



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. catholicdioceseofwichita.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

ST. MARY PARISH

ALL SOULS' DAY

NOVEMBER 2
7PM Mass in the Church

Join us as we remember family & friends who have passed away - with special mention of those who passed this year.

BAPTISMS

Caleb Jeffrey Busch
McKenna Jane Caulkin
George John Perrotta

WELCOME TO OUR
CATHOLIC FAITH

OFFICE FOR
YOUTH & FAMILIES

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](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



ST. MARY BETHEL VETERANS DAY CONCERT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023
Instrumentalists * Soloists
Military Hymns * Marches * Americana Tunes
Wine and Cheese Reception in the Hall at 5:30pm
Concert Begins at 6:30pm in the Church
Concert Under the Direction of Michael Ferrari
 St. Mary Church, 26 Dodgingtown Rd., Bethel, CT 203.744.5777



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 www.KOFC.org or contact Brian Patrick Martin, Grand Knight, at bpmartin98@aol.com.



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 God-given 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.

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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

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Facilities Scheduling: jbrown@smcr.org

Communications Manager: Carolyn Haitsch, chaitsch@smcr.org

Office for Youth & Families – 203-438-7335

Pastoral Associate – Laura Danner, ldanner@smcr.org

Administrative Coordinator – Pamela Jensen oyf@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)