

FAITH FORMATION RESOURCE GUIDE

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH, CLEVELAND



MORE ON WHY THIS TOOL NOW?

Laura Fibbi's Breaking Open the Word sessions on Sunday mornings are excellent! This resource supplements the great discussions happening there and isn't meant to compete with or replace that group.

We offer other options because the time frame for those sessions doesn't work for everyone. Small groups are thriving spaces for many learners but can intimidate others. These pages let you strike up a conversation if it helps, or reflect and act on your own.

In addition, our parish demographics indicate more grandparents than parents with younger children. There is a place for all of us. This resource offers material for all who share the faith outside the traditional "textbook" model.

It is also intended to help expand the horizons of discipleship. The action ideas are accessible activities. If you find yourself in a rut, try a different way to share the Good News this week.



SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101826.cfm>

Spirituality of the Readings—John Foley, S.J.

"...What if, in spite of the voices within you saying that you are not worth much, in spite of the setbacks of life, the losses, the flatness, in spite of all these, what if God created you with room inside you where God, out of love for you, can be quietly present?"

I can hear objections to such an idea: "God would never be at home in me, not until I do a lot better with my life." Or, "You want me to be some kind of nut, running around acting holy?" Or, "Sure, I want to let God in, but I like beer and TV too much." Or, "What does all this have to do with real life?" Or simply, "I don't want to."

But if God were a great friend, a loving, faithful amigo who really does want to be with you, within you, as much as is possible? In fact, how would it be if God were a companion who truly and actually accepts you and forgives you completely whenever you need it? Wouldn't this give you another way to look at the connection between heaven and at earth?

Wouldn't it mean that God put you and me into the world to be holy in it, to be friends with the things of Caesar? To work in the world of sin in spite of our own sins?..."

Question of the Week

What belongs to God?

The Merriam-Webster dictionary offers the following: **"Belong** is an intransitive verb meaning to be in a proper or suitable place, to feel accepted in a situation, or to be the property of someone or something."

This week's insights hinge on which definition you use. Do you see belonging as appropriate behavior, acceptance or as ownership?

All three approaches are valid ways to answer the question. Do I act in a manner that

coincides with God's plan? Do I feel loved by God and part of God's success story for the world? Do I see God as a controller with demanding expectations?

Jesus is not responding to the Pharisees and the Herodians directly. Rather, his vague answer puts the responsibility for their actions in their own hands. As with us: To know what is God's, we must seek to know God. Can we grow in our relationships with God this week?

ACTION IDEAS

For individuals:

Increase the time you spend in prayer this week. If your prayer pattern is always the same, mix it up... try reading Scripture or doing Lectio Divina, praying the rosary, or finding a spiritual podcast to listen to God speak to you.

For Couples

Where does God fit into your relationship? Do you pursue a spiritual life as your own thing or as a journey that you travel together?

Family Focus

Talk about ways to deal with being upset about something or someone without getting angry.

Evangelizing

Show/tell someone how they are making a positive contribution to your life or the greater world. Don't presume that self-worth is obvious to everyone.

Make a Change

Take time to prepare to cast your ballot in the upcoming election, and be sure to vote.

Crossing Generations

Ask a non-peer about his/her spiritual journey and share yours. Remember, this is an exercise in understanding each other, not criticism or conversion.

Do It!

Tomorrow I am going to....DO IT TODAY!



CONNECT TO PFLAUM GOSPEL WEEKLIES

Please let Terri know if how to connect you with the publication for the age(s) of the child(ren) you are forming. It is filled with additional material that engages the child appropriately for the age group.

Learn more at

<https://www.gospelweeklies.com/weeklies-revised-reimagined/> or catch this 15-minute video on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=973zn4LJUco&t=15s>. Lots of other free resources, like teaching guides and activity suggestions, are available when you subscribe.

If you need help, ask! This type of program has been successful at pairing formators with non-relatives. A "church grandma" can link to a single-parent's child and be a teacher, support person or prayer partner. Singles who love children can share their faith first hand.

This program is in design mode to meet your needs. Send ideas to tpastura@blessedtrinitycleveland.org or drop a note in the parish office. Meetings can be easily arranged if desired.

Let us Grow in Faith Together (GIFT)!



"This Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 22:15–21 Nobody likes to pay taxes. That was as true for people in Jesus' time as it is today. The Pharisees tried to get Jesus to take sides about the taxes the Jews paid to the Romans who occupied their land. Jesus asked to see the coin used to pay taxes, and someone in the group gave him one to examine. Jesus asked whose image was on the coin. They told him it was Caesar's image. Jesus then uttered the now famous line: "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." This principle teaches us all how to obey both civil and religious laws and asks us to take a good look at where our first allegiance lies when the laws are in conflict." (The Gospel at Home, copyright © 2026 Pflaum Publishing Group, a division of Bayard, Inc.)

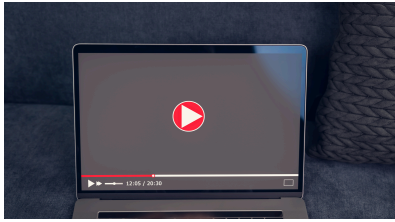
SEEDS (Pre-school): Talk about being loved. Explore how the child feels God's love daily.

PROMISE (K-grade 1): Just as the child is an important part of your family, help him/her to understand being a part of the Church family.

GOOD NEWS (Grades 2 and 3): Rules provide structure. Discuss the rules that help protect us. God's commandments are those kind of rules.

VENTURE (Grades 4 through 6): What does being a citizen of God's Kingdom require of me? Even at this age, these children contribute to spreading the Gospel and living as witnessing disciples. Help them to notice.

VISIONS (Grades 7 through 9): How do you spend your allowance? Do you support activities that are God's work? Or consider the use of your time...do you get involved only in activities that benefit you personally or do you reach out to others?



KIDS VIDEO LINKS

[The Bible Bag](#) (Gospel lesson for young children)
[Lesson and Saint of the Week](#)
[Holy Heroes Gospel Video](#)

[Children's Liturgy | Redemptorist Publications](#)
[Saducees and Pharisees](#)

[29th Sunday of Ordinary Time](#) All readings - Diocese of Bridgeport

[Lesson and Activities](#) Diocese of Bridgeport
[Gospel Weekly Coloring Page](#)
[Songs and Fingerplays for Young Children](#) Pflaum Publications
[Sunday Connection](#) Loyola Press (Age Groups and Family Activities)
[The Kids Bulletin](#)

[Sunday Reflections St. Louis University Initiatives:](#) Refelctions, Challenges, Social Justice from these contributors and more John Foley, S.J., Larry Gillick, S.J., Anne Osdieck, Ron Rohlheiser, OMI, John Pilch, John Kavanaugh, S.J.

[Theologian's Corner](#) Global Sisters Report

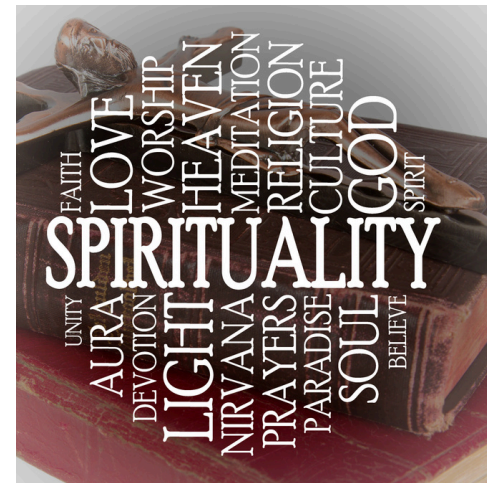
[In God We Trust](#) Life Teen

[Center for Action and Contemplation Podcasts](#)
[Center for Action and Contemplation Daily Meditations](#)

[Vatican Website](#)
[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)



QR CODE TO
CATHOLIC MOM
MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITY AND SPIRITUALITY LINKS



MUSIC AND VIDEO LINKS

[Turn to Me](#) John Foley, S.J. (2:56)
[I Will Choose Christ](#) Tom Booth (4:30)
[Shine](#) Mandissa (3:24)
[A Soul on Fire](#) Matt Maher (3:41)