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Year A 29TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 45:1,4-6

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 95(96): 1,3-5,7-10

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel:

Matthew 22:15-21

'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'



www.canva.com

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [here](#).

Check out [this video](#) on the readings for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear Jesus responding to an attempt by Pharisees to entrap him.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Jesus is talking about the importance of perspective and balance, asking the listeners to reflect on the priority they give God in their lives.
- This week is a good chance to take an honest look to how much importance we place on God and faith in our lives. A simple way to look at how much we value something is to see how much time we give it.
- Pray for the grace to put God first, to be thankful for His blessings, and to lean on Him in times of struggle.

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus explain the importance of giving time and honour to God.

- What kind of things do you spend time on together as a family? Are there ever conflicts or disagreements about what is more important? What do you think is the most important thing you do together as a family?
- How can you show that God is important in your family? What kind of things can you do or are you already doing to give God the time and honour that is due to Him every day?

Family Challenge!

This week, whenever you are faced with a decision about how to spend your time, ask yourself, "does this give glory to God in some way or is it just about me getting what I want?" You might be surprised how much focus you can actually give God through your actions when you are more aware of why you choose certain things.

WHAT BELONGS TO GOD

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 favoured 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 honour that we owe to God?

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: THROUGH THE YEAR WITH MARY: PONDER AND PRAYER TOGETHER WITH CHILDREN



Through the Year with Mary by Katherine Bogner brings together the Church's traditions in one place and provides a year-long plan for coming to know and love the Mother of God through: Weekly passages from Scripture, saints, and scholars; Reflections to nurture your understanding of Marian teaching and devotion; Sacred art from around the world; Marian prayers to teach you to grow closer to Jesus through Mary.

Available at Veritas Bookstores.



GIVE GOD HIS DUE

Following Jesus means being a nice person, recycling... just do the minimum and scrape by - that's about it really isn't it? Nope! If you read the Gospels, you'll see that being a Christian requires more than just lip service. Give to God what belongs to God? Well, everything belongs to God, doesn't it really? Is it all a bit too much to take on? Well, let's consider what's at stake - heaven! So, no, the cost isn't really too heavy at all! Remember too, anything Jesus calls us to do is just what He has done Himself. He paid the ultimate cost, He gave all to His heavenly Father, He prioritised God the Father and His plan always, even unto death. It's not that Jesus is telling us that families are not important, or that we can't say goodbye to people. Rather, How attached are we to material things? How much value do we place on them? Which gets more time, my phone or my God? Buying things or spending time with God? Looking for popularity and fame, or looking at myself as God sees me - a beloved child? Living a double-life never leads to happiness. Choose Jesus first, put God first: I guarantee you will never regret it! The rewards are out of this world! :)

This week:

Follow Fr Mike's 3-Question checklist this week, to see where God actually is on your priority list. Choose one area to really work on, remembering to ask for His Grace to help you first!



Fr Mike: Is God in the centre of your life?

Tim Hughes: Everything

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



Family Prayer

Father, help us to set you as the number one in our lives, and give you the love and honour you deserve. Amen

EVENTS

The Chosen TV Series: Beginning Tues 10th Oct (8pm) on zoom or Wed 11th Oct (2.30pm) in person in St John's Pastoral Centre, Waterford. For more info contact Sr. Kathryn 087 404 2784 or waterford@ascj.us.org

Holy Family Mission All Saints Party: Monday 30th October, Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House. Prayer, Talk, Mass, Music, Fun and Games for all the Family! 11am - 2pm. Bring a packed lunch. For more info email info@holymission.ie

Little Nellie's Baby Bank Pop Up Shop: November 1st and 2nd, Red Cross Unit, Railway Square, Waterford. 10am - 4pm. All proceeds go directly to Little Nellie's Baby Bank and Waterford Red Cross Christmas Appeal.

Proclaiming God's Word - A time to Reflect: November 25th, 10am - 1pm. Facilitated by Mother Marie Fahy, Abbess - a morning of reflection for Ministers of the Word as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. To book: call 051 874199 Spaces limited.

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