Mass— 12Noon (E)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00PM (M)

Saturday 6:00PM (E)

Sunday 8:30AM (M)

Sunday 10:30AM (E)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Mark's Church—1/2 hr before all Masses

St. Elizabeth's Church —1/2 hr before all Masses

~ or anytime by appointment ~

OFFICE STAFF

Amanda Proch
Business Manager
stelizabethbearcreek@outlook.com

Mer Rish
Office Secretary
Director of Music & Liturgy
stelimar@ptd.net

OFFICE HOURS / PHONE

Tuesday & Wednesday
9AM—3PM
Phone.....570-472-3061
Fax.....570-472-3503

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Emily Bell
Renee Sipple

Directors of Religious Education
saintelizabethccd@gmail.com

DAILY TV MASS

WARMING FAITHFUL HEARTS

Cathedral of St Peter in Scranton, available on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

Weekdays 12:10p.m., 3:30p.m. and 7:00p.m.

Weekends, Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m. and rebroadcast on Sunday morning at 10:00a.m.

STEWARDSHIP

October 11, 2026

Weekly	$2369.00
Online	$763.00
	$3132.00
Diocesan	- $40.00
TOTAL	$3092.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Eucharistic Celebration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

SATURDAY, OCT 17

4:00pm (M) Kathleen Leary *Req. by Kathy & Steve Rector*
6:00pm (E) Stephen Rish Sr. *Req. by Steve & Mer Rish*

SUNDAY, OCT 18 **29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners
10:30am (E) Thomas Parker *Req. by Stan & Jean Swaintek*

MONDAY, OCT 19

9:00am (E) For the Parishioners

TUESDAY, OCT 20

9:00am (E) For the Parishioners

WEDNESDAY, OCT 21

9:00am (E) David M. Soda *Req. by Theodore & Diane Haas*

THURSDAY, OCT 22

9:00am (E) **NO MASS**

FRIDAY, OCT 23

9:00am (E) For the Parishioners

SATURDAY, OCT 24

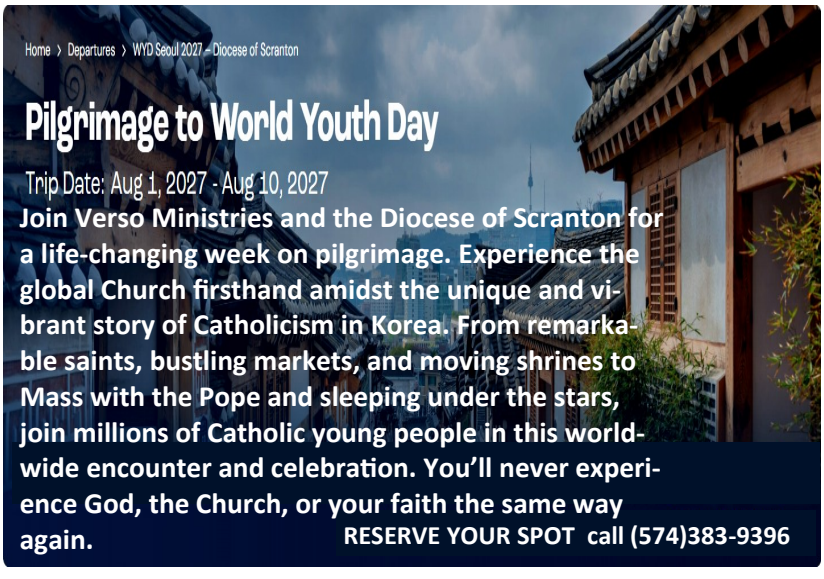
4:00pm (M) Fulmani Toppo *Req. John & Ann Tucker*
6:00pm (E) Charlotte Janc *Req. by Dr. Gary & Benedetta Lawrence*

SUNDAY, OCT 25 **30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners
10:30am (E) Charlotte Janc *Req. by Debbie & Rich Mitchell*









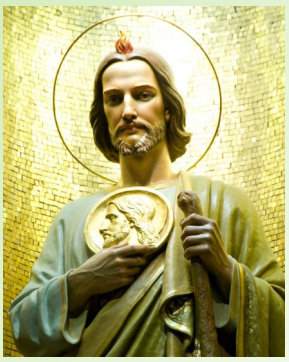
This week we pray for our sick, elderly and homebound parishioners and friends, especially…



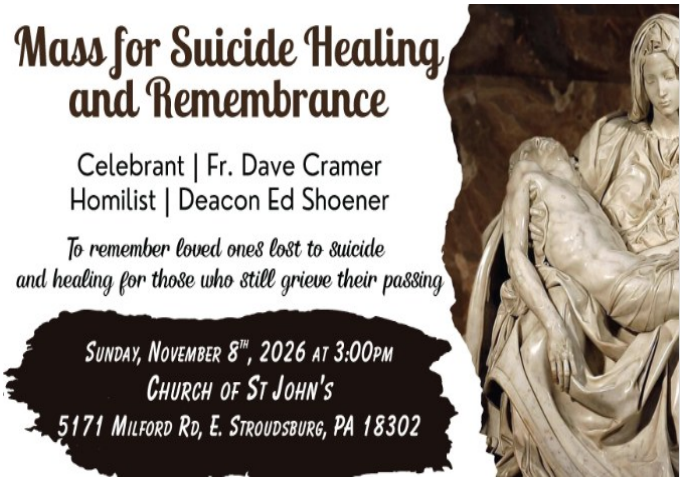
Noreen Catani Amico, Joanne Austin, Baby Lily, Clarine Benesky, Bobby Everett, Terry Franklin, Kelly Fry, Lea Furlong, James Geremia, Milo Grunza, Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson, Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman, James McClure, Amber Moyer, Sherry O'Malia, Carolyn Palencar, Dolores Santangelo, Donald Scharf, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton, Verna Stavish, John Tucker, Rev. Anthony Urban, Loretta Washick

Please notify the office at 570-472-3061 when names should be removed.

COMMUNION OF SAINTS PARISH TO HOST 69TH ANNUAL NOVENA TO ST. JUDE



Communion of Saints Parish in Pittston will continue the tradition of the Annual Novena to St. Jude, Patron Saint of Hopeless Cases and Things Despaired Of, beginning Monday, October 19 and ending on the Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, Wednesday, October 28. All Masses and services will be celebrated in St. Mary, Help of Christians Church, 535 North Main Street in Pittston. Daily Masses will be celebrated at 12 Noon (Monday-Saturday) and Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 AM. Sung Evening Prayer will be celebrated at 7:00 PM (Monday-Friday). There will be no Evening Prayer on Saturday or Sunday. Confessions will be heard Monday through Saturday beginning at 11:30 AM, and the Rosary will be prayed before each 12 Noon Mass. The blessing with the relic of St. Jude will take place after all Masses and services. For more information, please contact the Communion of Saints parish office at 570-654-0053.



Fr. Rawel's Corner

HUMILITY AND SINCERITY

Pharisees and Herodians went to Jesus to ensnare Him so they could trap Jesus against Caesar and get rid of Him. Jesus knowing their cunningness and their plot to trap Him, answers shrewdly.

However, interestingly, what they say about Jesus is true, and they draw attention to His two greatest virtues. They say two things that highlight Jesus' virtues of humility and sincerity.

First, "you are not concerned with anyone's opinion".
Secondly, "you do not regard a person's status". However, these virtues are good for us to reflect upon because we should strive to have them alive in our lives.

The virtue of humility invites us to listen to others, consult them, and be open-minded. Nevertheless, we need to be prudent in understanding other people's opinions because, at times, they can dictate to us, and we might end up executing their plans more than ours. Sometimes the opinions of others can be wrong and negative, which Jesus never gave Himself.

Secondly, the virtue of sincerity calls us to be truthful to our conscience. We should not discriminate against people based on caste, creed, and color. What we need to know is that all are one and equal before God.

The status of the person does not indicate whether he is truthful or not, but his character and virtues. Let us all strive towards virtues. Therefore, let us all strive towards the virtues of humility, sincerity, integrity, and truthfulness, before God and people.

May the good Lord help us to strive to live a life of virtues such as humility, sincerity, integrity, and truthfulness.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUNDAY!!!

St. Elizabeth/St. Mark Parish Fund Raiser

Pierogi pick up will be <u>November 1</u> at St. Elizabeth's at 11:45 am.

St. Elizabeth Way FOOD BANK
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Father Urban Center—St. Elizabeth Church

No Charge -

All in need are welcomed!
Open every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
1:00 - 3:00 PM Linda - 848-207-6109

The ROYAL family is opening its doors!

Visit OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 25, 1:00-3:00pm

Discover an enriching, supportive, faith-filled environment where academic excellence and servant leadership are pursued daily.

Talk to students, faculty, and coaches to learn why you belong in the Holy Redeemer family.

HOLY REDEEMER HIGH SCHOOL
159 South Pennsylvania Blvd., Wilkes-Barre
570-829-2424

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
PRAYER + SACRIFICE

100 years of World Mission Sunday
1926—2026

World Mission Sunday:

October 18

This weekend, we join Catholics around the world in celebrating World Mission Sunday. Through the Pope's Pontifical Mission Societies, our prayers and gifts help bring the Gospel, food, education, and healthcare to communities in need in more than 1,100 mission dioceses across the globe. Please pray for our missionaries, and give generously in this special second collection. Together, we are the Church's helping hands around the world.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

When submitting articles for bulletin, please remember to submit them two weeks prior to publication. Thank you!

Notice Regarding Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-HourChild Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis . To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.

Worship & Observances

Blessing for World Mission Sunday

O God,
You never cease to call us to Yourself, bless the mission fields where we sow, tend, and reap. Give us your grace and strength as we share Your love with families and friends, strangers and sojourners. Give us the right words, the right inspirations, the right invitations, the right love. Your love, shared.
Amen.

Readings for the Week of October 18, 2026

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

Monday
Eph 2:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4ab, 4c-5/Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday
Eph 2:12-22/Ps 85:9ab-10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 12:35-38

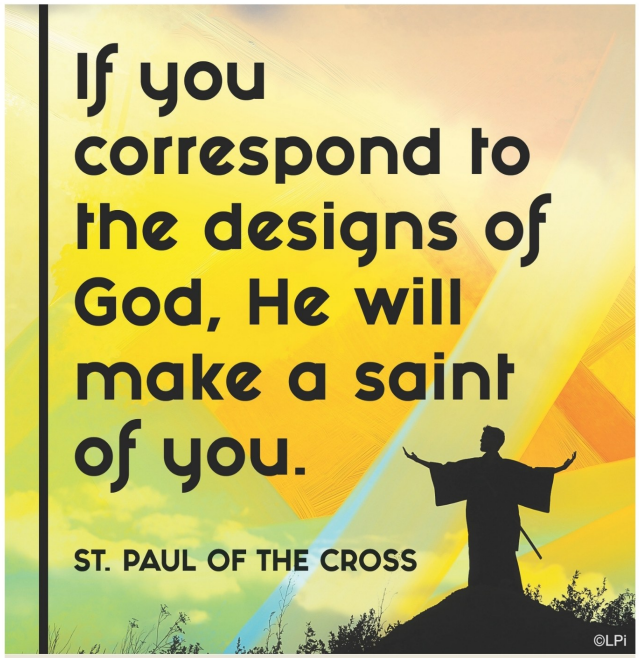
Wednesday
Eph 3:2-12/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Lk 12:39-48

Thursday
Eph 3:14-21/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19/Lk 12:49-53

Friday
Eph 4:1-6/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 12:54-59

Saturday
Eph 4:7-16/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 13:1-9

Next Sunday
Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3a, 3b-4, 47 and 51/1 Thes 1:5c-10/ Mt 22:34-40



Observances for the Week of October 18, 2026

Sunday
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Mission Sunday

Monday
Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Peter of Alcantara

Tuesday
St. Paul of the Cross, Priest

Thursday
St. John Paul II, Pope

Friday
St. John of Capistrano, Priest

Saturday
St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Next Sunday
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

©LPi

Weekly Scripture



Virtues, *Explained!*

"It is not easy for man, wounded by sin, to maintain moral balance," we read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1811). "Christ's gift of salvation offers us the grace necessary to persevere in the pursuit of the virtues."

Perseverance is unique because without it, we cannot grow in any of the other virtues. If we cannot persevere, we cannot carry the cross. Faith, hope, love, mercy, justice, temperance — these virtues are the fruits of a Christian life, and perseverance is the soil in which they take root.

Like the soil in any garden, it has to be nourished. Perseverance is fed by trials, difficulties, and temptations. "We rejoice in our sufferings," writes St. Paul, "knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us" (Romans 5:4-5).

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)

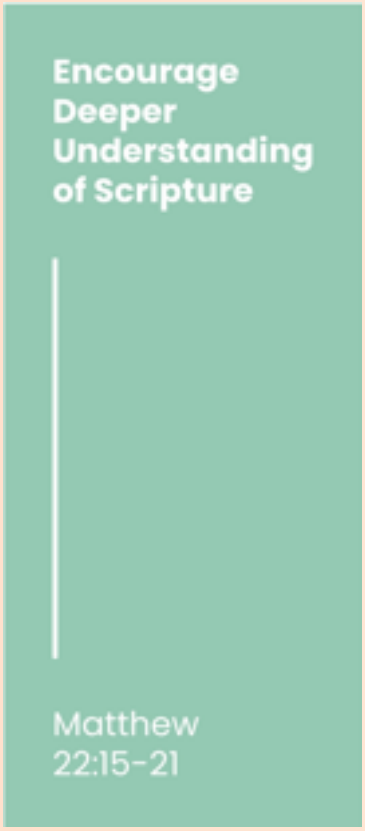
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Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

The Pharisees try to trick Jesus into starting a political revolution. They don't realize he came to start a revolution of the heart, not the state. God's image is stamped on our soul, but still the world tries to claim us. Revolt! You belong to God.

GOSPEL MEDITATION:



Occasionally, I'll slip into a parish I've never visited before, pick up the bulletin, and find one of my Gospel reflections. My heart usually swells with a bit of affection for my creation. I imprint a bit of myself into my little "literary labors of love." Anyone who has created something — a piece of writing, a garden, a meal, a child — knows that feeling. We love the things into which we put ourselves. We are happy when they return to us.

With this in mind, listen to Jesus' classic line in this Sunday's Gospel: "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" (Matthew 22:21). He presents this little riddle to deepen the theme from taxes to human beings. A Roman coin bears Caesar's image, so it belongs to Caesar. Therefore, he has a legitimate claim to it. Fair enough. But what belongs to God? What bears His image? Every human being. God has imprinted Himself on every person. Which means everyone — including Caesar — belongs entirely to Him. Jesus, who is God's perfect image, has come to draw everyone back to God.

We can be tempted to imagine that our lives are made up of "things for God" and "things not for God." The good news is that no such division is possible because everything in life is a gift from God to us. Therefore, all is meant to be placed at the service of God's kingdom. He loves everything He has created. We have the privilege of giving it all back to Him. —*Father John Muir*



RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS—*by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

Whose Image We Bear

In writing this column, I spent a lot of time mulling over a strange question: if I had a coin with Caesar's face on it, could I use it to pay for my morning coffee?

Ancient Roman artifacts are worth a lot of money, but I have no idea how to appraise the artifacts and convert that worth to cash. I doubt my local barista does, either.

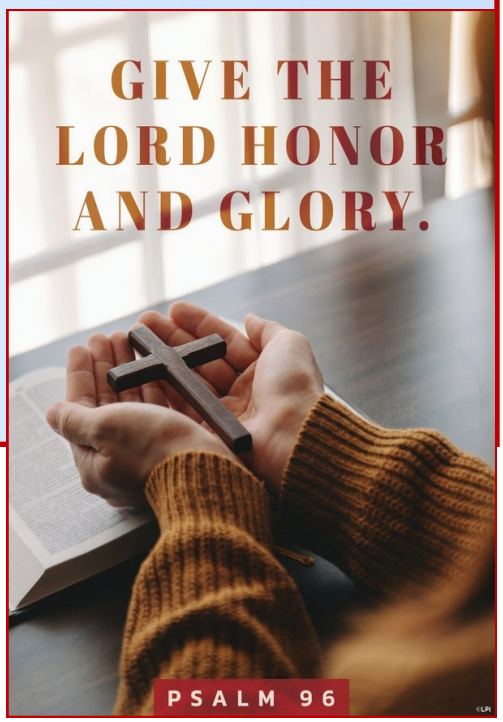
Out of curiosity, I Googled it. Apparently, the value depends a lot on the emperor. If we're talking about a marquee name like Julius Caesar, a coin will go for thousands of dollars. But let's say it's a shekel from Emperor Geta, some third-century failure who got murdered by his brother. You can get his coin for less than $200.

It matters, apparently, whose face you're stamped with. We are all only as good as the image we bear.

When Christ said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God," he was talking about faithful citizenship and faithful discipleship. He was talking about the omnipotence of God over any political movement or historical era.

But he was also talking about our worth. Where it comes from, what it means, how long it will last. He was talking about whose image *we* bear.







Liturgical Life

St. John Paul II

Pray for us!

St. John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland. During World War II, he secretly studied for the priesthood in an underground seminary. Ordained in 1946, he later became Archbishop of Krakow, then cardinal, and in 1978 was elected the 264th pope, taking the name John Paul II.

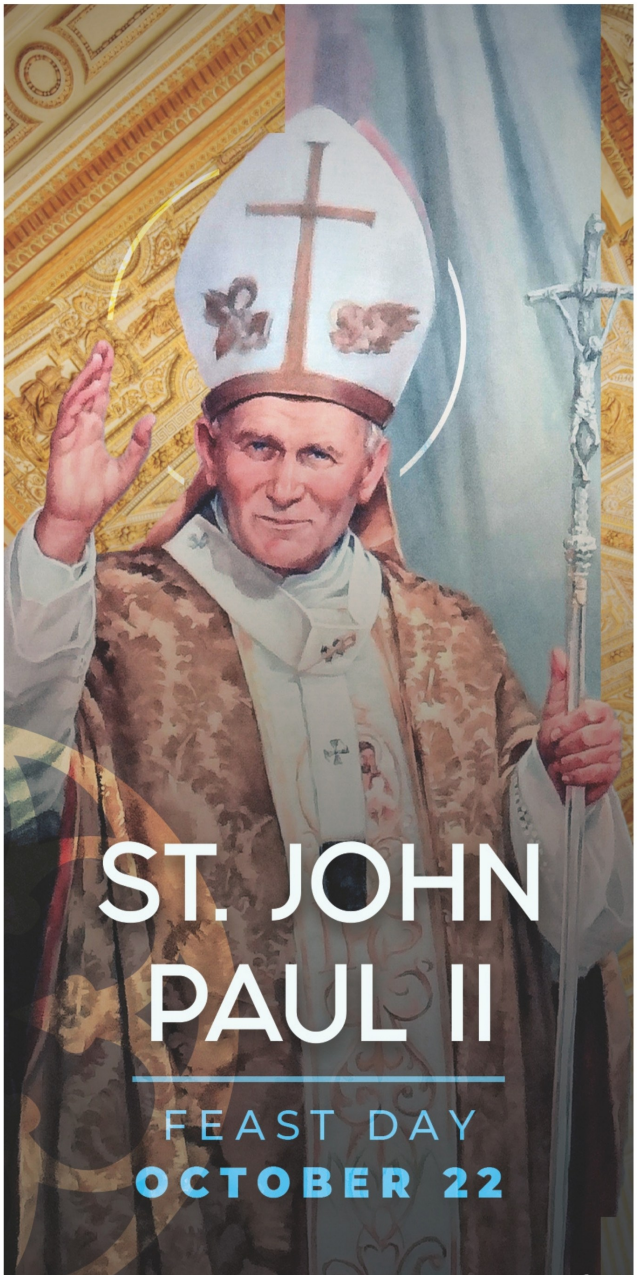
Evangelization was central to his papacy, and he made pastoral visits around the world. After surviving a 1981 assassination attempt, he later visited his attacker in prison and forgave him.

An avid hiker and skier into his 60s, St. John Paul II later suffered declining health and was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Though speaking and public appearances became difficult, he continued his pastoral work until his death on April 2, 2005. He was beatified on May 1, 2011, and canonized on April 27, 2014.



"I'M AFRAID IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO RENDER UNTO CAESAR THAT WHICH IS CAESAR'S."



Prayer to Pope St. John Paul II:

St. John Paul, from the window of Heaven grant us your blessing! Bless the Church that you have loved, served and guided, pushing Her with courage towards the paths of the world to bring Christ to all, and all to Christ. From the window of Heaven, where we see you next to Mary, send down upon us all the blessing of God. Amen.

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