

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

# ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Archdiocese of Seattle



October 22, 2023

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## St. Columban Church

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

**Sunday Mass:** 10:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

**Daily Mass** 9:00 AM *(Tuesday-Friday, Except First Fridays)*

**Eucharistic Adoration** First Fridays 6:30 PM

**Confessions** Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

**Anointing of the Sick** By request

**Baptism & Wedding Preparation**

Contact the Parish Office

## St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

**Sunday Mass** 8:00 AM

First Friday Mass 9:00 AM

**Confessions** Sunday 7:30-7:45 AM

**Anointing of the Sick** By request

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

**Parish Office Hours at St. Columban** Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

**Sacramental Emergencies:** 208-572-5251

**Entrance Antiphon:** *To you I call for you will surely heed me  
O God; turn your ear to me, hear my words. Guard me as the  
apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Give the Lord glory and honor. (Psalm  
96)*

**2nd Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Shine like lights in the world as you  
hold on to the word of life.*

**Gospel:** Matthew 22:15-21

**Communion Antiphon:** *O Lord our Lord, how majestic is  
your name through all the earth!*

On the cover: *The Tribute Money* c. 1612 Peter Paul Rubens (d.1640) Wikimedia.org

[www.saintcolumbanyelm.org](http://www.saintcolumbanyelm.org)

360-458-3031

[parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

# Welcome to St. Columban

## Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

**MONDAY October 23** St. John of Capistrano, Priest  
Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

**TUESDAY October 24** St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop  
Daily Mass 9:00AM Church  
Daughters of Mary Meeting 6:00PM Parish Hall  
Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM Small Hall

**WEDNESDAY October 25**  
Daily Mass 9:00AM Church  
Bible Study 10:00AM St. Peter  
Youth Ministry 6:30 PM Youth Space

**THURSDAY October 26**  
Daily Mass 9:00AM Church  
Choir Practice 6:00PM Church  
Bible Study 6:30PM RE Bldg

**FRIDAY October 27**  
Daily Mass 9:00AM Church

**SATURDAY October 28** Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles  
Youth Ministry Service Saturday 10:00 AM Youth Space  
Confession 3:30PM Church  
Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00PM Int.: Pro Populo Church

**SUNDAY October 29** 30th Sunday in OT  
Confession 7:30-7:45AM St. Peter  
Sunday Mass 8:00 AM Int.: Pro Populo St. Peter

Religious Ed (Grades K-5) 9:00AM-10:15AM RE Bldg  
Confirmation Classes 9:00AM-10:15AM Youth Space

Sunday Mass  
10:30 AM Int.: Pro Populo Church

## Important Dates to Remember

**Wednesday, November 1st** - All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)

9:00AM - Mass at St. Peter Mission  
7:00PM - Mass at St. Columban

**Thursday, November 2nd** - All Souls Day  
9:00AM - Mass at St. Columban

**Thursday, November 23rd** - Thanksgiving Day  
9:00AM - Mass at St. Columban: *You are invited to bring a bread item or a bottled beverage in a decorative basket to be blessed during Mass. Please no perishable items or plastic bags!*

Give Online using Pushpay [pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm](https://pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm)

We proclaim the Roman Catholic faith to the communities of McKenna, Nisqually, Rainier, Roy, Tenino, and Yelm in southeast Thurston and southwest Pierce counties.

Our community has grown since its origins at the former St. Margaret Mary Church in McKenna, and our current church in Yelm is named for the Irish-born 6th century missionary to Europe St. Columbanus of Bobbio. We have also been present in Tenino since 1891 through St. Peter Mission, named for the apostle and first pope.



## New Announcements

The **Parish Annual Letter** is ready and available to read on our website [saintcolumbanyelm.org](https://saintcolumbanyelm.org).

**Thank you** to everyone who gave of their time, talent, and treasure this past year. Donating your time and your talents through volunteering and making your monthly contributions allows all the wonderful programs we have here at St. Columban to continue.

Your support is needed again this year, and with the launch of the **Stewardship campaign** this week, it is now the time to start considering what your pledge for this year will look like. If you have not participated in Parish Stewardship or are new to our parish, we highly encourage you to do so. Every donation, no matter how big or small makes a difference.

**Mass Intentions** may now be requested online through Parishstaq. Log in to your profile and go to **Forms**. Submit your request and make your donation online.

Our **St. Vincent de Paul Society** Ministry would like to thank all those who participated and donated to this year's *Walk for the Poor* which took place on Sunday September 24th, as well as thank our youth for helping stack firewood for those in need. Your efforts help us serve the poor in our community.



## Support Initiative 2081

The Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC), the public policy voice of the five bishops of Washington state, supports Initiative 2081 (I-2081), which would establish a parents' bill of rights for parents of children in public schools. In the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching, families are a central social institution that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. I-2081 strengthens family rights. The full text of I-2081 may be viewed on the WA Secretary of State website [sos.wa.gov](https://sos.wa.gov)



Learn more about signing an I-2081 petition at [wacatholics.org](https://wacatholics.org)

Announcements continue on page 4.

## Connect with us

WEBSITE  
[saintcolumbanyelm.org](https://saintcolumbanyelm.org)

LIVESTREAM  
[youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm](https://youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm)

ONLINE GIVING  
[pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm](https://pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm)

## Parish Staff

Fr. Brian Thompson *Priest Administrator*  
[frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org) x6

Jennifer Langham  
*PA for Admin, Liturgy, & Music*  
[jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org) x1

Matthew Tolar  
*PA for Admin, Bookkeeping & Records*  
[matthew@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:matthew@saintcolumbanyelm.org) x4

360-458-3031

Gabriela Makinster *habla Español*  
*Elementary & Adult Faith Formation,*  
[gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org) x2

Chad Lucero  
*Youth Ministry & Confirmation*  
[chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org) x3

Steven Slater *St. Columban Maintenance*  
[steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

Gilberto Espino *St. Peter Maintenance*  
[gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

## A Word from Father Thompson

One of the worst and most vile fruits of the plague of 2020 was the fear that came to possess so many people (both metaphorically and perhaps even literally; we do have an Enemy, after all). It led people to do so many awful, despicable, and selfish things. Now, I am not speaking of the various levels of reasonable caution about which people of good will could and still can debate the efficacy, or good-faith choices made in light of imperfect information at the time, which we now know to have been faulty or limited or bore unforeseen bad fruit. Rather, I am thinking of the irrational and perhaps even excessive choices, whose fruits were obvious at the time, made for lack of Christian hope and proper perspective. Such choices were driven by a spirit of fear that was decidedly unchristian.



As this fall and winter come, I am seeing continued effects of this spirit of fear, especially as here and there some people return to an almost talismanic use of facemasks; this also gave me reason to note some that even now never ceased wearing them going on nearly four years now (particularly the non-sterile, merely decorative, or improperly worn ones. Those using sealed filters for medical reasons: not you). I am especially soulsick for healthy children and young adults wearing them, as even back at the height of the plague those demographics were by and large never at any real risk. Yet so many young people still cling to them for this or that reason, and so often that reason is an indicator of a still-unaddressed social or mental health impact caused by the plague, or more likely, the lionization and late mandate of some precautions. I especially lament the spirit of fear when I see families or close groups within which only one person is using a facemask, suggesting it is an individual quirk and not a collective effort to confront some objective danger (to the minimal degree non-sterile PPE mitigates such risks anyway). It speaks to me of that spirit of fear having taken up residence deep in that child or young person's psyche, and it is our fault. We did a horrific thing as a society: We sacrificed the education, normal social development, and personal sanity of our and other peoples' children on the altar of adult selfishness and security. Diseases happen, man is mortal, you and I will all die sooner or later: be it the plague, a flu, a cancer, an accident, or just old age. In the last few years we have thought too much about safeguarding the body at all costs, and far too little about what that obsession did to our souls and the souls of others, especially children.

A spirit of fear led many to exceed reasonable precautions or turn demonically vicious against those who were merely taking reasonable precautions or perhaps culpably too few; this was especially abhorrent as the nature and treatment of the plague became better understood. Some of the most totalitarian and psychologically damaging social excesses, and arguably governmental overreaches, were done well after treatments and even vaccines had been discovered. indeed, and this is a whole other matter, at times I at least half-suspect that many of the most unjust "precautions" in later months were attempts to coerce those who, weighing various personal factors, made a rational choice in conscience or self-determination to decline vaccination.

This spirit of fear preyed and still preys on the over-cautious. At the same time, that spirit whispered a different but similar lie to those inclined to be irresponsibly and immorally cavalier or defiant or selfish in disregarding the common good regarding this particular disease at a time when, due to a lack of scientific knowledge, it was rational and morally right to take it seriously. The spirit of fear corrupted good principles of liberty and rights and the value of courage in the face of danger and utilized as rationalizations impressive-sounding but flawed rhetoric or articulation of those principles.

As we know, the virtue of a given human behavior lies at some point between two extremes. For the virtue of Courage, facing of danger in a healthy and rational way, virtue lies somewhere between small-souled cowardice on one side and irresponsible foolhardiness on the other. However, for Courage, it is indeed the case that the virtue lies closer to the end of bearing risk for the sake of other goods than running from risk merely to preserve worldly life, which will one day end.

Now, obviously, I am not advocating a cavalier attitude regarding one's own health or cold-hearted lack of concern for the good of one's neighbor. If you are indeed a person who is uniquely vulnerable to seasonal illness, of course be reasonably cautious, just be careful not to let soul-killing fear rule you. It is not possible, and frankly it is not just or right, to demand or to expect the world be bubble-wrapped for you. Conversely, if you are a more robust person, be courteous of those few people for whom additional precautions are still prudent now that the plague is among the various diseases that spike annually in cold months; while no, it is not possible or right for them to expect a bubble-wrapped universe, it costs you little to be courteous provided their requested accommodations are reasonable. But above all, parents, if your kid is showing impacts from the plague still on his or her mental health, including clinging to the old precautions, I beg you to talk it through with him or her.

In Christ,

*F. Thompson*



*Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sisters and those who have asked for our prayers*

### FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND\*

Vivienne Hayden, Eitan Hadayo, Stan Villadelgado, Robert Fisher, Tom & Kate Randal

### FOR THE DECEASED

All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them

### FOR OUR EXTRAORDINARY INTENTIONS

All those in harm's way, especially those experiencing natural disasters and terrorism.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE POPE FOR OCTOBER

For the Synod: We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR OCTOBER

For our local Church, that all of us may have open minds and open hearts as we listen to one another and prepare for renewal through the Partners in the Gospel process.

That God may grant us the wisdom and courage to lovingly protect His gift of human life at every stage, in sickness and in health

For all of us, called to be missionary disciples, that by our words, our love, and our generosity, we may help spread the good news and the love of Christ to the ends of the earth.

*The church may be open for prayer during office hours upon request.*

\*To add a name to this list or request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office. All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes. St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. To join, contact the parish office.

### Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

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 host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

### Actiones Nostras

Direct all our actions Lord, by your inspiration, and carry them forward by your gracious assistance, that every prayer and work of ours may always begin in you, and so in you be happily ended. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Prayer of Saint Teresa of Ávila

Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.

## Ministries & Events

### Parish Directory

**Altar Society** meets every Thursday after Daily Mass to clean the church.



#### Daughters of Mary

All women of the Parish are invited.  
daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org



#### Knights of Columbus

Council 17152 / Assembly 3947  
kofc@saintcolumbanyelm.org



#### Liturgical Ministries

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

#### Prayer Groups

Rosary Group Mondays 7pm, Church  
Spanish Group Tuesdays 6:30pm, Hall

#### Society of St. Vincent de Paul

svdp@saintcolumbanyelm.org



**St. Peter's Circle** meets at *St. Peter Mission Tenino*



#### St. Columban Parish Pastoral Council

Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf

#### St. Peter Advisory Commission

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston  
stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

#### St. Columban Parish Finance Council

Joseph Judge (St Columban), Mari Evans (St Peter)

### Financial Stewardship Report

Week of October 8, 2023

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection	\$4,256.00	\$1,260.00
(Cash & Envelopes)		
Online Giving	\$1,023.41	\$440.00
Net	(\$520.59)	\$700.00
<b>Second Collection</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
St Vincent DePaul	\$145.00	\$0.00
Sacramentals	\$20.00	\$0.00
(Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)		
Flowers	\$210.98	\$0.00
Building Fund	\$185.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$140.00	\$0.00
Human Development	\$56.00	\$0.00

### Give Online using Pushpay to



Whether you are new to the parish or have been here for many years, we encourage you to share your time, talents and treasures in support of the mission of our parish community. Contact Jennifer Langham at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with a group: 360-458-3031x1 / jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org



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### Announcement Reminders

**St. Peter's Circle** is current conducting their annual sock drive this month. Donation boxes are in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

**Christmas Choir** Yes, it is that time of year again where we are in need of young voices for our Christmas Choir! This is open to all adults and children with their parent's permission. Children are encouraged to come and sing at the Mass on Christmas Eve (7:30PM) and are also invited to sing for the Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Mass as well. Please note that the music for the Midnight Mass will be primarily in Latin.

There will also be an opportunity to participate in the Annual Community Christmas Concert on Sunday December 10th at 7:00PM with the choir from our parish. At least one parent/guardian must be present with any children who wish to participate in this event. However, families and friends are also encouraged to attend as this is a free community sponsored event.

Practices will be held every Thursday starting November 5th at 6:30PM in the Church.

A schedule of practices and detailed information will be sent to you via email. Contact us [parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org) to sign-up.

### Parish Ministries Announcements

**Join the Daughters of Mary** Next Meeting is Tuesday October 24th at 6PM in the Parish Hall. Bring your favorite snack to share!

**Knights of Columbus** Next Assembly Meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6PM, Next Council Meeting Wednesday, Nov. 15, 5:30PM

### Outside Events & Notices

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Retreats:** Nov 15-17 at Holy Rosary Parish, Edmonds, WA. Visit [www.me.org](http://www.me.org) or contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321

**Project Rachel—Hope and Healing After Abortion** English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 [projectrachel@ccsww.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccsww.org) If you are suffering from the experience of an abortion, you do not need to walk alone. We offer a compassionate and confidential environment for those who suffer the effects of an abortion. Find hope and healing after abortion at Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.

### New Parishioners

**Are you registered?** Registration ensures that we know you are here, makes us aware of your needs and gifts, but most of all it helps us to welcome you to the parish! Stop by and introduce yourselves! The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday, 9:30am to 2:00pm or call us for an appointment on Fridays. You may also register online at [saintcolumbanyelm.org/](http://saintcolumbanyelm.org/)

## Faith Formation

### Elementary Religious Education



Today we celebrate the Feast of Pope St John Paul II (The Great).

Pope John Paul II became pope when I was just two years old. One of the things that totally delighted me was that I was able to see him grow old. There is a love that I share for our Senior citizens. Pope John Paul the great as he is sometimes known showed us how to age and accept the sacrifice of aging gracefully and with courage. Your kiddos will come home with a prayer card.

Links from *Catholic Icing* and *Catholic All Year* with ideas of how you can celebrate this great pope as a family may be found on our parish Facebook page [fb.com/saintcolumbanyelm](https://fb.com/saintcolumbanyelm)



Mrs. Makinster

Elementary & Adult Faith Formation,  
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org  
360-458-3031 x2 *habla Español*

At St. Columban, we provide an opportunity for children and youth to learn about their Catholic faith and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and community service.

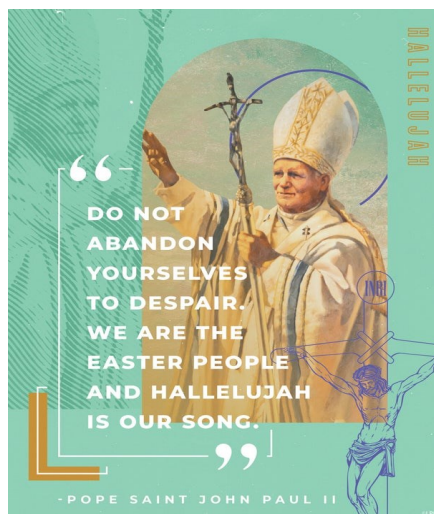


O Almighty and merciful God! Thou gave us a wondrous help and defense in the most holy Virgin Mary. Grant in Thy mercy that, under Her protection, we may struggle confidently throughout our lives and at the moment of death be victorious over our enemy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)/Adult Faith Formation** classes meet Tuesdays 6:30-8pm in the Religious Education building. These classes are open to all adult learners and to those seeking the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Next Class is October 24th, and we will be discussing God the Father. Mr. James Briggs will be our instructor. He will guide us as we begin to see the Creed as a profession of their belief in God the Father as the first Divine person on the Trinity, creator of heaven and earth.



**Confirmation** Both first year and returning second year confirmation candidates meet at 9-10:15am in the new Youth Space on Sundays.

Today we watched Episode 3 of The Search, entitled *Why a God?*. All through human history man has looked to something outside himself for the answers to life. Why have we given up on God? Do we think science has disproven Him? Do we think society is better off without him? Watch the episode on formed at [watch.formed.org/the-search](https://watch.formed.org/the-search)



**Youth Ministry** For all students grades 6-12. Activities, retreats, bible Studies, and social event times vary throughout the year. Additional fees may be required for activities held outside the parish.

**Youth Ministry Wednesday meeting: October 25, 6:30-8pm ALL SAINTS PARTY**, come dressed in your favorite saint or patron saint. Free candy for youth that can also give a quick explanation or presentation about their saint. Also: vespers, potluck, a presentation about the saints, and Night Prayer. RSVP through the link on our youth ministry email.

**Next Youth Ministry Service**

**Saturday:** October 28, 10am-3pm

**HS Youth Convention at St.**

**Michael, Olympia:** Nov. 4

Parents of middle school and high school students! Opt-in for Youth Ministry emails at this link: [saintcolumbanyelm.org/ym](https://saintcolumbanyelm.org/ym) and you will be sent an email to RSVP for upcoming events.



Mr. Lucero

Youth Ministry & Confirmation  
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org  
360-458-3031 x2 x3

#### Our Youth Ministry Values

1. Our primary identity is as beloved sons and beloved daughters of God, no matter what. You are here because God wanted you here. Willing our existence, God create each of us out of love to love and for love.
2. We glorify God by striving to fully live our state in life. God gave us families and communities where we learn our faith, pray for each other's needs, and build virtue together as members of his Church, the Body of Christ.
3. As pilgrims on a journey together we are always on mission. We attend Holy Mass and receive the sacraments to better endure the trials of life, train us to be of service to one another, and to prepare us for eternal life in Heaven.

## Living our Faith

### From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

"It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of *one's country* follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity. Submission to legitimate authorities and service of the common good required citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community. (CCC 2239)



### Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Readings

**First Reading:** *Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him. (Is 45:1)*

God revealed to the Persian King, Cyrus, that he would be an instrument of the Lord, proving that no other gods exist. What convinces you there is only one Lord of the universe?



**Second Reading:** *We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love. (1 Thes 1:2-3)*

In his opening words to the believers in Thessalonica, St. Paul offers a prayer of thanksgiving to God for their faith and hope in Jesus. For what or for who are you thankful to God?

**Gospel:** *"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)*

The religious leaders in Jerusalem tried to "entrap" Jesus with the question, "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" How often do you feel you have to defend your faith?

### This week on FORMED

Our parish pays for a subscription to FORMED.org, a streaming service from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius press. Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and enter our parish name to redeem your FREE membership. Once logged-in, access these suggestions at [watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed](http://watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed)

#### **Pope John Paul II**

Starring Jon Voight and Cary Elwes, this epic film follows Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through his late days on the Chair of St. Peter.

#### **Slaves and Kings: The Story of St. Anthony Mary Claret** (English Audio)

Following the life of St. Anthony Mary Claret—Archbishop, writer, publisher, social reformer, and confessor to the Queen of Spain—this film tells the compelling story of one of Spain's most popular preachers and founder of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

#### **Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism**

This powerful documentary captures how spiritual power can triumph over violence and oppression. Get a new glimpse of history through this film as you learn about John Paul II's intricate role in the collapse of communism.

### Saint of the Week: St. Anthony Mary Claret | October 24

Saint Anthony Mary Claret is also known as the "spiritual father of Cuba." He was born in Salient in Catalonia, Spain, in 1807. He became a weaver, like his father, and was very talented. But he studied in his spare time to become a priest and was ordained in 1835. In 1849 the saint founded the Claretians, a religious institute of missionaries, and a companion order of women religious who served as teachers for girls.

From 1850 to 1857 he served as Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, where he worked diligently to reform both clergy and laity. He opposed concubinage and instructed black slaves, and championed family-owned farms instead of the mass farming of a sugar cash crop. These stances were vehemently opposed by many, and Saint Anthony was the target of assassins.

He was recalled to act as Queen Isabella II's confessor, a duty he reluctantly agreed to, with the exceptions that he would reside away from the court, attending the household only to hear confessions and instruct the children. While in Spain he founded the Religious Publishing House and wrote or published 200 Catholic books and pamphlets. He went into exile to France with the Queen's household during the Spanish Revolution of 1868.

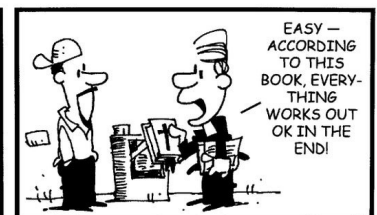
The saint returned to Rome to Participate in Vatican I where he defended the infallibility of the Pope. He died in France in 1870 and was canonized in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.



29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## October is Respect Life Month



### A PERFECT GIFT

#### A Perfect Gift

Soon after the birth of my son Charlie\*, who has Down syndrome, a visitor asked whether he was “mild, moderate, or severe”—referring to his level of cognitive impairment. I knew the terminology, but the question shocked me. In my arms I held my beautiful baby boy, who defied easy categorization. Clinical labels may describe some aspects of an individual’s “functioning,” but they don’t tell the whole story. Labels could not describe how Charlie’s smile lit up a room or how the sweetness of his soul had captured our hearts so completely.

#### Relationship Changes Everything

I have since come to understand that clinical categories also miss another important dimension of personhood: we are created to be in relationship with others. As Pope Saint John Paul II said in his encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*), “Within the family each member is accepted, respected and honoured precisely because he or she is a person; and if any family member is in greater need, the care which he or she receives is all the more intense and attentive.”

Charlie does well because we love him and attend to him out of that love. We make accommodations to compensate for the challenges that arise, and his strengths become more apparent. He plays an integral role in our family’s happiness. For example, he is our most empathetic child—the first to notice and offer comfort when we are hurt.

People often say, “I could never handle a child with a disability.” But the beauty of parenting is that you aren’t given a child with a disability. You are given *your* child with a disability. Your child enters the world in a relationship with you, and that changes everything. You are not called to “handle” a disability. You are called to love a particular person, and caring for him or her grows out of that love. The challenges that come with his diagnosis make up only a small part of life with our wonderful little boy.

#### Stained Glass

I once read an article in which a woman discussed the reasons for aborting her child with Down syndrome. The deal-breaker was watching a boy with Down syndrome at a restaurant with his parents: they had to hand-feed him a slice of pizza and wipe his face with a napkin.

This hit home for me. We weaned Charlie off a feeding tube when he was seven, spoon-feeding him and often wiping his face afterwards. I wonder how many people saw us and decided a life like his isn’t worth living. Had anyone asked, I would have said, “It might look a little crazy from the outside, but he’s an amazing little boy, and it’s a good life.”

It’s like looking at a stained-glass window from the outside: the colors look dark, and you can’t quite make out the figures. From the inside, however, with the sun shining through it, the effect can

be brilliant. From inside our family, love illuminates our life with Charlie. What may seem dreary to others, perhaps even unbearable, is actually filled with beauty and color. We know, for instance, that Charlie worked hard to gain basic feeding skills that most people take for granted, and we are so proud of his valiant efforts.

#### Perfection

Many parents want perfect children, and our culture is obsessed with superficial perfection. Photos are airbrushed, and social media depicts seemingly perfect lives. However, God calls us to seek perfection not in appearance or abilities, but in love.

Christians know what perfect love looks like—Jesus offering himself on the Cross. Love in a family where one member has a serious disability may look unappealing from the outside. Indeed, love in *any* family is messy; there are faces to wipe and sacrifices to make. It’s natural to fear that such sacrifices will require too much, but this is where the deep mystery of sacrificial love becomes apparent.

In our family, we have found that our hearts, rather than being weighed down, have become larger. Caring for Charlie has given us more patience, more compassion, and more love for others—especially those on the outskirts of society, whom Pope Francis so often calls us to care for.

#### A Fundamental Truth

Perhaps this is why so many families of children with disabilities, despite difficulties, often radiate joy. When I meet another parent of a child with Down syndrome, there is usually a moment of instant recognition and understanding. Our eyes meet, and we smile conspiratorially, as if we’re in on the same secret: the fundamental truth that every life is a good and perfect gift.

Many know this on an intellectual level, but those who love someone with a disability see it in their loved one’s face in a particular way. Our love for our children has nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they *are*, and understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone. We also begin to understand our own worth, which depends not on our skills or appearance, but solely on the fact that we are created in the image and likeness of God and loved by Him. Our lives—*all* our lives—are worth living.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

radical  
solidarity



\*Name changed for privacy. The author has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology and has been advocating since the birth of her son Charlie\* for children who are prenatally diagnosed with disabilities. Pope St. John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*) (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), no. 92. Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae* © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted [Excerpted] from *Respect Life Program*, copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved. Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

## 29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God  
what belongs to God." - Mt 22:21

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,  
whose right hand I grasp,  
subduing nations before him. (Is 45:1)

### Psalm:

Give the Lord glory and honor. (Ps 96)

### Second Reading:

We give thanks to God always for all of you,  
remembering you in our prayers,  
unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and  
labor of love. (1 Thes 1:2-3)

### Gospel:

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar  
and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God is greater than this world, and his truth is stronger than all its ideologies. Remember that no matter how we vote, who we agree with or what our background is, we belong to Him alone.

## Observances for the week of October 22, 2023

**Sunday:** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
World Mission Sunday

**Monday:** St. John of Capistrano, Priest

**Tuesday:** St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

**Saturday:** Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

**Next Sunday:** 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the week

Venerable Rafael Cordero y Molina dedicated his life to the free education of children in Puerto Rico. Born into a black family and, thus, barred from the local schools as a child, he established a school committed to inclusion and provided free education for any in need.

## Prayer

Our Lord and God, You instilled in your Servant, Rafael Cordero y Molina, a Puerto Rican layman, an ardent zeal for the integral education of children and a luminous charity toward the poor and helpless. Help me to also respond with the generosity of service to those in need in around me. I ask of You, if it is Your will, that You grant me (my intercession) so that Your servant Rafael is elevated to sainthood.

Amen.

*(Prayer Source: <https://elvisitantepr.com/rafael-cordero-ejemplo-de-humildad-y-servicio/> translation by LPi.)*

## Readings for the week of October 22, 2023

### 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

### Monday:

Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/  
Lk 12:13-21

### Tuesday:

Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a,  
8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38

### Wednesday:

Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/  
Lk 12:39-48

### Thursday:

Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/  
Lk 12:49-53

### Friday:

Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/  
Lk 12:54-59

### Saturday:

Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16

### Next Sunday:

Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 (2)/  
1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

With little more than a year until the United States' national elections, I find myself feeling, like many Catholics, both dread and energized. Dread, because our democratic republic can be a messy endeavor and campaigns a long, nasty, and unedifying slog; energized, because hope for positive societal change can be enticing and engaging. As a pastor, I see similar conflicting attitudes in those whom I serve. How can Catholics best engage our political arena in a way which is truly helpful and worthwhile?

This week's gospel reading offers wisdom in this regard. Jesus says, **"Render therefore to Caesar the things are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."** This riddle forces us to answer for ourselves a hidden question: what is the relationship between political and divine authority? Two common but false answers lead to mischief. If we answer that the two are equivalent, politics becomes our absolute authority. This happens whenever religion is slave to the state, as in the travesty of the pro-Nazi German Christian movement in the 1930s and 40s. It also usually occurs when there is an official state religion. If we answer that the two are totally unrelated, we end up with an unchecked aggressive secularist state as we often experience now. Thus, religion becomes a weak and private pastime.

What's a better alternative? At our best, Christians hold that political authority does indeed have its own legitimate autonomy but is nested within God's all-encompassing authority. Think, for example, of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s respect for politics while also being able to criticize unjust human laws because he recognized a higher heavenly law. In other words, Caesar owns politics — *and God owns Caesar*. So, we should allow Jesus' words to lead us to have a deep respect and willingness to peacefully engage in politics without making that engagement our religion. We bring our faith to bear on our politics knowing confidently that Caesar isn't God — but he is indeed God's.

— *Father John Muir*



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## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### The Tax of Caesar

Too often, I confuse this world with the next.

Every day has its set of problems that need dealing with. Some are very easily discernible as problems of this world: I am tired, and I need a nap and a latte. Some are very obviously problems of eternity: I need to ask for forgiveness, but I'm not ready to admit it.

Most problems are a subtle, maddening mix of the two: my body feels tired, obscuring how tired my soul also feels, while making me very cranky, which is keeping me from asking for the forgiveness I need.

It's not that the nap and the latte *aren't* solutions. Heaven forbid! I would never propose such a thing. Sleep and coffee, I am confident, can fix almost any problem in this world. *This* world.

Too often, I slap a one-size-fits-all earthly band-aid on all my problems and rush on to the next thing. But if the problem is an issue of my soul, I may as well pay for a parking ticket in Monopoly money.

I render unto Caesar, and I forget about what is owed to God. I apply solutions meant for the here and now to problems that have eternal consequences. The spiritual problems are dismissed, shoved to the back of my mind. *For when I have time*, I tell myself. *For when I am ready*.

But the only time we have is now. God is no king of this earth, and he does not ask for a tax offering. He asks for our heart. He doesn't want us for minions but for children.

*"I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not." — Isaiah 45:4*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

### Answer:

This is a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled? If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

“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.” - Mt 22:19-21

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

God revealed to the Persian King, Cyrus, that he would be an instrument of the Lord, proving that no other gods exist. What convinces you there is only one Lord of the universe?

### Second Reading

In his opening words to the believers in Thessalonica, Paul offers a prayer of thanksgiving to God for their faith and hope in Jesus. For what or for who are you thankful to God?

### Gospel Reading

The religious leaders in Jerusalem tried to “entrap” Jesus with the question, “Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” How often do you feel you have to defend your faith?



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# GIVE THE LORD HONOR AND GLORY.



**P S A L M 96**

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“Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” Knowing their malice, Jesus said, “Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? ...Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” - Mt 22:17b-18, 21c

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## Prayer

God, teach me to use money wisely so my community and my church can grow.

## Mission for the Week

Take care of God's world. Together as a family, clean up trash that's lying around in your neighborhood.

## Sharing the Gospel

When you grow up and earn money, you will have to pay taxes. Taxes pay for many good things that keep us safe and healthy. When you grow up in your faith, you will want to give God some of the money you earn, because all you have is a gift from God.

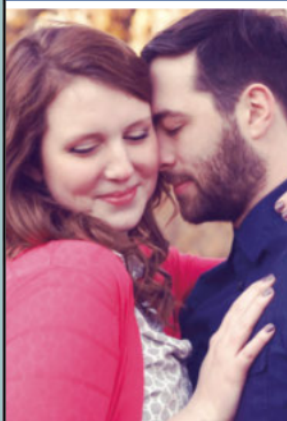
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