

MASS INTENTIONS: October 19-25

MONDAY 8:00 AM:

Dick & Ethel Vial
Kid Keller
Bertha Geisler
by Patsye Lunk

SATURDAY 8:00 AM:

Andrew Kerth
by Lillian Wegmann

TUESDAY 8:00 AM:

Peggy Martin
by Lloyd & Curtis Alexander

SATURDAY 5:30 PM:

Edwin & Anita Norris
by Ernest & Shirley Webre
Irby Petit III
Arthur & Gail Fabre
by Randy & Leslie Petit Family

WEDNESDAY 8:00 AM:

Joseph Daigneault
by Jim Breaux

Clair L'Hoste
by Lillian Wegmann

THURSDAY 8:00 AM:

Communion Service
(NO MASS)

Janet Bonvillain
by Sandra Ward

Rena Gassen
by Marjory Robert

FRIDAY 8:00 AM:

Quinsen Matherne
by Randy & Leslie Petit Family

SUNDAY 9:30 AM:

Parishioners of St. Mark

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Dutch Kappel, Dolena Robert, Carol Jones, Sam Granier, Monica Schexnaydre, Audrey Zeringue, Dana Jones, Gay-Lynn Folse, Morris Zeringue, Gaye Webre, Lynell Wipple, Sandra Cortez, Ernest Webre, Diane Triche, Joyce King, Easton Owen, Glenna Smith, Vanessa Johnson, Juli Zeringue, Elsie Sandolph, Larry Landry, Troy Pintado, Kerri Breaux, Hilton Landry, Linda Caminata, Mende Ford, Babette Robert, Haley Dufrene, Ken Oberle, Mabry Laviolette, Connie Lauve

**PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE TO ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYER REQUEST LIST.
ALSO, PLEASE CALL TO REMOVE NAMES FROM THE LIST.**



SANCTUARY LAMP IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

LUKE & ODILE ROBERT

(Oct. 18-24) by Barbara & Charlie Gaubert



SANCTUARY LAMP IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

GAIL FABRE

(Oct. 25-31) by Randy & Leslie Petit Family

ST. MARK'S WEEKEND MASS ATTENDANCE POLICY

WE WELCOME WALK-INS AT WEEKEND MASSES AS LONG AS SAFE-DISTANCE SEATING IS AVAILABLE; HOWEVER, TO GUARANTEE A SEAT, YOU SHOULD CALL THE PARISH OFFICE (504-431-8505) BETWEEN NOON AND 3:00 pm, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

LOVE LIFE AMENDMENT (#1 on the Nov. 3rd ballot)

The Louisiana Catholic Bishops encourage Catholics to vote YES to this constitutional amendment.



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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OCTOBER 18, 2020

The first reading, **Isaiah 45:1, 4-6**, is part of a longer prophetic oration (see Isaiah 44:23-45:8) that proclaims Yahweh as the one and only God, the creator of the universe and controller of history, just as God had used the Babylonians to punish his stubborn people, He now uses Cyrus, King of Persia, to set them free. God, speaking through Isaiah, calls Cyrus His "anointed one" (messiah); Cyrus is the only non-Israelite to be given this title. Even through Cyrus does not know God, God knows him. God allows him to conquer Babylon so that he can release the Jews from their captivity and allow them to return home.

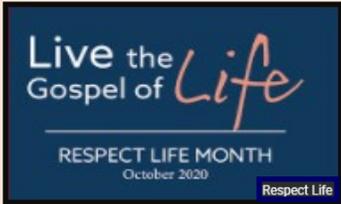
There are two interconnected themes in this passage. The first is God's great love for His Chosen People. In spite of their sinfulness, God never abandons them. With punishments served and lessons learned, God brings them home. The second theme is God's unparalleled, universal power. In this passage, Cyrus, who is a most formidable earthly king, is a mere instrument that God uses to carry out His divine plan. God can use everything and everyone He created to benefit those who love Him.

[Perhaps the Pharisees in today's Gospel should have considered God's power over earthly rulers before trying to entrap Jesus with a question about civil taxes.]

In the Gospel, **Matthew 22:15-21**, the Pharisees and the Herodians, two opposing Jewish sects who usually avoid all contact with one another, have come together to eliminate a common enemy--Jesus. The Pharisees, comprised mostly of lawyers and scholars, are religious purist. They separate themselves from all whom they consider unclean, especially Gentiles, sinners and Jews less observant of the Law than they are. The Pharisees insist on strict and absolute observance of the Law of Moses, and they openly opposed being under Roman rule and having to pay Roman taxes.

Although the Herodians are also Jews, they are willing to make concession and to compromise religious principles in order to stay on good terms with the Roman authorities. They are called Herodians because they follow the example set by Herod the Great who received the appointment of "King" of Judea by promising Rome that he would keep the rebellious Jewish people in line. Most of the Herodians are ambitious, practical businessmen who know that the money and power are controlled by the Romans and will do whatever it takes to stay on their good side. The Herodians openly support the Roman government, willingly pay their taxes and sometimes even socialize with the Romans in return for appointments to the lucrative positions of inspectors, census takers and tax collectors. The fact that these two opposing groups are willing to work together shows that both sides have become very fearful of Jesus' growing popularity.

CONTINUED ON BACK



OCTOBER 18th IS RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

We have the following letter from the Archbishop:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Each October Catholics throughout the United States come together to celebrate Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called each and every day to work for a Culture of Life that respects the dignity of all human life and in a particular way those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life in the womb to natural death. During the month of October, we are asked in a special way to pray and reflect more deeply and take action to support the dignity of every human life.

This year's Respect Life Month theme is inspired by the 25th Anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical, *The Gospel of Life*. The theme 'Live the Gospel of Life,' is an appeal for us to take action and heed St. John Paul II's call to defend the right to life for children in their mother's wombs, those who are sick and close to death, persons with disabilities, the marginalized, and all who are treated unjustly because of race. This call is a relevant today as it was when it was written over two decades ago.

Let us pray that during this Respect Life Month we will be strengthened in our efforts to cherish and protect the gift of every human life from conception to natural death.

Thank you for joining me in your promotion of life and wishing you God's blessings, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Gregory M. Aymond*

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans



ALL SAINTS DAY MEMORIALS:

CANDLE MEMORIALS – Because we do not want to overcrowd the church, St. Mark will **NOT** have the lighting of individual memorial candles for deceased loved ones on All Saints Day this year. **HOWEVER, NEXT YEAR (2021) DURING THE ALL SAINTS MASS, PARISHIONERS WILL BE ABLE TO LIGHT INDIVIDUAL CANDLES FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO DIED DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS (from Nov. 1, 2019 through Nov. 1, 2021.)**



BULLETIN FLOWER MEMORIALS – We are taking the money donated for Easter flowers (before the covid shut down) and using it for All Saints Day flowers. Instead of an Easter Flower Memorial in the bulletin, we will have an All Saints Day bulletin memorial on the weekend of Oct. 31-Nov. 1.



If you did not made a donation, but would like to do so -- put money **and your memorial names** in a labeled envelope and put it either in the weekly collection basket or in the letter slot at the parish office on or before next Sunday, October 25th.



LET US PRAY: That through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, we will be spared damage to life and property during the hurricane season.

Once again, we are very grateful for your protection.

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

A designated box is on the back table for your donations.



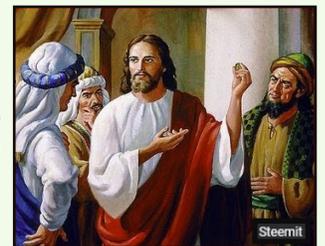
THE PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL:

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell, Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Archbishop Aymond requests that the above prayer be said at the end of all Vigil and Sunday Masses beginning this weekend. **He also asks us to join him in a day of prayer and fasting on Friday, October 23** for the healing of all victims and all who have been hurt by the abuse of minors and the desecration of a Sacred Place.

Reflection continued . . .

After flattering Jesus for his willingness to speak the truth, the Pharisees and Herodians attempt to ensnare Jesus in a no-win situation by asking him a deceptively simple question:



“Is it—or is it not—lawful [according to God] to pay the census tax to Caesar?”

If Jesus says “YES,” the Pharisees would denounce him as a supporter of Rome and turn the crowds against him. For most of Jesus’ followers, the tax is more than a symbol of political and religious oppression; it is a harsh financial burden. If he says, “NO,” the Herodians would denounce him as a rebel and have him arrested for sedition against Rome. The Pharisees and Herodians think that they have set the perfect trap: Jesus will either alienate his followers or be sent to jail. Either way, they expect to win!

Jesus, aware of their evil intentions, refuses to take their bait. Instead he asks for the Roman coin that pays the tax. Without comment on whether or not the tax is lawful, Jesus says that because the coin bears Caesar’s name and image, it belongs to him; thus, he can demand it in repayment. Then Jesus adds that they must repay to God what belongs to Him—a comment implying that the Pharisees should spend less time arguing about the Law and more time fulfilling it by showing love to God and neighbor. The Pharisees and Herodians had tried to silence Jesus, but they are the ones who go away speechless.