

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

15 THAYER STREET

SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA 01373

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TODAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

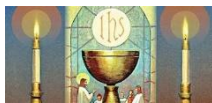
SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist
10:00 am – Monthly meeting of the Parish
Committee

OPENING HYMN

TO THEE WE COME, O LORD, OUR GOD

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,
Before Thine altar, Father
Thou knowest best our yearning hearts.
This supplication answer.
Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,
Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.
Under Thy cross we stand prepared,
To serve Thee with devotion.
Be it with sweat of blood or tears, Or
humble resignation.
For we Thy people are, O Lord,
Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.



ENTRANCE HYMN

(Romans 12: 20-21)

- V. If your enemy is hungry feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink, for by doing so you will heap burning coals upon his head.
- R. Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

R. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. **Let us pray.** Father in heaven, You taught us in Your holy Word to pray for those who persecute us. Fill us with Your gift of love that we may be forgiving and merciful toward those who seek to be our enemies. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R. Amen



LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM 1ST BOOK OF SAMUEL
(1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9; 12-13, 22-23)

“In those days, Saul went down to the desert of Ziph with three thousand picked men of Israel, to search for David, in the desert of Ziph. So, David and Abishai went among Saul’s soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his men sleeping around him. Abishai whispered to David: “God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust! But David said to Abishai, “Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the LORD’s anointed and remain unpunished?” So, David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul’s head, and they got away without anyone’s seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep because the LORD had put them into a deep slumber. Going across to an opposite slope, David stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner, son of Ner, and the troops. He said: “Here is the king’s spear. Let an attendant come over to get it. The LORD will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD’s anointed.”

V. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
(Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13)

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

V. Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being,
bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all His benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

V. He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction, crowns
you with kindness and compassion.

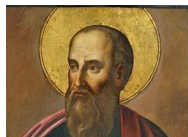
R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

V. Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger
and abounding in kindness. Not according to our
sins does He deal with us, nor does he requite us
according to our crimes.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

V. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He
put our transgressions from us. As a father has
compassion on his children, so the LORD has
compassion on those who fear Him.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.



**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF
SAINT PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS**
(1 Corinthians 15:45-49)

Brothers and sisters: It is written, the first man,
Adam, became a living being, the last Adam a life-
giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first;
rather the natural and then the spiritual. The first
man was from the earth, earthly; the second man,
from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also are the
earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the
heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the
earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the
heavenly one.

V. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

TRACT
(Matthew 5: 44)

V. But I say to you, love your enemies

R. And pray for those who persecute you.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE
(Luke 6:27-38)

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

**V. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint
Luke.**

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

**Jesus said to His disciples: “To you who hear I say,
love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you, pray for those who
mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one
cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the
person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even
your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and
from the one who takes what is yours do not demand
it back. Do to others as you would have them do to
you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is
that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.
And if you do good to those who do good to you, what
credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you
lend money to those from whom you expect
repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners
lend to sinners and get back the same amount. But
rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and
lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will
be great, and you will be children of the Most High,
for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the
wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
“Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop
condemning, and you will not be condemned. Forgive
and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given
to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken
down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.
For the measure with which you measure will in
return be measured out to you.”**

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

**I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is seen and unseen.
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,**

eternally begotten of the Father.

God from God, Light from Light, True God
from true God, begotten not made
Of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made

For us and for our salvation.

He came down from heaven:

By the power of the Holy Spirit

He was born of the Virgin Mary

AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again

In fulfillment of the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and

Is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

To judge the living and the dead

And His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The Lord and Giver of Life

Who proceeds from the Father,

With the Father and the Son

He is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in One, Holy, Catholic

and Apostolic Church

I acknowledge one baptism

for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead

And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



OFFERTORY VERSE

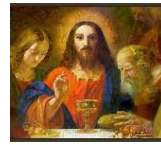
(Psalm 18:4)

V. Praised be the Lord, I exclaim! I have been
delivered from my enemies.



PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Heavenly Father, accept these gifts we offer You and
lead us to love You and all people with Your perfect
love. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,
Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the
Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly
present. I love You above all things and I long for
You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You
sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my
heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite
myself with You; may I never be separated from You.
Inflame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord
and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE

(Proverbs 16:7)

V. When the Lord is pleased with a man's ways, He
makes even his enemies be at peace with him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us pray. Almighty God, through this Holy
Communion, grant us the grace to love our enemies
and to do good to those who curse us, that our
reward may be great in Your Kingdom. We ask
this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

R. Amen.



ST. LUKE'S ACCOUNT OF THE "SERMON ON THE HILL" OF JESUS

Of the many teachings of Jesus as found in the New
Testament, there are two recorded, which are most
notable.

The first, mentioned is the "**Sermon on the
Mount**" as found in Matthew **5-7**. Matthew, or Levi,
was one of original Apostles called by Jesus The
second was the "**Sermon on the Hill**" as found in
Luke 6:17-49. Luke is thought to have been a
disciple of Jesus and a fellow traveler of Paul. In the
end, each of these teachings complement each other,
and though they were written in different times by

different Evangelists to different people, to both the Jews and to the Gentiles, both were to serve as foundations of the Christian faith to all.

Their accounts of the teachings of Jesus, along with the Evangelist Mark, became known as the “Synoptic Gospels,” due to their similarities.

We see in these two discourses the following:

1. Both begin with a large gathering of people.

Did you ever talk to a friend about an event that both of you saw and yet had different impressions?

2. Jesus begins with that which also has been referred to as the “Beatitudes” of Jesus” as found in Matthew and begins in a similar manner in Luke.

As the “Word made flesh,” Jesus gave His hearers great spiritual truths, as being “one” but separate with the Father, in these discourses.

We read in Paul’s letter to the Galatians 4:4-5b: “But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.”

Jesus as the “Word of God,” came to teach all mankind higher moral values and ethics which were revolutionary for His day, for He called “blessed” or “happy” were those who were the poor, the down-trodden, the rejected and the destitute.

“Blessed are the poor” but in Luke, He admonishes the rich: “Woe to the rich, for you will be poor.”

Our Lord teaches us in today’s Gospel to “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.”

The word that Jesus uses to describe “loving your enemy” is from the Greek word “Agape.” “Agape” refers to a deep unconditional love and a feeling of benevolence towards all. No matter what one may do to another, our Lord teaches us that we should always strive to hold each other to the highest good. It is easy to love, as He taught, to those who are nearest and dearest to us. When Jesus says to “love your enemy,” it comes not from just the heart but rather from the willingness to serve God. Agape is a love that comes through the grace that God gives unto all who would be followers of His only begotten son, Jesus.

It should be said that the teachings of Jesus are based on “doing unto others, as you would want one to do unto you.” It is in “forgiving that we are forgiven.” The power of the spiritual “ethos” of Jesus is displayed most beautifully in the Lord’s prayer, considered the “perfect prayer.” The very essence of the conduct of a true disciple of Jesus consists, not in refraining from doing bad things to others, but rather in actively doing good things for others.

Human nature, as it is, causes humans to compare themselves to others and it is quite easy to judge when one uses themselves as the “moral yardstick” in comparison with others. But in reality, which one of us has lived up to the directive of Jesus, who gives to all His teaching as found in Matthew 5:48: to be “Be perfect, therefore, as Your Heavenly Father is perfect?” A different yardstick of judging oneself and others to Jesus Christ.

Saint Paul in his letter to the Church of Roman writes in 3:22-24: “since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by His blood, effective through faith.”

Jesus calls upon us to not love one another as He has loved us, but to take that extra step in showing the Christian virtue of loving and forgiving our enemies. The saving grace of our very own salvation is dependent on our Lord’s teachings of forgiveness. “Judge not lest you be judged.” He further teaches us that “by the measure that your judge your brother, will be the same measure by which you will be judged.” Jesus brings this standard forward in today’s Gospel account: ““Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”



OUR PARISH CALENDAR

February 24th – March 2nd

8:45 am Liturgy of the Hours

9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

- Mon. 2/24** **Feast – Matthias, Apostle**
 Matthias, Apostle, NT
 Montanus, Lucius & Companions, M.
 Praetextatus, Bishop & Martyr
- Tue. 2/25** **Mass of Thanksgiving**
 Victorinus & Companions, Martyrs
 Nestor, Bishop & Martyr
 Tarasius of Constantinople, B.& C.
- Wed. 2/26** **Mass of Health & Healing**
 Alexander of Alexandria, Bishop
 Porphyry of Gaza, Bishop
 Victor, Priest & Hermit
- Thur. 2/27** **Mass to the Holy Saints of God**
 Julian, Cronion & Besas, Martyrs
 Thaleleus, Hermit
 Leander of Seville, Bishop
- Fri. 2/28** **Mass to the Holy Angels of God**
 Romanus & Lupicinius, Abbot
 Proterius, Bishop & Martyr
 Martyrs of the Alexandrian Pestilence, Martyrs
- Sat. 3/1** **Mass to the Most Holy Name of Jesus**
 David of Wales, Bishop
 Felix II, Bishop
 Swithbert, Bishop



NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025
QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist in the Traditional Rite of the PNCC.



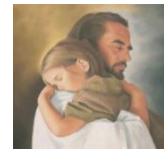
PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

In our prayers, let us please remember all our brothers and sisters, who are in need of the blessings of God for health and healing. Every week a Holy Mass of Health and Healing is celebrated. If you know of an individual who needs prayers of health and healing, please write out your request. Cards are to be found in the vestibule of our Church.

In our prayers, may we especially remember:

George and Janet Sadowski, Wayne and Pat Shaw, Karen Herzig, Richard Foster, Cindy Benjamin, Marge Sanderson, Carolyn Rapelye, Liam and Evelyn Spatcher, Paula Winn, Jerry Pawlikowski, as well as each other.

Let us pray. O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illnessness and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” - Philippians 2:4



Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”

**“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.”
 - Matthew 25: 35**

The next date for handing out groceries will be held on Saturday, March 15th from 10 am while supplies last. On Saturday, we handed out an additional five bags of groceries making a total of 15 bags in total. I wish to thank Eric & Sue Dibrandisi for all their help.

As we are in the winter months, again, we ask for the assistance of our parishioners and friends, if possible, please consider donating the following non-perishable food items:

- Cereals and packets of instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and cranberry
- powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce

- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese
- Canned tuna in water
- Canned meats- chicken, salmon, etc.
- Ramen noodles
- Soups- all varieties
- Canned veggies and fruits.
- Children's snack pack.

Please note: we are also collecting full sized products of personal care and cleaning items for the various survival centers. Some of those items that are needed:

- Bar soaps and body wash, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers, toilet paper, and personal products for incontinence (pads & panty liners, baby powder, baby wipes and diapers.
- Liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom and kitchen cleansers, dish sponges/scrubbers, trash bags.

Bins for all donations may be found in the vestibule of our church. Thank you for your consideration.



Collecting plastic tops

One of our dear parishioners, Maryanna Foster, who works closely with veterans, has asked for our help in collecting **white or clear plastic bottle tops** that will be donated to aid in the making of prosthetics for veterans in need. A collection container has been set up in the vestibule of our church. Please help donate your plastic tops to this new ministry. May God bless all of our endeavors.



Can Soda Tabs

We are also collecting tabs from soda cans that are then donated to aid the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled children. Please save your can soda tabs. There are containers that are located in our Parish vestibule for this purpose. Thank you to all who have donated to this cause and may God bless all our endeavors.



BLESSING OF HOMES

I will continue this week to visit the homes of our parishioners for the traditional blessing with chalk. Unfortunately, I am just recovering from the flu that I was hit with recently and I apologize for having to cancel several appointments. I will be placing calls this week for this blessing.



FUEL ASSISTANCE

Envelopes for fuel assistance may be found in the vestibule of our Church. We truly appreciate any donations to help defray the costs of heating our Church Proper as well as the rectory. Thank you.



ANNUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

The Annual Parish Committee meeting of Holy Name of Jesus PNCC will take place on Sunday, March 9, 2025 following Holy Mass. I ask that all reports be submitted to Father Koerber by March 2nd so that copies can be made and sent out to our Parish family.



ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER

On Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon, during the month of February, a “call to prayer” the following two prayers are said.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the ways to salvation.

Let us Pray: Almighty and Eternal God, You desire that all should be saved. Enable those who do not believe in Jesus Christ to accept Him as their Lord and Savior. Help them grasp the mystery of the Incarnation, so that they may come to know, love and serve Him and thus become faithful witnesses of His Gospel. We ask this in His Holy Name. Amen. +

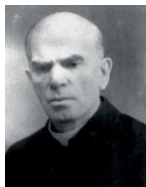
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and led us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION LENTEN COLLECTION BOXES

At a meeting of the Eastern Diocesan M & E Commission, it was decided that beginning with Septuagesima Sunday, all parishes in our Diocese will be asked to help contribute donations during this Lenten season. It should be noted, that as in the past, each parish will determine what charitable organization(s) they wish to donate all monies collected at the end of the Lenten season. Thank you.



SEXIGESIMA SUNDAY

A sermon by Prime Bishop, Francis Hodur

In 1920, the Organizer and first Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Most Rev. Franciszek (Francis) Hodur, delivered this sermon on **Sexigesima Sunday** at the **St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA.**

“Mysterious is that process and relationship of a person to God. For the Word of God is the power of the Creator Himself manifesting itself in the human soul through the voice of the Church, our mother and

father, our good friend – the inspiration of the Holy Spirit inclining us to the good life. In the Holy Scripture we find much praise for the Word of God:

“In the beginning was the Word “

(John 1:1)

“Are not My words as a fire, says the Lord, and as a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

- Jeremiah 23:29)

“Blessed are they who hear the Word of God.”

- (Luke 11:28)

“For it is not you who are speaking, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks through you.”

(Matthew 10:20)

“I have given them Thy Word.... Sanctify them in the truth. Thy word is truth.” (John 17:14-17)

God wanted that the seed of this work and influence on the life of a person should be constant, that it might grow and give forth fruit a hundredfold. He instituted sowers, His vicars on earth: the clergy, parents, overseers.

And the seed of God falls upon the human field, but unfortunately not everything is accepted, and not everything grows for the benefit of humankind. The Lord Christ Himself explains why this happens.

Behold, on falls on a trampled road, a second on barren land, another among thorns and brambles, and only one on good and fertile soil. The seed falls on a trampled road when people hear the Word of God, but the devil comes and plucks it from their hearts. What do these biblical words mean, who are these people to whom evil and access and ruins God's seeds?

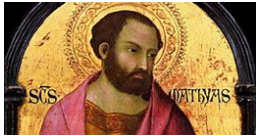
These are people living for the world and its purposes. These are not the worst people. Indeed, they go to church, they hear the Word of God, but they do not live by Christ's principles. How much of God's seeds have we wasted for this reason in our own lives?

The seed that fall on barren ground are those people who hear the Word of God, but kept it but for a while, because they do not have in themselves the basis for Christian religious life. When temptations come and torment, they fear struggle and suffering because they lack trust in the help of God.

That seed which falls among thorns are those people who for life's pleasures, for whom a short, dissipated, profligate life has greater value than a life in accordance with the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These thorns which stifle the sprouts and shoots are concern for daily life, about one's own considerations, the searching for pleasures, the satisfying of the senses, searching for wealth as a means and a god. Enjoy life is the motto of the present time.

Finally, the last seed falls on a good field. These are those people who faithfully stand by the standard of their religious convictions, these are those people who do not live for appearances, for the world only, but who are inspired to the depths of their soul, who live and die by the Christian religion. The just live by faith. Perhaps they do not shine on earth, but to them apply the words of Jesus Christ:

“Come blessed.... Take possession of the Kingdom of God prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Matthew 25:34)



SAINT MATTHIAS - APOSTLE

February 24th

Saint Matthias was born in the first century AD in Judaea. It is believed that he studied the Torah under Saint Simeon. It is also believed that Matthias was a follower of the Lord from the time of His baptism and was among the seventy-two disciples who Jesus sent out in pairs for the spreading of the word of God as the “Good News” of hope, redemption and salvation.

Saint Matthias is first mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles 1:21-26. He was the disciple chosen by the Apostles to be the replacement of Judas Iscariot, who committed suicide after betraying Jesus Christ.

For the early Christian community to survive following the crucifixion of Jesus, it was important that a twelfth Apostle be chosen. The significance of the number twelve was to represent the twelve tribes of Israel as found in the Old Testament and required for the coming of the new Jerusalem. According to several sources, Matthias was stoned to death in Ethiopia.



“KING OF KINGS” and “LORD OF LORDS”

“They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful.”
- Revelation 7:14.

Did you know that in American History, there were those who proposed to give the title of “king” to General George Washington, in 1782?

In my study, I have read about the “Newburgh Letter” of 1782, which was sent to George Washington as he was camped during winter in Newburgh, NY.

This letter, was written to the army officers of Gen. Washington, by Colonel Lewis Nicola, who proposed that Gen. Washington, should become the “king” of the United States.

It is recorded that Washington reportedly rejected this suggestion and was said to have truly disturbed him.

Accordingly, George Washington wrote the same day to Colonel Nicola with these words:

"No incident in the course of the war in me, triggers painful feelings as your message, that such ideas are circulating in the army, as you expressed it."

It is further written that Washington considered “tyranny and monarchy” as having too many negative principles.

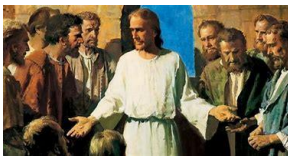
Washington's rejection of an American monarchy was absolute. Other founding Fathers were equally opposed to a president who had “monarchical powers.”

At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, George Mason, a delegate at the U.S. Constitutional Convention Philadelphia in 1787, said he “hoped that nothing like a “monarchy” would ever be attempted in this Country.” He reminded his fellow delegates that there was “a hatred to [monarchy’s] oppressions which helped carried the people through the late Revolution.”

In history, we remember Thomas Paine's famous book, "Common Sense," who wrote that a king is "not to be trusted and that a thirst for absolute power is the natural disease of monarchy." "Monarchy," Paine wrote, was the "most prosperous invention the Devil ever set on foot for the promotion of idolatry."

So, what is a "monarchy?" In the Merriman-Webster dictionary, the word "monarchy" is defined as:

- undivided rule or absolute sovereignty by a single person.
- a government having a hereditary chief of state with life tenure and powers varying from nominal to absolute.



REFLECTIONS ON THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS THE CHRIST

(Matthew 23:1-33, 37-39)

Then said Jesus to the crowds and to His disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on the seat of Moses' seat and practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he

becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So, he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; and he who swears by the temple, swears by it and by him who dwells in it; and he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you cleanse the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and rapacity. You blind Pharisee! first cleanse the inside of the cup and of the plate, that the outside also may be clean. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So, you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' Thus, you witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate. For I tell you, you will not see Me again, until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'"