

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 113

**Response: “You love the poor; you love the needy. You give them help; you care for them.
Teach us to love the poor and needy, to give them help, to care for them.”**

Today’s readings focus on love of neighbor.

- **We are commanded to love everyone and to take special care of those in need.**
- **Love of God and neighbor is not merely an option but the definition of what it means to be a Christian.**

Summary of the Readings:

First Reading: Exodus 22:21-27 (*This is a reading from the book of Exodus.*)

In today’s first reading, God gives us a list of commandments relating to the treatment of others. God says, “When there are foreigners and strangers living among you, you must never do anything to hurt them.” We were once strangers. We should not do anything to hurt widows or orphans. If we hurt them and they cry out, God will listen to them and help them. He will punish those who hurt them.

Then God tells us that if we lend money to people who are poor, we should only ask back what we gave them. If they give us their coat, we should give it back to them. They will need it to keep themselves warm. Remember if they cry out to God, he will help them. God loves the poor and will take care of them.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-39 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading today, we hear about the greatest commandment in the law.

A lawyer asks Jesus, “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the law?”

Jesus said,

“You must love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is the first and most important commandment.

And the second one is like it –

you must love your neighbor just as you love yourself.”

Helping the Children to Reflect:

Today’s reflection on our Gospel reading gives us an opportunity to explore with the children ways that we show our love for God.

Reflection Activity:

What are some ways we show our love for God?

- in our prayers
- at mass
- at home
- with others by telling them good things that happen (instead of the bad)
- by being happy
- by being grateful for God's gifts
- by caring for the things that God created

What are some ways we show our love for our neighbor?

- sharing things with others
- getting along with our brothers and sisters
- helping with Summer lunch program
- thanking our teachers at the end of the day
- smiling at someone or waving hello

Remember when we show our love for others,
we are also showing our love for God! 😊