



November 3, 2024

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Building Faith@HOME

[1st Reading - Dt 6:2-6](#)

[Responsorial Psalm - Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51](#)

[Second Reading - Heb 7:23-28](#)

[Gospel - Mk 12:28b-34](#)

The readings for the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time focus on the importance of love—specifically, loving God and our neighbors. In the Gospel, Jesus is asked which commandment is the greatest. He responds by quoting the Shema, a central prayer in Judaism, which says to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5). He then adds that we should love our neighbor as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18). The term "Shema," comes from the Hebrew word "שמע," which means "hear" or "listen." The Shema is a call to listen to God's commandments and to live in a way that reflects that love and devotion. The point Jesus is making is that love is at the heart of our relationship with God and with others. He emphasizes that loving God completely—mind, heart, and strength—should be our top priority. This love should also extend to how we treat those around us. Jesus combines the Shema with the command to love our neighbor to teach that true faith is not just about loving God in a personal way, but also about how we live that love out in our interactions with others. This holistic view of love is central to being a follower of Christ.

For families, this means that every day, we should strive to show our love for God through our actions, prayers, and how we treat each other and those in our community. It's a reminder that love is not just a feeling but something we actively do. By loving God and our neighbors, we fulfill the greatest commandments and live out our faith in a meaningful way.

Family Table Talk

How can we create space in our lives to listen to God's voice this week? What practices can we adopt to be more attentive to His guidance?

Why is it important to love God above all else?

Just for family fun

November 5th is National Donut Day



"Life without Jesus is like a donut, 'cause there's a hole in the middle of my heart!"

Listen to this fun song from the "Donut Man and enjoy a donut today!"

bit.ly/Donut-Song



Month of the Holy Souls

St. Charles Borromeo - November 4
Patron saint of Bishops, catechists, cardinals, seminarians and spiritual leaders.

"Prayer is the beginning, the progress and the complement of all virtues".

- Charles Borromeo

Download our activity sheet to color and learn the Scripture verse.



bit.ly/Activity-Sheet-31B

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Move along with this fun video!

bit.ly/Love-the-Lord



Receive a full page of family faith builders each week as a PDF to view or download! Join the mailing list here:

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More Faith Builders!

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.



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Food, Fun, Family Traditions, Etc.

Snacking with the Saint Charles Borromeo

Since St. Charles Borromeo is patron of apple orchards among other things, enjoy an apple-related snack such as Apple Crisp, Apple Muffins or Spiced Apple Cider, or simply sprinkle cinnamon on apple slices!

Feed the Hungry: St. Charles Borromeo was known for feeding the hungry and caring for the sick. Donate to a pantry, visit someone who is sick, or make a meal for someone in need. This is also a way to live out this week's Gospel...love your neighbor.

Offer Prayers: St. Charles Borromeo is patron to bishops, cardinals, seminarians, and spiritual leaders among others. Offer special prayers that priests, religious, and teachers of the faith at your parish.

Family Challenge:

How can we incorporate prayer into our daily routine to help us stay connected to God and His message? What specific intentions can we pray for this week?



VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 3 - 9

The Shema is important to faith and the relationship between God and people because it emphasizes the need to listen to God and respond to His call. The first full week of November is National Vocation Awareness Week. Vocation Awareness Week invites individuals to reflect on how they can embody this love in their unique callings.

Take time this week to ask God how he is calling you to serve his Church. Also, pray for those discerning the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

Prayer for Vocations

Loving and Generous God,
it is you who call us by name
and ask us to follow you.
Help us to grow in the love
and service of our Church
as we experience it today.
Give us the energy and courage
of your Spirit
to shape its future
Grant us faith-filled leaders
who will embrace Christ's mission
of love and justice.
Bless our domestic Church and larger
community
by raising up dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve your people as Sisters,
Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers
through marriage or the single life.
Inspire us to know you better
and open our hearts
to hear your call.
We ask this through our Lord.
Amen.

"Vocare" Latin for "to call..."

...How is God **calling** you?

How do you **hear** God's call?