

## Readings for the week of October 29, 2023

### Sunday:

Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 (2)/  
1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40

### Monday:

Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21/  
Lk 13:10-17

### Tuesday:

Rom 8:18-25/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5,6/  
Lk 13:18-21

### Wednesday:

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/  
1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

### Thursday:

Wis 4:7-14/Ps 25:6, and 7b, 17-18, 20-21/  
Rom 5:17-21/Mt 11:25-30

### Friday:

Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/  
Lk 14:1-6

### Saturday:

Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29/Ps 94:12-13a,  
14-15, 17-18/Lk 14:1, 7-11

### Next Sunday:

Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10/Ps 131:1, 2, 3/  
1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13/Mt 23:1-12



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In our secularized culture, we all struggle with belief in God, at least to some degree. An atheist man named Robert Bridges once wrote to his friend, the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, asking how he could possibly learn to believe in God. Hopkins pithily responded: “Give alms.” Would that help someone tempted by atheism today, like you and me?

I think so, and here’s why. This week Jesus speaks of love for God and neighbor. These dual commands were nothing new when Jesus used them to sum up the Jewish law. What is new is the way he links them together in mutual dependency. In Jesus, God and man have become one. Human-love and God-love are now inseparably married forever.

The newness of the God-man means that there is now a permanently counter-intuitive way into the knowledge and love of God: love of our neighbor. To experience charity is to know God. That’s what Hopkins was getting at for his friend. How we treat our fellow human beings is inseparable from faith in God. Do you want to have a stronger sense of God’s loving presence and goodness? Commit to serving someone today and this week. Love him or her. Don’t wait for love for God to appear in your heart before loving others. Jesus has united divine and human love. If you want to believe more in God, give alms.

— *Father John Muir*



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## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### 27 Words That Matter

One of the quickest things you learn as a parent is how dangerous it is to explain too much, especially when your kid is teetering on the brink of a rebellion. The fewer words you use, the more power they have. A kid who is about to be carried away by their feelings needs to be brought back to earth with a tether made of short, succinct directions.

There are a lot of similarities between the Pharisees of Scripture and a toddler on the edge of a meltdown. Stay with me — this will make sense, I promise. Think about it: both toddlers and Pharisees have lots of feelings and lots of opinions. Both toddlers and Pharisees think you're out to get them. Both toddlers and Pharisees keep trying to trick you to get what they *think* they want.

A thorough Google search informs me that there are about 80,000 words in the Torah. Eighty-thousand words, and Jesus can boil it all down to 27: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

It doesn't make the excess words untrue; it doesn't even make them unnecessary. Sometimes I need the long explanation, the full and complete picture.

Because sometimes, as much as I hate to admit it, I act like both a toddler and a Pharisee. I am carried away by my feelings. I don't trust God. I am about to bolt.

When that happens, I need to be told in short and simple terms what my salvation means. I need a tether made of short, succinct directions.

*“The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” — Matthew 22:40*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

What is a sacramental seal and where did it come from?

### Answer:

Leaving more than just a memory, there are some events in our life that are truly transforming, making us different people. The same thing can be said of spiritual things, especially sacraments. A sacramental seal or character is a theological concept to describe the life-changing and permanent effect of three sacraments on the person: baptism, confirmation, and holy orders. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that these sacraments confer a seal “by which the Christian shares in Christ's priesthood and is made a member of the Church according to different states and functions. This configuration to Christ and the Church, brought about by the Spirit, is indelible” (#1121).

Once we receive these sacraments, we are forever changed. It's a spiritual “point of no return” whereby we take a step forward in our faith journey. We are marked as people of faith, as those who have received the Spirit and as those called to serve in ordained ministry. That is why these sacraments are received only once. The direction is set, the choice is made, and we are called by God to be his people. Nothing can change that, not even our own sinfulness.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans." (Ex 22:21-23)

### Psalm:

I love you, Lord, my strength. (Ps 18)

### Second Reading:

For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven. (1 Thes 1:9-10)

### Gospel:

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Mt 22:37)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God became human to show us that only love can change the world. Let's not just believe in that love — let's be that love, each and every day.

## Observances for the week of October 29, 2023

- Sunday:** 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday:** All Hallows' Eve
- Wednesday:** All Saints
- Thursday:** All Souls' Day
- Friday:** St. Martin de Porres, Religious
- Saturday:** St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
- Next Sunday:** 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time; Daylight Saving Time Ends; National Vocation Awareness Week



## Saint of the week

Blessed Father Francis Xavier Seelos was a German immigrant and Redemptorist priest deeply committed to serving those marginalized in the USA during the 1800s. He was known for his gentle and compassionate nature and his tireless dedication to the poor and the sick.

## Prayer

O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer, let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight. I offer to You the grace You have bestowed on Your humble missionary, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.

May I have the same joyful vigor that Blessed Seelos possessed during his earthly life to love you deeply and live faithfully your gospel. Amen.

*(Prayer Source: <https://seelos.org/prayers-to-bl-seelos/>)*

One of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

- Mt 22:35-37

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

We hear today some of the laws that Moses received from God on Mount Sinai. Namely, God’s expectation that we show compassion for those most vulnerable in society. How could you show care for those in need this week?

### Second Reading

Paul praised the Thessalonians for being role models of the faith for the surrounding regions of Achaia and Macedonia. How do you model your faith to family and friends?

### Gospel Reading

For Jesus, love of God and love of neighbor and self are the most important commandments. Which of these commandments do you do best?



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“  
LET US HOLD FAST TO HIM WITH ALL OUR SOUL, OUR HEART, OUR STRENGTH.  
”

BISHOP

- ST. AMBROSE