

HOLY TRINITY PARISH

Hudson and Germantown, New York
429 E. Allen St. – P. O. Box 323 Hudson, NY 12534

November 3, 2024

PHONE: (518) 828 - 1334

WEBSITE: www.holytrinityhudson.org

E-MAIL: holytrinityhudson@gmail.com

31ST Sunday in Ordinary Time



VERY REV. ANTHONY BARRATT, E.V.
Pastor

DEACON RICHARD WASHBURN
Deacon

REV. WINSTON BATH
Pastor Emeritus

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

Which is the greatest commandment?

All our readings this weekend and for the following few weeks, help us to reflect on fundamental matters of our life; what we might call basic attitudes, values and life-styles. Who am I? What must I do? What values and attitudes should ground my life? What can I hope for? If we want to put all this in computer-like terms, it would be ask, what our default programming might be! In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus is asked such a question, as he encounters a scribe, that is a scholar of the Jewish Law.

In our First Reading (Deuteronomy 6: 2-6), Moses speaks to the people about their fundamental identity and who they are, as well as how they therefore should live. He reminds them that they have a great gift to guide them in life: The Law. As we read on, we realize that this law is not just some sort of legal code, or a series of dos and do nots. Furthermore, it is not complicated or something remote. Rather, this Law is indeed a gift from God that is near to us and that is written in our heart and soul. In this Law, God shows the values and attitudes that can help us and guide us in all our choices, values and decisions. Following this Law will bless us and bring us happiness and fulfillment. Above all, it is to love God and, as we shall hear in the Gospel, by direct implication, to show this love in our love of neighbor.

In the Gospel (Mark 12: 28-34): 25-37), a scholar tries to test Jesus by asking a pretty fundamental question about what is the *first* of all the commandments. He asks this question because, at the time of Jesus, a practicing Jew would have over 600 laws to follow. These laws and observances covered pretty much every aspect of life. To simplify things then, could there be just one, fundamental law, that could be the basis of all the other laws? We can note that when the scribe asks the question, the word he uses for “first”, is not first as in coming first in a race. Rather, it is first as in the principle or prototype (*prote*). Where would one begin with such a fundamental question about such a prototype law?

Quite often in the Bible, Jesus answers a question with one of his own. This time, however, Jesus answers directly. Perhaps it is because having the correct answer and understanding of the questions is absolutely essential. Jesus begins by quoting something very familiar to the scribe, that is the Law, or, more specifically, a summary of the Ten Commandments. We should note, too, that in his answer, Jesus places the love of God first. This love should be total: with all our heart (the place of our will and motivations), all our soul (who we are at the most fundamental

level), with all our mind (our intellect and understanding) and all our strength (and energy). We are not to love God with this bit of us, or that bit of our life, but with everything!

Then Jesus goes on to say that the second commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. We might think that this is now adding a second commandment. After all, the scribe just asked Jesus for the “first commandment”, and not for a second one! However, if we read our Lord’s reply closely, we discover that he is giving us one commandment, with two elements. A bit like a coin with its two sides. Loving God is indeed fundamental, but loving our neighbor flows automatically from this, not least because Jesus, who is God, is present in each person. The word in the Scripture for “second” (*deutera*) actually means flows from, or is consequent too, or as a second look; rather than second, as in second place. As we read elsewhere: “how can you say you love the God you cannot see, if you do not love the person you can see” (1 John 4: 20). We can also remember our Lord’s words about the Final judgement too: “Lord, when did we see you...in so far as you did this to the least, you did it to me” (Matthew 25: 31-46). The scribe in his reply fully understands this and that is why Jesus then says to the scribe, “you are not far from the Kingdom.”

Many saints grasped this truth about the double-edged first commandment, not least Saint Teresa of Kolkata. She wrote the following beautiful meditation about how we love God by loving Jesus, who is present in those in need:

Jesus is the Hungry - to be fed.
Jesus is the Thirsty - to be satiated.
Jesus is the Naked - to be clothed.
Jesus is the Homeless - to be taken in.
Jesus is the Sick - to be healed.
Jesus is the Lonely - to be loved.
Jesus is the Unwanted - to be wanted.
Jesus is the Leper - to wash his wounds.
Jesus is the Beggar - to give him a smile.
Jesus is the Drunkard - to listen to him.
Jesus is the Mental - to protect him.
Jesus is the Little One - to embrace him.
Jesus is the Blind - to lead him.
Jesus is the Dumb - to speak for him.
Jesus is the Crippled - to walk with him.
Jesus is the Drug Addict - to befriend him.
Jesus is the Prostitute - to remove from danger and befriend her.
Jesus is the Prisoner - to be visited.
Jesus is the Old - to be served.

Father Anthony



BAPTISM: Congratulations! If you would like to arrange preparations and a date for Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

RCIA: For those enquiring about the Catholic Faith or wishing to complete their sacraments: welcome! Please contact the Parish Office and we will be very glad to help you further.

RECONCILIATION: Celebrated on Saturdays 2.30-3.45 pm in Hudson, before and after Masses in Germantown, or at anytime by appointment. (Note: it is best to call ahead first to check on the availability of a priest)

ANointing OF THE SICK: Priests regularly visit the hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound. Please do contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is in need of the anointing of sick.

MARRIAGE: Congratulations! So that proper arrangements (paperwork, preparations etc.) can be made, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Anthony at least six months before the desired date.

VOCATIONS: If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, please contact Fr. Anthony to share thoughts and prayers further.

Readings for the Week of November 3

Sunday: Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 (2)
/Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28b-34
Monday: Phil 2:1-4/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3
/Lk 14:12-14
Tuesday: Phil 2:5-11/Ps 22:26b-27, 28-30ab,
30c, 31-32/Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday: Phil 2:12-18/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
/Lk 14:25-33
Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
/Lk 15:1-10
Friday: Phil 3:17—4:1/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab,
4cd-5/Lk 16:1-8
Saturday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6,
8-9/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22
Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 17:10-16/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
(1b)/Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44 or
12:41-44

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY: St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop (November 4)

7:15 AM All the Holy Souls
Intentions of the Meyer Family
Barbara Beers "Let's Go Mets"
Betty Zito - Sister, Linda

TUESDAY: Weekday (November 5)

7:15 AM All the Holy Souls
Don & Elaine Diehl - Bill & Dawn Meyer
John Winch - Chris & Tom Bucholsky & Family
Richard Toto - Bob & Roxann Donnelly

WEDNESDAY: Weekday (November 6)

7:15 AM All the Holy Souls
Andrew, Amelia & Daniel Nabozny -
Mike & Kathy Nabozny

THURSDAY: Weekday (November 7)

7:15 AM All the Holy Souls
Edward & Helen Ziemba - Nancy & Ed Ziemba
Christopher Joseph Perrelli -
Chris & Tom Bucholsky & Family
Gemma Faye Abos - Bob & Roxann Donnelly

FRIDAY: Weekday (November 8)

7:15 AM All the Holy Souls
(HUD) Peggy Prostler - Bryan & Karen Francett
Alfonse & Miriam Acciani - Steve & Betsy Acciani

9:00 AM All the Holy Souls
(G'TWN)

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: (November 9)

4:00 PM All the Holy Souls
(HUD) Gail Gabriele - Kathleen Maher
Paul Czaika - Bob & Janice Pendergast
Spartacus B. Abelita - Roxann & Bob Donnelly

5:30 PM All the Holy Souls
(LNLTH) Delmont Meagher - Mary T. Howard

SUNDAY MORNING MASS: (November 10)

9:00 AM All the Holy Souls
(HUD) Domenico & Caterina Scali - Nick & Janice Scali
Maria Victoria Sala - Christine Pomeranz
Martin "Marty" Williams - Chris & Tom Bucholsky
& Family

11:00 AM All the Holy Souls
(G'TWN) Bob Lento - Rosary Group at Palatine Manor
For the Living & Deceased of the Parish





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