We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners, all new members and guests celebrating with us today.

We are a Catholic Community, rooted in the Trinity, sustained by the Eucharist and the Word of God, called to witness, to serve and to educate.
Dear Friends in Christ,

«Return to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s» (Mt 22:21).

If Jesus' answer would have clearly been against Caesar, the Pharisees might had been able to denounce him; if, on the contrary, Jesus had been in favor of paying the taxes to Caesar, they would have left very pleased with their ruse. But, while not speaking against Caesar, Jesus has relativized his reply: we must return to God what is God’s, and God is the Lord of even the powers of this world.

Someone said: the Church should not “mix up in political life”, but mind only its salvific mission and faith. But this interpretation is totally false, because dealing with God’s matters does not mean to mind only the cult of the Church, but to be also concerned about men, who are God's children, and about man's justice.

Pretending the Church does not move from the sacristy, while being deaf, blind and mute before the moral and human problems and abuses of our time, amounts to stealing from God what belongs to God. Also today and perhaps especially today we must return to God what is God’s.
LITURGY OF THE WORD

The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 God addresses the king in a formal statement, like a royal decree, empowering him to undertake some tasks. What makes this decree extraordinary is that it is addressed to a pagan king, Cyrus, who unknowingly is anointed by God to defeat the enemies of Israel and return the exiles to their homeland.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 96

This psalm celebrates God as the King of Israel.

SECOND READING: 1Thessalonians 1:1-5 For the next five weeks, the second reading will be from Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians. The tone of the book is warm, tender and positive. Paul obviously has great affection for this particular Christian community. In these opening verses, Paul warmly thanks God for the way the Thessalonians are growing in faith, hope and charity. He reminds them that their conversion is due to the power of the Holy Spirit working through him.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-21 Today’s Gospel is the first of four clashes (often called ‘entrapment’ stories) between Jesus and various representatives of Judaism. In today’s Gospel or entrapment story, the Pharisees and the Herodians ask Jesus, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not?” The question is put to Jesus to see whether he would declare himself on the side of the Pharisees who oppose paying taxes to the Romans, or on the side of the Herodians who collaborate with the Romans. If Jesus conceded to the payment of taxes to Caesar, he would lose the esteem of ordinary Jews who very much resent the payment of taxes to the Romans. On the other hand, if he opposed it, he could be accused of instigating rebellion against the Romans. Jesus, aware of the malicious intent of the Pharisees and the Herodians to trick him, and knowing full well that they are not really interested in God or in taxes, asks for a coin: “Show me the coin that pays the census tax.” The fact that there is such a coin shows that they have accepted Roman rule, revealing their hypocrisy. Jesus duly declares that if the coin has Caesar’s image on it, then it belongs to Caesar and they should give it to Caesar.

But Jesus adds something they did not expect. While they are obliged to pay taxes, Jesus tells them that they are to “give to God what belongs to God.” In essence, Jesus is telling them (and us) that there is a kingdom much greater and more important than Caesar’s. Since God made all things, everything belongs to God.

OUR AMERICAN SAINTS

St. Damien of Molokai

1840 – 1889

Feast day May 10

When Joseph de Veuster was born in Tremelo, Belgium, in 1840, few people in Europe had any firsthand knowledge of leprosy, Hansen’s disease. By the time he died at the age of 49, people all over the world knew about this disease because of him. They knew that human compassion could soften the ravages of this disease.

Forced to quit school at age 13 to work on the family farm, Joseph entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary six years later, taking the name of a fourth-century physician and martyr. When his brother Pamphile, a priest in the same congregation, fell ill and was unable to go to the Hawaiian Islands as assigned, Damien quickly volunteered in his place. In May 1864, two months after arriving in his new mission, Damien was ordained a priest in Honolulu and assigned to the island of Hawaii.

In 1873, he went to the Hawaiian government’s leper colony on the island of Moloka‘i, set up seven years earlier. Part of a team of four chaplains taking that assignment for three months each year, Damien soon volunteered to remain permanently, caring for the people’s physical, medical, and spiritual needs. In time, he became their most effective advocate to
obtain promised government support. Soon the settlement had new houses and a new church, school and orphanage. Morale improved considerably. A few years later, he succeeded in getting the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, led by Mother Marianne Cope, to help staff this colony in Kalaupapa.

Damien contracted Hansen’s disease and died of its complications. As requested, he was buried in Kalaupapa, but in 1936 the Belgian government succeeded in having his body moved to Belgium. Part of Damien’s body was returned to his beloved Hawaiian brothers and sisters after his beatification in 1995.

Damien was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2009.

Diapers for Babies

Anyone who has had a child knows how expensive diapers, wipes, and formula have become. The Knights of Columbus would like to remove this obstacle to the choice for life by providing much needed economic assistance.

St. Francis Council K of C will hold a “Diaper Drop” at St. Francis parish to collect diapers, wipes, baby food and formula. We plan on giving these items to The Lighthouse, a pregnancy care center, located on Hamburg Turnpike in Wayne, NJ.

We will start collecting items on October 3rd and finish on November 1st. The month of October being Pro-Life Month.

We would like St. Francis parish to be the surrogate parents to children saved from abortion.

Drop off will be in the church narthex. If you are not attending Church services in-person, call Frank La Sala, FDD-PGK at 973-839-8399 or franklasala@earthlink.net for a pick up.

Just a reminder that there is a box in the narthex for ‘EYES FOR THE NEEDY’. We collect not only old or broken glasses, but also will accept watches, jewelry and hearing aids.

Remember: The eye is the most precious and useful organ of the human body. It is indeed a masterpiece of God’s handywork; let’s help those who need glasses to aid their eyesight.

Thinking of being a member? – log in on: www.kofc.org/joinus

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Wed., 10/28 – K of C Blood drive 1-7pm – church hall

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Jesus is present when His people gather in prayer. In Matthew 18:20 He said, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” So while we are gathered at Mass, we offer up our prayers in the prayers of the faithful, or general intercessions.

You may notice at Mass that there is a pattern in the prayers of the faithful. The Roman Missal says that we should pray first for the needs of the Church, then for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world, for those oppressed by any need, and finally, for the local community. There may also be prayers for the souls of the recently faithful departed.

After the priest gives a brief introduction, the deacon or lector will read each prayer and end with an invitation for the congregation to acknowledge and join the prayer – like “Let us pray to the Lord.” The congregation responds with something like, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

St. Paul encouraged offering up prayers to his friend Timothe, a bishop in the early Church, when he wrote, “First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior.”

LECTORS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2020
5:30 P.M.  Dom Cortellessa

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020
7:30 A.M.  Barbara Garruto
10:00 A.M.  Judy Moran
12 NOON  Mary Avella
Reading for 29th Sunday

Reading 1  IS 45:1, 4-6
Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him, and making kings run in his service, opening doors before him and leaving the gates unbarred: For the sake of Jacob, my servant, of Israel, my chosen one, I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. I am the LORD and there is no other, there is no God besides me. It is I who arm you, though you know me not, so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun people may know that there is none besides me. I am the LORD, there is no other.

Responsorial Psalm
Give the Lord glory and honor.
Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.
R. Give the Lord glory and honor.
For great is the LORD and highly to be praised; awesome is he, beyond all gods. For all the gods of the nations are things of naught, but the LORD made the heavens.
R. Give the Lord glory and honor.
Give to the LORD, you families of nations, give to the LORD glory and praise; give to the LORD the glory due his name! Bring gifts, and enter his courts.
R. Give the Lord glory and honor.
Worship the LORD, in holy attire; tremble before him, all the earth; say among the nations: The LORD is king, he governs the peoples with equity.

Reading 2  1 THES 1:1-5B
Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God, how you were chosen. For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.

Alleluia, Alleluia
Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life.

Gospel  MT 22:15-21
The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"
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."