

LOVE: WHAT'S THE POINT?

*“The love of God is not something vague or generic; the love of God has a name and a face: Jesus Christ.”
- Pope Francis*

OVERVIEW

Many people confuse love with physical attraction or other self-centered desires. But Jesus teaches us that love is about selfless giving and unity with our creator. Real love desires the greatest good for the beloved and the greatest good is always in relationship with Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does love mean to you?
- What are the different forms of love? How does divine love reflect the love between persons?
- How, with whom—and when—shall I share my treasure?
- When have you had to renew a decision to love your spouse, child, or another family member? What made it difficult or easy?
- How does a deep faith life help us to love others?
- What are some ways you show God and others love?

“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8



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SUNDAY MASS HOMILY POINTS - CYCLE C

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Cor 13:4-13: “[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

- Jesus was love’s perfect example. Having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ allows us to love others the same way God loves us. The more a person loves, the more he resembles God. Love should influence the whole life of a person. (*Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 402*)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 13:31-33a: This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

- God’s love is brought into perfection in us when we love each other as brothers and sisters.

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 7:36-8:3: “...there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he [Jesus] was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears.”

- God’s mercy is never outdone. No one is beyond God’s mercy. Jesus forgave the sinful woman because of her heartfelt contrition. Mercy and love go hand and hand.

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MEDIA RESOURCES FROM THE BISHOP GRADY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

To reserve resources from the Bishop Grady Memorial Library, contact BGML@orlandodiocese.org, call 407-246-4895, or visit the website at: www.orlandodiocese.org/ministries-offices/bishop-grady-memorial-library

DVD-0343	Father's Love Letter
CD-0200	A Spirituality of Waiting
DVD-0603	Living Your Faith
DVD-0428A-K	Journey with Jesus series
DVD-0423B	3:16
DVD-0172H	Bullhorn
DVD-0182	Martin the Cobbler
DVD-0172G	Dust
DVD-0172J	Rhythm
DVD-0165	The Cross of Christ
DVD-0172A	Rain
DVD-0795	Incarnation: Keeping God in the Flesh
DVD-0139H	Who Is Our Neighbor? Loving Beyond Borders

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SAINTS AND PRAYERS

Saint Valentine (patron saint of happy marriages, love) Feast day: February 14

Known for the popular holiday St. Valentine's Day, the real Saint Valentine is the patron saint of happy marriages, betrothed couples, love, lovers, young people, and (fittingly) greeting card manufacturers. Despite the holiday for lovers, Saint Valentine was actually a martyred priest who was beheaded in Rome on February 14th in Rome. Very little is known about Saint Valentine and it is believed that the traditions of Valentine's Day developed in England inspired by the work of Geoffrey Chaucer. In 1969, the feast of Saint Valentine was removed from the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints because so little is known about his life and certainly not enough to connect with the common practices associated with the holiday today.

Prayer for Loving Others

Lord, Make me an instrument of your love.
May I see each circumstance in my life
as an opportunity to grow in your love.
May I see my environment
as a place to grow in your love.
May I then take this love to other people.
When I am tempted to become impatient,
help me to be patient.
When I am tempted to become unkind,
help me to be kind.
When I am tempted to become jealous,
help me to be tolerant.
When I am tempted to become boastful or proud,
help me give you the glory.
When I am tempted to be rude or selfish,
give me the gift of gentleness.
When I am tempted to take offense,
help me to let go.
When I am tempted to become angry with someone,
give me the gift of forgiveness.
When I am tempted to become resentful,
give me your power to love.
Lord, grant that I may take no pleasure in criticizing others,
but that I may see good in them, as you do.
When I begin to concentrate on the faults and failures of others,
give me courage to praise their accomplishments.

Help me be loyal to those you give me to love.
Help me to believe in them,
even when they do not believe in themselves.
To expect the best from them,
but accept the best they can give.
May I always defend them,
as you always defend me.
All gifts and powers come from you.
All will come to an end.
With one important exception, the gift of love!!!
Lord, when I was a child,
I thought like a child,
I acted like a child,
and I reasoned like a child.
Now that I have become an adult,
I release my childish ways.
Amen.

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DOCUMENTS AND WEBSITES

USCCB Search for these titles at www.usccb.org.

- Abstinence and Chastity
- Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers (also available in Spanish)
- Love and Sexuality (also available in Spanish)

Vatican Documents Search for these titles at www.vatican.va

- Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (also available in Spanish)
- The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality, Pontifical Council for the Family
- Educational Guidance in Human Love, Outlines for Sex Education (also available in Spanish)

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LOVE: WHAT'S THE POINT? SCRIPT

“The love of God is not something vague or generic; the love of God has a name and a face: Jesus Christ.” Pope Francis

God created each person and he loves us. That means you. God loves YOU. But what is the point of love? In the media today, we hear and see many mixed messages about love. Many people confuse love with physical attraction or other self-centered desires. But Jesus teaches us that love is about selfless giving and unity with our creator. Real love desires the greatest good for the beloved and the greatest good is always in relationship with Jesus Christ.

Connecting with God to find love is each person's greatest desire. This yearning is written on each human *heart*. St. Augustine said it this way: our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

When we connect with God through the Sacraments and prayer and we center our lives on God, amazing things happen. We are able to love others the same way God loves us – unconditionally. The words of Sacred Scripture reveal the truth about love, and the eternal love God intends for each of us.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Genuine love involves caring about another person as much as you care for yourself. We are called to recognize the dignity in ourselves and allow God's love to fill our lives. When we are filled with God's love, we extend that love to others. We are able to love all of God's children, regardless of who they are: young, old, white, black, tall, short, disabled, still developing in a mother's womb, imprisoned, unpopular, neglected. God's love encompasses them all and God made our hearts to love with the same openness and compassion.

When we love and trust God and follow his will, our love naturally extends beyond our home, to share love and compassion with people in need whether across town or across the globe.

God's love for each person and for all humanity is revealed in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who made the ultimate sacrifice when he freely died on the cross for our sins.

“And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

The way of love is open to everyone and is a special invitation from God to all humanity to build relationships of peace and justice based on love for God and one another. This is what the Kingdom of God looks like, love.

“The more a person loves, the more he resembles God. Love should influence the whole life of a person.” (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, no.402.)