

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 18, 2020**

“The enemy of my enemy is my friend,” goes the well-known saying. The Jewish people would certainly agree in the case of Cyrus the Great. When the Babylonians conquered Judah, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple and drove the Jewish people into exile. When the Persian army defeated the Babylonian army in 539 BC, Cyrus was seen as a savior. Cyrus was able to build an empire because he respected the traditions and customs of the defeated peoples, including their religious practices. Therefore, he allowed the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem and worship freely. The freedom Cyrus allowed his subjects became a model for leaders and governments for millennia. The Jewish people at the time did not have the power to defeat their oppressors, so they needed the strength of their enemy’s enemy. Believing God to be behind all things, they concluded that Cyrus’s power – and benevolence – must come from God.

Scripture scholars tell us that Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians was probably written earlier than any other book of the New Testament, just twenty years after Jesus’ death and resurrection. Today we hear its initial verses. In the very first verse, Paul refers to that community as a church. It is a forerunner of what has become the Church, Christian community of thousands of dioceses, hundreds of thousands of parishes, and over a billion people.

“Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God,” was a wise response by Jesus to the Pharisees who sought to entrap him (Matthew 22:21). It also provides a wise perspective to us today. What belongs to our Caesars? For that matter, what belongs to us? We are all just temporary caretakers of all that we have. In the entire history of humankind, we occupy a relatively infinitesimal amount of time and space. All that we own, all that we earn, all that we have, is just rented to us. We surrender it all when we die. So what belongs to God? All comes from God and all goes to God, so ultimately all things belong to God.

**Question of the Week**

When I am reminded that everything is a gift from God, how do I respond? Do I fudge on what belongs to God as many fudge on what they owe to Caesar?



**Saturday, October 17, 2020**

**Vigil Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**8:30a.m.** Tu Tran – Darrell & Bruce Gabriel – Elodie Gabriel – Stephen S. Johnson III – Rita Whitehead – David Romain Ramie, Sr. – Estelle Lear – Joseph Steaes – Gwendolyn Bienvenue

**Sunday, October 18, 2020**

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**8:30a.m.** Tu Tran – Darrell & Bruce Gabriel – Elodie Gabriel – Earthy B. Lazard – Walter Banks, III – Melvina Kepp – Freddie Thomas – Betty Cates – Msgr. Gauthreaux – Calvin Tate, Sr. – Jerome Lomba, Sr. – Cheryl Napoleon  
**10:30a.m.** Lordeas Glapion Nix – Beatrice

Pace – Lamar and Shirley Smith – Evelyn Ford – Gloria B. Lewis

**12:00p.m.** Msgr. Earl Gauthreaux – Intentions of St. Maria Goretti Parishioners

**Monday, October 19, 2020**

**8:30a.m.** Mr. & Mrs. Charles Winshell, Sr. – Msgr. Earl Gauthreaux – Tu Tran – Intentions of Stacy Martin – Calvin Tate, Jr.

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

**8:30a.m.** Tu Tran – Msgr. Earl Gauthreaux – Intentions of Stacey Martin

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

**8:30a.m.** Tu Tran – Msgr. Earl Gauthreaux – Intentions of Henry Martin

**Thursday, October 22, 2020**

**8:30a.m.** Tu Tran – Msgr. Gauthreaux – Intentions of Calvin Tate, Jr. – Kimberly Brown

**Friday, October 23, 2020**

**8:30a.m.** Tu Tran – Msgr. Earl Gauthreaux – Intentions of Henry Martin

**Saturday, October 24, 2020**

**8:30a.m.** The living and deceased members of the Catholic Negro American Mission.

### Announcements

Please remember to sign up for Mass prior to arriving at Church. You may call the parish office to sign up or you can find the link on our website and on the parish Facebook page. Sign –up for the desired Mass the day before for weekday Masses and by 12:00p.m. (noon) on Saturday for all weekend Masses.

### Religious Education

Due to Covid-19 the parish leadership is reviewing options for Religious Education. Once a final decision has been made we will communicate with all our families. Families that have students for First communion or Confirmation should notify the parish by email at [stmariagoretti@smgnola.com](mailto:stmariagoretti@smgnola.com). We will have Sacramental prep information specific to you soon.

### Census Deadline

The deadline to fill out your census has been extended to October 31st. Our response ensure federal funding for infrastructure, services and determines our representation. We have to participate in the most important opportunity. So, if you have not done so already, please fill out your census.

### Bible Study

Each week Deacon Terrel offers Bible Study to help open the word of God. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. The login information can be found on the parish website.



### **Sanctuary Lamp**

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Church for this week will burn in memory of Calvin Tate Sr. The Sanctuary Lamps in the Chapel this week will burn for the intentions of Marilyn DeGrasse and Philip & Enjoli Parson.

### **Prayer for Hurricane Season**

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former quietude. You are still the Master of the land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade the land and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to you, O Loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our Beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your son in our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach heavenly Jerusalem where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. – Corinthians 9:11

**October**  
**Respect Life Month**