

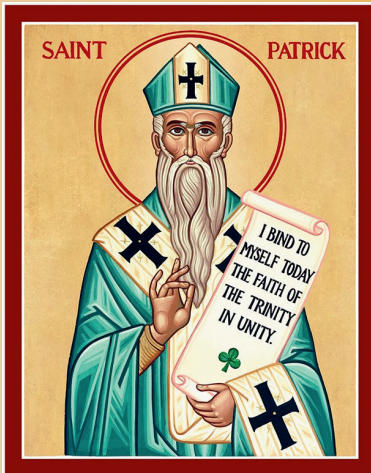
Serving Carlsbad Since 1943



3821 ADAMS STREET
CARLSBAD, CA 92008
(760) 729-2866
WWW.STPATRICKCARLSBAD.COM



3820 PIO PICO DRIVE
CARLSBAD, CA 92008
(760) 729-1333
WWW.STPADDYS.ORG



**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS /
SERVICIOS FÚNEBRES:**

PLEASE CALL THE FUNERAL MINISTRY
OFFICE AT 760-729-6366.

FAVOR DE LLAMAR AL 760-729-2866
PARAHACER ARREGLOS FÚNEBRES.

**BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE /
BAUTISMO Y MATRIMONIO:**
PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR
INFORMATION.
FAVOR DE LLAMAR A LA OFICINA PARROQUIAL
PARA MÁS INFORMES.

OCTOBER 18, 2026 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

REV. GEORGE G. PEREZ CJM, PASTOR

REV. RONALD BAGLEY CJM, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

REV. WILLIAM ROWLAND CJM, IN RESIDENCE

REV. BEN DRAPEAU CJM, IN RESIDENCE

REV. LAWRENCE GOODWIN CJM IN RESIDENCE

MIGUEL ENRÍQUEZ DEACON

MICHAEL FRAZEE, DEACON

RICHARD POMPHREY, DEACON

REV. GERARD LECOMTE CJM, MINISTRY

MASSES MISAS:

SATURDAY / SÁBADO 4:30 PM (ENGLISH)
7:00PM(ESPAÑOL)

SUNDAY / DOMINGO 7:30 AM (ENGLISH)
9:00 AM (ENGLISH)
11:00 AM (ENGLISH)
1:00PM(ESPAÑOL)
5:00 PM (ENGLISH)

MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:00 AM & 8:00 AM
(ENGLISH) SATURDAY - 8:00 AM (ENGLISH)

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION/CONFESIONES

WEDNESDAYS/MIÉRCOLES AT/A LAS, 8:30AM AND / Y 6:00 PM.
IN THE BODY OF THE CHURCH./EN LA IGLESIA.

ROSARY:

WEEKDAYS AFTER 8:00AM MASS & SATURDAY AT 8:30AM &
4:00PM.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT / ADORACIÓN
DEL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO: TUESDAY / MARTES FROM /
DE 2:00PM -6:00PM

FIRST FRIDAY/PRIMER VIERNES DEL MES: 6:30PM – 9:00PM

Give to the Lord
the glory due his name!
- Psalms 96:8

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY - Oct 19-

7:00 am - Joe G. Moreno (d)
8:00 am - Toni Kaczmariski (d)

TUESDAY - Oct 20 -

7:00 am - Jack Soll (int)
8:00 am - Ruben Negrete Solorio (d)

WEDNESDAY - Oct 21 -

7:00 am - E. Grace & Family (int)
8:00 am - The People of Nepal (int)

THURSDAY - Oct. 22 -

7:00 am - The Flood Victims of the Grand Canyon
8:00 am - Laura Leoro (d)

FRIDAY - Oct 23 -

7:00 am - Dan Grey (d)
8:00 am - Ruben Negrete (d)

SATURDAY - Oct 24 -

8:00 am - Joey Ramos (d)
4:30 pm - Maria Beckman Viers (d)
7:00 pm - Maria Quiñones (d)
Maria de Jesus Saavedra (d)

SUNDAY - Oct 25 -

7:30 am - Salvador Rivera (d)
9:00 am - Richard & Janece Lafferty (d)
11:00 am - Crystal Langford (d)
1:00 pm - Carlos Venegas (int)
Gianna Moran (int)
5:00 pm - Caroline Crowell (d)



PASTORS NOTES –

FR. GEORGE G. PÉREZ, CJM- PASTOR
XXIX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Pharisees attempt to trap Jesus with a politically charged question: "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Their intention is not to seek truth but to place Jesus in a position where any answer could be used against Him. Yet Jesus responds with divine wisdom: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

At first glance, this passage appears to be about taxes and civic responsibilities. However, Jesus invites us to reflect on something much deeper: our identity and our ultimate allegiance. The coin bears the image of Caesar, so it belongs to Caesar. But every human being bears the image and likeness of God. Therefore, while we fulfill our duties as citizens, our hearts, our lives, and our souls belong to God.

In today's world, many forces compete for our attention and loyalty. Careers, politics, social media, material possessions, and personal ambitions can easily become priorities that overshadow our relationship with the Lord. Jesus reminds us that no earthly power should take God's rightful place in our lives. We are called to live in society responsibly while never forgetting that we are first citizens of God's Kingdom. This Gospel also challenges us to examine whether we are giving God what truly belongs to Him. Do we offer Him only the leftover moments of our day, or do we dedicate our best time, our talents, and our love to Him? Stewardship is not merely about financial generosity. It is about recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God and responding with gratitude.

The first reading from Isaiah highlights God's sovereignty over all nations and rulers. Even Cyrus, a pagan king, becomes an instrument in God's plan. This reminds us that God remains in control of history, even when circumstances seem uncertain or confusing. As believers, we trust that His providence is at work beyond what we can see.

Saint Paul's words to the Thessalonians further encourage us to live lives marked by faith, hope, and love. These three virtues enable us to remain faithful witnesses in a world often marked by division and anxiety. They help us reflect Christ's presence through our words and actions.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us ask ourselves: What image do others see in me? Do they recognize the image of Christ reflected in my life? May we render to God not only our worship but our entire being, allowing Him to shape us into faithful disciples who bring His light to the world.

Lord, help us to fulfill our responsibilities on earth while remaining faithful to our citizenship in heaven. May our lives always reflect Your image and give glory to Your holy name. Amen.

Word of the Week: *Aspergillum*

An **aspergillum** is a liturgical implement used in our ceremonies to sprinkle holy water. The word comes from the Latin verb *aspergere*, which means "to sprinkle." It is used in blessings and helps us recall our Baptism through which we are cleansed of sin and offered new life in Christ.



Come See Catholic Education in Action

Whether you are considering kindergarten or another grade, we invite you to visit our campus and see Catholic education in action. A campus tour is an opportunity to experience our school firsthand, meet our teachers and students, see our classrooms, and ask questions.

We are blessed to be part of the St. Patrick Catholic community. St. Patrick Catholic School is a thriving K-8 community of approximately 480 students, where our mission is simple: to foster a community where students grow in faith and knowledge in order to bring Christ's light to the world.

We are blessed with a dedicated faculty and staff who serve our Church, committed and loving families who partner with us in forming their children, and a wonderful parish community that supports our mission. Together, we help our students grow in faith, develop strong relationships, discover their God-given gifts, and learn what it means to live as disciples of Christ.

Our students gather for weekly Mass, participate in prayer and faith formation, and are given opportunities to experience the sacramental life of the Church. Faith is not simply something we teach. It is something we strive to live each day as a school community.

Schedule a tour and come see what is happening at St. Patrick Catholic School. We would love to welcome you to our campus!



**NOTAS DEL PÁRROCO –
P. GEORGE G. PÉREZ, C.J.M.-PÁRROCO -
XXIX DOMINGO ORDINARIO**

En el Evangelio de este domingo, los fariseos intentan tender una trampa a Jesús preguntándole: «¿Es lícito pagar el impuesto al César o no?». No buscan aprender ni descubrir la verdad; buscan desacreditarlo. Sin embargo, Jesús responde con una sabiduría que supera toda expectativa: «Den al César lo que es del César, y a Dios lo que es de Dios».

A primera vista, este pasaje parece referirse únicamente a los impuestos y a las responsabilidades civiles. Sin embargo, Jesús nos invita a profundizar mucho más. Al mostrar la moneda, pregunta de quién es la imagen grabada en ella. La respuesta es clara: es la imagen del César. Por eso la moneda le pertenece. Pero cada uno de nosotros lleva grabada otra imagen mucho más importante: la imagen y semejanza de Dios. Por lo tanto, si la moneda pertenece al César, nuestra vida entera pertenece al Señor.

Vivimos en un mundo donde muchas cosas compiten por nuestro corazón: el trabajo, el dinero, la política, las preocupaciones diarias, la tecnología y los deseos personales. Sin darnos cuenta, podemos terminar dando más tiempo y energía a estas realidades que a nuestra relación con Dios. El Evangelio de hoy nos invita a preguntarnos: ¿qué lugar ocupa Dios en mi vida? ¿Le entrego solamente los momentos que me sobran o le ofrezco lo mejor de mí?

La primera lectura, tomada del profeta Isaías, nos recuerda que Dios es el Señor de la historia. Incluso utiliza al rey Ciro, un gobernante pagano, como instrumento de su plan de salvación. Esto nos enseña que Dios actúa incluso cuando no comprendemos completamente los acontecimientos que nos rodean. Su providencia guía la vida de los pueblos y de cada persona.

San Pablo, en la segunda lectura, felicita a los cristianos de Tesalónica por vivir con fe, esperanza y caridad. Estas virtudes siguen siendo esenciales para nosotros hoy. La fe nos ayuda a confiar en Dios, la esperanza nos sostiene en las dificultades y la caridad nos impulsa a amar y servir a nuestros hermanos.

Al participar en esta Eucaristía, contemplemos la imagen de Dios que llevamos dentro. Que nuestras palabras, decisiones y acciones reflejen a Cristo en medio del mundo. Demos cumplimiento a nuestras responsabilidades terrenas, pero sin olvidar que nuestra verdadera ciudadanía está en el Reino de los Cielos.

Que María Santísima nos ayude a entregar nuestra vida completamente al Señor, para que todo lo que hagamos sea para su gloria y para el bien de nuestros hermanos.

Señor, ayúdanos a darte lo que te pertenece: nuestro corazón, nuestra fe y nuestra vida entera. Amén.



**Oficina de Catequesis y
Ministerio Familiar**

760-434-9099

lramirez@stpatrikcarlsbad.com

HORAS DE OFICINA DE CATEQUESIS

Lunes, martes y viernes: 10:00am a 1:00pm

Miércoles, Jueves y viernes: 3:00pm a 7:00pm

(Sábado y domingo con cita solamente)

ORDEN DE INICIACION CRISTIANA

Papás que tienen niños de 7 años o mayores y aún no han sido bautizados los invitamos a registrarlos para que inicien su proceso de preparación Sacramental.

Si aun no ha registrado aun podemos aceptar aplicaciones. Para mas informacion por favor comuníquese a la oficina de Catequesis.



**CATEQUESIS con niños de
PREESCOLAR**

Hemos iniciado el programa de preescolar para niños de 3, 4 y 5 años. Si usted viene a Misa de 1pm los domingos puede registrar a sus pequeños en este programa.

Mientras usted esta en Misa, sus hijos/a estaran escuchando el evangelio, y aprendiendo sobre el mensaje de Jesus.

Tambien incluimos actividades que favorecen su desarrollo fisico, cognitivo, emocional, social y de lenguaje.

Puede comunicarse a la oficina de catequesis para obtener mas informacion.

**ORACIÓN – PARA TODOS LOS DÍAS Y PARA
TODOS**

**BENDICIÓN PARA EL DOMINGO MUNDIAL
DE MISIONES**

OH, DIOS,

**NUNCA DEJAS DE LLAMARNOS A TI, BENDICE LOS
CAMPOS DE MISIÓN DONDE SEMBRAMOS,
CUIDAMOS Y COSECHAMOS. DANOS TU GRACIA Y
FUERZA MIENTRAS COMPARTIMOS TU AMOR CON
FAMILIAS Y AMIGOS, EXTRAÑOS Y VIAJEROS.**

**DANOS LAS PALABRAS ADECUADAS, LAS
INSPIRACIONES ADECUADAS, LAS INVITACIONES
ADECUADAS, EL AMOR ADECUADO. TU AMOR,
COMPARTIDO. AMÉN.**

Parish Assessment Summary		Parish Participation Summary	
Parish Assessment:	\$110,499.00		
Amount Paid to Date:	\$86,770.68	Total # Donors 2026 ACA:	134
Current Over/Under:	(\$23,728.32)	# Registered Families:	4462
% of Assessment Paid:	78.53%	% Participation:	3.00%
Outstanding Unpaid Pledges:	\$11,179.47		

Together, We Can Reach 100%!

Dear Parish Family,

Thank you to the **134 families** who have participated in this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. Through your generosity, we have already paid **78.53% of our \$110,499 parish assessment**—a wonderful sign of our commitment to the Church.

We have **\$23,728 remaining** to fulfill our obligation. With **4,462 registered families**, only **3% have participated so far**.

Whether large or small, **every gift makes a difference**. Let us come together as one parish family and reach 100%!

Please write "ACA" on the memo line of your check.

With gratitude and prayers.

Does the Bible Teach Separation of Church and State?

Jesus' statement "Render unto Caesar... and unto God..." affirms that civil authority has legitimate claims, but God's authority is ultimate and comprehensive. The passage does not endorse secularism or a strict division between religion and government.

The Pharisees and Herodians were debating loyalty to Rome, not designing constitutional frameworks. Jesus' audience lived under an imperial system where religion and politics were intertwined. The idea of a secular state independent of religion is a modern invention, not a biblical category.

Commentators note that Jesus recognizes: 1.) Civil authority as a legitimate, God-permitted structure, and 2.)

Divine authority as absolute. Civil obedience is required only up to the point where it violates conscience or worship. That is not separation—it is subordination.

Matthew 22:21 is not a call to separate religion from public life. It is a call to: Respect civil authority; Reject putting politics above faith; and Place God's claim above every earthly claim.

Jesus is not dividing the world into two sovereign realms;

He is placing world governments under God's rule.

Catholics have a right and responsibility to let government leaders know when their policies violate God's laws.

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting items for the Annual Lenten Food Drive to benefit , St. Patrick Parish Food Bank, Showers of Blessings and Catholic Charities.

The food drive has begun and will continue until **Oct. 25**.

Donation stations will be located by the front door of the Parish Hall and in front of the church. Knights will be there to accept your donations of non-perishable food items (except for glass containers) along with cash/checks, Checks made payable to St. Patrick Knights of Columbus with a footnote of St. Patrick food drive.

Knights will be available to help with any heavy items or answer any questions.

Below is a list of most requested items:

- * Disposable diapers, sizes 4 and 5
- * Baby wipes
- * Non-perishable canned foods
- * Packaged rice and beans
- * Trail Mix
- * Yogurt cups (unrefrigerated)
- * Fruit cups
- * Juice boxes
- * Mini- raisin boxes
- * Bottled water

Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will benefit our local Community! Vivat Jesus!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRY (PREK - 8TH GRADE)

Weekly Classes

Sunday classes: Oct 18 & 25; Nov 1, 8 & 15

Monday classes: Oct 19 & 26; Nov 2, 9 & 16

Tuesday classes: Oct 20 & 27; Nov 3, 10 & 17

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jesus is questioned whether it is against God's law to pay taxes to the Roman emperor, a pagan ruler. If Jesus says yes, it will stir up trouble with the Romans. If he says no, he will be questioned by the majority of his own people. Jesus gives a masterful answer. If one uses Caesar's money, then they have to pay for it. But one must also give God what belongs to God, who takes care of our needs. Jesus' answer addresses an important topic: our relationship with God.

Reflect: How are you living for God and give God what belongs to him?

Pray: Gracious God, we praise and thank you for the blessings you give us.

Act: What three things can we do this week to give praise and honor to God?

Family Rosary on Friday October 23

We will meet in the Guadalupe Chapel from 4:00 – 4:30pm. Rosaries and prayer guides will be provided. All are welcome. We will also meet on October 23.

For information about Religious Education for children in preschool, elementary school, and Jr. High and preparation for First Holy Communion and Baptism please visit our parish website at

www.stpatrickcarlsbad.com and click on Religious Education Preschool – 8th grade. You may also contact our office at MDornisch@stpatrickcarlsbad.com or 760-729-8442.

Blessings, Margit Dornisch, Office for Religious Education & Family Ministry

Make Your Retirement Assets a Gift of Faith

God calls each of us to be good stewards of the blessings entrusted to our care. If you are age 70½ or older, you may be able to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to your parish, school, or favorite Catholic ministry. In many cases, these gifts can satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) while supporting the mission of the Church. To qualify, gifts generally must be sent directly from your IRA custodian to the charitable organization and cannot provide a personal benefit in return. Please consult your financial advisor or tax professional regarding your specific circumstances.

"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (Matthew 6:21)

Mission Sunday

This Sunday October 18, the Church throughout the world will observe World Mission Sunday. This will be the 100th anniversary of this event. It is meant to celebrate the great work of missionaries across the world, to pray for their work, and to contribute financially.

There are envelopes in your packet and also at the doors of the church. Put your envelope for the Missions in our one collection next weekend. You may also use online giving.

Listen to the words of Pope Leo XIV about this important occasion online:

[Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 100th World Mission Sunday](#)



SOUP SUPPERS ARE DELICIOUS!

DEAR PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS:

JOIN US FOR DELICIOUS HOMEMADE SOUP & DESSERT IN THE PARISH HALL

STARTING AT

4:30PM - 6:00PM EVERY THURSDAY.

THIS WEEK THURSDAY OCT. 22ND

WE WILL FEATURE SPLIT PEA & HAM SOUP

WITH BREAD AND DESSERT!

NO COST TO JOIN US FOR FOOD CONVERSATION & MUSIC!





STEVEN A. BEULIGMANN, D.D.S. INC.

Cosmetic & Family Dentistry

PARISHIONER
SINCE 1989

1299 CARLSBAD VILLAGE DR., CARLSBAD, CA 92008 • 760-729-5964



FLOOD
SOLUTIONS, INC.
LIC 991103

Joey Montijo
Parishioner

760-532-3266

WATER MITIGATION MOLD REMEDIATION
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES
floodsolutionsd.com



LIC: 939850

Daniel Montijo

President • Parishioner

(760) 644-0714

www.dmbuildinginc.com



WILLIS ALLEN
REAL ESTATE
SINCE 1914

Forbes
GLOBAL PROPERTIES

St. Patrick Alumni, with 62 combined years of
San Diego Real Estate experience.

15% OF PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ST. PATRICK PARISH.



Debra Dewhurst
REALTOR®
DRE# 01010740
760.685.2621
debra@willisallen.com



Ken Baer
REALTOR®
DRE# 01334769
619.248.4200
kenbaer@willisallen.com

**Mary Elizabeth
Accardi, LMFT**



MFT LIC #20751

(760) 304-4522

161 Thunder Drive Ste. 102
Vista, CA 92083

The Shops

1030 La Bonita Dr. Suite 130
Lake San Marcos, CA 92078



**CARIN
de RiA**
FRESH FILIPINO GOODNESS

**FILIPINO FOOD AT
DOWNTOWN ENCINITAS**

Family Friendly
Dining | Catering | Events

FIND US AT 124 W. 1ST ENCINITAS

**We are open everyday
11:30 am - 8 pm**

THECARINDERIACOMPANY.COM
(760) 557-4873



OCEANSIDE MORTUARY

Se Habla Español (760) 722-4264 • fd253

*Celebrating Life and
Healing Grieving Hearts*

www.oceansidemortuary.com

IF YOU LIVE ALONE

MDMedAlert!™

✓ Ambulance ✓ Police/Fire
✓ Family/Friends ✓ GPS & Fall Alert*

CALL NOW! 800.809.3570

md-medalert.com

**\$1 Less Than
a day**



**Never
miss our
bulletin!**

Get this bulletin
delivered straight to
your inbox every week.

Scan to subscribe on
parishesonline.com



Mother-Centered
Family-Focused

MIDWIFE

Experienced, personal care for
pregnancy, birth & postpartum

Birth Local Midwifery

(619) 289-7696

www.birthlocal.com | Carlsbad



Download our Free Helpful
Funeral Pre-Planning Guide



(760) 231-8445

sanluisrey.org

Support Our Advertisers!



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Patrick Catholic Community, Carlsbad, CA

05-4242

Bergmann's
FINE JEWELRY
Fine Jewelry & Watches
630 Grand Avenue
760.729.1895
PARISHIONER

 **HOLY CROSS**
CATHOLIC CEMETERY
& MAUSOLEUM

45th & Hilltop Drive, San Diego, CA 92102
No Interest Budget Plan | Up to 5 years to pay

Call 264-3127 Se Habla Español

Morgan Stanley



Mark A. Lucia

Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor
5796 Armada Drive, Suite 200
Carlsbad, CA 92008

760-602-3516

mark.a.lucia@morganstanley.com
fa.morganstanley.com/mark.a.lucia

© 2018 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC.
Member SIPC. CRC 2187362



 **THE HACIENDA**
MISSION SAN LUIS REY
EXTRAORDINARY SENIOR LIVING

**VOTED BEST OF
NORTH COUNTY**

Call 503-205-3083 to schedule
your community tour.

**GOT
MEDICARE?**

Navigating Medicare's newest rules takes time.

- ✓ Get the latest updates
- ✓ Call today to learn more

 **ROCK MEADOW INSURANCE SERVICES**
ANTHONY HOWE | CA LIC #4281027

760-512-8896



Advertise Here!

Engage with consumers in
your neighborhood.



Carlsbad Real Estate - PATRICK KELLETT, GRI

760.890.1100

RealCarlsbad.com

St. Patrick Parishioner | Alumni St. Patrick's | LMU (BA) • USD (MA)

 **realblue**
PROPERTIES
Broker #01242153

Curtis E. McRae, D.D.S., Inc.

General / Cosmetic / Implant Dentistry

3601 Vista Way, Suite 205
Oceanside, CA 92056

(760) 757-5057

www.drmcrae.net

**Support Our
Advertisers!**

 **Assisted Living
Locators**
Your local senior living advisor

**Specializing in Helping
Families Navigate the
World of Senior Living**
**No Cost Referral and
Placement Service**
Independently owned & operated

760-815-2987 • susan.c@assistedlivinglocators.com



Susan Carey,
Certified Senior
Advisor

Elder Law, Trusts and Estates

JOHN ZARCARO

Protecting the People and Values you Cherish

**Home appointments available
Free consultation**

760.918.0929 • Local Parishioner

30 Years Experience

www.zarcaro.com



**FREE AD
DESIGN WITH
PURCHASE OF
THIS SPACE**

Call 800.950.9952



Encounter Soul Fine Art

**Bring Faith, Beauty
& Inspiration Into
Your Home**



**Original artwork and prints
created to uplift the heart
and nourish the soul.**

View the Collection

**www.EncounterSoul.com
hello@encountersoul.com**



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Patrick Catholic Community, Carlsbad, CA

05-4242

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1,4-6

The Lord chooses Cyrus to subdue the nations for the sake of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 96:1,3-10

Sing praise to the Lord.

Second Reading

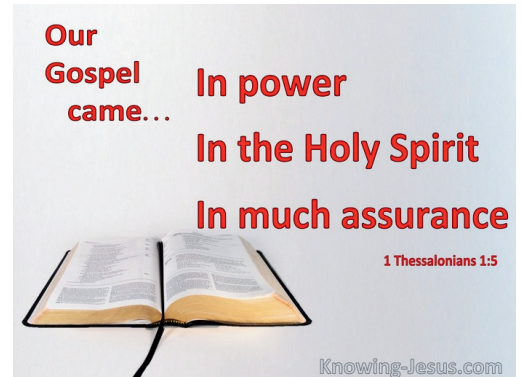
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Paul greets the Thessalonians, recalling the Gospel they received.

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?