



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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WHAT IMAGE DO I CARRY INSIDE MYSELF?

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 18, 2026

The Gospel of today's Liturgy tells us about some Pharisees who join with the Herodians to set a trap for Jesus. They were always trying to set traps for him. They go to him and ask: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" (Mt 22:17). It is a ruse: if Jesus legitimises the tax, he places himself on the side of a political power that is ill-supported by the people, whereas if he says not to pay it, he can be accused of rebellion against the empire. A real trap. However, he escapes this snare. He asks them to show him a coin, which bears the image of Caesar, and says to them: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (v. 21). What does this mean?

These words of Jesus have become commonplace, but at times they have been used incorrectly — or at least reductively — to talk about relations between Church and State, between Christians and politics; they are often interpreted as if Jesus wanted to separate "Caesar" from "God", that is, earthly from spiritual reality. At times we too think in this way: faith with its practices is one thing, and daily life is another. And this will not do. No. This is a form of "schizophrenia", as if faith had nothing to do with real life, with the challenges of society, with social justice, with politics and so forth.

In reality, Jesus wants to help us place "Caesar" and "God" each in their proper place. The care for earthly order belongs to Caesar — that is, to politics, to civil institutions, to social and economic processes, and we who are immersed in this reality must give back to society what it offers us, through our contribution as responsible citizens, taking care of what is entrusted to us, promoting law and justice in the world of work, paying our taxes honestly, committing ourselves to the common good, and so on. At the same time however, Jesus affirms the fundamental reality: that man belongs to God: all of man and every human being. And this means that we do not belong to any earthly reality, to any "Caesar". We are the Lord's, and we must not be slaves to any earthly power. On the coin, then, there is the image of the emperor, but Jesus reminds us that our lives are imprinted with the image of God, which nothing and no one can obscure. The things of this world belong to Caesar, but man and the world itself belong to God. Let us not forget this!

We understand, then, that Jesus is restoring each one of us to our own identity: on the coin of this world there is the image of Caesar, but you, me — each one of us — which image do you carry within yourself? Let us ask ourselves this question: what image do I carry inside myself? You — whose is the image of your life? Do we remember that we belong to the Lord, or do we let ourselves be shaped by the logic of the world and make work, politics and money our idols to be worshipped?

May the Holy Virgin help us to recognize and honour our dignity and that of every human being.

POPE FRANCIS — October 22, 2023

FORMACION PARA EL MINISTERIO DE LA LITURGIA DE LOS NIÑOS

el sábado 14 de noviembre se ofrecerá una sesión de formación en español para este ministerio aquí en nuestra parroquia. La sesión comienza a las 9am e incluye almuerzo. El costo por persona es de \$35.

Más información próximamente.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 17 **5:00 PM**

+Clement D'Andrade +Mary Sinnott +Darren Mahon

Sunday, October 18 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, October 20 **11:00 AM**

+Francis Dvorak

Wednesday, October 21 **11:00 AM**

Thursday, October 22 **11:00 AM**

+Elizabeth Karl

Friday, October 23 **11:00 AM**

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 24 **5:00 PM**

+Gerard Hennessey

Sunday, October 25 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XXIX Domingo Ordinario

Sábado 17 de octubre **7:00 PM**

Domingo 18 de octubre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 20 de octubre **12:00 PM**

Miércoles 21 de octubre **12:00 PM**

+Norma Gómez

Jueves 22 de octubre **12:00 PM**

Viernes 23 de octubre **12:00 PM**

XXX Domingo Ordinario

Sábado 24 de octubre **7:00 PM**

+Donato Kuan

Domingo 25 de octubre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

UPCOMING MEETING REMINDER: The Catholic Women's League will be having our next general meeting in the church hall on October 27th at 7pm. Come out to enjoy some fellowship and newcomers are always welcome.

AI AND HUMAN DIGNITY The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you join us as we explore Pope Leo's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* and our call to protect human dignity in an age of technological revolution. There will be 2 locations for this series:
Kitchener: Saturday, October 24th, 2026 (1:00 – 3:00pm): St. Anthony Daniel Parish, Kitchener
Hamilton: Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026 (1:00 – 3:00pm): Chancery Office, Hamilton
Registration and more information can be found here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/2026/07/ai-and-human-dignity-workshop/>.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: "One in Christ, united in mission" Today the whole Catholic world keeps the 100th World Mission Sunday. The psalm sings, "Tell his glory among the nations" (Ps 96). Pope Leo XIV reminds us that no baptized person is exempt from mission, and that if unity is the condition of mission, love is its essence. A second collection is taken up today for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Your gift, joined to those of Catholics everywhere, supports seminarians, catechists, chapels, healthcare, and the poor in young Churches. Pray also for new missionary vocations. Father, make us one in Christ, united in mission. Amen.