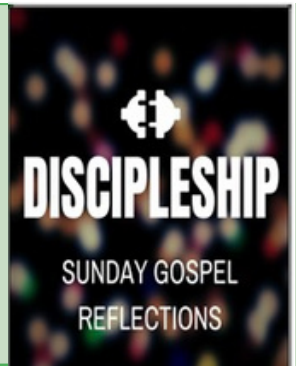


In preparation for October 18, 2026:
Twenty-ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Theme: You bear His image. Give Him your heart.

Verse for reflection: “Repay Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

—Matthew 22:15-21 (Verse 21)



Adults -

1. We belong to God and we are called to give Him what is His. We are also called to be responsible stewards of our community. What are some ways we can fulfill our responsibilities in the world without allowing them to become more important than God?
2. What about the times when we find ourselves using our responsibilities or busyness as an excuse to neglect our relationship with God? What is it that is competing for first place in your life right now?
3. If someone looked at the image you are bearing today in terms of how you are spending your time, money, energy, and attention, would they be able to tell that you belong to God? Why or why not?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Putting worldly things before God, trying to separate faith from everyday life, forgetting whose image we bear.

Teens -

1. The Pharisees approach Jesus with flattering words, but their intention is to trap Him. Why does the difference between our words and our intentions matter? How can we recognize when we are more concerned with looking faithful than being sincere?
2. Jesus doesn't let pressure from others determine His answer. What can His response teach us about staying grounded when people challenge our beliefs or try to provoke us?
3. The coin bears Caesar's image. In light of our belief that people bear God's image, what might it mean to give ourselves to God? How is that different from simply giving Him an hour on Sunday?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Letting the world define our worth and choices instead of remembering that we were created in God's image and need to reflect that in the world.



Children -

1. We are citizens of the United States of America. What are some good things that happen in our country? We are also members of the Catholic Church. What are some good things that we do as a Church?
2. Do you know anyone who completely rejects all religion and talk of God and clings to the physical, modern world? What is that attitude like?
3. Do you know anyone who completely rejects all earthly things and clings only to the religious and spiritual? What is that attitude like?
4. Do you know anyone who lives a good balance of both the spiritual and the earthly? What is that attitude like? Why do you think it is good to have a good balance of both?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not realizing we need a balance between Spiritual and earthly needs.