

Whose Image Do You Bear?

Caesar's image was on a coin. God's image is on our souls.

"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God the things that are God's."

As we fulfill our responsibilities, including our civic duties, be confident in faith, values, and moral conviction, letting each guide us.

In Matthew's Gospel 22:15-21 the Pharisees and Herodians were wanting Jesus to slip up, but he didn't take the bait! Remember the Pharisees were prominent Jews who strictly followed the Law of Moses. The Herodians were basically a political party under the rule of the Roman government and the Herods' family.

Hoping to trap and deceive Jesus, they asked, "Tell us, then, what's your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

They badly wanted him to abruptly say, "No, it is not right to pay taxes to Caesar!"

He didn't. Instead, he said what's truly right and just (and chalk one up for the team, addressed them as "hypocrites").

Jesus replied, "Show me the coin that pays the census tax."

Handing him the Roman coin, Jesus asked them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?"

They answered, "Caesar's."

Confidently he said, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

How to apply it in today's world? Think about this quote:

"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God."

It is from the book, *Prayer*, by Hans Urs

von Balthasar, a Swiss Catholic priest, theologian, and author.

We only exist, because God created us. God gave us the precious gift of life. How do we repay Him? Definitely not by a tax like Caesar or worldly debt, but by living a Christian life.

Money does not matter to God, but our souls will forever.

We are made in the image and likeness of God.

As our First Reading (Isaiah 45:1, 4-6) declares "From the rising of the sun to its setting, worship God alone.... He calls us by name."

Be confident.

As the psalmist today says, let all humanity praise God Almighty our Just Ruler, "Give the Lord glory and honor."



Companions for Our Journey This Week

October 18, the Feast Day of St. Luke

This author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles was not one of the original 12. He was however one of the dedicated followers after Christ's Ascension.

Saint Luke left his profession as physician to become an evangelist with the other Apostles, after Paul inspired him. He was intelligent and loved being immersed in the life of Christ. His writings make it obvious that he enjoyed

talking to countless people who knew Jesus and witnessed his miracles. It is believed that the story of our Savior's birth he presents, was based on St. Luke's personal conversations with Our Blessed Mother Mary.

His first lines in Chapter 1 of his gospel he even notes he wrote it "after investigating everything accurately anew. . ." Luke 1:3.

His writings are descriptive and reveal Jesus' mercy, healing, and compassion. He details how Jesus saved all people through the Passion and Resurrection.

His writings urge us to be Christian disciples and model ourselves after Jesus, and for us to seek salvation and peace through prayer. He even used Jesus as the example in Luke 23:34, emphasizing the moment when Jesus asked forgiveness of his crucifiers.

Let us all be inspired by St. Luke, seeking to know as much as we can about the life of Christ and want to share that good news with others through our actions and words.



October 19, the Memorial of Saints John (Jean) de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, and companions.

In Auriesville, New York, sits a shrine dedicated to Jesuit missionaries, the first martyred saints of North America from the 1600s.

The spirit of these missionary pioneers was summed up in a journal quote from St. Isaac Jogues, “we just need to offer up our lives to God in whatever our circumstances and not worry about the results. God will lead us to his glory.”

It could be argued that no one was more determined to evangelize in the “New France” region of the North America than St. Isaac. He learned of the opportunity through the testimonies of Saint Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit priest who had been living among



the Hurons for three years before returning to France after the English took over Quebec and removed the Jesuits and their lay missionaries. Saint Jean didn't paint a rosy picture. He was honest sharing stories of brutally cold temperatures, crude wilderness living conditions, and scarce provisions. He also talked about the grave risks, torture, kidnappings, and killings.

For six years St. Isaac would live with St. Jean in a settlement among the Huron people, learning their language and customs. Saint Isaac would carve “Jesus” into the trees. In 1642, while traveling from village to village, they were swarmed and held captive by Mohawk warriors. The details of their seizure and subsequent maltreatment are gruesome and horrendous to say the least. Saint Isaac's fingernails were pulled out, and his fingers were chewed, burnt, and cut off. He was held captive for 13 months.

Saint Isaac was eventually able to escape with the help of European attempts to ransom the Mohawks for the priest. He returned to France on Christmas Day in 1643. He was called a “living martyr.”

In 1646, he returned North America and then traveled from village to village to not only evangelize but also to discuss truces and ransom of prisoners with Iroquois chieftains. The Mohawks were stunned by his presence and gentleness as he approached them despite how horribly they had treated him as a captive. They considered this a huge act of courage. They agreed he could set up a Christian mission. In order to do so he had to leave for supplies, but when departed he left behind his trunk of personal belongings. This “black box” was an object the native people had not seen before and felt threatened and convinced it was filled with evil spirits.

Unaware of the extreme turn in the Mohawk people's minds, St. Isaac returned with St. John (de La Lande) to begin the mission. When they set foot in the village the two were killed.

After St. Isaac died, his killer was overwhelmingly remorseful and asked to be baptized. Interesting fact, 10 years later St. Kateri Tekakwitha was born in the Ossernenon village.

October 20, the Memorial of St. Paul of the Cross.

Be confident and courageous knowing, “*You are never alone, Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives! He has called you and chosen you to live in the freedom of the children of God. Turn to him in prayer and in love. Ask him to grant you the courage and strength to live in this freedom always. Walk with him who is ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life’!*”

Affectionately referred to as JP2, he canonized more than 400 saints, visited 129 countries, instituted Divine Mercy Sunday, began the World Youth Day events, spoke 12 languages, AND he added the Luminous Mysteries to the Rosary.

He loved to read and write – poems, letters, books, and religious documents. In fact, the Vatican reported he wrote more than 3,000 pages a year while pope. He was a pope for all people. He considered his travels around the globe as shepherding like Jesus.

He made it very clear we need to be a “Culture of Life” and resist being a “Culture of Death.”

Born in 1920, as Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland (near Krakow), he was the youngest of three children born to Karol Wojtyla (a tailor and a non-commissioned officer in the Polish Army) and Emilia Kaczorowska Wojtyla (a schoolteacher). His parents raised him with morals that reflected their strong Catholic faith and structure mirroring his father’s military background.

He had a great love for the outdoors, sports, religion, and theater. When he was 18, he

studied drama at the local university. Nazi occupation forces closed the university a year later. To avoid being deported from his homeland he was forced to work in a quarry and later a chemical factory. He knew suffering, loneliness, and grief all too well. His sister died before he was born. He lost his mother when he was a young boy. His brother died, when the saint was in third grade; and he was only 20, when his father died.

It was during the height of World War II tensions, when he said yes to the priesthood. His ordination had to be held in a secret ceremony. In addition to pastoring his parish he taught theology at Lublin University. He was on an outing with his students in 1958, when he learned he was named an auxiliary bishop. Religious retreats outside of a church were illegal, so he was often photographed without a collar.

Historians have said the naming Fr. Karol Wojtyla as bishop ended up being one of the most underestimated moves towards the fall of the communist party in Eastern Europe. He wasn’t naïve to the fact that the Communist party followed him, as they did other Catholic leaders. It is true he owned and read Marxist literature, but said, “if you want to understand your enemy, you have to know what he has written.”

Recommended readings about him include *Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves* by Jason Evert; and *The Making of the Pope of the Millennium: Kalendarium of the Life of Karol Wojtyla* by Adam Boniecki.



October 20, the Memorial of St. Paul of the Cross.

Recall his words to strengthen your faith and understanding of Christ's love, "The more deeply the cross penetrates, the better; the more deprived of consolation that your suffering is, the purer it will be; the more creatures oppose us, the more closely shall we be united to God."



In the 1700s, his devotion to Christ's Passion led him to found the Congregation of the Passion, the Passionists, approved by Pope Benedict XIV in 1741. He subsequently founded the Passionist Nuns, approved by the Vatican in 1770.

The congregations' mission was to spread the memory of Christ's suffering before his crucifixion.

October 23, the Memorial of St. John of Capistrano.

He was a politician in the 1400s. He served as a governor at the age of 26 for Perugia, Italy. He was jailed during a local war, and during that time he changed his vision and feeling defeated, he cried out to God and vowed to change his elitist ways to ways of mercy, charity, and peace. After becoming a Franciscan priest in the 1400s, he served as a missionary and worked hard to reunite Eastern Christians with Rome. He became known as the "Soldier Saint" for at the end of his life he was serving as a military chaplain, preaching, teaching, and healing the souls of men who gave their lives to save their homeland. He is the patron saint of military chaplains.



*"Sing to the Lord
a new song."*

— PSALM 96:1

Tune, Text, *and* Theology:

AN EVENING OF SUNG PRAYER

Join composer and Paulist priest
Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP, for an evening
exploring the faith behind the music.

In this 90-minute concert, Fr. Ricky shares
his compositions alongside the personal stories
and spiritual insights that inspired them,
revealing how words and melodies give voice
to our relationship with God and one another.

FR. RICKY MANALO, CSP



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(90-minute concert)



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- Assistance of a professional local Catholic Guide
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Not Included:

- Airline luggage fees
- Meals not mentioned
- Tips to your guide & driver.

Optional:

- Travel Protection
- Cancel for any Reason Waiver

Sample Daily Itinerary:

- Day 1 | Wed, Nov 03: Depart USA and arrive in Mexico
- Day 2 | Thu, Nov 04: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Teotihuacan
- Day 3 | Fri, Nov 05: Mexico City - Santo Domingo, Tlatelolco, the Cathedral, and the National Palace
- Day 4 | Sat, Nov 06: Excursion to Puebla
- Day 5 | Sun, Nov 07: Mexico City - Blessed Miguel Pro and Blessed Conchita Cabrera
- Day 6 | Mon, Nov 08: Church of Tlaxpetlac - Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Day 7 | Tue, Nov 09: Return Home



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TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

From the rising of the sun to its setting, worship God alone. He calls us by name.

Responsorial: Psalm 96

“Give the Lord glory and honor.”

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

We have received the gospel not just by the word of man, but moreover by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” Keep faith, values, and morals in focus as we take on our responsibilities, including civic ones.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For our Pope Leo XIV, that Christ's healing love passes through his body, and may the Holy Spirit continue to empower him to do the work of the Church to bring glory and honor to Jesus' name, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That world leaders believe in and seek the power of the Holy Spirit to bring justice to the world, just in God's eye not man's alone, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Despite all the challenges, setbacks, and suffering we experience, may we take off our blinders and remain confident in Christ's love for us, knowing we always have something to be thankful for, let us pray to the Lord. . .

May all we do, laboring and enduring for the love of Christ, bring us hope and peace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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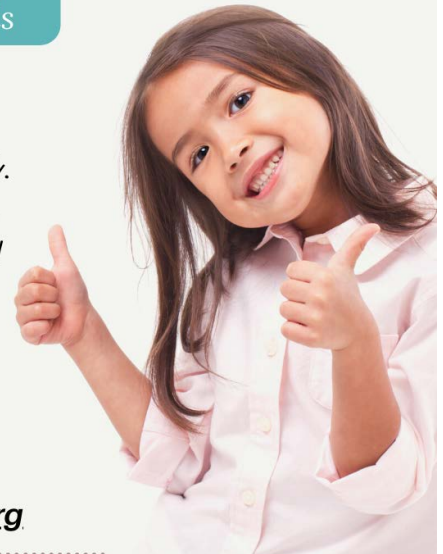
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MASS ONLINE

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