

LIVING FAITH

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - October 18, 2026



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



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THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Matthew 22:15-21

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.'

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

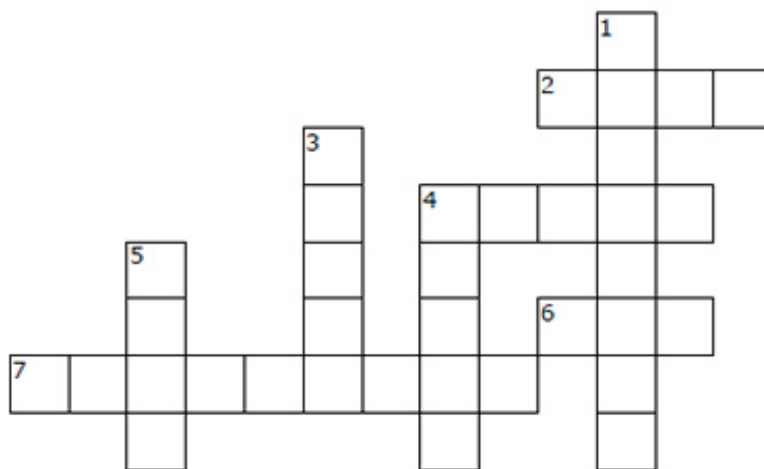
'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' There has been a lot of debate on this Gospel passage. Many people read have understood Jesus in this passage to be making a distinction between two spheres: one sphere relating to Caesar and the matters of this world, and the other sphere relating to God and matters of God's world, with the conclusion that we should recognise and respect what belongs to each sphere. We are to respect the secular, or civil, sphere ("give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's"), and also respect the religious sphere ("Give to God the things that are God's").

The keen reader of this passage will realize that Jesus' answer satisfied those who only listened on the surface, while it raised a more pressing question for the person listening with the ears of faith— For the person of faith, can the secular and the sacred really be separated? The answer, of course, is "no." If we see with eyes of faith, we see all of life through those eyes. Faith colours how we see and how we respond. So, the Christian must give to the emperor, or the state, what must rightfully be given, but what is God's? Everything.

Paying Taxes to Caesar

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21

Based on Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
4. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
6. To give someone money in return for something.
7. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.

DOWN

1. A picture of a person -- usually showing the face.
3. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
4. Money paid to the government.
5. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.

TAXES
TRUTH

TRAP
PAY

PORTRAIT
PHARISEES

PLANS
COIN

World Mission Month 2026



This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday and the 800th anniversary of the entrance into heaven of St. Francis of Assisi. The theme chosen for this year is: “One in Christ, United in Mission”.

World Mission Sunday is the Holy Father’s worldwide celebration of prayer, solidarity and support for the Church’s missionary work. The 100th anniversary, which was established by Pope Pius XI in 1926, is meant to encourage universal support for mission territories and the growth of the Church globally.

World Mission Sunday reminds us that we are all Missionary Disciples. We pray for the missions and spreading God’s Word especially in our homes, schools, neighborhoods and places of work. And as we know in far away lands money is always needed for educating Catechists, renovating Churches, building Medical Clinics and providing for Seminaries. Please support the Missions by donating on World Mission Sunday, October 18, 2026.

Watch Pope Leo’s message about Missionaries [here](#).

Today is the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday and at Pope Leo XIV’s invitation every Catholic community and parish throughout the world is involved in this event. This is a day when we show that we are all missionary disciples who have a role to play in spreading the Gospel message. The financial donation you offer today will assist missionary priests, sisters and catechists throughout the world to spread the Gospel. Thank you for supporting the missions with your prayers and donations.

www.missionsocieties.ca

SAINTS OF CANADA

ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA



Known as the "Lily of the Mohawks", Kateri Tekakwitha was born in 1656 in Ossernenon (today Auriesville, New York) to a Catholic Algonquin mother and a Mohawk Chief. When she was four years old, her parents and brother died of smallpox. Kateri was also affected by the disease, which left her almost blind and badly scarred her face. She was taken in by her aunts and uncle, who was strongly opposed to Christianity.

When she was 10 years old, her village moved to Caughnawaga (today Fonda, New York). In 1667, her village was visited by the Jesuit missionaries Fathers Fremin, Bruyas and Pierron. From them, she received her first knowledge of Christianity. When Kateri turned 18, Father Jacques de Lamberville arrived to take charge of the mission in her village.

We pray: *Dear Saint Kateri, you were filled with faith, spending hours in prayer and making crosses out of twigs even though you were made fun of and received threats for your belief. Intercede for us, so that all Canadian citizens may be gentle witnesses of God's goodness in times of unfairness and see with eyes of faith God's love in all situations. Amen.*

Despite his misgivings, her uncle allowed her to be baptized as long as she remained in the village. Following her Baptism, Kateri lived a pious and faith-filled life, spending hours in prayer and fashioning crosses out of twigs. She also refused to marry, believing that she was married to God and that no man could take God's place in her heart. Her beliefs were met with ridicule, hostility and threats. Thus, two years after her Baptism, she fled to St. Francis Xavier Mission, a Christian Mohawk village in Kahnawake, Quebec.

There, she received her first Communion on Christmas Day 1677. She also made a vow of perpetual virginity on the Feast of the Annunciation in 1679. In Kahnawake, Kateri was known for her faith and holiness. She taught prayers to children, cared for the elderly and the sick, and would often attend mass at sunrise and sunset.

Kateri's health deteriorated in the last years of her life. She died of tuberculosis on April 17, 1680, shortly before her 24th birthday, and was buried at St. Francis Xavier Mission. Her final words were: "Jesos Konoronkwa" ("Jesus, I love you"). Witnesses report that within minutes of her death, the smallpox scars vanished from her face, which then radiated with beauty.

It is believed that since Kateri's death many miracles have been performed through her intercession, with the sick being cured and many prayers being answered. Kateri was declared Venerable by Pope Pius XII on January 3, 1943, and beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980. On December 19, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI signed a decree officially acknowledging another miracle attributed to her intervention. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012, in Rome. She became "the first native North American to be raised to the glory of the altars".

Today, there are a number of shrines and centres dedicated to Kateri in both the United States and Canada, including the National Shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha at the site of her Baptism in Fonda, New York, the Kateri Centre at her burial site at the St. Francis Xavier Mission in Kahnawake, which today is in the Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs at her birthplace in Auriesville, New York.

View this short video about St. Kateri here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-avAU1UVkA