

PASTOR'S PEN

What does it mean to totally love God and to love your neighbor as yourself? Our scripture readings this weekend invite us to ponder this question. The Pharisees had reduced love of God to how well a person observed the law and there were a lot of them.

The answer Jesus gives is faithful to the Jewish tradition. He does not single out any one law but rather reminds everyone of the obligation that comes from the Shema prayer, the most significant prayer of the Israelite religion. It is found in Deuteronomy 5:6-7, *"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words... drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest."*

Over and over again, Jesus stresses that to live in love means to be open to giving oneself entirely to God. How can you tell you love God fully? Jesus says, by loving your neighbor as yourself, a teaching taken from the book of Leviticus 19:18. Notice he says the second law is like the first rather than something of secondary importance.

This message is reinforced in the First Letter of John which says, "We really do not love God if we do not love others. (1 John 4:20.) Just as Jesus revealed the depth of his love by giving his life for us, we too are to put this kind of love into practice with anyone who comes our way. It is a call to treat each person, especially the person on the margins, with the same love we offer to God.

In appreciating the gift of love, think about the first time you fell in love. Your special friend was always on your mind and you couldn't spend enough time with them. Imagine one evening being out on a cool Friday date-night. As you walk along she says, "Gosh, I'm getting cold" and without a second thought you take off your jacket and say, "Here, take mine." Then as the relationship becomes more familiar and you have been dating awhile, you're out for another walk and she says she's feeling cold and now you begin to think, "Hey, if I give her my coat I'm going to be cold too!" But love impels you to give her your jacket anyway. Your love has become sacrificial.

When we first fall in love with the Lord we are willing to do anything for Him and we want to spend as much time as possible with Him. Then, over time we become comfortable and other priorities begin to press in on our time. We know it's important to stay connected with the One we love above all things and yet, often our prayer becomes focused on what God can do for me. In a sense we prayerfully give God his marching orders for the day instead of listening for the ways in which we can love God by loving our neighbor.

In gathering to worship God, Jesus is teaching us all over again what it means to love. In the Eucharist we experience the depth of God's love for us as he gives himself to us as heavenly food. This same sacrificial love is meant to be shared as we go out into the world. And so, Jesus says, the most important way we show our love for God is how we live our lives. To live in love is to care for the widows, the orphans and the immigrants; to feed the hungry and visit the sick; to reach out to the marginalized; to care for the earth for those who will come after us. This week how will you express your total love for God?

REGION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feast of All Saints

This Wednesday, November 1st, the Church celebrates The Feast of All Saints, a **Holy Day of Obligation**. The Mass times for Region 7 are as follows:

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| October 31st | 5:15 PM at Emmanuel Church |
| November 1st | 7:30 AM at Emmanuel Church |
| | 12:00 Noon at St. Joseph Church |
| | 6:00 PM at Holy Trinity Church |

On this Solemnity of All Saints we celebrate those men and women of faith who lived the call to holiness so well that they can be looked upon as role models for us to follow. By the witness of their lives the work of God comes alive in the world and we see a little more clearly what it means to live the gospel and to participate in the building of the Kingdom of God. Jesus has given us all that we need to become saints!

The saints were not given any special advantages on how to live a holy life. Many of them struggled with the same temptations and crosses that we encounter in life. What makes the difference is their attentiveness to God's Word, their commitment to live the sacraments of the Church and their openness to persevere in faith following Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Let us follow their example and become saints!

Help Needed for Live Nativity. We're looking for volunteers to help with this year's Live Nativity which will take place on December 10th from 12:30 PM until 3:00 PM. Please contact Jan at 228-1223 or Br. Matt at 228-2013 if you can help.

2017 Mission Cooperation Appeal

Sisters from the Oldenburg Franciscans will be with us the weekend of November 4-5th to speak about their missionary efforts. A second collection will be taken up that weekend in support of their missions.

Fall Discernment Retreat

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood will host a Fall Discernment Retreat on November 3-5, at St. Charles Center, Carthagen, Ohio for young men, 18 and older. The retreat is an opportunity to learn about discernment to consecrated life, spend time in prayer and get to know the Missionaries. To learn more contact Fr. Steve Dos Santos at 937-228-9263 or vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org.

Thank you for your generous response to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on **World Mission Sunday**. While only some are called to go to the Missions to serve, all of us are called, by our Baptism, to support the Church's missionary work by our prayers and financial help.

Please join Knights of Columbus, Dayton Council 500 members, their families and guests on Sunday, Nov. 5th from 1:00-2:30pm for a turkey dinner consisting of roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing and cranberries for an adult pricing of \$8.00 plus a food donation of a small can/box for the local food pantry. Also, it would be appreciated if a covered dish of veggies, last name A thru K and a covered dish of desert, last name L thru Z be generously brought for all to share. Children ages to 12 will eat for FREE and the cost for teenagers 13 to 19 is \$5.00. Beverages will be available at regular prices. Please RSVP to Larry Clark @ 937-470-3594 by MONDAY, October, 31st. Thank you for your support.

REGION ANNOUNCEMENTS continued..

Fr Stephen Imbarrato, Priests for Life, acknowledges he had a painful past-namely his own complicity in an abortion many years ago-that brought him to the pro-life movement in the first place, opened him to the priesthood and now allows him to preach the Gospel of Life "from the standpoint of mercy." Fr. Imbarrato will speak at the following times and locations:

Friday Nov. 3

- ◆ The Eucharist as the basis for pro-life activism, 7pm - University of Dayton, Auditorium Science Center, parking lot B, off Stewart St.

Saturday Nov. 4

- ◆ 10:30 Prayer and Eucharistic procession, abortion clinic 1401 E. Stroop Rd., Kettering
- ◆ 11:30 Mass: Church of Incarnation, 7415 Far Hills Rd. Centerville
- ◆ 7pm End of Life - personal suicide, death with dignity, redemptive suffering, Cost: \$10 at the door, St. Henry Parish Activity Center, 6696 N. Springboro Pike

Sunday Nov. 5

- ◆ 8:30 Mass: St. Mary's of the Assumption, 9579 Yankee Rd. Springboro
- ◆ 11:00 am Mass: Incarnation Parish Center, 7415 Far Hills, Centerville
- ◆ 2pm Personal story of abortion, healing adoption and pro-life activism, 40 Days for Life Closing Rally 1401 E. Stroop Rd. Kettering

EMMANUEL CHURCH

Collection information will be published next week.

Prayer List

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Larry Byrd | George Hendrix | Randy Rosenthal |
| Bernard Chachula | Joan Hicks | Donna Williams |
| Sr. Montiel Rosenthal, S.C. | Mike McDonald | |

The next monthly meeting of the Emmanuel Pro-Life

Committee will be held on Sunday, Nov. 5th at 9:00 a.m. EST in the Emmanuel Church basement. Yes – EST – we get an extra hour of sleep the night before. Come rested and ready to discuss Christmas card sales and pro-life pamphlets.

Save The Date...

National Vocation Awareness Week will be November 5-11, 2017. We are planning a special Holy Hour of prayer for Vocations during our weekly Novena on Tuesday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. Families are encouraged to participate in this time of prayer and reflection as a way of encouraging young people to consider a vocation to priesthood or religious life.

Concert to be Offered

Emmanuel Catholic Church will be hosting a concert on November 12 at 3:30 p.m. in the church. Eric Genuis will be performing on keyboard with a violinist, cellist and vocalist. This performance is to raise money for Concerts for Hope, a concert experience in which Eric and other musicians take Carnegie Hall into maximum security prisons, homeless shelters, VA hospitals, inner city schools and anywhere Eric's music can lift the human spirit. Please watch the bulletin for further details.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Generous Contributions for October 22, 2017

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Weekend Offertory: | Budget | Collection |
| | \$6100.00 | \$5262.00 |
| YTD excess or (deficit): | (\$1285.64) | |
| World Mission Collection: | \$1937.00 | |

*Many thanks for the generous spirit of our parishioners.
Frs. Angelo and Ken*

Our Non Perishable Thanksgiving Food Collection for

Emmanuel's food pantry begins next Sunday and ends November 22. You may bring your donations with you and place them in the back of church. Many thanks!

Many thanks to our two volunteer gardeners, Mary Hofacker and Patsy Martin. They have kept the flower beds at the back of the rectory in tip top shape this year. Hats off also to Ellen Padgett and her faithful substitute Rita Satalia for washing and ironing the linens used at Mass each week. It's all the little things around the parish that keep things moving along.

Our Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated Sunday, November 19 at the 11:30 Mass. We will be celebrating the life of all parishioners who have been buried from Holy Trinity this past year. Included in our Mass of Remembrance are friends and family of parishioners who have been buried elsewhere. If you would like to have a deceased family or friend remembered at this celebration, please call the parish office by November 13th at 228-1223.

Attention Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles! Breakfast with Santa is Sunday, December 3

Tickets for our annual Breakfast with Santa will go on sale after Masses beginning Sunday, November 5th in the back of church. Seating and visits with Santa will be arranged in the order the tickets are purchased, so be sure to purchase your tickets early. Tickets: Ages 3 and up - \$9.00; Ages 2 and under - \$3.00

We Welcome You to our Parish Family

Whether it is your first time at Holy Trinity or you are a return visitor, we are very happy to have you with us. Please come back and worship with us often. If you have been attending Mass at Holy Trinity, but have never registered as a member of the parish, please consider doing so. We would love to keep you more informed about what's happening at Holy Trinity through our newsletter and parish mailings. There are registration forms on the bookshelf near the main aisle of church or you can call the parish office to register.

Holiday Help a Family – We still have 10 individuals who need a "Secret Santa". By being willing to help, you will be given the name or names of individuals and their wish list to purchase Christmas gifts. Your expenditure is not to exceed \$30 and that can include two gifts for kids (one toy and one article of clothing) or one gift for an adult. We have chosen to sponsor 55 individuals again this year. As of this date, we still have 10 who are without sponsors. We will be receiving the names in the next couple of weeks. Call Judi at the parish office 228-1223.

Consider Making Gifts of Stocks or Mutual Fund Shares to Holy Trinity. Talk with your financial advisor about the process.



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Holy Trinity
Catholic Church

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Generous Contributions for October 22, 2017

Weekend Offertory: Collection
\$5162.50
Charity: \$ 488.00
World Mission Collection: \$1837.00

*Many thanks for the generous spirit of our parishioners.
Frs. Angelo and Ken*

All Souls Remembrance Mass... We will have a Mass to remember all those who have died this past year and been buried from St. Joe's on November 2, the feast of All Souls, at noon. Our Book of Remembrance will be in the back of church for you to add the names of anyone you would like to remember who is deceased.

Consider Joining The Christmas Choir... A Christmas Choir is being formed to sing for the 4:30PM Christmas Eve Mass (carols will start at 4:00PM). We are looking for all voice parts (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass). The choir will rehearse on Tuesdays at 7PM starting Nov. 14 in the choir loft, and attendance is mandatory. Please consider serving your parish in this special way by helping provide extra beauty to the Christmas liturgy. If you are interested in joining, please see Brad in the choir loft after Mass, call 937-207-8976, or email wilson.bradley@live.com.

Please keep the following people in your prayers. Call the rectory if you would like to be added to the prayer list.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Cheryl Anderson | Brenda Magnum | Tony Riggs |
| Charlie Brown | Russell Nicely | Jean Sichman |
| Carol French | Jim Peacock | Sharon Wenzel |
| Jennifer Grant | | |

Pray for the Men and Women Serving in the Military

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Rebekka Anders | Morgan Konsdorf | Matthew Melvin |
| Michael Borgert | Cody Landers | Tim Melvin |
| Nick Borton | Greg Marcus | David Musgrove |
| Kelli Anne Cartuyvelles | Alex McGarvey | Jessica Pruitt |
| Gary Eilers | Zachary McIntyre | Susan Varmuza |

Area Activities

Awake! In partnership with NET ministries, the Office for Youth Evangelization and Discipleship is happy to present Awake, a junior high youth rally on Saturday, November 11th from 4:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Ascension Parish. Awake seeks to accompany 6th -8th graders through an event that will provide music, games, small group conversation, a keynote testimony, a meal, entertainment, Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Joint Prayer Service in Commemoration of the Reformation
Sunday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Epiphany Lutheran Church (6430 Far Hills Ave., Centerville) with Bishop Joseph Binzer and ELCA Southern Ohio Synod Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt.

Calvary Cemetery... A Celebration of All Souls will take place on Sunday, November 5th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. with private prayer and candlelight service. The rosary will be prayed at 3:00 pm.

Alter High School Open House

Alter High School will host an Open House on Sunday, November 12 from 1-4 PM. Please come and visit the Alter Campus and see all we have to offer. For more information go to alterhs.org/openhouse. Learn how your Ed Choice dollars will work for you at Alter.

Looking More at White Privilege... A reflection on white privilege will continue on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Sisters of the Precious Blood, Salem Heights, 4500 Denlinger Road, Dayton. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. The Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination Task Force of Weavers of Justice and the Precious Blood Sisters are gathering a diverse audience for these conversations with a goal of deepening our understanding and solidarity with all our brothers and sisters. Registration can be made at plong@catholiccincinnati.org or by calling 937-224-3026 ext. 5018.

The holidays can be a lonely, stressful, and depressing time if you are separated or divorced. Learn how to enjoy the holidays again Sunday, Nov. 12; 1:00-2:30PM in the St. John Bosco Room of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 6245 Wilmington Pike. Call Marcelle Toma at (937) 312-1157 or mtoma@woh.rr.com.



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