

Daily Advent Readings & Meditation - 2023

First Wednesday of Advent December 6



Today's Texts:

1 John 4:7-12: The call to love one another as a reflection of God's love.

Matthew 22:34-40: Jesus teaches the greatest commandments, emphasizing love.

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Today's Meditation: In the tender words of John, we are reminded of the fundamental call to love - a love that originates from God and extends to our fellow beings. This love is not a passive emotion but an active force, shaping our interactions and choices. Similarly, in Matthew's account, Jesus crystallizes the essence of the commandments into a simple yet profound directive: to love God and love our neighbor. Together, these scriptures call us to a life of love, urging us to see each person through the lens of compassion and understanding. They challenge us to break down barriers and to embrace an inclusive love that transcends differences. Today, let us recommit to this call, letting love guide our actions and interactions.

Something to Think and Pray About:

- What are some practical ways you can show love to those around you, especially those who might feel overlooked or marginalized?
- How can understanding and living out Jesus' commandment to love transform your relationships and interactions?

A Prayer For Today: Dear Lord, in the midst of Advent, teach us to love as You love. Open our hearts to understand the depth of Your commandments and empower us to live them out in our daily lives. May our actions reflect Your love, breaking down walls and building bridges of compassion and understanding. Amen.

