Pastor's Letter

October 25, 2026 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

Our readings for today express the centrality of love in the Christian faith. That should not be news to us. Everywhere we look in Scripture and the tradition of the church we see the love of God for us on display and we hear the call of God to imitate his love and share it with everyone. But our readings today show us some surprising aspects of love that we may not expect.

In our first reading, we are shown the fierce nature of God's love, especially for the weakest and most vulnerable. God tells the Israelites, "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." Yikes! This is quite the stern warning. Mistreatment of the poor will not be tolerated among God's people. When we read this it should shock us and remind us that being a servant of the living God is not something that we should take lightly. The love of God for the weak is not sentimental and fluffy. It is passionate and ferocious, and we don't want to underestimate it, any more than we would underestimate the protectiveness of a mama bear for her cubs. Love and justice for the poor is serious business and it's nonnegotiable. We're used to thinking of love as soft and fuzzy around the edges, but that is not the case here. The love of God makes demands on us.

Jesus also surprises us in our Gospel reading when he says, 'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." We don't always think of law and love as going together. But here Jesus is showing us that all the particular commandments that God has given his people are based on one underlying foundational principle, love. If our lives are built on love, we won't go wrong.

Love is the driving force behind the Christian life. Love pushes us to do justice and to show compassion in imitation of our heavenly Father whose fierce love for us was expressed in the life, death, and resurrection of the only begotten Son. May our lives show our love for God by our love for our neighbor.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

