

Gospel Reflection

It's easy to tell when two people love each other. They like to be near each other and spend time together. They share intimate thoughts and feelings. They enjoy making each other happy. And knowing that they are loved allows them to reach out to other people and treat them with love and respect.

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus tells us that the greatest law is to love God with our whole heart and soul and mind. What does it mean to love God? Certainly it means spending time together by reading and reflecting on God's holy word. It also means sharing our thoughts and feelings with God in prayer and listening for God's voice. Where do we go to be close to God? We join God's people in worship in the church, rest in God's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, discover God in the wonder of creation and the miraculous moments of daily life. What can we do to make God happy? How do we, like the Thessalonians, "serve the living and true God" (1 Thessalonians 1:9)?

The reading from Exodus makes it very clear that we serve God by serving those who are oppressed or in need. Jesus makes it more personal—we are to love our neighbors. That means those with whom we work and play and live. When we spend time with God we can't help but experience God's great love for us. And knowing that we are loved by God should make it easy to reach out in charity and justice to our neighbors both near and far away.

Thus, love of neighbor flows naturally from those who love God. We cannot truly say that we love God unless it shows in loving relationships and compassion to those in need. At the same time, we cannot maintain our love of neighbor unless we take time to drink from the wellspring of God's refreshing love.

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Matthew 22:34-40

M I N D G H K E P I L X C
Z J J N E I G H B O R H O
P J D O G E A A H Y W U M
N W H C Z R P Q B P H J M
Y B S E I R E W M R Q D A
S Z E S X Z K A S Q E V N
F J E H T Z J H T X X N D
D E C N E L I S E E J J M
S O U L R A L O H C S X E
T E D U C W R L P W A T N
A L D C A C C T O V W S T
F T A I Z U C K R V L Q J
Q B S Y X N X Z P H E I U

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

LOVE	GOD	GREATEST
HEART	PROPHETS	COMMANDMENT
MIND	NEIGHBOR	PHARISEES
LAW	SOUL	SCHOLAR
SECOND	SILENCED	SADDUCEES

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
10/26/2008*

*Matthew 22:34-40
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Matthew 22:34-40*

The Gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a **scholar of the law**, tested him by asking, "Teacher, **which commandment** in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him, "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 first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

The Gospel of the Lord



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Gospel Glossary

scholar of the law: sometimes translated as "scribe."

which commandment: While all devout Jews were to observe all commandments with equal care, Jewish legal scholarship during the time of Christ was also concerned about the relationship of one law to another.

love the Lord: Jesus responds to the scholar's question with a quote from the book of Deuteronomy.

**"And one
of them, a
scholar of the
law, tested him
by asking,
'Teacher,
which com-
mandment in
the law is the
greatest?'"**



Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- How are these two great commandments related?
- What obstacles do I face as I try to answer this call to love God and my neighbors?
- What do I need to do to love God with all my heart, mind and soul?

Closing Prayer

*Praise be to you, God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is
no power for good which does not
come from your covenant, and no
promise to hope in that your love has
not offered. Strengthen our faith to
accept your covenant and give us the
love to carry out your command. We
ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time