

## The Work of the People

### *The Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The weather has been uncharacteristically warm for this time of year and it certainly has blunted the usual effects of the lack of daylight. It may also be lulling us into a false sense of what awaits us this winter. But no matter what the time of year or the weather, we live always in the presence of God and certainly, as scripture tells us, this is the day of the Lord, let us rejoice in it.

In this Sunday's first reading from the prophet Isaiah, God calls Cyrus as King to lead his people. Together, they will subdue nations and kings will fall in their presence. They will defeat Babylon. Through the actions of Cyrus, people will know Cyrus is God's chosen and that the Lord is God. There are no other gods for people to worship who will protect and safeguard them as God does.

The Second Readings for the next five Sundays before the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, are taken from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, the earliest of his letters. Today's reading is Paul's greeting to the church in Thessalonica. The triad of faith, hope, and love appears in the thanksgiving. The hope that Paul preaches is the hope Christians have of sharing in Christ's Resurrection when he comes again in glory. In the interim, Paul encourages the Thessalonians, and we who live in hope today, to continue in their work of faith, living and spreading the Gospel in the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, the Pharisees, angered by Jesus teaching in the previous parables, go off and plot against Jesus. They crave to trap him in his own teaching to discount his authority. Unwilling to approach Jesus themselves, the Pharisees send their disciples to ask him about the legality of paying tax to Caesar. Jesus calls the bluff of the hypocrites by simply asking to see the Roman coin and having them identify the image on the coin. What is obvious to many, but not the Pharisees and their disciples, Jesus teaches: Caesar's is Caesar's and God's is God's.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Fr. James Wallace, CSsR, who is the director and a member of the preaching team at San Alphonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey.

God has been choosing leaders for God's own purposes from the start. God called Abraham and Sarah as the original first family, then Moses as the first leader, followed by judges (who didn't work out), then kings (who worked out even less). God called a string of prophets to keep the kings in line. Then, as Isaiah tells us today, God went outside the box to work through Cyrus of Persia, a gentile who neither knew nor believed in the God of Israel. Nevertheless, God had a plan, and Cyrus was elected to get a piece of it done. Cyrus, anointed by God. God in the midst of politics, it

seems. So, God cast a vote for Cyrus, once again engaging in politics for Israel's sake.

Jesus was also willing to engage in a political correctness that honored God. The Pharisees hoped to corner him on the tax issue: should a Jew pay taxes to the oppressive Roman Empire? It was a lose-lose situation for Jesus. If "Yes," he would alienate many of his followers looking for freedom from the Romans. If "No," the Roman authorities could move in for advocating rebellion. So, Jesus calls for a coin and his en-trappers supply one, something a Jew should not be carrying since the inscribed image called Caesar divine. "Repay to Caesar what belongs to him"—the coin with Caesar's image. "Repay to God what belongs to God"—the human person stamped with God's image.

"Grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart," we pray in the Collect. In so praying, we ask to be in the midst of the economy of God's salvation, offering ourselves as coinage carrying God's image.

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Eph. 2:1-10/Lk. 12:13-21  
 Tuesday: Eph. 2:12-22/Lk. 12:35-38  
 Wednesday: Eph. 3:2-12/Lk. 12:39-48  
 Thursday: Eph. 3:14-21/Lk. 12:49-53  
 Friday: Eph. 4:1-6/Lk. 12:54-59  
 Saturday: Eph. 4:7-16/Lk. 13:1-9  
 Sunday: Ex. 22:20-26/1 Thes. 1:5c-10/Mt. 22:34-40

*"But I trust in you, O Lord;  
 I say, 'You are my God.'  
 My times are in Your hands; ..."*  
 —Psalm 31:14-15

### **2232 Men**

The fall term of the program is underway at two parishes in the Erie diocese: St. George Parish in Erie and St. Leo Parish in Ridgway. Contact St. George Parish, Brian Sivillo, 904 673-9617 or [brian.sivillo@northwest.com](mailto:brian.sivillo@northwest.com). Program is offered every Thursday evening in the church from 7 - 8:15 pm.

### **MARRIAGE MOMENTS**

What men want: In addition to physical intimacy most husbands want respect. (A man likes his wife to have confidence in what he does.) Husbands also want affirmation - to know that his wife thinks he is the greatest. And finally he needs to know that his wife desires him intimately.

**WORSHIP**

Monday, October 19  
 8:00 am + John E. Auer  
 Tuesday, October 20  
 8:00 am + Gary Parkin (Susan Parkin)  
 Wednesday, October 21  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Richard Baker (Shirley A. Knierman)  
 Thursday, October 22  
 8:00 am + Michael Minutelli (M/M Gerard Adamczyk)  
 Friday, October 23  
 8:00 am + Dorothy Czajka  
 Saturday, October 24  
 4:30 pm + Patrick McCarthy (Maureen Peters)  
 Sunday, October 25  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Robert Brunot (Jim & Fran Peters)  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 12:30 pm + LATIN MASS AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 LouAnn (Roy) Flick (Alan Wolfe)

**CHILD PROTECTION AND  
 CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS**  
Diocesan Code of Conduct

The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The *privilege* is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The *responsibility* is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct. The code is included in the diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*. To read the Code of Conduct, go to: <https://www.eriercd.org/images/sections/childprotection/pdf/CURRENTPolicy.pdf>. For more information, contact Mrs. Cindy Zemcik, in the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children at 814 824-1195.

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Tuesday, October 20  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena  
 Saturday, October 24  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession  
 Sunday, October 25  
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

**Virtual  
RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE**  
 Via  
 Zoom  
 Saturday, October 24  
 9:30 am - 1 pm

Learn about a variety of respect life issues: Consistent Life Ethic, Immigration Justice Racial Justice, Advocacy.

Register by  
 Wednesday, October 21 at  
<https://www.eriercd.org/socialjusticelife/virtualconference.html>

**WANTED:** St. Anthony of Padua is looking for a person who would be interested in cleaning the rectory one day a week for a few hours. Interested? Please call the rectory at 398-4234 between 9 am & 3 pm.  
 Also, St. Bernadette Mission is looking for an interested person to clean the church one day a week. If interested, please call the rectory at 398-4234 between 9 am & 3 pm.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

Jesus was exasperated when he scolded: "Why do you put me to the test?" It is natural for children to test parents; this is how they learn and how we teach limits, rules and values. Be like Jesus in today's gospel; he was firm, honest and direct.

*"Lord, I offer you my gifts.  
 Help me build up your people today."*

*"Jesus, help me to act on what I say I believe."*

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	<b>\$296.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$296.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged: \$5,585 Paid: \$5,485

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,153.00
Maintenance	197.00
Candles	18.00
All Souls	25.00
World Mission	5.00
CSA	<u>211.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,609.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged: \$26,547 Paid: \$25,027

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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