



1st Reading: [EX 22:20-26](#)

Responsorial Psalm: [PS 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51](#)

Second Reading: [1 THES 1:5C-10](#)

Gospel: [MT 22:34-40](#)

“How Marvelous it would be if at the end of the day, each of us could say: Today I have performed an act of charity towards others!” - Pope Francis

## The Great Commandment

Once again, the Pharisees questioned Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" To understand Jesus' answer, we need to explore the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments state what is required in the love of God and love of neighbor. The first three concern love of God, and the other seven love of neighbor" (CCC 2067)

Jewish law consisted of over 600 laws for moral living of which many rabbis tried to put into a hierarchy of importance. All of the Jewish laws or commands are found in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). The Great Commandment is actually two commands: love God with all you have (Deuteronomy 6:6) and love neighbor as self (Leviticus 19:18). Most rabbis in the time of Jesus would have agreed with him that these two "love" commandments were the most important. For they gave a lens through which people could see God's will in their lives.

The last few weeks, we have heard in the Gospel readings about the abundance of God's love for his people. This week's Gospel turns toward our response to love by reciprocating the abundance of love to God and sharing the abundance of love with others.

Let us pray:

*Lord, I choose to love You with my whole heart, mind, soul and strength. I also choose to love all people as You love them. Give me the grace to live these two commandments of love and to see them as the path to holiness of life. I do love You, dear Lord. Help me to love You more. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## RESPECT LIFE MONTH

As we focus this month of October as Respect Month, reflect on who is your neighbor. How do you show love and charity to neighbors on the periphery? Action: Do a random act of charity today! See sidebar.

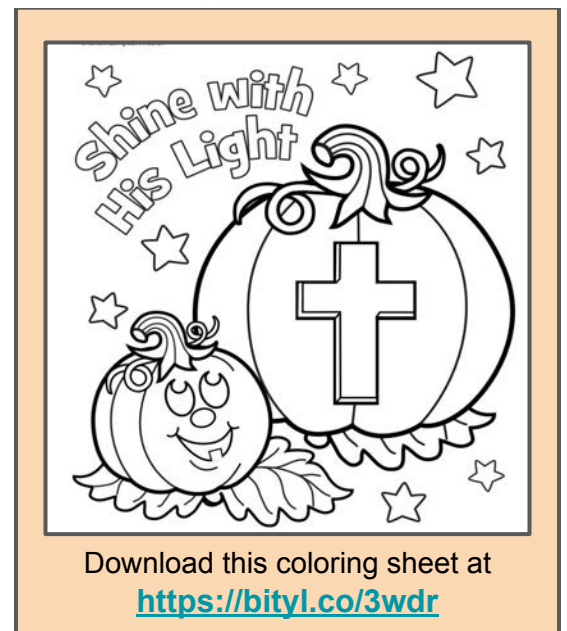
**This week ends on October 31st - Halloween.** Halloween is a derivative of "All Hallow's Eve" as it is the vigil of All Saints (All Hallows) Day, November 1. All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation, and thus a major feast on the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar. This is followed by All Souls Day (November 2). These three days taken together are the "Days of the Dead." Hallow means to honor as holy. During these days we honor as holy the Saints, and pray for all the dead as part of the Community of Saints.

## VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

**KINDNESS**  
STARTS WITH YOU



Give a flower Eat lunch with someone new  
Listen with your heart Visit a sick friend  
Clean a neighbor's walk Offer a hug  
Give an unexpected gift Make a new friend  
Pick up litter Say "hello" Open a door  
Plant a tree Help carry a load Share a snack  
Cheer up a friend Thank a teacher or mentor  
Read to a young child Lend a hand Do a kind act daily  
Leave a thank you note Offer your seat  
Cycle courteously BE TOLERANT Let another go first  
Bake cookies to share Give a compliment  
Help a student make friends Donate your gently used items  
Give a balloon away Lend a pencil Respect others  
Celebrate something new every day Do a favor  
Encourage a friend Use a reusable water bottle  
Walk a dog Forgive mistakes Smile at someone



Download this coloring sheet at  
<https://bitly.co/3wdr>

## Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[Sermons4kids](#) - The Greatest Commandment Group Activities (Children/Family Faith Builder)

[TeachingCatholicKids.com](#) - The 10 Commandments: Love of Neighbor - An Examination of Conscience (Children & Teens Faith Builder)

[CatholicRadioNetwork.com](#) - What is the Purpose of the 10 Commandments? (Adult Faith Builder)

[LoyolaPress.com](#) - Love for God and Neighbor (3-minute retreat) (Adult Faith Builder)

**Halloween Question:** hallowed, it means holy, sacred, consecrated, or greatly honored. What prayer do you hear the word "hallow"? Answer: Go to <https://ggle.io/3WlZ> (print the prayer and place in your prayer space)