

Homily  
Friday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time  
May 24, 2024

Jesus gave us the Greatest Commandment. Who knows what this is?

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Who understands what this means? Put God first in everything we do. And do everything with love for God. And when we do this, we do everything with love for our brothers and sisters, our parents and grandparents, our friends and neighbors. Always put God first, and everything else flows from this.

Who knows the Golden Rule?

“Treat others the way you want to be treated.”

Who likes to be treated with kindness? All of us. Who likes to be treated badly? No one. And so we should treat everyone with kindness and treat no one badly.

We heard in our first reading James telling his brothers and sisters to not complain about each other, to not judge. When we make a mistake, we know it. When we do something wrong, we realize that we did it. I don't like to be told when I make a mistake because I already know it. And when we see or hear about someone else making a mistake, it's easy to judge, but we shouldn't.

We should not judge others because we don't know the whole story. We don't know why they did what they did. But God does. He knows all our mistakes. And He knows everything good that we do. God is our judge. God is perfect. He sees everything and knows everything.

And, as James also says, “the Lord is compassionate and merciful.” And we should be the same. We are made in the image and likeness of God. We need to be like God in being compassionate and merciful toward all our brothers and sisters.

This is easy to do when our brothers and sisters are nice to us; we can be nice to them. But when our brothers and sisters are not so nice, we still need to be nice to them, just as God is nice and compassionate and merciful.

This is our mission, to be nice and compassionate and merciful. We want to be treated the same way, so we need to treat others this way. Sometimes it's hard to be nice when someone else isn't so nice. That's when we ask God to help us to be nice. Just ask and God will answer.