

**STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. JOSEPH, PORT FELIX
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

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CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 902-358-2346**

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ OCTOBER 29, 2023

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Donna Jackson, Janet Delorey, Cynthia Creamer,
Calvin Harnish, Agnes Casey, Corrine Munroe,
Gerry Parker, Gelly Parker, Paul Horne,
Sr. Alma, Marie Parker, Fr. Jonathan

*The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at
www.cansoparishes.org*

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday, November 4 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - Eileen & Placide King

Sunday, November 5 - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †Winnie Boudreau
- 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea - †Ronald Cashin Sr. & Jr.

NOTE: This weekend will be the **last Weekend of Mass at St. Vincent de Paul, Queensport** as it closes for the winter. Parishioners are encouraged to attend the 6:00 pm Saturday Mass at St. Joseph, Port Felix.

WEEKDAY MASS TIME

Thursday, November 2 - Star of the Sea Church - 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNION CALLS - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: *(All Souls) will be celebrated at Star of the Sea Church, Thursday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m. Please advise the parish who will be representing your family if you have received a letter*

MEMORY TREES - November 2nd - Sunday, January 7, 2023. Minimum donation will be \$5.00 and a loved one's name will be written on a ball. Donations will be deposited to the parish of your choice. Memorial cards are available in the entrance of the Church.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS

LOVE AS THE SUM OF ALL THE COMMANDMENTS - A lawyer, on behalf of the Pharisees, tries to trick Jesus with the question that people had long debated: "Which commandment of the law is the most important?" Of the 613 big and small prescriptions of Jewish law, which is absolutely essential? What is the

most important standard to live by? Jesus' answer is simple and direct: 'You shall love the Lord with everything in you and you shall love your neighbour as yourself.' No matter how often we hear these words, we are challenged by the demands they place upon us. Jesus brings together the love of God and the love of our neighbour as something inseparable, like two sides of a coin. Loving God, whom we cannot see, is false if it is not complemented by loving our fellow men with whom we rub shoulders every day. Scripture reminds us that "those who say, 'I love God', but hate their brothers and sisters are liars" (1 Jn. 4:20-21). We cannot call ourselves Christians and continue crucifying our neighbours! To love one's neighbour can be challenging, especially when the people next door are bad-mannered or trying to our nerves. To show love to such people is really difficult and demands great effort. Make no mistake, our religion can become an escape and our holiness an illusion even if we pray daily, go to church on Sundays, yet cut ourselves off from the people. The gospel of Jesus is not an ideal to be admired but a way of life to be lived. There is an old saying that "The night is over and the day has begun when we are able to recognize others as our brothers and sisters".

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (26)	515.00
Nativity Scene	200.00
St. Agnes (17)	351.00
Loose	10.00
Evangelization of Nations (1)	10.00
St. Vincent de Paul (4)	90.00
Loose	5.00

Thank you so very much

ST JOSEPH NEWS - Weekly Bingo - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Card Plays - will resume Tuesday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

ST. AGNES NEWS - Bingo - Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Property/Finance Committee - will meet Tuesday, November 7 at 6:15 p.m. We welcome new members. Please help out!

Ministries Schedule, November 5

Lector - Harry Delorey
Cleaners - November 5 - 11 - Harry Delorey

STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH -

NATIVITY SCENE - a new Nativity Scene has been purchased and with your amazing generosity the cost has been fully covered! Thank you so very much.

STAR OF THE SEA CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

- We will meet Monday, October 30 at 12:30 at the church to look over the decorations for Christmas season. Please come help out if you are interested. Thank you.

EVENTS - STAR OF THE SEA

Prize Bingo - Thank for your support! Profit was \$1,096.00.

Trivia Night - Will be held Saturday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. in Canso Hazel Hill Fire Hall. Please pre-register with a committee member.

Christmas Bazaar - will be held Saturday, December 2, 12 noon at Canso Hazel Hill Fire Hall. More information to follow.

Ticket Draw - Canso Coop Grocery Certificate, value \$300.00. Draw date December 12. Tickets will be available from committee members.

His Creative Answer

This Week's Readings at Mass

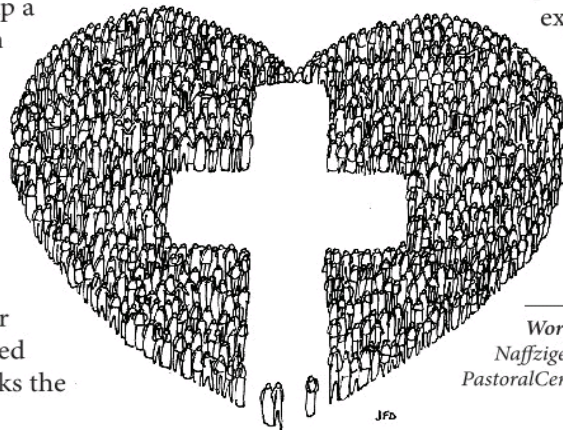
- ▶ Exodus 22:20-26 - Social laws
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 - A model for believers ▶
- Matthew 22:34-40 - The greatest commandment

Once again, the first reading gives us insight into the foundations of Jesus' beliefs. As a practicing Jew, Jesus grew up hearing these laws read aloud in his synagogue and home. His religion taught that it is wrong to oppress immigrants, widows, and orphans—those who were the most vulnerable in that ancient society. Jesus took all these teachings to heart and grew into an adult with a keen sense of God's compassion for the vulnerable. His instructions weren't new—they flowed from his ancient tradition. He simply reinterpreted them for his current listeners to understand them better.

The testy interactions between Jesus and the Jewish leaders and scholars continue in today's Gospel reading. This time, the lawyer who questions Jesus thinks he is putting Jesus in an impossible position. The Hebrew Scriptures (our Old Testament) contain 613 different laws—248 positive ones, "you shall," and 365 negative ones, "you shall not."

How could Jesus name just one as the most important? His opponents stand ready to find fault with him for whichever ones he doesn't elevate. They are also aware that Jesus has regularly broken some of the 613 laws. For example, healing people on the Sabbath, which Jesus repeatedly did, is against the law which forbids working on the Sabbath. They might wonder if he will make up a new law, in which case they can accuse him of being unfaithful to their religious tradition.

As usual, Jesus gives a creative and surprising answer with which none of them can find fault. He quotes Deuteronomy 6:5, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart..." a verse pious Jews recited several times a day. Then he links the



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"You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Sheepish Question:
The Lord has given me the capability to fully love God and my neighbor—so what holds me back?

love of God to love of others by quoting Leviticus 19:18, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." He doesn't make up a new law, nor does he dismiss the other 611 mandates he hasn't quoted. He simply upholds those two as a way to observe and interpret the others. From then forward, Jesus' followers have a tool to analyze if they are faithful to all of the laws—in their observance of them, are they expressing love for God and others? If so, they are on the right path.

Questions of the Week

- 1 People in any religious tradition can go astray if they focus on the letter of the laws rather than the spirit behind them. When have you experienced this?
- 2 As you consider all the laws and "rules" of your church today, which are most or least helpful in supporting your efforts to love God and love others as yourself? How so?

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