

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.

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

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



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

MATTHEW 22:10



**St. Martin of Tours
Catholic Community
at Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

Mass Schedule

Monday – Thursday, 1205 at Fairfax Chapel

Saturday, 1700 at Belvoir Chapel

Sunday, 0930 at Belvoir Chapel
1100 at Fairfax Chapel

Pre-Registration is required for weekend Masses.

The link to register is:

[https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/
anim.cfm?i=563340&k=0767410A7F57](https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=563340&k=0767410A7F57)

**The Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed
and can be viewed from this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday – 1600-1645 at Belvoir Chapel
or by appointment. Contact Fr. Lindsay directly
to schedule.

For More Information

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Website: www.FortBelvoirCatholicCommunity.com

Facebook Page:

Fort Belvoir St. Martin of Tours Catholic Community

Congratulations

Congratulations to all of our children who have celebrated their first Communion and Confirmation. How wonderful it is that we have so many faithful families dedicated to educating their children in our faith.

And THANK YOU to all our religious education teachers and helpers – and, of course, Sr. Michael Bochnowski, - for guiding our children through their personal faithfulness.

God bless you all

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TO OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

**You can now make a donation to our
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To donate go to:

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Remember to choose:

**Fort Belvoir, VA
Catholic - RCKA**

Still unsure, watch a video about this
new program by going to:

<https://vimeo.com/451294408>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As our Catholic Community continues to celebrate in-person Masses, the need for ministry volunteers has increased. **Volunteers are needed to serve as:**

- * Eucharistic Ministers
- * Altar Servers
- * Lectors
- * Ushers

Should you like to volunteer or have questions, please email our new Liturgy Committee email address:
FBCatholicLiturgy@gmail.com.

Catholic Pastoral Council Meeting

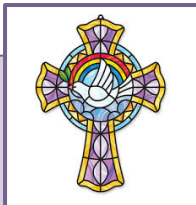
**In-Person and Virtual
Tuesday, 13 October
1900 at the REC**

Please join us for our next Catholic Pastoral Council meeting. We will be discussing upcoming events. Join us in-person at the Religious Education Center .

Virtually through the RSO Facebook Page using the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

Should you have questions or concerns, please contact Louise at FBCCInfo@gmail.com.



Homily Notes

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: 'Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked.'
(Isaiah 23:1-6)

I can do all things in him who can strengthen me. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:12-20)

The readings from Isaiah and Philippians affirm the generosity and care that God constantly is offering to us. God, through his loving grace, will indeed supply us with whatever we need to live as faithful Catholic Christians on the road to the promised land of heaven. The gospel parable also warns that if we do not accept the generous gifts of God and live out our faith, we will not enter the kingdom of heaven. We cannot simply rely on having been baptized or lived in the past as active members of the church and then simply cruise into heaven. The clothing of the faithful required for entrance into heaves is seen in the actions of love, justice, care and *compassion toward others*.

What good is it my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works...faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
(James 2:14-17)

May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works.
(The opening Mass Collect Prayer)

Fr. Mike

Knights of Columbus, Council 11170 Community Outreach Events Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest due by 1 Nov 2020

All Catholic 8th -12th grade students are welcome to submit a 500-700 word essay on the topic: "How has trusting in God helped you find strength and hope to endure a difficult situation?" Consider the troubling times when it was a challenge to understand why something was happening, such as the current pandemic, or other adverse event. Entry forms are available attached to bulletin emails and in back of Belvoir Chapel.

Soccer Challenge – 17 Oct 2020, 0900

Boys and girls, ages 9-14, are invited to the Knights Soccer Challenge at the Audrey Moore Recreation Center in Annandale. The rain date is 24 Oct. Information and entry forms are available attached to the bulletin emails and at the back of the Belvoir Chapel.

For more information about the Knights of Columbus Council or the events listed above, please email FBKofC11170@gmail.com.

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