

Greater than Caesar

October 18, 2020

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

Our faith transcends political candidates or parties. In all circumstances, we are called to offer a witness to Jesus' deep respect for human dignity through our words and our actions.



Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

Asked a tricky question about whether or not to pay taxes to Caesar, Jesus shows the people the coin used to pay the tax, marked with an image of Caesar. He's demonstrating how the tax is part of a human system - one we should participate in, but also one that is beneath the kingdom of God.

As we prepare for a presidential election, it helps to remember how Jesus describes his disciples as in but not of the world (cf. John 17:14). We participate in our political system to help it become more just. At the same time, we do so with a perspective that ensures we always respect the dignity of those who might disagree with us.

Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

I am the Lord and there is no other.

Psalms 96:1,3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

Give the Lord glory and honor.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5B

You were chosen to receive the Gospel.

Matthew 22:15-21

Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlarchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>

At Home with Faith

Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Four ways we can teach our children about becoming faithful citizens:

- **Ask them about what Jesus does in this Gospel reading (Matthew 22:15-21).** Ask if they notice how people wanted Jesus to pick one side or the other in an argument about whether or not to pay the Temple tax. Ask why they think he doesn't pick a side.
- **Tell them that our faith asks us to work for certain good things in society.** Share with them a little about [Catholic Social Teaching](#). See if they think those goals are good goals.
- **Ask them which parts of Catholic Social Teaching are most inspiring to them.** Ask them if they think there are any people who do (or did) a really good job of working for those goals. Maybe share about someone you know that did a good job.
- **Ask "How do you think Jesus would want us to talk to each other when we disagree?"** If you need to offer examples, you could point to how Jesus acted with kindness and patience to people who didn't follow or understand the things he taught: tax collectors, Roman soldiers, and sinners. Invite them to think about how Jesus would want us to treat people with kindness and respond whether or not they agree with us.



Our faith calls us to honor these principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- God gives every person life and dignity that society must respect and defend
- The state should honor the call to family, community and participation
- We must prioritize the care of the poor and vulnerable
- Both rights and responsibilities must be honored in public life
- Our economy must respect the dignity of work and rights of workers
- We are one human family whatever our racial, ethnic, economic or ideological differences
- We must care responsibly for God's creation entrusted to us

Go deeper! Click the links below to find out more about what the Church has to say about how we can participate in public life seeking justice.

[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship \(USCCB\)](#)

[Civilize It! Fostering Civility in Public Discourse \(USCCB\)](#)

[The Washington State Catholic Conference](#)

Finding Calm in the Storm: Practical Ways to Find Peace at Home October 20, 2020 at 7 PM

A webinar on creating a more grounded, peaceful home life.

To learn more and register, visit us online:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlarchdiocese.org/find-calm>