

Dear Padre,

Does the Church have a position on cosmetic surgery?

For clarity, we understand cosmetic surgery to be a medical intervention that's purely optional and not required to maintain or restore physical health. For example, we aren't considering here plastic surgeries in response to serious injuries from fire or trauma. It's impossible to give a single response about all cosmetic surgery, and the Church has no explicit teaching on the matter. Perhaps some general suggestions will help guide our thinking.

We must first ask what the goal of the surgery is. Face lifts, "nose jobs," "tummy tucks," and such are elective surgeries usually pursued because persons are unhappy with their appearance. While there may be instances where people are so distraught over these matters that cosmetic surgery would help them attain some peace and comfort, often these surgeries are motivated by vanity. When these feelings are present, one might ask whether more profound issues about self-acceptance should be addressed, rather than resorting to changing one's appearance. One should ask how this particular cosmetic surgery would enhance our dignity as one made in God's image.

In a broader context, we might consider how much is spent on "looking better" when many have neither food, shelter, nor proper clothing. A good meditation is to think first of Jesus' concern for the poor and then how he wishes to work through us to take care of his poor as the body of Christ.

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Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



DIMITRY ZUB / PEXELS



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Vanity never heals. Rather, it is poisonous, it goes on bringing the disease in your heart, bringing you that hardness of heart that tells you: "No, do not go to the Lord, do not go. Stay by yourself." Vanity is precisely the place to close ourselves to the call of the Lord.

HOMILY, MARCH 10, 2020

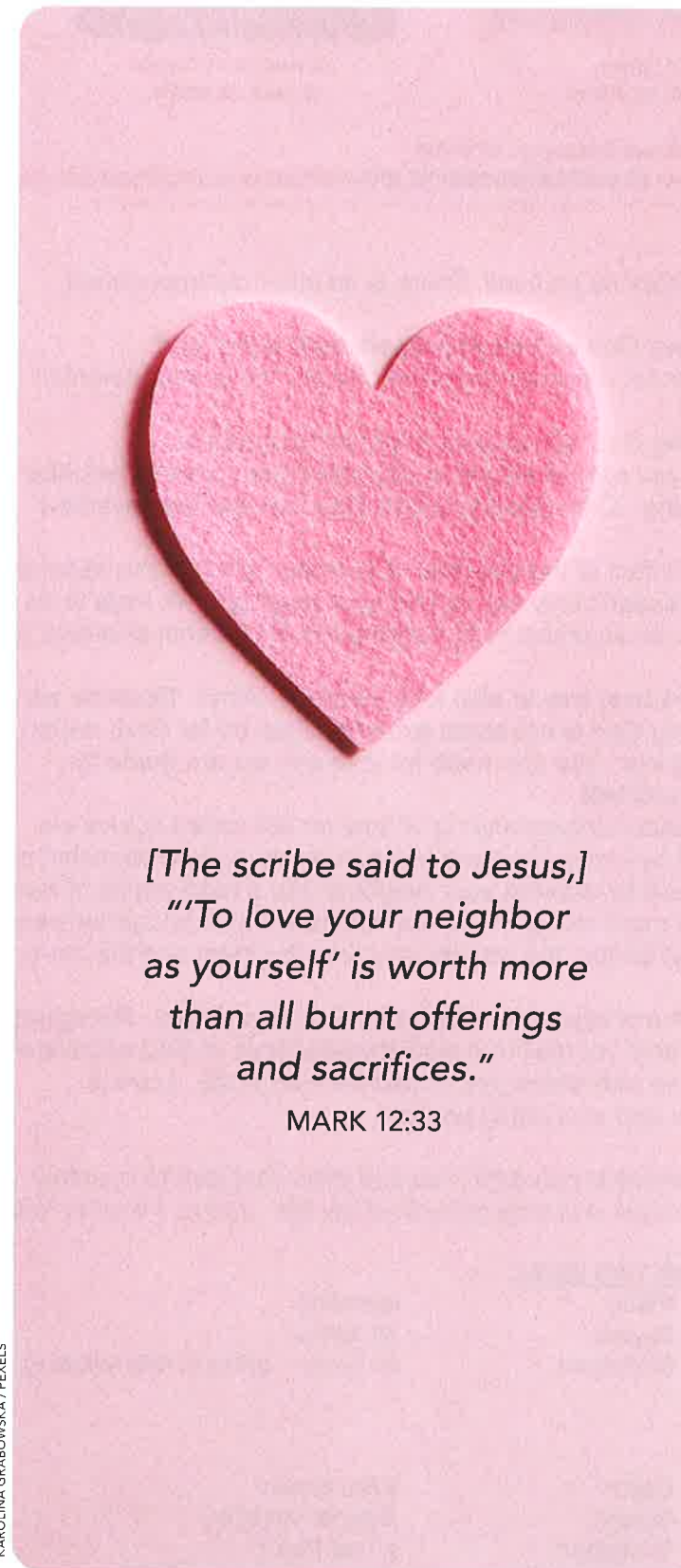
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Calendar

- Monday**
NOVEMBER 1
All Saints
Rv 7:2-4, 9-14
1 Jn 3:1-3
Mt 5:1-12a
- Tuesday**
NOVEMBER 2
Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
Wis 3:1-9
Rom 5:5-11
Jn 6:37-40
- Wednesday**
NOVEMBER 3
Weekday
Rom 13:8-10
Lk 14:25-33
- Thursday**
NOVEMBER 4
St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Rom 14:7-12
Lk 15:1-10
- Friday**
NOVEMBER 5
Weekday
Rom 15:14-21
Lk 16:1-8
- Saturday**
NOVEMBER 6
Weekday
Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27
Lk 16:9-15
- Sunday**
NOVEMBER 7
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 17:10-16
Heb 9:24-28
Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 31, 2021
Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Dt 6:2-6
Heb 7:23-28
Mk 12:28b-34



KAROLINA GRABOWSKA / PEXELS

[The scribe said to Jesus,]
"To love your neighbor as yourself" is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

MARK 12:33

Take to Heart These Words

"Hear, O Israel!" (Deuteronomy 6:3) are the first words of the most important declaration of faith for Jewish people, a declaration that is the centerpiece of the morning and evening Jewish prayer services. It is a kind of "pledge of allegiance" that observant Jews say even today, reminding themselves of the uniqueness of their God and the covenantal relationship they have with this God. In it they confess that the Lord is their God, their only God. Out of reverence, they do not pronounce God's personal name. In its place they substitute the word *Lord*. Behind this act of faith is the covenantal promise of God: "I will be your God and you shall be my people" (Jeremiah 7:23).

This covenant carries mutual responsibilities. God will be their God and will be faithful to all that this blessing entails. As God's people, they will live according to the standards set by God, witnessing to the world the holiness in life lived for and with God. They are to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength.

Jesus did not change this declaration in any way. It is at the heart of the Christian way of life as well. What he did was throw light on the meaning of living for and with God, of loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. He insists that to love God is to love others, and to love them as we love ourselves. "Hear, O Israel!" "Take to heart these words" (Deuteronomy 6:6).

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- How in your family or workplace might you show love by being kinder, more patient, and willing to forgive slights?
- How open are you to changing your understanding when a new point of view is offered to you?



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Mailing Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

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Love of God and Neighbor

"The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these." [Mark 12:31](#)

The first and greatest Commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. But Jesus goes on to give us the second most important Commandment. "Love your neighbor as yourself."

First of all, it's important to point out that loving God with all your might is the greatest Commandment, in part, because unless you do so, you cannot also love your neighbor. Love of neighbor hinges on whether you love God with your whole being. Only when you love God can that love overflow into other relationships.

When you look at the love of neighbor as an effect of the overflow of your love of God, this second Commandment takes on a clearer meaning. Jesus doesn't only say to love your neighbor, He says to do so "as yourself." So how do you love yourself? You do so primarily by fulfilling the First Commandment of the love of God.

Loving God with your whole self is, in fact, the best way to also love yourself. Why? Because we were made for love and communion with God. Loving God is not some extra favor we do for God; rather, it's a way of fulfilling the deepest meaning of who we are. We are made for love and we are made for God. Therefore, loving God is the best way to love yourself.

From this starting point, we then move to a better understanding of how we are called to love our neighbor. If the fulfillment of loving yourself is found by loving God and being in an intimate relationship of love with God, then you love your neighbor as yourself by drawing your neighbor into a relationship of love with God also. There is nothing you could do that is more loving for others than to act as a bridge between them and God. And the more directly you act as that bridge, the greater your love for them and the more completely you fulfill this Commandment.

Reflect, today, upon the ways that you act as a bridge of love between God and others. Recognize this as your absolute duty, privilege and honor. Commit yourself to a wholehearted love of God and allow that love to overflow and be poured out upon all those with whom you encounter every day. Love is contagious, and it must consume everything you are and everything you do.

Lord, I desire to love You with my whole being. Increase my love for You and allow that love to overflow into every relationship I have in life. May love be the one and only mission of my life. Jesus, I trust in You.

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
11/1	Monday	9:00 AM	Bayard	All Saints
11/2	Tuesday	9:00 AM	Bridgeport	All Souls – coffee & rolls following
11/3	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
11/4	Thursday	No Mass Today		
11/5	Friday	No Mass Today		
11/6	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	† Hal Brown
11/7	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Special Intention
11/7	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	† Troy Perez

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MASS TIME
Sunday — 10.30 AM

ALL SOULS DAY MASS
ON TUESDAY, NOV. 2 AT
9:00 AM, FR. DAVE PRESIDING
COFFEE AND ROLLS
FOLLOWING
ALL ARE WELCOME

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$855.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$170.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1,025.00
MASS STIPEND	\$10.00
ALL SOULS DAY	\$80.00
WORLD MISSION	\$20.00
RESALE REL. ART.	\$25.91
TOTAL	\$1,160.91
HEAT/AC	\$100.00
BUILDING FUND	

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME
Sunday – 8:00 AM

ALL SAINTS DAY MASS
ON MONDAY, NOV. 1 AT
9:00 AM, FR DAVE
PRESIDING

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$465.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$15.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 480.00
ALL SOULS DAY	\$27.00
WORLD MISSION	\$15.00
TOTAL	\$ 522.00
BUILDING FUND	

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME
Saturday – 5:30 PM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$685.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$1.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 686.00
ALLSOULS DAY	\$110.00
WORLD MISSION	\$75.00
TOTAL	\$ 871.00
BUILDING FUND	\$6,034.87

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

