



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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GOD'S INVITED GUESTS

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 11, 2026

Today's Gospel passage tells us about a king who prepares a wedding banquet for his son (cf. Mt 22:1-14). He is a powerful man, but he is above all a generous father, who invites others to share in his joy. In particular, he reveals the goodness of his heart in the fact that he does not compel anyone, but invites everyone, even though this way exposes him to the possibility of rejection. We notice that he prepares a banquet, freely offering an opportunity for encounter, an opportunity for a feast. This is what God prepares for us: a banquet, to be in communion with him and among ourselves. And we, all of us, are therefore God's invited guests. But a wedding banquet requires time and commitment on our part: it requires a "yes": to go, to go to the Lord's invitation. He invites, but he leaves us free.

This is the type of relationship that the Father offers us: he calls us to stay with him, leaving us the possibility to accept or not accept [the invitation]. He does not propose to us a relationship of subjection, but rather of fatherhood and sonship, which is necessarily conditioned by our free assent. God is very respectful regarding freedom; very respectful. Saint Augustine uses a very beautiful expression in this regard, saying: "He who created us without our help will not save us without our consent" (Sermonclxix, 13). And certainly not because he does not have the capacity to do so — God is omnipotent! — but because, being love, he respects our freedom fully. God proposes: he does not impose. Never.

Let us return, then, to the parable: the king, the text says, "sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come" (v. 3). Here is the drama of the story: the "no" to God. But why do people refuse his invitation? Was it perhaps an unpleasant invitation? No, and yet — the Gospel says — "they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business" (v. 5). They did not care, because they were thinking of their own affairs. And that king, who is a father, God, what does he do? He does not give up; he continues to invite. Indeed, he extends the invitation, until he finds someone who accepts it, among the poor. Among those who know they have little else, many come, until they fill the hall (cf. vv. 8-10).

Brothers and sisters, how many times do we fail to heed God's invitation, because we are intent on our own affairs! Often, we struggle to have free time, but today Jesus invites us to find the time that frees: the time to dedicate to God, that lightens and heals our hearts, that increases peace, confidence and joy in us, that saves us from evil, loneliness and loss of meaning. It is worth it, because it is good to be with the Lord, to make room for him. Where? At Mass, in listening to the Word, in prayer and also in charity, because by helping those who are weak or poor, by spending time with those who are lonely, by listening to those who ask for attention, by consoling those who suffer, one is with the Lord, who is present in those in need. However, many think that these things are a "waste of time", and so they lock themselves away in their private world; and it is sad. And this creates sadness. How many sad hearts there are! For this reason, because they are closed.

Let us ask ourselves, then: how do I respond to God's invitations? What space do I give him in my days? Does the quality of my life depend on my affairs and my free time, or on love for the Lord and for my brethren, especially those most in need?

May Mary, who with her "yes" made room for God, help us not to be deaf to his invitations.

POPE FRANCIS — October 15, 2023

PREPARING FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: "The invitation is for all peoples"

Isaiah sees a feast the Lord prepares "for all peoples" (Is 25:6). In the Gospel the king sends servants to the highways so that the wedding hall may be filled (Mt 22:1-14). Mission is that invitation carried to every nation. Next Sunday is the 100th World Mission Sunday. Please plan to pray for missionaries and to support the second collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which aids young Churches in more than 1,100 mission territories.

St Peter Seminary - The 14th Annual A.P. Mahoney Library Lecture: This year, our extraordinary professor of moral theology Fr. Jason Kuntz will explore the encyclical *Magnifica humanitas* in a lecture titled, "A Renewed Culture of the Common Good: Building a Civilization of Love with Pope Leo XIV." The lecture will be held in the Seminary's Bishop John Michael Sherlock Auditorium on Wednesday, October 21st, 2026 at 7:30pm, 1040 Waterloo St, London, ON N6A 3Y1. For more information, please visit the A.P. Mahoney Library website or view the event poster, and don't forget to mark your calendars!

The Many Faces of Evil Wounded by Sin - Saved by the Sacraments

It is easy to see the growing presence of evil today. War, crime, the growth in "us versus them", attacks on religious institutions, the family & the sacredness of human life. The bible refers to the devil by many names: the Accuser, the Scatterer & the father of lies, who seeks to deceive & divide us. We need not be afraid! Jesus' Resurrection brought victory over evil. With prayer & participation in the Sacraments, we are equipped for the spiritual battles in life. Attend the **St. Agnes Education Cafe:**

"The Many Faces of Evil ~ Wounded by Sin, Saved by the Sacraments"
with Fr. Michael King. Sunday October 18th 2-3:30pm, St. Agnes, Waterloo.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 10 **5:00 PM**
+Kate Okwechime

Sunday, October 11 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, October 13 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, October 14 **11:00 AM**

Thursday, October 15 **11:00 AM**

St. Teresa of Jesus

Friday, October 16 **11:00 AM**

St. Marguerite D'Youville
+Ron & Pauline Craig

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 17 **5:00 PM**
+Clement D'Andrade +Mary Sinnott +Darren Mahon

Sunday, October 18 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XXVIII Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 10 de octubre **7:00 PM**

+Pedro Antonio Molina

Domingo 11 de octubre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 13 de octubre **12:00 PM**

Miércoles 14 de octubre **12:00 PM**

Jueves 15 de octubre **12:00 PM**

Santa Teresa de Jesús

Viernes 16 de octubre **12:00 PM**

Santa Marguerite D'Youville

XXIX Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 17 de octubre **7:00 PM**

Domingo 18 de octubre **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

10th Anniversary: The St. John Paul II Student Centre, which is a wonderful part of the St. Michael community, will be celebrating their 10 year anniversary this month. On Wednesday October 21st with special guest speaker Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, 6:30 pm and Sunday October 25th at 7PM Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph Dabrowski.

St. Michael Parish - 80 University Ave. Waterloo.