From the Desk of the Pastor ....

Often we hear people remark: “When I get to heaven, the first thing I'm going to ask God is...” Usually the sentence is completed with a statement of curiosity about some unsolved current mystery. The scribe in today’s Gospel has a chance to ask a question, so he asks the one that may have been the guiding principle of his life: “Which is the first of all the commandments?”

The scribe asks one question, but receives what seems to be two answers: one dealing with God, and the other with our fellow human beings. Jesus did not propose these to be two separate entities, but a two pronged answer to one question.

It is a testament to the love and mercy of God. In the eyes of God, every man, woman and child is precious like a ‘diamond in the rough’ of great value; every one of us possesses a goodness and dignity just by virtue of being created by God. It is the immeasurable love of God for all of us, which showers us with mercy and calls us into a life of reconciling love. It is a calling coming from within the heart of our God:

It is God’s unwavering determination to reconcile the whole creation (so lovingly fashioned), with him.

Jesus tells the scribe what total love is:

Love God with all your heart, in total fidelity, with all the powers of your compassionate nature.

Love God with all your soul, in total surrender, with all the potential for eternal life.

Love God with your entire mind, in total commitment, with all your mental faculties.

Love God with all your strength, with all your energy and intensity: once this becomes truly one’s lifestyle, then this all-encompassing love of God pours itself out in selfless service to love our neighbor, with the same intensity we love ourselves, with the same sincerity we want others to love us and with the same profound depth, God loves us.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

REMEMBRANCE OF OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

During the month of November, we are called in a special way: ‘to remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the Lord’.

Our Parish will remember all those who have died at all our Novena Masses which will continue to be celebrated from November 2nd through November 10th.

In order that the names of your beloved departed are included in these Masses, you are invited to use the special envelopes made available in the vestibule of the Church. Please write down the names of the people who have died, enclose your Mass stipend in the envelope and drop it in the collection basket or in the basket made available at the foot of the Altar.

Funeral Services conducted in our Parish: November 2017 - November 2018


Our sanctuary will display these names during this immediate past year. May they all rest in peace.

Thank you! The Hispanic community of Saint John would like to thank everyone for their participation last weekend at the Christmas Bazaar. The winner of the raffle was Tessie Simpliciano, who won a nativity set. Thank you very much to all who came and supported us.

LOVE....We all love rules to measure our actions and assure us that we have done enough. Today we are given two rules that offer us none of that. These rules require us to focus only on love: love of God and love of neighbor. There are not seven or ten. There are just two. You must love God but you must do it with your entire being. Everything you are must be focused on and reflect loving God. And then you must love your neighbor. The first is key to the second. Unless we understand how God loves both the lovable as well as the unlovable, we will never be able to love ourselves or any other creature or creation as God loves them all. The Gospels remind us that Jesus sought the broken, the marginalized, the unwanted to teach us how God loves. If everything about you is about loving a God who created and redeemed you, then you love as God loves. If you love as God loves, you recognize the weakness in yourself and in the world yet you still love that broken self and broken world as its Creator does. That is the only measure of success that matters.