

Prayer Gathering for 29th Week in Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Heaven and Earth... in whom we live and move and have our being,
without whom nothing could have form, nothing could live;
may we give you full access to our mind, our heart and our will,
and place nothing whatsoever between ourselves and you.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."
What in our life "belongs to God?"
How do we repay God what belongs to God?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

"'Show me the coin that pays the census tax.' Then they handed him the Roman coin."
(The Romans regarded Caesar as a God and engraved his image on coins. Both were forbidden to Jews, but the Pharisees had his coin in their pocket, in direct violation of God's Commandments.)
The crowd was trying to entrap Jesus in a sin, though they were unconscious of the seriousness of their own sin. How can we become more conscious of our sins and flaws?

Over the course of your life, how have you best become acquainted with your flaws?

"We are as sick as our secrets." (12 Step Wisdom)

How does knowing one's flaws benefit a person? How do hidden flaws harm us?

LITANY

For the ways our anger flares and consumes our kindness.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the times our pride blinds us to the value of the dissenting view.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the words we utter that don't express the truth.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the occasions when we settled for looking good rather than being good.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the relationships worn down by envy.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the moments we give in to our greed.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the ways we let fear make our decision for us.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the times we indulged beyond our limits.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the people we saw as objects or obstacles.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the opportunities we put off that won't return.

Help us see what we yet have not.

For the wrong that tempts our hearts. For the good we do not do.

Help us see what we yet have not.

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from the book of Psalms:

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.

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 nought,
but the LORD made the heavens.

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.

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.*

Give the Lord glory and honor.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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."*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 22