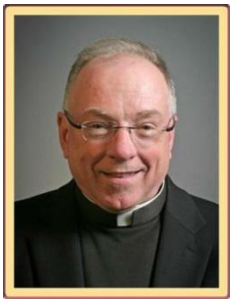
This Week's Message
from Fr. Amesse
October 25, 2026



In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 22:34–40), a scholar of the law asks Jesus a question: “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Jesus gives him a simple answer. Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. Then he adds a second commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus tells us that the whole law depends on these two commandments. It sounds simple, doesn't it? But living these commandments can be difficult.

It is easy to love those who love us. It is much harder to love someone who has hurt us, disagrees with us, or simply gets on our nerves! Yet Jesus does not tell us to love only those we like. He tells us to love our neighbor. And who is our neighbor? It is the person sitting beside us at Mass. It is the stranger we pass on the street. It is the person who needs a little kindness, patience, or forgiveness.

Here at St. Joseph the Worker Shrine, we see people from all walks of life. Some come with joyful hearts. Others carry burdens we know nothing about. Each person who walks through our doors deserves to be welcomed with the love of Christ. Our founder, St. Eugène de Mazenod, understood this. He wanted the Oblates to be close to the people, especially those who were poor, forgotten, or struggling.

Perhaps that is the challenge Jesus places before us this week. We cannot say we love God while refusing to love the people He places in our lives. Love of God and love of neighbor go hand in hand. One cannot exist without the other. May we show our love for God not only through our prayers, but through the way we treat one another

I remember you at Mass.