



Building Faith@HOME

1st Reading: Ex 22:20-26
Responsorial Psalm: 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
Second Reading: 1 Thes 1:5c-10
Gospel: Mt 22:34-40

The last couple of Sundays we have seen the Herodians and Pharisees asking “trick” questions to try to trap Jesus against Jewish law and Roman law. This week, a scholarly Pharisee amongst them asked Jesus which of the Laws of Moses was most important. “The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Mosaic Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of faithfulness to God’s covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law” (Loyola Press, [Sunday Connection](#)). The Jewish Shema, found in Deuteronomy, “Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one. And as for you, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength” was prayed daily by devout Jews as a means of listening to and loving God while the commandment to love their neighbor is found in Leviticus 19:18 Jesus answers that all the laws can be summed up in two commandments: Love God and Love your neighbor.

Our actions should always be those of love and charity, but always with our response to God’s love for us and our response to love God. Both Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy provide us with ways we love God and our neighbors.

Living as a Disciple: Living out these commandments is an ongoing journey of faith and growth, deepening our relationship with God, loving others, living a life of virtue, promoting social justice, participating in the life of the faith community and sharing your faith with others.

The Missionary Family: As a family, love God and love their neighbors by showing everyday acts of love, generosity, and kindness—our own expressions of our love for God. Talk about how Jesus taught us that our love for God is revealed in the love that we show to other people.

Family Table Talk

Children: Share one way that you show your love.

Youth: Jesus tells us that we are to love others as we love ourselves. Do you love yourself? Can you see the good that God has put within you? Do you find it easier to love others or yourself?

Adults: Repeat the two commandments which Jesus teaches today in your own words? For each of them, share how it has become part of your life.

This week's **LOVE** Virtue

Love is one of the three theological virtues.
 How do you share love with God?
 How do you God’s love with others?

November is Black Catholic History Month!

Nov 3 **St. Martin de Porres**



Martin’s life reflected God’s extraordinary gifts: ecstasies that lifted him into the air, light filling the room where he prayed, bi-location, miraculous knowledge, instantaneous cures, and a remarkable rapport with animals. [teachingcatholickids.com](#)

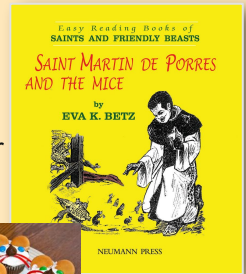
Book Nook

St Martin de Porre and the Mice
 By Eva Betz

Read about St. Martin and how he cared for all the sick and poor ...even the mice!

Then make these adorable mice cupcakes!

[showerofroses.com](#)

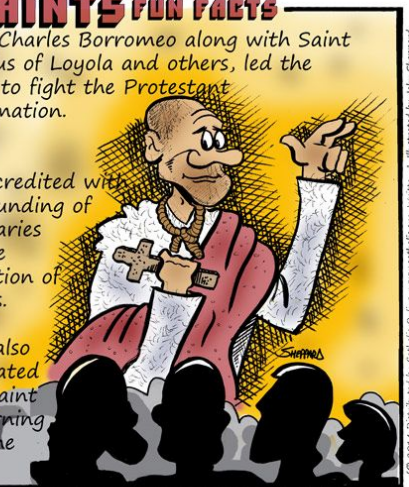


SAINTS FUN FACTS

Saint Charles Borromeo along with Saint Ignatius of Loyola and others, led the effort to fight the Protestant Reformation.

He is credited with the founding of seminaries for the education of priests.

He is also celebrated as a Saint of learning and the arts.



Nov 4 - St. Charles Borromeo

St. Charles Borromeo is the patron saint of Catechists & Seminarians. Send words of encouragement or thanks to the catechists in your parish. Pray for our seminarians or send cards of encouragement:

<https://vocations-syracuse.org/our-seminarians/>

Contact the Office of Vocations for other ways to support our seminarians. vocations@syrdio.org

Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[LoyolaPress.com](#) - Love for God and Neighbor (3-minute retreat) (Adult Faith Builder)

[Aleteia.com](#) - Why you’re part of the Communion of Saints even before you reach Heaven (Nov 1 All Saints)

[Sermons4kids](#) - The Greatest Commandment Group Activities (Children/Family Faith Builder)

[thecatholicspirit.com](#) - All Souls Day: Why should we pray for the dead? (Nov. 2) (Adult Faith Builder)





October 29, 2023

Praying@HOME

Prayer Time This Week!

Cut & Pray!



Pray for Dead

Eternal rest grant
unto him,
O Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon him.
May the souls of the faithful
departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.

Scripture Verse of the Week
From Sunday's Mass
October 29th, 2023



"You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind. This is the
Greatest and the First
Commandment.
The Second is like it, You shall love
your neighbor as yourself." The
whole law and the prophets depend
on these two commandments.
Mt. 37-40

*How am I loving God?
How am I loving myself?
Who is my neighbor?*

Praying for the dead is a Spiritual Work of Mercy

In biblical tradition, the first time prayer was offered for the dead is found in Maccabees 12:39-45). In this reference, Maccabee, a Jewish leader in 163 BCE asked his troops to pray that God would forgive the sins of their comrades. This is the first indication in the Bible of a belief that prayers offered by the living can help free the dead from any sin that would separate them from God in the life to come. In the New Testament, Paul also offers a prayer for a man who died, "May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day..." (2Tim 1:18). The practice of praying for the dead is rooted first in Christian belief in the everlasting life promised in Jesus' teachings and foreshadowed by his disciples' experience that God had raised him from the dead. After death, even though separated from our earthly body, we yet continue a personal existence. Praying for the dead is one of seven spiritual works of mercy that we can engage in during the month of November.

Building Prayer Time @ Home

This will be a series of family activities to try as your families start or strengthen prayer time.

Pray for Dead During the Month of November

1. Create a calendar for November. Write a name of someone who has died in the past year, or earlier for each day in November and pray for that person's soul during family evening prayer.
2. Bring out old family albums and reflect on the lives of the deceased while praying for them.
3. Remind the family that death is not the end, but the beginning of a new, beautiful journey into eternal life, into the arms of God.

