



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*
October 15, 2023 ▪ The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Why “come as you are” isn’t okay for God’s banquet



It's true that everyone is welcome in Jesus' house. But just showing up won't cut it.

“The king said to him, ‘My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?’ But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’ Many are invited, but few are chosen.”

—Matthew 22:12-14

This is a season of invitations. As the end of October approaches, many of us will be invited to Halloween parties and numerous parishes will send out information about special All Saints Day and All Souls Day services remembering those who have died in the past year. Then, only a short time later, family and friends will begin making plans for Thanksgiving. Few of us will have a chance to take a breath before the invitations begin to roll in for the pre-Christmas parties. It almost seems natural, then, that our Gospel this Sunday is a parable that begins with an invitation to a party.

In this passage, Jesus tells the story of a king who is hosting a wedding banquet for his son. Even though the invitation is from the king, the invited guests decline to attend. The king tries again. This time, the servants are told to tell the invitees about the menu as a further enticement: “Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.” And yet, the response is the same: “Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business.” Others of those invited took things a step further by abusing the servants.

What was the king to do? His son was still to be married and the banquet tables had been set. He orders his troops to punish the people who attacked his servants. But, more significantly, he told them to go out, “into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.”

The king abandoned custom and convention. He defied the expectations of the culture and was prepared to welcome into the royal banquet hall anyone who would accept the invitation.

This message from Jesus would have been remarkable enough. He was telling a story that subverted the expectations of the culture. But Jesus doesn’t stop there.

Although the king would have known that the rich and poor, local people and foreigners, the well and sick

Continued next page . . .



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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... Continued from cover

would have been in the banquet hall, he still singles out a man whom he feels is not appropriately dressed for the occasion and he has him thrown out of the hall into the dark of night.

This certainly doesn't seem fair. After all, the servants invited anyone and everyone at the king's instruction. No conditions were given and the servants did exactly what they were told to do. But, as he does in other parables, Jesus is pulling the rug from beneath our feet. Remember, this isn't just a nice story. Parables are intended to throw us off balance.

What's at stake in this Sunday's Gospel are the same themes of the end of time and judgment that we found in last week's Gospel. And, like last week's Gospel, this parable was originally intended for the religious leaders of Jesus' day. But there is a message here for all of us: in accepting the invitation, the guests are still expected to ready themselves for the feast. And, as our First Reading demonstrates, this is God's feast and the banquet is the Kingdom of Heaven. This is a feast to which all are invited, rich and poor, local people and foreigners, the well and the sick. But, by accepting the invitation, the guests—representing each of us—are expected to be dressed appropriately for the celebration: in garments of virtue and right living (cf. Colossians 3:12; Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27). As Jesus says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Although the invitation to come together into the banquet hall is extended to people of all times and places and ways of life, we are being reminded in this Sunday's liturgy that we are asked to do more than just "show up" at the banquet to which we have been invited. We are being asked to prepare ourselves for the feast by living lives of faith, hope, forgiveness, humility, and love—lives worthy of the Kingdom.

As you think of God's invitation to be part of the banquet feast of Heaven, what are the virtues that you think the Divine Host will look for in the guests? What does this parable tell us about God's mercy and salvation? Take time this week to pray that you might acquire the appropriate "attire" for guests of the King's banquet feast.

Words of Wisdom: "Whatever can this wedding garment be ... For an answer must go to the Apostle, who says: *The purpose of our command is to arouse the love that springs from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a genuine faith* (1 Timothy 1:5). There is your wedding garment. It is not love of just any kind. Many people of bad conscience appear to love one another, but you will not find in them *the love that springs from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a genuine faith*. Only that kind of love is the wedding garment."—Saint Augustine of Hippo, *Sermon 90*

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October 15, 2023

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 25:6-10a | Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 | Mt 22:1-14

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I have about 75 first cousins (yes, really!), so I grew up accustomed to large gatherings. "Feasts" in our family were almost an everyday kind of thing. So you can imagine my initial reaction to today's parable: Why would anyone refuse such a grand invitation? Who doesn't love a feast? As we know, however, with parables, Jesus is giving us a message that is deeper than it first appears. Today he uses the image of a wedding feast to explain God's abundant generosity, and the indifference or outright refusal this loving generosity is often met with. Yes, we enjoy sharing food with family and friends, but are we always gracious recipients of God's love and bounty? Are we prepared, and properly disposed, to receive it? (Think of the graces we receive in the sacraments, especially confession.) The kingdom of heaven is the banquet to which we are all invited, and too often we can become busy with our material lives and not notice this ongoing invitation. Or we push it out of our minds, or grieve about in the wrong garments (of sin, and not grace). Let us open our ears and our hearts to God's loving invitation, strive to be holy people, and share this gift with those around us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We learn from today's readings that the kingdom of heaven can be likened to a sumptuous banquet. Isaiah, in the first reading, says it well, proclaiming, "The Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines." Isaiah then moves from imagery of food to talk about how God will destroy death forever and wipe away all tears. In other words, God has saved his people, and offers us his constant presence and the gift of eternal life. But we must respond to God's generosity in the proper manner so we are prepared to enter the kingdom when the time comes. Making our relationship with Jesus our number one priority will prepare us well to receive and respond to this invitation. From this we will see how our other priorities naturally change and how God always provides. As St. Paul says in his Letter to the Philippians: "My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

ACTION When you get dressed each morning this week, take a look at what you are wearing spiritually, as well as physically. What does the (spiritual) garment look like? Is it appropriate for a wedding feast? Pray the Act of Contrition (and go to confession if necessary), and then make a conscious effort to repair any faults in your spiritual garment: forgive someone or apologize to someone; pray specifically for someone you do not especially care for; spend time in Eucharistic Adoration.



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Journeying Through Grief

“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 14, Memorial of Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Mary Ann Hymel (dec)

Saturday, October 14, Vigil for The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Bill Hueston (dec)

Sunday, October 15, The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Carole Huff (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (dec)

Monday, October 16, Memorial of St. Hedwig, Religious, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

8:00 a.m. George Parmigiani (dec)

Tuesday, October 17, Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Charles Fegley Murray (dec)

Wednesday, October 18, Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, October 19, Memorial of Saints John de Brébeuf & Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs

8:00 a.m. JoAnn Marchese (dec)

Friday, October 20, Memorial of St. Paul of the Cross, Priest

8:00 a.m. Ann Deakins (dec)

Saturday, October 21, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Edward Natale (dec)

Saturday, October 21, Vigil for The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Dolores and Joseph Ciminera (dec)

Sunday, October 22, The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Peg O'Hara (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Mary Beth Haining (dec)

Blessed Trinity Social Group

Some parishioners are initiating a social group to take advantage of all that St. Petersburg has to offer. A list of events and excursions is being compiled. More ideas would be warmly welcomed. We will have a special Flocknote Group created to help disseminate info on upcoming events.

Contact Susan Kruse at 803-261-4946 for more information or to offer suggestions for future outings.

To join the Flocknote Group, call the office Monday - Friday, before noon, and Emily can help to add you to the group.

Saint Mary/Blessed Trinity Present FOLLIES!



An Evening of Dining and Entertainment
November, 18th 2023

Italian Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. • Show @ 6:30 p.m.

Tickets go on sale October 14 and can be purchased for
\$20 each in the office

No tickets will be sold at the door

Guest appearance by comedian and magician Geoff Williams!



Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

10/15 • Rev. Allan C. Tupa

10/16 • Rev. Garry A. Welsh

10/17 • Msgr. Antonio Diez

10/18 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

10/19 • Jorel De Guzman, Seminarian

10/20 • Rev. John C. Murphy

10/21 • Msgr. Desmond Daly



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Scripture Class

Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes have resumed from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. We will begin with a new study from Q Place "celebrate", yes to life in Christ.

Class will be held in the Courtyard Hall and the books will be \$12.00 for 12 sessions. For further information and to confirm attendance, please call Barbara Townsend (727) 867-3605



Keep in touch with us!

Text BTSP to 84576 or connect
with us online at
btsp.flocknote.com



Blessed Trinity's days are
Sunday, Oct 22 and
Thurs., Nov 2.

Call the office to sign up to
peacefully pray for an hour
either or both days.

Autumn Harvest Dance

The Knights of Columbus are hosting an Autumn Harvest Dance in Parish Hall on Saturday, November 4th at 7:00 ppm. Tickets will be \$10 each and there will be a 50/50 raffle benefiting Gold Star Families.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Respond with Love

Do you remember a time when you spent much time or money on a surprise or gift for someone else and they failed to appreciate it? We do open ourselves up to disappointment if our expectations do not match the response. Perhaps we reached down deep to share a part of ourselves only to encounter apathy and insensitivity. That can hurt even if the person ignoring our gesture meant no ill will toward us.

What must God feel like when we fail to respond to what He has done for us. We probably do not purposefully slight God, but perhaps we are so busy and mindless that it becomes impossible to be responsive and mindful. We can miss the gift of God which is right before our eyes.

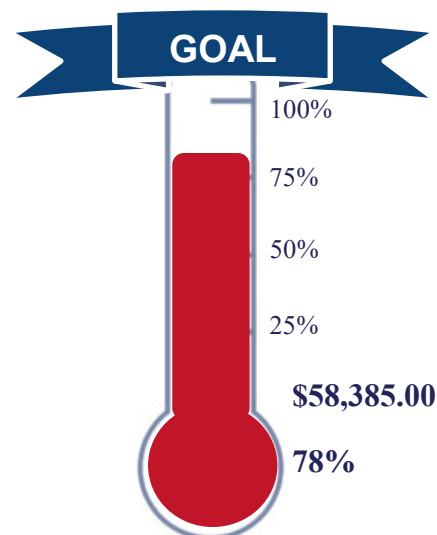
It is very difficult to be a good steward if we do not intentionally choose to be mindful. We miss the important stuff in life, and we neglect those placed in our path as gifts to enrich our lives. If we are to live as Jesus asks, we must work on focusing our eyes of faith on the things that matter and the gifts we have been given. If we are made in the image of God, I suppose we can guess how God might feel when His gifts are not acknowledged, or His love not returned. If I reflect on the One who loves me more than anyone, how can I choose to not offer my love in return?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



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“Life in the Spirit” Prayer Group

Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in
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Vocations

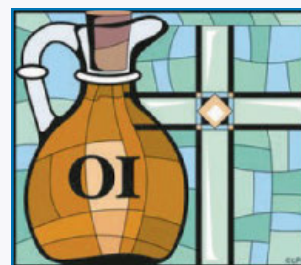
Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father's love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?

Call Father Chuck Dornquast 727-345-3452 or write: scd@dosp.org

Arnold, Barbara
Austreng, Dick
Barr, Bill
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Cavaliere, Lois
Christ, Kathryn
Cisek, Marilyn
Comeau, Teresa
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Gawlik, Frank
Gawlik, Sofia
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt

Irvin, John
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Klima, Sue
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Matthews, Daniel
Mays, Susan
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Oliphant, Sean
Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Riley, Marie
Roberts, Deacon Lionel

Romani, Angelo
Schulz, Ingrid
Shelby, Ron &
Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and
Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.

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