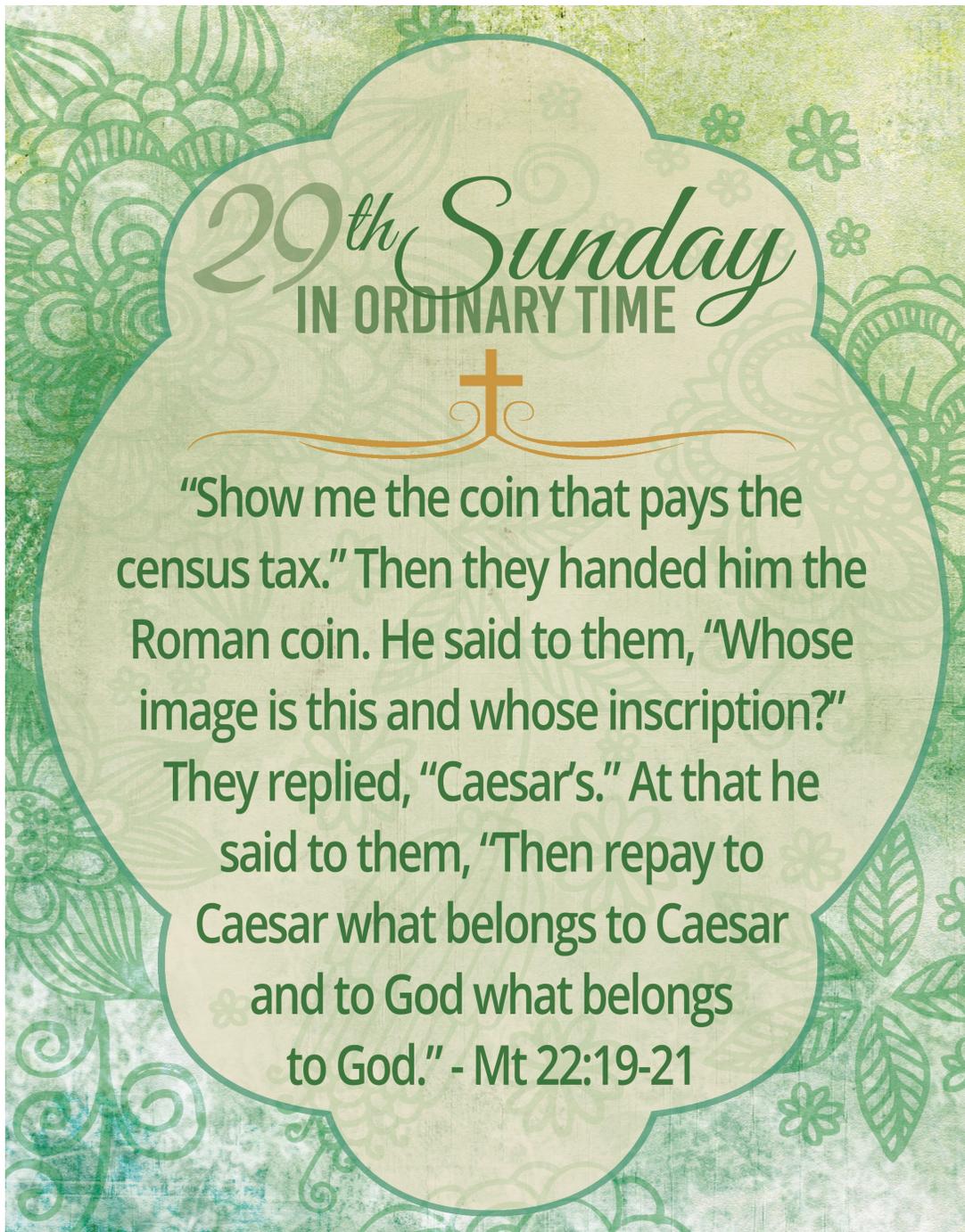


ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH



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DIVINE MERCY SCHOOL—WEST

Phone: 814 539-5315

**Thoughts From a Christian, and a Citizen Too, About the Election
and the State of Our Country**

Today I would like to offer part three of my reflections involving the election and the state of our Country. Let me reiterate; my purpose is simply to offer a reflection on how Jesus might view the bitter divisions we are presently experiencing in our Country. I am NOT going to pick a side – either side. These reflections are meant to be an assertion of values, not a prescription of solutions. My comments will be an attempt on my part to reflect on how I believe Jesus would engage the present situation in our country. Some of you have asked me what would Jesus do? Well, I am going to share my thoughts about that. These are my thoughts on the present situation, and only my thoughts.

By way of review, in part one I stated that Jesus is never the divider, but always the uniter. In part two I asserted the Jesus would be furiously and unconditionally pro-life.

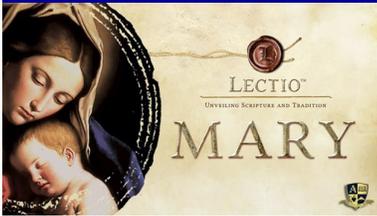
Here in part three, I want to state despite what you might think, God isn't a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent. As the Body of Christ, we include people who are different economically, racially, socially, and ideologically. (Look back at my parable in part one.) God is not a Republican, a Democrat, a Conservative, a Liberal, or a Socialist. God the Father and Jesus transcend all of that. Politics matter but will never change the world; the Gospel can and will ultimately change the world. This makes me wonder why we put so much energy into politics and so little energy into our relationship and commitment to Jesus and the Gospel.

Tim Keller has a simple answer on how Christians fit onto the two-party system. THEY DON'T! The Gospel cannot be reduced to a political platform – neither one!! The Church does not exist to elect or defeat politicians; it exists to proclaim and make the Kingdom. That is where our energy should go!! If God has the same opinions as your political party, you are probably worshipping the wrong God.

Christmas Eve Mass at the War Memorial

Thank you for expressing your thoughts to me and in the survey regarding Christmas Eve Mass at the War Memorial. Questions about parking, handicapped seating, Mass time etc. are details we are addressing. We will keep you posted as things unfold. Again, thanks for your responses, and Merry Christmas!! (Yikes!! Did I just say that!?)

MESSAGE SERIES ON MARY



Our message series on Mary dives deeper into the many titles given to Mary. This week we are studying Mary, the Perpetual Virgin. This topic has led many to have questions about Mary. Mary was a virgin when she conceived Jesus and remained a virgin her entire life. Join us as we continue this journey to understand more about our Blessed Mother.

SMALL GROUP NEWS

All are welcome to join our small groups. It is never too late. Join a small group and get connected to your parish and into your faith. All of us should be questioning along our faith journey. A small group is a perfect forum to ask questions in a friendly setting, hear what others are questioning, and hear the answers others may have. If you are interested in joining a small group, contact Julie Sheehan at 535-1994 or jsheehan1081@gmail.com.

EPIC

Shycon has been a wonderful faith-based experience in our diocese for the last 27 years. The theme this year is "Find us Ready, Lord!" and will be held virtually this year on October 25 from 11-3 pm. The speaker for the day will be Jonathan Jerome, former Campus Minister at UPJ. Currently, the Director of St. Rita Cascia Shrine in Philadelphia, Jonathan is truly gifted with sharing his love of the faith and reaching out to teens.

We ask that this virtual event takes place in the comfort of your home. Teens are welcome to participate with a friend. It is highly recommended that no one participate alone. Faith formation is always best done while sharing with others. If you are interested in signing up, please sign up by Sunday, October 18. Shycon is worth 4 credits toward your Confirmation formation.

Save the Date!! The 11th-grade retreat will be held on Saturday, November 14, from 9 am to 5:00 pm.

Information on the 9th & 10th grade retreats are coming soon!

R.C.I.A.

Are you or someone you know:

- Curious about God and the Catholic faith?
- Been baptized Catholic and want to receive Eucharist and Confirmation?
- Been baptized in another faith but want to become Catholic?

Meetings are starting to begin the process of exploring the Catholic faith. This journey of study and prayer in a warm, friendly, and informal atmosphere is called the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26 at 6 pm.

Join us! Contact Joyce Dailey at jdailey@dioceseaj.org or 535-7646.



Looking for some new music? Check out OMOS Discovery Radio, a new Spotify playlist curated by Dan Becker!

OMOS OUTREACH

OCTOBER 17/18 2020

IT'S NOT JUST FEEDING PEOPLE

Feeding people is an act of sustaining life. Of course, without food, we perish. Our food also provides an opportunity to spread the love of Jesus Christ.

Food brings the teens together to experience Jesus through the Alpha Course. Food is offered through Request a Meal/Make a Meal, where volunteers make meals for those experiencing life's adjustments, such as a new baby, illness, etc. Helping at St. Vincent de Paul provides the opportunity to serve meals to those who do not have the ability to eat a warm meal otherwise.

You provide canned goods and other non-perishables for our food bins. The St. Clements Food Pantry is experiencing a greater need at this time.

Thank you for your dedication and love towards others! For more information on feeding others and additional opportunities, go to omostoday.com, click on the block, *OMOS Outreach*.

Note: The Broken dinner is suspended until further notice as a precaution due to COVID.

[For ideas on how to help, go to omostoday.com](http://omostoday.com)

Stuff the Truck October 24/25

This month we are collecting non-perishable food items for the Laurel Highlands Historical Village. The LHHV has taken on the task of feeding veterans and elderly who are shut in within our communities. During the summer months, collections are held outside Wal-Mart, but with the current events that has been difficult, and they are asking for our help.

Any can goods / Drink mixes / Breakfast items / Rice meals / quick meals / BBQ sauces / Any meats in can / Small kitchen appliances toasters, blender, food processors / kitchen tools / items can be used /Still could use one more table top mixer new or used /Kitchen towels

JOSEPH'S HANDS

We are looking for the people who may not have the financial means or are physically unable to fix/upkeep because of age or health. If you know someone, contact us, and we will work on contacting the person to help with whatever they need.

Go to omostoday.com <https://www.omostoday.com/do-service/>

To let us know if someone needs help or if you would like to join the Joseph's Hands team. **Coming Soon!!**

Our New *CARE MINISTRY*

As a parish we continue to grow in serving others. We want to help you find your path in serving others and to provide help to those going through life's adjustments.

Assistance Ministry

October 24/25 – your green envelope or online donation to help those in need with financial assistance.

WEEKLY & MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Monday, October 19
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
8 a.m.—Mass

Tuesday, October 20
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
7:30 a.m.—Confession
8 a.m.—Mass-at OMOS

Wednesday, October 21
7:00 a.m.—Praise and Worship
4:30 p.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
5:30 p.m.—Confessions
6 p.m.—Mass

Thursday, October 22
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
9 a.m.—School Mass

Friday, October 23
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
8 a.m.—Mass

Saturday, October 24
3 pm—Confessions
4 p.m.—Mass at OMOS
Server: Ayda Dorian & Alexis Smith
Lector: Michelle Petrell
Euch. Min. Michelle Rivetti, Jim Kukura, Tom Simmons

Saturday, October 24
6:00 p.m. —Mass at St. Michaels
Server: Tim Burgess & Lucy Smith
Lector: Mary Ann Rizzuto

Sunday, October 25
8:30 a.m.—Mass at OMOS
Server: Joseph & Ella Nibert
Lector: Dave Milligan
Euch. Min: Rick & Evie Wess, Heather Nibert

Sunday, October 25
11:00—Mass at OMOS
Server: Chase Neumann & Megan Hutton
Lector: Deron Lintz
Euch. Min: Maria Nesmith, Brad Duca, Mary Beth Lintz

12:30 p.m.—Communion outside Mass



Pamela Bach

Sister of Tom & Cherie Bach

Albert Koza

Father of Michele Varner

Our sympathies go out to the families and friends of the deceased.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 17
4:00 p.m. Frances Dorian (Family)
6:00 p.m. Andrew Puniak (wife, Stephany Puniak)

Sunday, October 18- 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 a.m. Edna Martin (Marian Consecration Group)
11:00 a.m. Gladys Keck (Husband, Rudy)

Monday, October 19
8:00 a.m. Charles & Josephine Freidhoff (Cil Peterson)

Tuesday, October 20
8:00 a.m. Helen Machowski (Marty & Carol Malek)

Wednesday, October 21
6:00 p.m. Richard Blaschak (Blaschak Family)

Thursday, October 22
9:00 a.m. Joanne Rovder (Jeff & Karen Wood)

Friday, October 23
8:00 a.m. Anthony Perry (Donna Genovese)

Saturday, October 24
4:00 p.m. Leo O'Connor & Bill Galliker (Polly O'Connor)
6:00 p.m. Patricia Kesslak (Nancy Lill)

Sunday, October 25– 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 a.m. Hazel Johnnie (Tony & Marianne Spada & Family)
11:00 a.m. Philip & Marie Catanese (Ric & Patty Csarak)

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [cf. 2]/Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday: Gal 5:1-6/Ps 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48 [41a]/Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday: Gal 5:18-25/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Lk 11:42-46
Thursday: Eph 1:1-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 [2a]/Lk 11:47-54
Friday: Eph 1:11-14/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13 [12]/Lk 12:1-7
Saturday: Eph 1:15-23/Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-5, 6-7 [7]/Lk 12:8-12
Next Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10 [7b]/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21

ST. MICHAEL'S

St. Michael's is selling Giant Eagle & Sheetz Scrip. Available after Mass and at Riek's Country Store. Hours are Thurs. & Fri. 11 am—4 pm & Sat. 9 am to noon. Call Marissa 243-3674 with questions.