

GROWING WITH GOD

OUR WEEKLY MARIAN STAR HERALD  SPECIAL HALLOWEEN EDITION



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ALEX'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This week we're talking about the Reconciliation Retreat and "Human Trafficking" - it's real.

TRUTH TIME

Take a few deep breaths, because it's self reflection time with questions to ponder and verses to read!

SAINT OF THE WEEK, CATHOLIC COSTUMES & MORE

This week we are honoring Pope Saint John Paul II and bringing you some last minute costume ideas!

REMINDERS OF IMPORTANT DATES FOR PARENTS

Confirmation dates inside along with calendar of events and ICYMI it's the Month of the Blessed Rosary, too!



REMEMBER IT'S RESPECT LIFE MONTH.

PRAYER:

Creator God, help us honor the dignity of all people, especially those in whom God's face may be difficult to recognize. Inspire us to help protect human life in all its stages, at home, around town, and throughout the world amongst all whom we encounter. Amen.



HELP US BUILD A UNITED GENERATION.

SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENING WITH YOUR FAMILY? EMAIL YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO DRE@OLSSPVB.ORG & BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE EDITIONS.





ALEX'S SPOOKTACULAR THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

This past weekend, 85 of our parish's children and their parents were registered to participate in their Reconciliation Retreat! The children had such a great time, they didn't want to leave! This is in great part to the quality of folks that made this day possible! A **huge thanks** to our participating adults from Palmer Catholic Academy.

✦ **Mrs. Linda Earp**, Principal, PCA, **Mrs. Megan Osiecki** and **Mrs. Monica Begeman**, catechists

✦ Shout out to **Mrs. Tara Chandlee**, our 2nd grade catechist for our Faith Formation Program!

✦ Thanking **Mike Lenahen** and **Fr. Bastian** for their fantastic and inspirational parent talks!

✦ **Sr. Lucy and the CCW ladies** kept us nourished with goodies and beverages throughout the morning and even decorated the tables for our theme "Listen to Your Heart."

Since sin is part and parcel of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, it serves as the perfect segue to this week's topic for **Respect Life Month: Human Trafficking**.

Human trafficking is an affront to God and to His Church, since it violates one of the seven foundational principles of Catholic Social Teaching, namely respect for the Life and Dignity of the Human Person. You see, all people are created in the image of God and thus, all human life, from conception to natural death, is sacred. This sacredness is often most vulnerable to desecration in the lives of the nameless poor who are rounded up for servitude.

God's love for all is the foundation of human dignity. The basic dignity that each person possesses comes from God; therefore all forms of discrimination are sinful in God's eyes.

People take precedence over things and structures. Systems are meant to serve people. And people are meant to serve and care for one another. Scripture tells us repeatedly of God's love for us. We are called to see every person through the eyes of God and to love them because God loved them (and us) first!

Human trafficking is the **3rd largest crime industry in the world** and out of our 50 states, **Florida ranks 3rd** highest in number of reported human trafficking cases.



Human trafficking is often confused with human smuggling but these are two very different things. While human smuggling focuses on the illegal transport of people to evade immigration laws, human trafficking focuses on the exploitation of people. Exploitation is the act of selfishly taking advantage of someone else or a group of people to profit from them.

Exploitation and human trafficking can come in different forms, predominantly sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude.



ALEX'S SPOOKTACULAR THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK (CONT'D)

SEX TRAFFICKING



Sex trafficking is the most recognized form of human trafficking. It's when victims are manipulated or forced against their will to engage in sex acts for money. Sex traffickers may use violence, threats, and manipulation to lure victims. However, keep in mind that prostitution is not sex trafficking. Prostitution is the process of performing sexual acts in exchange for money without the use of force, fraud, or coercion. The use of force is a key indicator in trafficking. Truck stops, hotel rooms, rest areas, street corners, clubs, and private residences are just some of the places where victims are forced to sell sex. Central Florida is well known for travel and tourism as well as transients. Tourists and transients are often pursued by traffickers. Hotels, truck stops and rest areas are but some of the locations where sex trafficking is prominent.

FORCED LABOR

Forced labor is where victims are made to work for little or no pay. It is very real and happens everywhere in the world, including the United States. It can happen to both adults and children. Force, fraud, and coercion are often used to trap forced labor victims. They are often forced to live in inhumane conditions and work in dangerous environments without proper safety gear or training. You can often find them at factories, farms, and construction sites. Many are forced to manufacture or grow products that we use and consume every day. To help prevent forced labor, be sure to research how your products are made and where they come from.



DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Victims of domestic servitude are probably the most difficult to spot. They are hidden in plain sight as they are forced to work in homes across the United States. They are prisoners working as nannies, maids, or domestic help. Traffickers sometimes take victims' identification papers and travel documents to limit their freedom. This doesn't mean **every** nanny or maid you meet is a victim, but it does mean that you should be more observant and vigilant toward domestic workers.





WE ARE EACH A CHILD OF GOD.

In 2019, Florida reported a total of 896 human trafficking cases and each year, the number of reports have grown significantly. Though it is a seemingly bad thing to have increased reports, it also means that more cases are being reported.

Human trafficking crimes often go unreported. With an increase in education and awareness of resources, we are able to help victims come forward and find the support they need. The Trafficking Hotline has made new methods of reaching out available including text.

In 2019, the number of identified trafficking situations that came from a text increased 33% compared to the 7% growth the previous year. Minors are a large reason for this increase. **In 2019, 42% of minor victims and survivors used texting to contact the hotline.**

Though a high number of cases isn't always a good thing, it is apparent that the hotline and online reporting tools are having a positive impact on victims and survivors as far as coming forward with their stories. Please use the resources below if you or someone you know is a victim or survivor of human trafficking.

If you are a victim of human trafficking, please reach out to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) by calling **1-888-373-7888** or text **HELP to Befree (2333733)**.

If you suspect human trafficking of any kind, please contact federal law enforcement at **1-866-DHS-2-ICE** or submit a report online at **www.ice.gov/tips**.



THERE, BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD, GO I.

READY FOR SOME TRUTH TIME? LET'S PONDER THESE **5** QUESTIONS FOR SELF REFLECTION



1. How do people enslave other people?
2. Do I respect the life and dignity of every human person I encounter?
3. Do I recognize the face of Christ reflected in all others around me whatever their race, class, age, or abilities?
4. How do I/can I work to protect the dignity of others when it is being threatened?
5. Am I committed to both protecting human life and to ensuring that every human being is able to live in dignity?

SCRIPTURE TO PONDER ON THE LIFE AND DIGNITY OF PEOPLE



1 John 4:7-12

Let us love one another because love is from God.

Genesis 1:26-31

God created man and woman in his image and likeness.

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

God loves the orphan, the widow, and the stranger.

John 4:1-42

Jesus broke with societal & religious customs to honor the dignity of the Samaritan woman.

1 Corinthians 3:16

You are holy, for you are God's temple and God dwells in you.

Proverbs 22:2

The Lord is the maker of both rich and poor.

Galatians 3:27-28

All Christians are One in Christ Jesus.

1 John 4:7-12

Let us love one another because love is from God.

Luke 10:25-37

The good Samaritan recognized the dignity in the other & cared for his life.

Romans 12: 9-18

Love one another, contribute to needs of others, live peaceably with all.

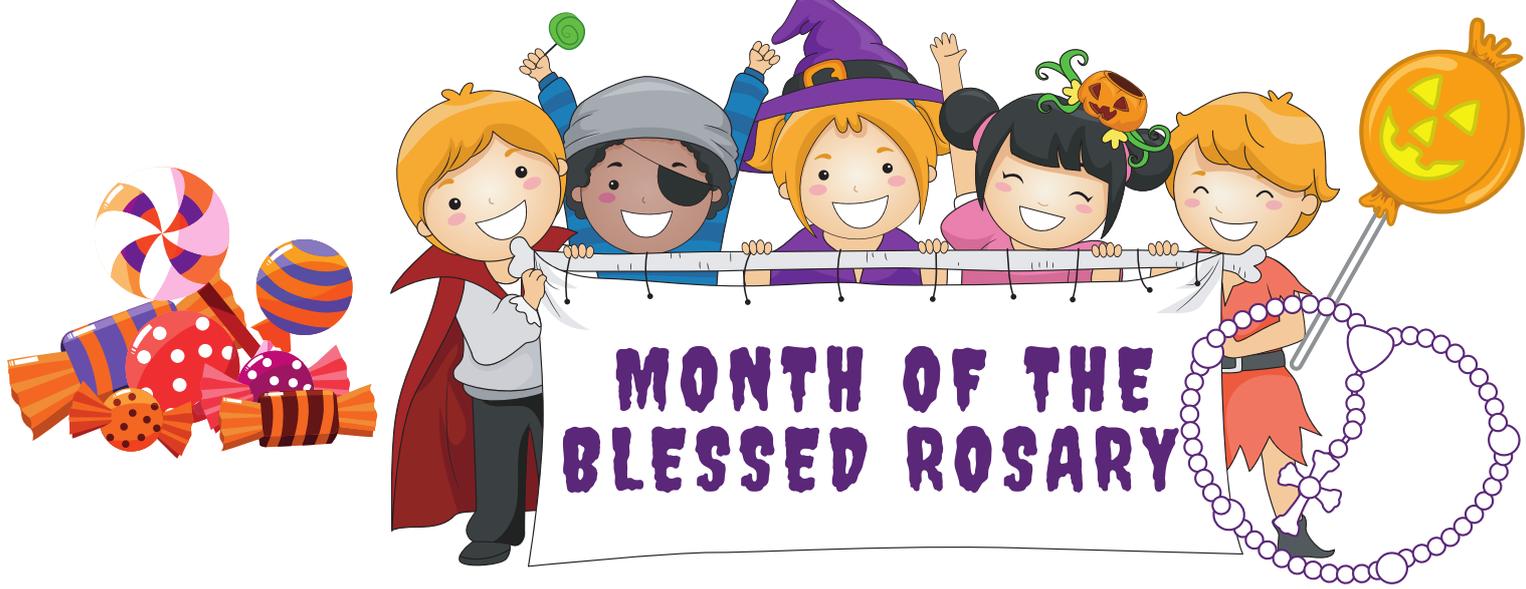
1 John 3: 1-2

See what love the Father has for us, that we should be called Children of God.

James 2:1-8

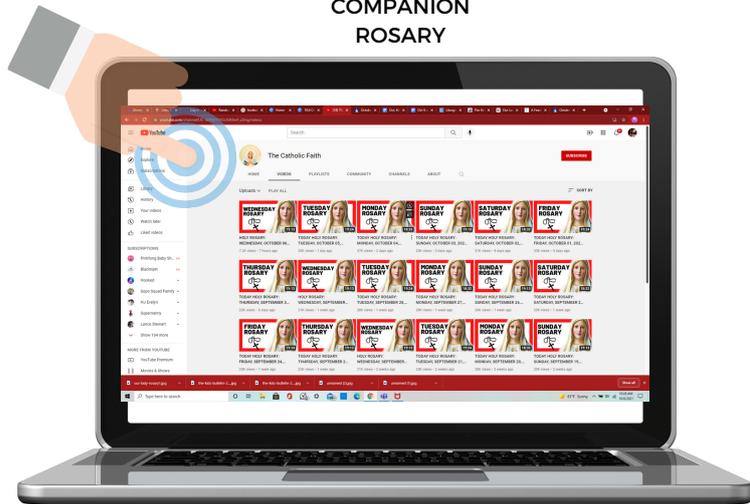
Honor the poor.





October is the Month of the Rosary and we have some special videos for you to watch, along with an open invitation to you and other Catholics world-wide who can now make a pilgrimage the newly restored shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at the historic grounds of Mission Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine to once again pray the rosary in this special place!

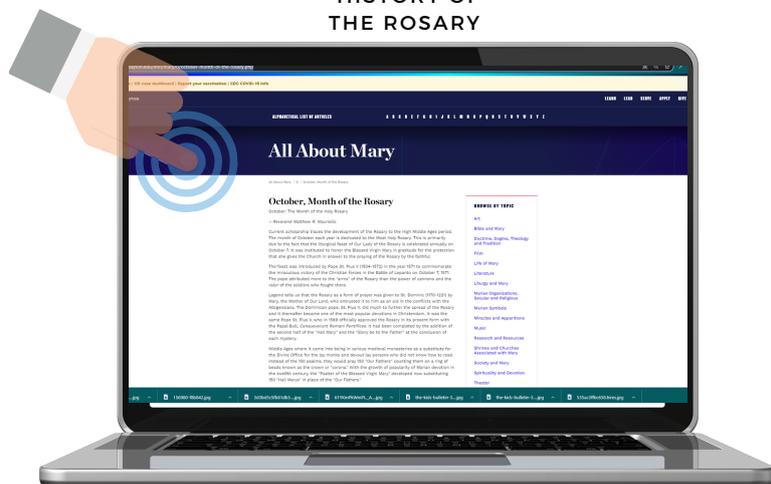
A DAILY ONLINE COMPANION ROSARY



INTRO TO THE ROSARY FOR KIDZ!



HISTORY OF THE ROSARY



HALLOWEEN IS COMING. NEED A COSTUME?

HERE ARE THE 6 BEST (AND WORST) CATHOLIC COSTUMES.

For all the fall festivities and charmingly hokey decorations, every year Halloween also creates a classic costuming conundrum: **What should you dress up as?** If you are a Halloween-loving Catholic tired of the overplayed sexy angel and devil costumes, you are not alone. But it is possible to celebrate the day in a way that is both faithful and festive! If your costume has been waiting for some divine inspiration, here are some of the best that Catholicism has to offer and some of the worst. Nothing can ruin Halloween for yourself and others faster than a bad costume. Whether inappropriate, disrespectful or just ill-considered, some looks are worse than just not dressing up at all. In the world of Catholic Halloween costumes, these are some of the best and worst!



Credit: America Magazine Sarah Vincent

TRICK
OF
TREAT

BEST

WORST



A baby or dog dressed as the Pope. While this costume may not be theologically correct, it is infallibly cute! Bonus points if you dress as a Swiss guard to escort your tiny bishop of Rome through the neighborhood.

Moses. Whip out the old Birkenstocks for this easy classic! A fake beard and a big stick will take you far. Grab some friends to be your Red Sea and you are on your way to the Promised Land!

Biblically accurate angel. A zesty take on an old classic, this time with more eyes! This one is fun because you are limited only by your imagination and the laws of physics. Don't forget to shout "BE NOT AFRAID" at passersby to really get the full effect!

Re-used **nativity and passion play costumes.** Who doesn't want to be a shepherd, centurion or wise man? A quick raid of the parish closet and you can be serving anno domini realness in no time—all while practicing for your upcoming role in the Christmas pageant.

Catholic saints - DIYers, this one's for you! It's time to grab your art supplies and try making one of those trendy gold headpieces from Pinterest. If you are feeling particularly saintly, you could even share some of your Halloween candy instead of eating it all by yourself.

Skeleton. For an extra Catholic spin, visit an ossuary for inspiration. Seasonally appropriate and educational—what more could you ask for?

Provocatively dressed nun. Why would you want this? This is a costume that screams "I don't respect women," religious or otherwise. If you have worn this outfit, you should probably say a Hail Mary to apologize.

Britney Spears. Just because you still have your Catholic school uniform skirt shoved somewhere in your closet does not mean this is the time to break it out again. #FreeBritney from your "Baby One More Time"-themed costumes and stop contributing to the sexualization of schoolgirls.

Priest. The vocational crisis is no joke! Oct. 31 is the only night of the year there seems to be enough priests running around. While we understand you may want holy water on hand for Halloween, you should leave this outfit to the ordained lest someone start confessing their sins.

Monstrance. Yes, you read that right. Spotted at New Orleans Halloween celebrations, this one involves a gold spandex suit and a ring of gilded cardboard rays worn around the face. Although we love the creativity, there is a whole host of reasons (pun intended) that this is a bad idea; suggesting your face is the Real Presence of Jesus Christ is one of them.

Jesus. We know that all you have to make your costume is a bedsheet, but you need to be more creative. As much as you might want to, you can't turn water into wine, so stop pretending.

Devil. Wanting to raise a little H-E-Double Hockey Sticks on Halloween is an understandable impulse, but probably not your best bet. Catholics already know the devil tries to work through all of us. Plus, there's nothing new about this look. Tell this boring costume to get behind thee, Satan!



WITH THIS TRUSTY HALLOWEEN GUIDE, YOUR HOLIDAY CAN BE BOTH SPIRITUAL AND SPOOKY! WHETHER YOU RESURRECT AN OLD FAVORITE OR BAPTIZE A NEW LOOK—THIS HALLOWEEN, WHY NOT GO CATHOLIC?

SAINT OF THE WEEK

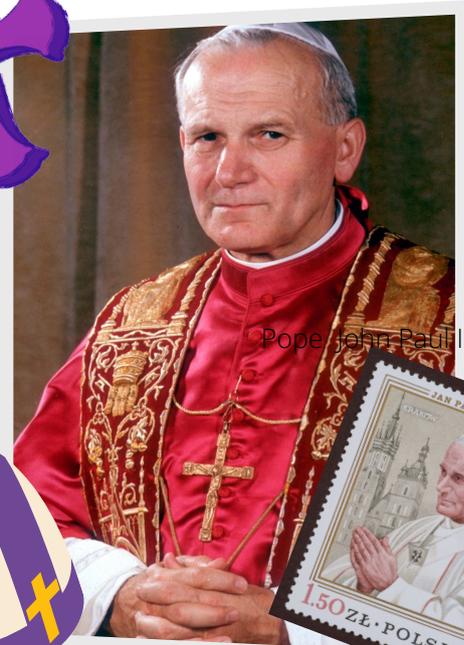
ST. JOHN PAUL II (THE GREAT), POPE
1920 – 2005
OCTOBER 22 – MEMORIAL

FULLY PREPARED, POSSESSING EVERY SKILL, A POPE FOR THE AGES MAKES MAXIMUM IMPACT

Thirty-three years after the dark cloud of communism had settled over Eastern Europe, on a crisp autumn night, heavy bells across Poland began to sway and toll in their high towers. Their clangs peeled down the valleys, thundered through the town squares, and reverberated off every city street. Men and women spilled like water into the streets. Songs. Candles. Prayers. Flowers. Tears. Flags. Embraces. Champagne. Could it be true? A son of Poland had been elected Pope! The impossible had become possible! In the town of Wadowice, Fr. Edward Zacher was paralyzed by emotion. He could not summon a single word for the faithful who crammed the church in thanksgiving. Late that night, he slowly opened the sacramental register of the parish. He leafed through the yellowed pages back to May 1920. Carolus Joseph Wojtyła. Father Zacher had taught him catechism as a boy. The register duly noted, in Latin, Karol's dates of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Priestly and Episcopal Ordination, and consecration as Cardinal. In a margin at the bottom of the page, the old priest's hand trembled as he made a new entry: *"Die 16 X 1978 in Summum Pontificem electus et sibi nomen Ioannem Paulum II imposuit."*

Pope Saint John Paul II was a titan. He was as prepared as any man before him to be pope. He was all things—a highly educated European intellectual, a philosophy professor with two Doctorates, a mystic of intense spirituality, a working bishop of a large and dynamic Archdiocese behind the iron curtain, a Cardinal whose counsel was valued by the Pope, an active contributor at the Second Vatican Council, a polyglot, and a world traveler. Adding to this embarrassment of riches, he was an athlete and outdoorsman, had palpable charisma, an open personality, a manly presence, vast circles of lay friends, a resonant voice, and he was just 58 years old when elected. Never had a conclave of Cardinals made a bolder, wiser choice. That John Paul II was the first Slavic pope, and the first non-Italian in centuries, was also interesting and became more significant as his papacy unfolded. The times and the man were a match. He was simply the perfect man for the hour and his long papacy disappointed in almost nothing.

The catalogue of accomplishments of John Paul II, both before and after his papal election, is long. He was a tornado of activity and displayed a physical stamina which might have buried a man half his age. He wrote profoundly on every subject: Saint Mary, the Trinity, the Church' social teachings, suffering, Christ, work, moral theology, philosophy, and on and on. Every subject found ample space to grow in his capacious mind. His personal narrative was also compelling. He had personally experienced the effects of the twentieth century's twin horrors, Nazism and Communism, both efforts to create a perfect society without regard for God or man's dignity.



Pope John Paul II

He knew what it was to be personally degraded, to come close to death, to go into hiding. He had seen his entire nation brought to its knees in humiliation. He understood, at the deepest level, what the Church meant to the world.

The papacy of our Saint built on the international Petrine ministry first initiated, in small steps, by Pope Saint Paul VI. John Paul II made this universal ministry an enduring part of every pope's profile. He said Mass on the altar of the world, where humanity itself was his congregation. He had the piety of a humble Mexican peasant and the sophistication of an erudite German professor. No one, and no type, was a stranger to him.

An assassin's bullet almost killed him on May 13, 1981, but he survived, barely. The physical effects of his injuries, and other illnesses, laid bare his sufferings for all to see. On the night of April 2, 2005, this giant, this father to the world, this Moses to the Slavs, died as tens of thousands gathered in prayerful vigil outside his window in Saint Peter's Square. His funeral Mass was timeless and supernatural in a manner felt by all, but difficult to capture in words. He was canonized in 2014 and is buried in a side nave of Saint Peter's Basilica.

PRAYER: Saint Pope John Paul II, you laid your superabundant gifts on God's altar as a teen, and God used them to the fullest extent until your death. Help all Christians to put their talents at God's service to help lead others to Christ and to His Church.



ATTENTION: CONFIRMATION 2022

Parents of Children expecting to be Confirmed in 2022:
There is a mandatory parent meeting for you to attend with a choice of day and time (pick one or the other – whichever is most convenient):

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7pm-7:45pm in the Cultural Center during Faith Formation late session.

OR

Sunday, November 21, 2021 12:15pm-1pm in the Cultural Center after the 11AM Mass.

During this critical meeting, you will receive the complete packet of materials to begin the journey toward your son or daughter's Confirmation on Thursday May 19, 2022.

Again, just pick one of the two above dates and times and sign in as you arrive in the Cultural Center. No need to RSVP.



SAY IT! SING IT! PREACH IT!

IT'S THE OCTOBER PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

To you blessed Joseph, we come for we are in need.
We have asked the help of Mary, your wife, and with confidence we ask, too, for your help.
Remember the love with which you were united to the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God; remember the father's love you had for the Child Jesus you carried in your arms.
By those two loves we pray you look with love on the human race, which Jesus our Lord won by His blood. Help us with your power in all our needs. You were a careful provider for the Holy Family: protect, then, the chosen people of Jesus Christ.
As a loving father, keep far from us all that could lead us wrong or corrupt us. Our warfare is with the power of darkness: in your kindness, mighty Defender, help us from your place in heaven.
Long ago, you rescued the Child Jesus from the danger which threatened His life: defend, now, the holy Church of God from the traps the Enemy lays, and from all adversity.
Keep us, everyone, in your continuing care. Strengthened by your example, aided by your assistance, may we have the strength to lead a good life, die a happy death, and come finally to possess the everlasting happiness of heaven.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 2021 UPCOMING EVENTS



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**



October



- Wednesday, October 27th Week 8 CLASSES IN SESSION & Family Faith Challenge #1 due
- Sunday, October 31st Happy Halloween

November



- Monday, November 1st Solemnity of All Saints, Holy Day of Obligation
- Wednesday, November 3rd Week 9 CLASSES IN SESSION
- Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7pm-7:45pm - First Option for Mandatory Confirmation Parent Meeting in the Cultural Center during Faith Formation late session (choose this or 11/21).
- Wednesday, November 10th No Classes - Veteran's Day
- Wednesday, November 17th Week 10 CLASSES in SESSION & Family Faith Challenge #2 issued
- Sunday, November 21, 2021 12:15pm-1pm Second Option for Mandatory Confirmation Parent Meeting in the Cultural Center after the 11AM Mass(choose this or 11/3).
- Wednesday, November 24th No Classes - Thanksgiving

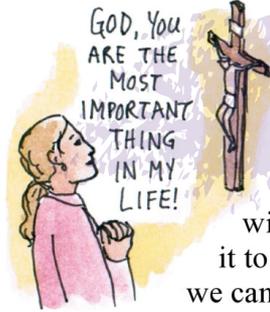
December



- Wednesday, December 1st Week 11 CLASSES in SESSION & Family Faith Challenge #2 due

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

In today's Gospel reading, one of the scribes asked Jesus what was the most important commandment of God. Jesus told him that the most important rule was to love God with everything- our heart, our soul, our mind and all our strength. The next most important rule is to love others as much as we love ourselves.



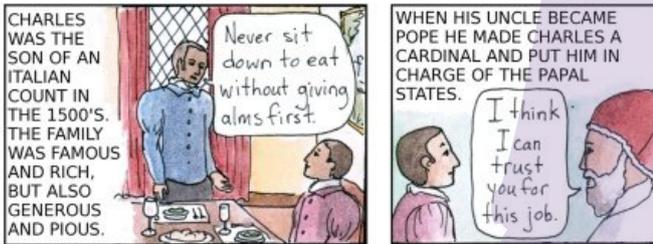
God made us to love Him. We will never be really happy unless we do. But if we keep God first in our lives then everything else will happen the way God wants it to. If we love God first, then we can love others the way God asks.

What can you do to keep God first in your life? How about saying a prayer as soon as you wake up in the morning, and last thing before you go to bed at night?



Answer to front page puzzle: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, strength, and power. Answer to Greatest Commandment Puzzle: GOD, OTHERS.

Saint Charles Borromeo November 4



ST. CHARLES WAS AN EXAMPLE TO PEOPLE OF HIS TIME OF HOW EVEN RICH AND IMPORTANT PEOPLE CAN LOVE GOD AND BECOME SAINTS. HE KNEW THAT THE TRUTH AND BEAUTY OF GOD SHOULD COME TO PEOPLE THROUGH THE CHURCH. HOW CAN YOU SHARE THE TRUTH AND BEAUTY OF GOD WITH OTHERS?

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

The Kids' Bulletin

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 31st, 2021

AYBOCUDSEHFA
GLHLILJOKVL
EMTNHOEPLQ
ORRSPTYUOV
UWRXGYOZDA
WBICTDHEAFL
GLHYIOJUKRL
HMENAORPT
Y



In today's Gospel reading, one of the scribes asks Jesus what the greatest commandment is.

What does Jesus say?

Use every second letter to fill in the blanks to find out!

The Greatest Commandment Puzzle

Use the words from the list to fill in the blanks and use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Jesus replied, "The first is this:

Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is alone! You shall

the Lord your God with all your

all your soul,

with all your , and with all

your . The

is this: You shall love

neighbor as .

- LORD
- HEART
- YOUR
- SECOND
- LOVE
- YOURSELF
- WITH
- STRENGTH
- MIND

What is the order of importance of those we must love?



1.
 1 2 3
2.