

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – 2024/2025

SAINT PATRICK'S & SAINT LUKE'S



THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- To help you learn more about God so that you can deepen your own personal relationship with Him.
- To give you the confidence to speak about your Catholic faith with others.
- To help you as you guide your children in their own personal relationship with God.
- To provide you with an opportunity to spend more time with your immediate family and also with our parish family.
- To provide you with a short time for prayer and an opportunity to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- Besides the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai, the Jewish law had expanded to a total of 613 laws which the Jews were to keep.
- These laws regulated every part of Jewish life.
- These laws served to keep the Jews apart and separate from their Gentile neighbors.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS



THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- However, there was a problem. The laws were in fact virtually impossible for the ordinary man or woman to keep perfectly.
- Only the Pharisees made a serious effort to do so, and their days were entirely spent in that effort.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- In an effort to test Jesus (and probably to discredit Him in the eyes of the people), Jesus was asked which of these 613 laws was most important.
- In reply, our Lord quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. He said that these two laws summed up all of the rest (Mt 22:40).

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- From our Lord's answer, we see that all God's laws are founded on love.
- This raises the question, "What exactly is love?"

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- We often say, “I love this or that ...”
- However, that kind of love is different from love for a person.
- It is also different from love of God.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- Here is one definition of love: The attraction to that which is good.
- We are drawn to what is good in itself (or to what we perceive to be good).
- We are repelled by what is bad.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- To love some thing, to be attracted to some thing also implies a desire to have that thing.
- We seek to acquire, have or use the things we love.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- However, we cannot love another person in this way. We cannot own someone else or keep them as a pet or use them as a slave.
- To do so would demean them and be a violation of their dignity as human beings made in God's image and likeness.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- So, we have to refine our definition of love when it comes to others.
- We say that love is willing the good of the other.
- When we love someone, we want what is good for them.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- When we love someone, we seek their happiness.
- We give of ourselves for them. We sacrifice for them because when they are happy, we are happy too.
- There is a union of hearts with those who love.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- When we speak of love of God, we must refine our definition of love once again.
- This is so because God already has all that is good, and He is the source of all good.
- So, we cannot will the good of God.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- What we can do is unite ourselves to God. We can will what God wills for us and for all humanity.
- So, to love God is to “will what God wills.”
- To put it another way, to love God is to desire to please God in all things.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- By uniting our will to His will, by wanting what God wants for us, we express our love for Him.
- What does God will for us? To live with Him in heaven. So, to love God is to accept His invitation to join Him in heaven.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- To love God with all one's heart and soul and strength and mind is another way of saying I will choose Him first before all created things whether they are other persons or simply things.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- One violates this greatest commandment when he or she love some thing God has created more than God Himself.
- One can love others and the things of God's creation as long as that person recognizes that good things are given to us by God for our delight and happiness, that they are extensions of God's love for us.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- With regard to love of neighbor, we must understand neighbor to mean everyone in need.
- That was the point of the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS



THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- The Jews and the Samaritans were not friends. They lived in the same area but did not associate with each other. Rather they held each other in contempt.
- So, when Jesus answered the question “Who is my neighbor?” with the parable of the Good Samaritan, He made the point that anyone in need is our neighbor.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- The point Jesus made with this parable was something entirely new for the Jews.
- They were a tribal people who only considered other Jews as worthy of respect and equal treatment.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- To love your neighbor as yourself is to treat your neighbor as you would want to be treated.
- To refuse to love someone or to use them is to go against our very nature and harm ourselves in the process.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

- We have now set the stage for a closer look at the Ten Commandments and how they are all based upon love of God and neighbor.

HOMework

- **Parents at Home:**
- Watch the videos the Great Commandments.
- Help your children practice love of neighbor by doing something for someone in need.
- Have your children memorize the Great Commandments.

HOMework

- Ask your children if and when they are saying their prayers.
- See that your children complete any homework assignments they have.

FAMILY PRAYER

