

# Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

We all know from catechism classes that God gave Moses ten commandments. But in the centuries after Moses, Israel became dissatisfied with just these ten. Like children who argue against their parents, the people of Israel nit-picked the Ten Commandments, in order to justify themselves and their actions. So the leaders of Israel added smaller and more particular commandments, to prop up the Ten. By the time of Jesus, the common teaching of the Law of Israel involved 613 commandments.

From those among the Commandments that deal with "loving our neighbor," the Jewish scholars of the law produced 14 commandments about business practices, 19 about employees, servants and slaves, 36 about courts and judicial procedure, eleven about property rights, seven about criminal law, and 24 about punishment and restitution! And that doesn't exhaust the commands to "love our neighbor"! When you turn to "loving God", the lists of commandments are even longer, including 33 about the Temple and sacred objects, 46 about idolatry, and 102 about sacrifices and offerings!

With 613 commandments, it was easy for the average Jew to lose focus. Jesus wanted to bring focus back, just as He wants for you and your family today. He wants to bring focus to the rhythm of your daily life, as it unfolds week after week. This focus will strengthen your life, in proportion to the time you give to living Jesus' answer: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment."

The second-greatest command is to love every human being as yourself. To love is to follow the Spirit of the law. To love is to fulfill the letter of the law, instead of circumventing its intent. To love is even to go beyond the law, because the law is only a guide pointing in the direction that love will take us. catholic diocese of wichita.org



#### **Monday October 30th**

7:00 am Jimmy Leary 12:00 pm Kathleen Skandera

#### **Tuesday October 31st**

7:00 am Robert Royal, Sr. 12:00 pm Brian Nethercott 5:30 pm Anthony Meola

### **Wednesday November 1st All Saints**

7:00 am Anna Salvestrini 9:00 am Henry John Murer 12:00 pm Michael Hyland 7:00 pm St. Mary Parishioners (Holy Day)

# **Thursday November 2nd All Souls**

7:00 am All Souls in Purgatory 12:00 pm All Souls in Purgatory 7:00 pm All Souls in Purgatory

# Friday November 3rd St. Martin de Porres

7:00 am Sr. Margaret Brennan 12:00 pm Special Intentions of Bridie Joyce

# **Saturday November 4th**

#### St. Charles Borromeo

8:00 am Patrice Mulholland 4:30 pm Deceased Members Knoche Family

# **Sunday November 5th**

# 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

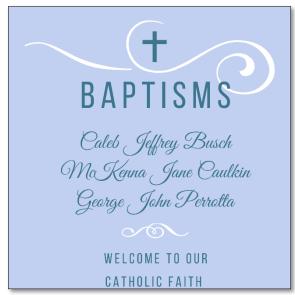
7:30 am Francis Simoneau 9:00 am Richard Andrew Coulter Jr. 10:30 am John Morrisroe 12:00 pm Camille Coraci - 10th Anniversary 5:00 pm St. Mary Parishioners

# **ALL SAINTS DAY**

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Masses: 7am, 9am, noon, 7pm Vigil, Oct 31, 5:30pm







# NO K-5 CLASSES OCT 29/31

THE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH WILL BE **MEETING THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29** FROM 6-8 PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL.

# RSVP AT...

HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/7DGE7GZ2KI VXVTB56

LDANNER@SMCR.ORG 203-438-7335 OYF@SMCR.ORG

#### **FAITH FORMATION CORNER**

### **God First**

This Sunday's Gospel reading reminds us that we cannot love God without loving ourselves *and* others, but God must always come first.

When we have difficulty loving God with all our heart, mind and soul all the time, every day, every moment, no matter what's going on, it's usually because we're spending too much time focused on other people and/or on our own plans and wishes.

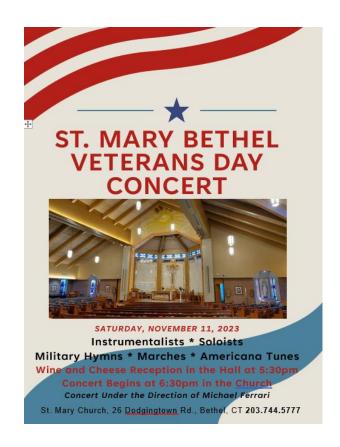
So, the question then becomes: How much time should we spend alone with God? How much time should we spend nurturing ourselves? How much of our time and needs and wants should be sacrificed for the sake of others?

Interestingly, we find the right balance only after we put God first and make our relationship with him our highest priority. This divine friendship is what heals us in our unmet needs. It's what empowers us to love others even when they are difficult to love. And we don't have to be alone with God all day to have intimacy with him.

We love him first and foremost simply by relying on him for success in loving others and ourselves. As long as we keep turning to him for guidance, healing and strength, we are loving him with all our heart, mind and soul all the time, every day, every moment, no matter what's going on.

One In Christ – The 2023 Bishop's Appeal	
Saint Mary Parish	
2023 Bishop's Appeal as of 10/20/2023	
ABA Goal:	\$241,000.00
Total Pledged:	285,730.00 (119%)
Donors to Date:	329 Donors





# MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

We offer Catholic men and their families an opportunity to explore their faith and share God's love through service to our priests, parish and community. Join 2 million Knights around the world as you share your time & talents. Learn more at <a href="www.KOFC.org">www.KOFC.org</a> or contact Brian Patrick Martin, Grand Knight, at <a href="mailto:bpmartin98@aol.com">bpmartin98@aol.com</a>.



#### ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

How would you like to weave your faith more into your life to better help your family and maximize your Godgiven potential? At Men's Ministry regular guys gather to hit the "refresh button" and joyfully learn some excellent ways to take our faith and apply it to real situations in life—as parents, friends, work colleagues and increasingly as caretakers. See our agenda at Stmmm.org and join our community any Saturday morning in the Hall 6:30-8:00AM, or on Zoom. All men are welcome.



#### **ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY** Anita Barrios, anitabarri@aol.com

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

Bobbie Anderson 203-438-6454 bander1938@gmail.com

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Marcy Miller marcybutler@hotmail.com

#### **BAPTISM/PRE-BAPTISM PREP**

Joanne Brown 203-438-6538 jbrown@smcr.org

#### **CATHOLIC ACTION**

Mary Staudt 203-460-6541 mtstaudt@gmail.com

#### **CATHOLIC WOMEN IN COMMUNITY**

Barbara Giobbi 917-257-0027 bgiobbi@snet.net

#### **CYO BASKETBALL**

Jack Jancin 203-748-3808 jjancin@hotmail.com

#### **DISCIPLES 4 LIFE**

Marilyn Kain 203-994-7808 kainma56@gmail.com

#### **DOROTHY DAY HOUSE**

Monica Taddonio monica.taddonio@gmail.com

### **EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Shelley Anderton 203-431-9058 shelleyanderton6@gmail.com

#### **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY**

Kevin Hitchcock 203-241-0145 kevin8669@aol.com

#### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Brian Patrick Martin, Grand Knight 203-894-5617 bpmartin98@aol.com Kofc.org

#### **LAUNDRY LOVE**

Laurie Christiansen lachristiansen@sbcglobal.net

#### MARRIAGE/MARRIAGE PREP

Joanne Brown 203-438-6538 jbrown@smcr.org

#### **MEN'S MINISTRY**

**Brian Kelley** humblebk@yahoo.com 203-947-2858 st.mary.mm1@gmail.com

#### MIDNIGHT RUN

Bob Wendel 203-431-4031 rgwendel@sbcglobal.net

#### **MOTHER'S CLUB**

Amy Tomasco amyg8646@yahoo.com Mara Martin maramc80@yahoo.com

# **PARISH NURSE PROGRAM** Colleen Minchik, R.N.

203-438-6538

#### PERPETUAL ADORATION

Barbara Baughman stmaryridgefield22@gmail.com Catherine Clock catherinemclock@gmail.com

#### **PILGRIM VIRGIN**

Elma Stoveken 203-894-1341 jstoveken@comcast.net

Kathryn Shelava 203-431-0191 kathy.shelava@att.net

#### **RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**

John Papa

Jack Gilchrist - Chair Emeritus

#### **ROSARY MINISTRY AT** LAUREL RIDGE

Jeremiah King 203-438-8226

#### **RCIA**

Sue Fernandez susanmdf@comcast.net

#### **SAINT PETER'S RUN**

Laura Danner LDanner@smcr.org

# **SCRIPTURE STUDY (Evening)**

Bev Scott 914-763-6243 bscott@scottassociatesllc.com

#### **SENIOR CITIZENS**

Rachel Ambrosio, Principal ambrosior@smsridgefield.org

#### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Gina Carey 203-526-5295 ginacarey2002@yahoo.com

#### **USHERS AND GREETERS**

John Ahle 203-610-5335 johnahle@aol.com

#### **WELCOME COMMITTEE & HOSPITALITY HOUR**

Janie Nneji, 203-942-9589; smcrhospitality@gmail.com

# **FINANCE COUNCIL**

Steve Seagriff, John Ahle, Dayan Anandappa, Felix Cacciato, Mike Kane, Paula Molloy, Kristin McSpedon

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chris Spahn (Chair), Rachel Ambrosio, Catherine Desmarais, Steve Fugazy, Becky Hurta, Kenneth Kroog, Alex Mendoza, Dennis Peckham

# SACRAMENTS

#### MASS SCHEDULE

#### Saturday

8:00 AM, 4:30 PM Vigil Mass (Church)

#### Sunday

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, Noon, 5 PM (Church) 10:30 AM (Hall)

#### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

7:00 AM & Noon Monday- Friday (Church)

# **Holy Days of Obligation**

Check website

\*Easter and Christmas have special schedules

# **ADORATION**

Open 24 / 7

#### OTHER SACRAMENTS

#### Confessions

Monday - Friday 11:30 AM Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 PM Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 PM (Church)

#### **Baptism**

Celebrated each Saturday (except holiday weekends)

New parents must attend a pre-baptism class. Call Parish office to schedule both

#### Marriage

Call Parish Office at least 9 months prior to wedding

#### **Anointing of Sick**

Call Parish Office to make arrangements

#### CEMETERY

203-438-3606

# CHURCH STAFF

#### Pastor: Msgr. Kevin T. Royal, MsgrRoyal@smcr.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Colin Lomnitzer, frlomnitzer@smcr.org Parochial Vicar: Rev. Justin Raj, frraj@smcr.org Deacon: George Kain, DnKain@diobpt.org, (203) 994-7807 Deacon: Rick Lawlor, dnlawlor@diobpt.org, 203-470-8084 Deacon: Robert Salvestrini, salvo95@aol.com

Parish Receptionist: Kim Macko, kmacko@smcr.org Administrative Assistant: Joanne Brown, jbrown@smcr.org Accounting Manager: Karen Conroy, kconroy@smcr.org Facilities: Greg Taylor, Phil Franceschini, Jim McElroy Facilities Scheduling: jbrown@smcr.org

Communications Manager: Carolyn Haitsch, chaitsch@smcr.org

#### Office for Youth & Families - 203-438-7335

Pastoral Associate - Laura Danner, Idanner@smcr.org Administrative Coordinator - Pamela Jensen ovf@smcr.org

> St. Mary School: Rachel Ambrosio, Principal ambrosior@smsridgefield.org

# Parish Office Building Open

Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM

# **Parish Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 8AM - 4PM

203-438-6538, 203-438-6539 (after hours)