

# October 18th, 2020 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to

them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." -MT 22:19-21

## Which Side Are You On?

There seem to be two realms, God's and Caesar's. Jesus says so in Sunday's Gospel: "Give to God the things that are God's and to Caesar the things that are Caesar's."

Which realm do we live in?

Are we "Sunday Catholics," giving to God maybe an hour per week at Mass and then getting on with television and cars and work and food? And maybe with being afraid? Or with wishing things had turned out better? Do we leave it to professionals to pray to God while we live a lesser life? Have we given our life to Caesar?

Or do we try it the other way around?

Perhaps we are so serious about Christianity and spirituality that we try to get away from enjoyment of any worldly thing so as to live uncorrupted. Through the history of Christianity there have been marvelous examples of this. The desert hermits. The cloistered nuns and monks. The great mystics. "A penny for Caesar and all the rest for God"?

If you push this statement too far, however, everything of Caesar must go away because it is not God, or on the other hand, God has to go away because science and secularism are so powerful.

Maybe Jesus made his statement to settle the argument that was posed to him by the Pharisees. Here is a key. Can God and Caesar co-exist? What if you are created to be a channel for God's presence right in the midst of the secular world?

What if, in spite of the voices within you that say you are not worth much, in spite of the setbacks of life, the losses, the flatness, in spite of all these, what if God created you with room inside you where God, out of love for you, can be quietly present?

I can hear objections to such an idea: "God would never be at home in me, not until I do a lot better with my life." Or, "You want me to be some kind of nut, running around acting holy?" Or, "Sure, I want to let God in, but I like beer and TV too much." Or, "What does all this have to do with real life?" Or simply, "I don't want to."

But what if God were a great friend? In fact, how would it be if God were a companion who truly and actually accepts you and forgives you completely whenever you need it? Wouldn't this give you another way to look at the connection between heaven and earth?

Wouldn't it mean that God put you and me into the world to be holy in it, to be friends with the things of Caesar? To work in the world of sin in spite of our own ins?

Could it be that we ourselves are those "things that belong to God" that Jesus spoke of? "Belong," not in a possessive way, but in the way felt by people who love - and are loved. We "belong." If this were so, why wouldn't we want to give ourselves to God, and then also to bring our God-filled selves to Caesar's palaces and to the dirty roads outside them and show everyone what Jesus is all about?

Which realm should we live in?

Both. -John Foley, SJ

## Readings This Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 451, 4-6

Reading II: 1Thessalonians 1: 1-5b

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

## Readings For Next Sunday

Reading I: Exodus 22: 20-26

Reading II: 1Thessalonians 1: 1-5c-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

**Finance / Stewardship Collection:** The plate last weekend was **\$2,494.** Building & Maintenance was **\$680.**

## **+ Father David Shaw (11/29/1942 - 10/12/2020)**

Father David Shaw, a priest of the Diocese of Santa Rosa entered into eternal life on Monday, October 12 after a battle with cancer of the esophagus. Father Shaw was 77 years of age and had served as a priest for 52 years. During his time of priestly service, Father Shaw served at Saint Rose in Santa Rosa, Saint Thomas in Napa and Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Petaluma. He taught at Saint Vincent de Paul High School with residence at Saint James in Petaluma, he also taught at Saint Bernard High School in Eureka and served at Sacred Heart Parish in Eureka. He held the position of Director of the Office of Worship and Evangelization while resident at Star of the Valley in Oakmont and finally served as pastor of Resurrection Parish in Santa Rosa from 1989 until his retirement in 2018.

**Messages of condolence may be sent C/O:**

**Fr. William Donahue, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 35 Liberty St., Petaluma, CA 94952.**

## **Matching Funds**

An anonymous benefactor from our parish has graciously offered to match dollar-for-dollar up to a total of a **\$30,000** donation. We have now raised **\$24,306** in donations for the Matching Funds which will go towards the **renovation of the church sanctuary.** We appreciate your support.

## Eureka Holy Mass Intentions

### Saturday 17

4:00 pm SJ Michael Dzieciol †

### Sunday 18

7:30 am SJ Ben Benzonelli †

9:00 am SH Frank Scolari †

10:30 am SB Bertha Yost †

12:15 pm SH Francisco Vega † (Sp)

4:30 pm SH Mass for the People

### Monday 19

12:15 pm SB Nancy Smith †

5:30 pm SH Linda Bareilles Int.

### Tuesday 20

7:30 am SJ Esther Allen Int.

5:30 pm SH Linda Bareilles Int.

### Wednesday 21

12:15 pm SB Lawrence Lazio †

6:00 pm SH Adoration

7:00 pm For the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading their sheep from all harm. (Sp)

### Thursday 22

7:30 am SJ Mark Allen Int.

5:30 pm SH McKennas Int.

### Friday 23

12:15 pm SB Hugo Pompati & Family †

5:30 pm SH Alicia Claustro †

### Saturday 24

4:00 pm SJ Mass for the People

### Sunday 25

7:30 am SJ No Intention

9:00 am SH Kathleen O'Hara †

10:30 am SB Sipriano Hernandez †

12:15 pm SH Francisco Vega † (Sp)

4:30 pm SH Bill Doyle Int.

**Please pray for :** Marilyn Ziblich, Baby Olivia, Monika Rose Cleenewerck, Chad Kryla, Don DeHennis, Basil & Santos Mainus, Harold Giacomini, Chet Branum, Florence, Fran Hill, Isela Adams, Lindy Timmerman & Family, Mary James, Dave Silverbrand, John Bertain, Denise Sledge, James Iron Shell, James Lemon, Wm. Hahn Family, Rose Ann Hurst, Armado De Los Santos, Judy Mill, Julia Walters, Connie Mather, Steve Mill, Ryan Pepper, Fred Pepper, Paul Shabata & Family.

**PRAYER LINE** Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. It is an act of charity to pray for others in need. Call our pray line leader, Toni at 445-3616 24/7.

## Matching Funds

An anonymous benefactor from our parish has graciously offered to match dollar-for-dollar up to a total of a **\$30,000** donation. We have now raised **\$24,306** in donations for the Matching Funds which will go towards the **renovation of the church sanctuary**. We appreciate your support.

## Scripture Study and Lectures at St. Bernard In Memory of Fr. Eric Freed Have Begun...

In memory of Fr. Eric Freed we have again started scripture study and lectures. Lectures on the Reformations will continue for 12 weeks **through 11/29 with one 20-minute lecture per week, in the St. Bernard Church Hall right after the 10:30 mass**. We are meeting every Sunday. There will be study notes, but no coffee. Those who stay for the lecture will clean their own spots. –Deacon Frank Weber

## RCIA

Last week JoAnn Dellabalma received the Sacraments of Initiation, making her part of our Catholic faith community! It was not an easy journey but she was determined and we all supported her - especially her husband who, for many years, had prayed with confidence. Our parish has been blessed; let us give thanks and welcome her joyfully!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WILL BEGIN SOON

We are awaiting our home instruction books for enrolled families and will inform you as soon as possible of the starting date of religious education. Thank you for your patience. This year, due to COVID, Religious Education will begin with at-home instruction by the family. Assistance from parish catechists will be available after Masses monthly for registered families in person or by phone. Contact Kim Farrell, DRE for more information; her phone number is on the bulletin. Our Faith and Life series is still our main text, but during at home instruction this text is much easier for parents:

<https://www.comcenter.com/program/429/>

**Confirmation News...** It's that time of year again for us to begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you or a loved one is between 7th grade and 17 years old, now is the perfect time to join us! Please leave a message with Dn. Dance @ (707) 442-2233 / email at [dancefarrell@gmail.com](mailto:dancefarrell@gmail.com), and clearly say that you are interested in Confirmation, leave your name, the name of your child, and your phone number. Deacon will contact you soon regarding classes! Deacon W. Dance Farrell, St. Bernard / St. Joseph's & Sacred Heart Parishes Director of Campus Ministry – St. Bernard Academy