



# Christ in Our Neighborhood

## Prayer

Loving Father,  
help us to be instruments of Your will on earth. For the times  
we disrupt Your will, we ask forgiveness. Let us see your  
hand in our lives each day. Make us Your instruments.  
Amen.

## Commentary

### 1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Over these next four weeks, we will go all  
in!

This segment of Sundays will help us to  
discern what it means to follow the Lord in  
very deep and profound ways.

On this World Mission Sunday and  
throughout this series, we will focus on the beauty of  
vocations to the priesthood, religious and consecrated life.  
The last week in the series is dedicated to the vocation of  
married life.

On World Mission Sunday, we remember the wonderful  
missionaries who are dedicated to sharing the Gospel in all  
parts of the world. As far as the sun extends, dedicated  
men and women go out to share the Good News in word and  
deed.

Of course, these missionaries take their marching orders from  
God Himself.

Our first reading recalls how God set up King Cyrus of Persia  
to be His instrument to lead the people of Israel back home.  
This was God's way of saying, "I'm in charge of the salvation  
of My people Israel." As the reading states, "From the rising  
of the sun to its setting," God is in charge. From the rising of  
the sun to its setting," God continues to send missionaries to  
the ends of the Earth and to show His glory to all nations.

## Question

In what way is God using you as an instrument?

## Commentary

### 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Our vocation comes from God. St Paul knew this when he  
spoke to the Thessalonians.

In his letter, Paul first gives thanks to God for the servants there  
in Thessalonica.

With these words of thanksgiving, Paul  
acknowledges that God is in charge and that all  
good things come from the Lord. Even the  
missionary efforts of our Church today begin  
with God. We are simply instruments of His  
grace to dispense grace and mercy to the ends of  
the Earth.

To reaffirm this thought, Paul reminds the  
Thessalonians that they received the Gospel not  
just by Paul's words, but first by the power of

the Holy Spirit who was with them. Indeed! All good things  
proceed from the grace of the Holy Spirit who is God.

The old adage is still true: "You cannot give what you have not  
first received."

Our celebration of the Eucharist each Sunday is a reminder that  
all we receive and all that we give flow from the Altar of God.  
It is for this reason that we say the Eucharist is the source and  
the summit of all that we do.

Everything we do — and all that we are — begins and ends  
with God.

## Question

How do I see the Eucharist as the source and summit of my  
weekly life?

This is the first of a four-week series,  
All In!

Information: [dphx.org/Christ-in-our-neighborhood](http://dphx.org/Christ-in-our-neighborhood)

## Commentary

### Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

We may hear people say, “. . . but on the other side of the coin . . .” This is an expression to show a contrast between two opinions or two ways of life.

In the Gospel, Jesus invites the Pharisees and Sadducees to look at a coin. In this case, Jesus shows that the whole coin belongs to Caesar. But while the whole coin belongs to Caesar, life — including Caesar’s life — belongs to God.

Let us remember that the word *Caesar* means king in Latin. The Roman king stood as an adversary to both Jews and the early Christian community. For both communities, he was the other side of the coin. They were looking for a king who stood on the same side of the coin — their side.

By contrast, as we saw in the First Reading, the Persian King Cyrus stood alongside God and the people of Israel. Unfortunately, the religious leaders in the Gospel, by posing the question to Jesus and in an attempt to trip Him up, are seen as the adversaries of the true Christ, Caesar, the king. They could not accept this humble servant to be the king (Messiah) that they had longed for.

## Question

Do you believe that you are on the same side of the coin with God?

## This Week’s Task

This is World Mission Sunday.

Before you make a gift on Sunday to help share the Gospel through the efforts of our missionaries, take time to study the missionary life of the Church.

You may wish to go to the Vatican website and read the Pope’s message for this special weekend.

Please pray for all missionaries who dare to share the Gospel in the most remote parts of our world.

## Group Prayer

The group prays the following Prayer of St. Francis:

Lord make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may  
not so much seek to be consoled as to  
console  
to be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
And it’s in dying that we are born to eternal  
life.

Continue with Psalm 96

## Psalm

**Give the Lord glory and honor.**

Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all you lands.  
Tell his glory among the nations;  
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

**R. Give the Lord glory and honor.**

For great is the LORD and highly to be praised;  
awesome is he, beyond all gods.  
For all the gods of the nations are things of nought,  
but the LORD made the heavens.

**R. Give the Lord glory and honor.**

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,  
give to the LORD glory and praise;  
give to the LORD the glory due his name!  
Bring gifts, and enter his courts.

**R. Give the Lord glory and honor.**

**Conclude with an Our Father**