



# Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

October 19, 2008

## St. Mary of the Desert Notices

### Ministry Schedule



	Sat., Oct. 25 6:00 PM	Sun., Oct. 26 10:30 AM	Sun., Oct. 26 12:15 PM
Lectors:	John Facey Nellie Focht	Beth Robinson James McCaffrey	RosaMarie Portillo Lula Olmos
Masters of Ceremony:	John Hricko	Jeff Robinson	Manuel Ceron
E. M.'s	Joanne Mount Margarite Lite	Brian Moss Anna McFarland	Florencio Lucero Lily Lucero
Ushers:	Bill Snyder	Vern Birgenheir	Victor Olmos
Servers:	Team 2	Team 4	

### Mass Intentions

Sat.	10/18 6 PM	Parish Staff
Sun.	10/19 10:30 AM	† Fedila Ocampo Baldemor
"	10/19 12:15 PM	CCD Instructors/Substitutes
Tue.	10/21 8 AM	† Debbie Doyle by Ms. Stratman
Wed.	10/22 8 AM	Jaide Tiu – Birthday by Mrs. Corre
Thur.	10/23 8 AM	Joseph Pablo by Mary Pablo
Fri.	10/24 8 AM	Jeff Robinson by Beth Robinson
Sat.	10/25 6 PM	† Norma Davis by Ms. Corazon
Sun.	10/26 10:30 AM	Dean & Betty Zeigler by Ms. Stratman
"	10/26 12:15 PM	Parish Choir

### Retreats and Conferences

#### *Vocation Retreat Day for Young Women*

On Sunday, October 26, 2008 from 9:00 am- 4:00 pm a special retreat for young women will be at the Nazareth House, 2121 North First St., Fresno, CA 93730. Please call Sister Marie McComack: 550-237-2257 or 310-216-8170 for reservations.

#### *Marriage Encounter*

Holidays increases family stress. Learn to communicate more effectively with your spouse. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is 44 hrs. where married couples focus only on each other. Our next weekend is November 21-23. To receive more information call Vic & Penacho at 831-638-9408 or visit them online at [www.wwme-centralca.org](http://www.wwme-centralca.org)

#### *Pauline Year Jubilee Pilgrimage*

2000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "The Birth of Saint Paul Rome+ Vatican City + Papal Audience." The Pauline Pilgrimages Schedules for 2009 are: February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 7<sup>th</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. All inclusive land-air travel packages of 8 days start at \$2150.00. For more information and registration call 1-800-908-2378 or Fax 1-888-647-2378 or email [info@bestcatholic.com](mailto:info@bestcatholic.com)

#### *Please Pray for the Sick*

Jonathan Barnum, Dean & Betty Ziegler, Grace Sanchez, Anthony Langsine, Maggie Ponting, Maggie and Douglas Hopkins, Mike Nehl, Gloria Barr, Teresa Hernandez, Roy Gallagher, Florence Stratman, Joe Britt, John Klay, Heriberto Villegas, Queenie Fernandes, John Lite, Ben Canaday, Ethan and Saige Funk, Martha Perry, Shelly Bryant, Joe Gonzales, Kristian Silva, Al Charlberg, Kathleen Lindstron, Carol Caniete, Marcos Avina, Christopher Avina, Dennis Focht, Autumn Ginn, Shirley Adam, Erwin Stratman, Sandy Hamman, Darlene Fletcher, Lucy Carreño, James Smith, Joshua Borne, Frances Branham, Peggy & Randy Medford, Ray Baxter, Diane Muzach, Maribel Scoglio and all those in need of prayer. Please call the office to submit or remove a name.

#### *Thought of the Week*

*He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*



## St. Paul Teaching's

In celebration of the year of St. Paul, Fr. Patrick will be conducting special classes so that we may have a better understanding of the church's Pauline year. All are welcome in the Parish Hall in Rosamond on Tuesdays at 10 AM and again at 7 PM. Then on Thursdays in Mojave's classroom next to the Parish Office, the teachings will be at 10 AM and 7 PM. Any changes will be announced in the bulletin.

## CCD Students/Parents

*Parents: In order to keep our students safe and secure it will be necessary for all students to either continue their class by going to the 6 PM Mass on Saturday or be picked up no later than 5:45 PM if attending Mass on Sunday. In the parking lot there are no teachers/adults available to supervise students. If unable to pick up your child(ren) they will be escorted to Mass with their class. Thank you – John Hricko, DRE*

## Ministry Training and Installation

*Lectors training will be Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in Mojave and then at 3:00 PM in Rosamond. Installation will be at the 8:00 AM Mass in Mojave on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and then at the 10:30 am Mass in Rosamond.*

## Second Collection World Mission Sunday

This Sunday our second collection will be for World Mission Sunday. World Mission Sunday is an occasion not only to offer prayer and personal sacrifice for the Church's mission to the nations but also to nurture the missionary spirit of all parishioners.

## Bishop's Annual Appeal

*The 2008-2009 Bishop's Annual Appeal has begun. This is an invitation for our parish to join the 86 other parishes of the diocese in working together to meet the needs of our*

*diocesan family. The theme this 2008-2009 year is "Our Vision for the Future" with funding targeted for the many ministries within the diocese, several of which directly benefit our parish. These include seminarians and vocations, catechetics, youth and family life ministries, the school of ministry and Catholic Charities. Our target amount for St. Mary's is \$3,660.*

## Knights of Columbus

Please come and join us every second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 7:00 PM in St. Mary's Hall. For information call Grand Knight, Nick Whalen at 256-3063 or (661) 209-2564.



## Youth Group

<http://www.ekksialifeteen.coms>  
Next meeting – Oct. 20 in Mojave.

## Hospitality Ministry

Steve and Regina Lightner (256-7651) will care for the "Visiting Homebound/ Nursing Homes.

Al and Mary Ann Charlberg (256-3946) chair "Greeting New Parishioners".

Jeannine Charbonneau (256-7579) is chairing our "Sending out Cards".

Please call and inform them of anyone that is in need.

Volunteers are still needed for various chairs. If interested please contact Marcie at 256-4599.

## A Prayer Campaign

*A special prayer campaign has been set up on this website ([www.prayer-campaign.org](http://www.prayer-campaign.org)) that invites you to pray along with others between now and Election Day, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The prayer asks that God's people will be active in the electoral process and be guided in their decisions by their commitment to Christ.*

## All Saints Day Potluck

A potluck is being planned as a social get-together for both parishes on Nov. 1, after the St. Mary's 6 PM Mass in the Parish

Hall. We're encouraging adults and children to dress as their favorite Saint. Prizes will be awarded to the best dressed in divisions of adults, ages 8-16 and ages 0-7. Please a dish to share with ten others based on the first letter of your last name.

A-F- a meat dish/ main dish

G-L- a vegetable/side dish

M-R- a dessert

S-Z- drink (soda, bottled water, ice tea etc)

Coffee will be provided by the church

For more information please contact Marci 256-4599.

## New Parishioners

For all newly registered parishioners your box of offertory envelopes are available for pickup, after both Sunday Masses, in the Gift Store located inside the Parish Hall. Our new 2009 envelopes will be arriving soon and all remaining boxes not picked up, those parishioners will not be reassigned.

## Magnificat

The Antelope Valley Magnificat Chapter will hold their next breakfast buffet on Saturday November 22, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Hellenic Center, 43404 30<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, Mother Rgina confirm your reservation. Mail checks to Anne Trabold 1761 West Avenue H-5, Lancaster, CA 93534 postmarked by November 10. Late reservation \$25.00. To receive a flyer, or for other information, please call Rita at (661) 943-6402,

## "Attention Parishioners"

Parishioners who are in a Ministry or has any contact with anyone under the age of 18 must be Life Scan along with Safe

Environment. Please contact John Hricko or Tami Kelley.

## Offerings from Sunday, October 12, 2008

Parish Contributions: \$2,422.65  
Number of Envelopes Used: 144  
Registered Parishioners: 355



### Pastor's Corner

The Gospel passage of rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's is so familiar that we might have lost a sense of its implications. This proverb is just as important today as it was for the first Christians, though we might not clearly understand what it means for us.

It has become popular for churches to build athletic facilities that often rival private athletic clubs. The owner of one such private club approached his pastor. His church was building an athletic facility and intended to sell memberships to anyone who would like to use it, regardless of whether or not the person was member of the church. Primarily because the church is exempt from paying taxes, the membership fee for the church's athletic facility would be significantly lower than that of the private club.

The Church member who owned the private club had began to feel a pinch from other churches opening their own facilities, and now his own church was doing the same. He complained to the pastor and said he saw a justice issue. His private club had to pay all kinds of taxes, which the church was exempt from all of these. If the member went to court to claim that the church was running a business that had nothing to do with its religious purpose and that it should be taxed, and even possibly have to close. The pastor agreed with

member that this was a justice issue, but neither knew how to proceed.

Just as our coins have the image of a president, the coin in question in the Gospel this weekend (a denarius) had on it the image of Caesar, along with the words, "Tiberius Caesar, majestic son of the majestic god, and high priest." It effectively stated that Caesar was a god. This was blasphemy for the Jews. The insult was deepened by the particular tax in question, a poll tax that everyone lived under Roman rule had to pay. This tax was sent directly to Rome and was never used for the benefit of the local populace. It was a painful reminder that the Jews lived in and occupied country under the rule of a foreign nation.

The Pharisees strongly objected to paying the tax. They did get around using the blasphemous coins by exchanging them for their own coins for use among themselves and especially for use within the Temple, thus the "money changers." The Herodians, also Jews though the best way to ensure peace was to pay the tax. The Zealots refused to pay. None of these groups got along.

Our Gospel translation says that the Pharisees wanted to "entrap" Jesus. The word used by Matthew is specific work used only in the whole New Testament. It is a term used in hunting. We can use "entrap" or "ensnare," but we must see that this really trap Jesus into taking sides on the payment of taxes, they could effectively end His preaching career.

Jesus was a master of rabbinical debate and, as we know, He won the day, but the proverb is more than a retort to a debate. It is an axiom, a Gospel teaching, a commandment. We tend to think exclusively in terms of money, of how many we need to pay in taxes or how much we should be giving to the church. This was not concept in Jesus' day because this was not a fully monetary society.

Jesus had far more than more than coins in mind when He said we must "repay" to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

The important work is "repay." We have been given something, and justice demands that we must give something back. From our government we have something, as noble these things, we simply cannot take without giving back.

What we often miss - - or too often ignore- - is that we are also "repay" God. We pay our taxes because the consequences of not paying them involves sever penalties, interest, and possibly even jail. When it comes to God, though, there is no sword at our back. We either "repay" God or we do not. Paying taxes is not a test of character because of the punishment s attached if we do not pay.



Repaying God however is a test of our spiritual character. We either treat God with love and respect or we do not.

As Churches delve into the world of private business and either fairly or unfairly are exempt from taxes, the issue for us today is whether we are "repaying unto God," or if instead, we are "repaying unto me."

