

Our Invitation from the King

When people think of heaven, they often imagine a place up in the sky. Episodes of *Star Trek* should challenge that notion. The Bible usually speaks of heaven as an experience. According to our first reading, it is like a banquet, “a feast of rich food and choice wines” (Isaiah 25:6). Such a meal is an extraordinary event for hardworking people who seldom get to enjoy such luxury. According to today’s Gospel account, the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding banquet, a feast of “calves and fattened cattle” (Matthew 22:4), a celebration of love and new life.

Some people might prefer an image that thrills the ear rather than the palette, like a Handel concerto or a Beethoven symphony. Whatever image is favored, heaven is an incomparable phenomenon that cannot be described. It is an experience that will thrill us to the core of our being.

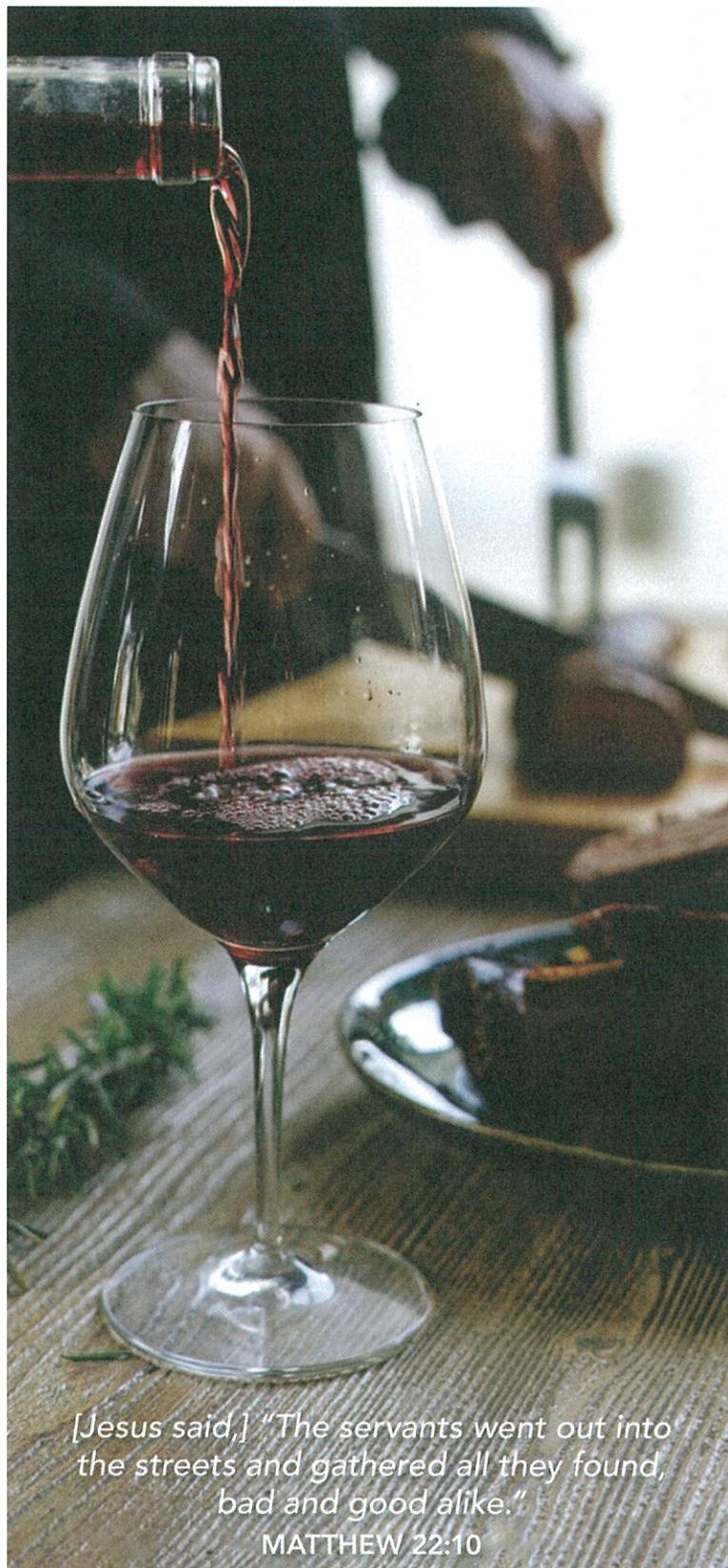
To be invited to such an astounding experience might well be the event of a lifetime. This is, after all, an invitation from the king. Who would possibly turn it down? And yet, some do. As the Gospel recounts, some are too busy with work. Others would rather watch “the game.” Still others who might accept the invitation minimize it by refusing to dress appropriately. How can people be so foolish? Yet, you and I often are.

God’s invitation to the heavenly feast simply asks that we realize the magnitude of the honor extended to us, that we accept it graciously, and that we enjoy the experience.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

✦ *So often our invitation to the heavenly banquet is shrouded. What keeps you from recognizing this invitation?*



[Jesus said,] “The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike.”

MATTHEW 22:10



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859-404-8795

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859-585-1247

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859-432-0491

28th Sunday

In Ordinary Time

Matthew 22: 1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

Adoration of the Mystic Lamb 1432, Hubert & Jan Van Eyck—Ghent, Belgium Altarpiece



MASS INTENTION: TODAY 10:30am Paul Ford

***WEDNESDAY 6PM.....St. Patrick Youth Group**

***THURSDAY 6PM.....Oct 15.....Harold Wilson**

Oct 18.....George & Martha Shaw Oct 2.....Nick & Edna Breiner

Oct 25....Doug & Carol Lane Oct 29...Charlie & Mary Ann Hyska

Nov 1....Paul Ford Nov 5....Kathie Igo

Birthdays OCT: 11—Blake Messer, Annabelle Stewart

13—Kevin Snyder, 14—Bryant Ruiz, 16—Waylon Stewart

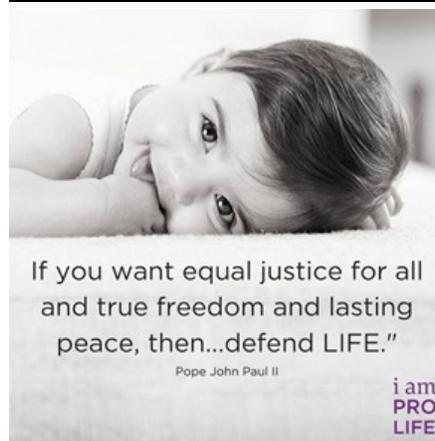
18—Ann Musson, 20—Filiberto De La Cruz-Lopez

Wedding Anniversaries OCT: 16—David & Joyce Enoch,

17—Jacobo Vera & Ester Perez, 20—John & Jan Coburn

24—Phillip & Mary Fawns, Andy & Mary Baker

30—Perry & Susan Howard



If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then...defend LIFE."

Pope John Paul II

i am PRO LIFE

OCTOBER 2020 WORD OF LIFE – Intercessions for Life

For women and men suffering after abortion: May the Church's abortion healing ministry, Project Rachel, help them find peace and healing through Christ's endless mercy;

We pray to the Lord:

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering

decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. ...But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. ...The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation." Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, no. 99. © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

Reconciliation/Confession:

Thursday 5:30-6pm

Baptism: by appointment

Marriage Prep: Notify the priest six months in advance

Anointing of the Sick & Visits

Please call the office if you know of someone in need of a pastoral visit.

Diocesan Website: www.cdlex.org

Finance Council

Fr. Frank Brawner

John Wenz (*Chair*) Mary Fawns

Andy Baker Joe King

Joe Gomes Tom Lowry

Melissa Buttry

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr. Frank Brawner Steve Lane

Roseanne Ackermann (*Chair*)

Mary Breiner Wendell Fraley

Rich Ortiz Lee Record

Jacob/Kelli Stewart Sr. Liz Wehri

John Karas (*Tech Liaison*)

Pope Francis' Universal OCTOBER Prayer Intention:

The Laity's Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.



PLEASE PRAY FOR: Roseanne Ackermann, Doug Stamm, James Walker, Edna Fields, Jodi Ortiz, Lillie Harkness & Family, Paulett Hedge, Ernestine Jeffries, Linda Martin & Family, Janet Wilson, the Pecina Family: (Trina, Jose, Rita) Perry Joe Sr., & Perry Joe Jr. Norris, Erika Janeth Garcia, Blanca & Isabel Valdez, Elizabeth Munoz, Steve, All those in our parish who are unemployed.

Please pray daily: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, and 1 Glory Be for Fr. Frank & all those who are sick.



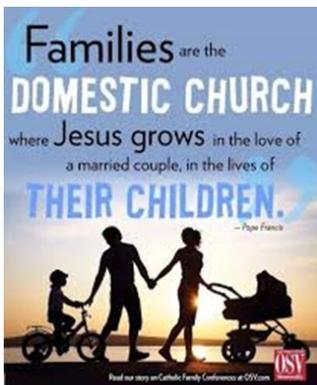
FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

“A Well-Formed Conscience”



The Virtue of Prudence

20. The Church's teaching is clear that *a good end does not justify an immoral means*. As we all seek to advance the common good —by defending the inviolable sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death, by promoting religious freedom, by defending marriage, by feeding the hungry and housing the homeless, by welcoming the immigrant and protecting the environment—it is important to recognize that not all possible courses of action are morally acceptable. We have a responsibility to discern carefully which public policies are morally sound. Catholics may choose different ways to respond to compelling social problems, but we cannot differ on our moral obligation to help build a more just and peaceful world through morally acceptable means, so that the *weak and vulnerable are protected and human rights and dignity are defended*. —Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States, Digital Edition 2020



PARENT INFO for CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Dear Parents,

With the restrictions due to Covid 19, CCD will not look like we wish. Our option right now is a virtual program where you follow at home with instructions from your child's teacher. I will have a take-home packet monthly for the Kindergarten class. Our ultimate goal after Covid is to hit the road and will return to the classroom; but for now, online is what we have.

We need to know how many students will be joining us this year. If your children are joining us, please do one of the following: **text me your child's name and current grade at 859 585 0701 or email the church at stpatmtsterling@gmail.com** by Monday October 12th.

Our classes this year are being offered for kindergarten through 5th grade. Middle school and high school have the option of youth group this year. When we have our list, we will send out an updated registration sheet (no fee this year)

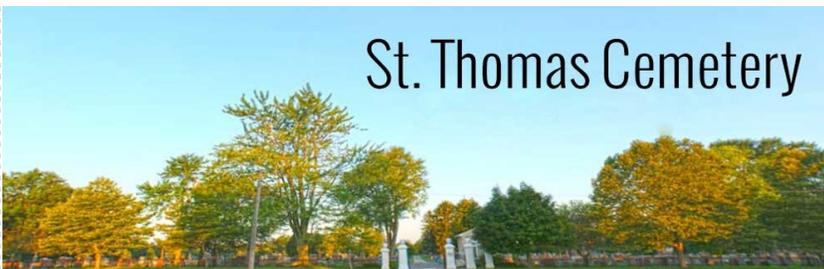
Thank you for your patience while we work with unprecedented times.— Melissa Buttry

SEASON OF CREATION message for the Feast of Saint Francis. Saint Francis is the patron saint of pets and the environment.



Good St. Francis, you loved all of God's creatures. To you they were your brothers and sisters. Help us to follow your example of treating every living thing with kindness. St. Francis, Patron Saint of animals, watch over my pet and keep my companion safe and healthy. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 @ 5pm, we will meet in the cemetery (across the road from Speedway on Maysville Rd) to pray for the deceased souls that are buried there.



St. Thomas Cemetery

Holy Scripture tells us that, "it is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins," (2 Maccabees 12:46). The Catholic Church urges us to spend time in prayer for those who have gone before us. Prayer for the souls in Purgatory is a requirement of Christian charity, and it helps us to call to mind our own mortality.

Spending even the briefest of moments in prayer for the dead in this location reminds us that we, too, will someday need the prayers of the other members of the Communion of Saints—both those still living & those who have entered into eternal glory. A cemetery visit takes only a few minutes, & yet it reaps immense spiritual benefit for the Holy Souls in Purgatory—and for us as well, since those souls whose suffering we ease will pray for us when they enter into Heaven.

Mass will follow @ 6pm in the cemetery.

Please bring a folding chair.

The Columbarium will also be dedicated at this gathering.



MEETING TUESDAY, OCT 13 @ 7PM in the parish hall for those interested in purchasing a niche in the columbarium. If you have any questions, please call Jim Bonfield @ 585-5978.

Dear Padre,

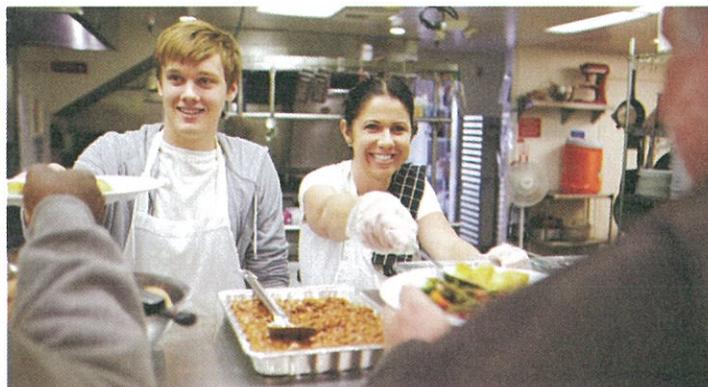
What is the Catholic Church's position on grace versus works?

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works" (Ephesians 2:8-9). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* attests that we have merit in God's sight only because "God has freely chosen to associate man with the work of his grace" (CCC 2008). After God acted first on his own initiative, it then follows that we're free to act through his collaboration, "so that the merit of good works is to be attributed in the first place to the grace of God, then to the faithful" (CCC 2008). In other words, it's only through God's empowering Spirit in each of us that makes our good works for salvation pleasing to the Lord!

Moreover, Catholics believe these good works "contribute to growth in grace, so that the righteousness that comes from God is preserved and communion with Christ is deepened. When Catholics affirm the 'meritorious' character of good works, they wish to say that...a reward in heaven is promised to these works. Their intention is to emphasize the responsibility of persons for their actions, not to contest the character of those works as gifts, or far less to deny that justification always remains the unmerited gift of grace" (*Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*, Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church, 38).

Christian prayer provides us with the grace that's needed for meritorious actions (CCC 2010).

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Do good works, don't just say words that are gone with the wind....Through the good works that we carry out with love and joy towards others, our faith emerges and bears fruit. Let us ask ourselves...Is our faith fruitful? Does our faith produce good works? Or is it sterile instead, and therefore more dead than alive?

—ANGELUS, JULY 10, 2016

Calendar

Monday

OCTOBER 12
Weekday
Gal 4:22-24, 26-27,
31-5:1
Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday

OCTOBER 13
Weekday
Gal 5:1-6
Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday

OCTOBER 14
Weekday
Gal 5:18-25
Lk 11:42-46

Thursday

OCTOBER 15
St. Teresa of Jesus,
Virgin and Doctor of
the Church
Eph 1:1-10
Lk 11:47-54

Friday

OCTOBER 16
Weekday
Eph 1:11-14
Lk 12:1-7

Saturday

OCTOBER 17
St. Ignatius of Antioch,
Bishop and Martyr
Eph 1:15-23
Lk 12:8-12

Sunday

OCTOBER 18
Twenty-ninth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Is 45:1, 4-6
1 Thes 1:1-5b
Mt 22:15-21