

World day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Prepare

To prepare for this Children's Liturgy of the Word, create a sacred space with a green cloth, cross, candle, Children's Lectionary, placed on the space.

Prepare a space for Grandparents/elderly if attending. Perhaps they could sit on seats behind their Grandkids or if they're able, they can sit in the circle on the floor as well.

Prepare the response activity:

You will need:

- One heart template for each child (last page)
- Crayons or markers
- Glue stick
- String



Instructions:

1. Label: Have the children label each heart:
 - First heart: Love God
 - Second heart: Love Others
2. Decorate Together: Children and grandparents color or decorate. Encourage one short conversation question while working:
 - What's one way we love God?
 - What's one way we love others?
3. Fold & Cut: Fold paper so the hearts and cut around the shape.
4. Open the heart slightly and place one end of the string through the hole where the top of the hearts join.
5. Glue: Secure the string and then glue the two hearts together.

Welcome

Welcome and seat the children (and their grandparents) in a circle

Leader: Today we are going to hear from the Gospel of Matthew.

Let's start by singing/saying the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

All who love me will keep my words,

and my Father will love them,

and we will come to them.

Alleluia.

Scripture - Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

After Jesus had made the Sadducees look foolish, the Pharisees heard about it and got together. One of them was an expert in the Jewish Law.

So he tried to test Jesus by asking, "Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered:

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.' This is the first and most important commandment.

The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, 'Love others as much as you love yourself.'

All the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets are based on these two commandments."



Message Input

Key Takeaway: Jesus gave us two important laws to remember that sum up all the other laws.

- Have you ever had to remember a big list of things? It can be difficult!
- How many things do you think you can remember?
- Back in the time of Jesus, there were many, many laws. People grew up learning them and studying them so that they could live as God asked them to.
- But sometimes people thought that the laws were more important than being friends with God and others. They forgot that the heart of all the laws was love.
- God sent Jesus so help people understand that the heart of the law was love. God loved everyone so much, he wanted them to be safe, healthy and to live together in harmony. This is the purpose of God's laws.
- To make it easy to remember, Jesus summed up all the laws into the two most important ones:
 - Two laws are easier to remember than many laws.
 - The two laws Jesus gave us are all about love.
 - If we follow these two laws of love then we will follow all the others at the same time.
- Just like our parents and grandparents teach us how to be safe, healthy and to live in harmony with others, Jesus parents and grandparents did too.
- Saint Joachim and Saint Anne were Jesus' Grandparents. They passed on the practices of the laws onto Mary and probably Jesus as well!
- Our Grandparents are very good at showing us the laws Jesus gave us to love our neighbors and we should follow their example too.

Discussion:

Note: This could be a good opportunity for the children to discuss these ideas with their Grandparents and for Grandparents to share their knowledge/understanding of what they think Jesus meant.

- Read the two laws Jesus gave and ask the kids if they think these are easy to follow? Why? Why not?
- How would you know someone was following these laws? What sorts of things would they do or say?

Response

Orientate the response:

- Have you ever had to remember a long list?
- Is it easier to remember two things or many things?
- In Jesus' time, people tried to remember many laws.
- Sometimes they forgot the most important thing—love.
- Jesus helped by giving just two rules that sum up all the rest.
- We are going to do something that will help us to remember these two important laws.

Have the children create the hearts (as described in the preparation).

When complete, they may place them in the sacred space, perhaps with the one they most want God's help with facing upwards?

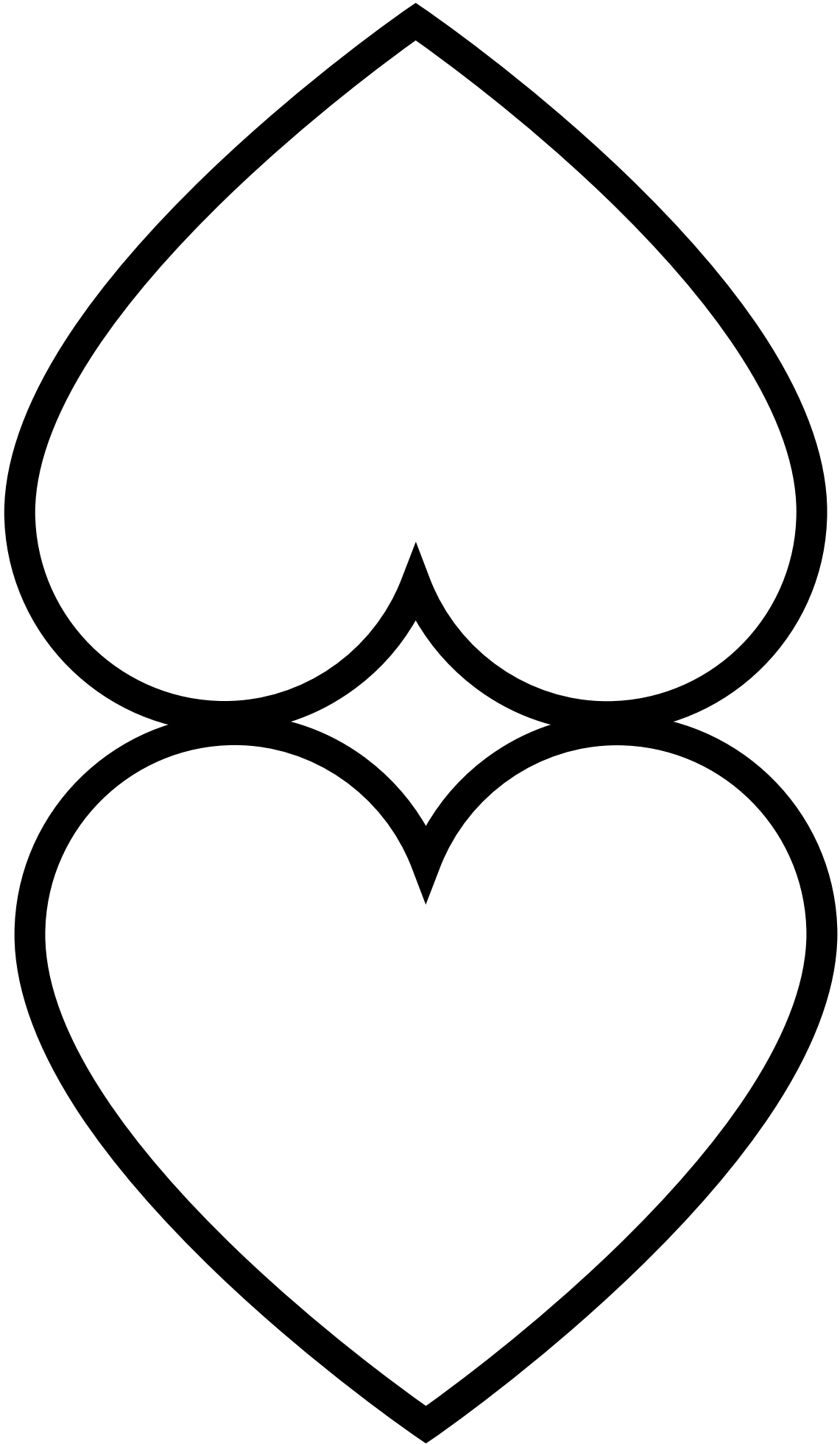
Prayers of the faithful

- Leader:** Together as one family, knowing that God never forgets us, we bring our prayers before the Lord.
- Reader:** For the Church, help us to be a community of faith that welcomes all people, including those who are elderly.
Lord, hear us.
- Reader:** For grandparents and the elderly, may they know God's love and be cherished by their families and communities.
Lord, hear us.
- Reader:** For those who feel alone or forgotten, may they be comforted by God's closeness and supported by the friendship and care of others.
Lord, hear us.
- Reader:** For families and younger generations, may we be grateful for the faith, stories, and wisdom that has been passed down to us.
Lord, hear us.
- Reader:** For our community, may we always remember those in need around us and reach out with support so that no one is overlooked or forgotten.
Lord, hear us.

Reader: For those who has died, especially our own grandparents and elderly loved ones. May they be welcomed into life everlasting with God.
Lord, hear us.

Leader: Loving God, Thank You for making it easy to remember what matters most. Help us love You with all our hearts and show our love by being kind and caring to others.
Thank You especially for our grandparents — help us love them, listen to them, and appreciate them each day.
Amen.

Rejoin the Congregation



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