



The Greatest Commandments

We all have rules and regulations that have to be followed as we go through life. Even in our spiritual lives, we are bound to live a certain way. The Catholic Church also has rules and regulations in place. They are not to make our lives burdensome, but to help us live as Jesus has asked. In Jesus' day, there were many rules and regulations, called the "Law" to help people understand what God expected of them. Unfortunately, there were so many laws, that most people could never remember all of them.

In the Gospel (Matthew 22:37-39) our Lord clarifies what is most important. The two greatest commandments are to love God and our neighbor as our self. Both of these commandments involve love. If you look at any of the other commandments, you will see that they somehow fall under these two general categories. Love is the most important theme throughout the Scriptures. Jesus reminds us that if we follow these two commandments, we are doing the right thing. Let us strive to always put God first in our lives, and let us show our Lord how much we love Him by loving our brothers and sisters as we love ourselves.

Sometimes people think it is selfish or wrong to love oneself. As long as we are not so much in love with ourselves that we are neglecting others, it is healthy and important to care for ourselves. Only when we have taken care of our personal needs can we fully be available to help others. At time, however, sacrifices will be required of us. We put our needs on hold for a while so someone else may be cared for. Let us strive to keep that balance of taking care of ourselves and ministering to those around us. With God's help, it is certainly possible.

Father David

Capital Campaign Update

As of September 17, we have collected \$166,141 for our Capital Campaign. Our goal is \$250,000. I thank all those who have supported the campaign thus far and ask those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to this important campaign to ensure that our buildings are beautiful and worthy of the many things we do in the parish complex. Thank you!

Father David

Blessing of the Holy Family Statue

This Sunday, September 25, immediately after the 11:00 AM Mass, we will have the blessing of the Holy Family statue that is near the main entrance of the church. This statue and shrine were made possible by the gift from the late Beatrice Kuhn, a long time member of St. James the Apostle Parish. Members of the Kuhn family will be present and all are invited to join them near the statue immediately after the Mass for the blessing.

Father David