



# Small Groups

Parish Community of Saint Helen

**Sunday, October 22, 2023**

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Stirring the Soul: Facing Jesus' Challenging Calls with Hope**

**Week 3 ~ Repay What Belongs to God**

**Opening Song** [We Belong To You](#)

## Opening Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven  
hallowed by Thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## Gospel

Mt 22:15-21

The Pharisees went off  
and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech.  
They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying,  
"Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man  
and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.  
And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion,  
for you do not regard a person's status.

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Tell us, then, what is your opinion:  
Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"  
Knowing their malice, Jesus said,  
"Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?  
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."

**Reflection Video:** [Weekend Homily](#)

## Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus mean by his answer "Then pay to Caesar what belongs to God, and to God what belongs to God?"
2. What Jesus' is teaching about the relationship of church and state? Which obligation is primary? Why?
3. In your life what belongs to Caesar? To God? How well do you give to each?

## Closing Prayer

Ask for the group intentions ~ *Lord hear our prayer* after each  
Please keep in your prayers this month Pope Francis and all those gathering in Rome for the Synod. This prayer is from Pope Francis' opening address in October 2021:

*Come, Holy Spirit!*

*You inspire new tongues and place words of life on our lips:  
keep us from becoming a "museum Church", beautiful but mute,  
with much past and little future.*

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*Come among us,  
so that in this synodal experience we will not lose our enthusiasm,  
dilute the power of prophecy,  
or descend into useless and unproductive discussions.  
Come, Spirit of love, open our hearts to hear your voice!  
Come, Holy Spirit of holiness, renew the holy and faithful People of  
God!  
Come, Creator Spirit, renew the face of the earth! Amen.*

## **Closing Reflection Song**

### **[The Petition](#)**