

## FROM FATHER DAVE, PASTOR

After 32 years of priesthood, 25 years in parish ministry, and 16 years as a pastor in four different parishes I can honestly say that there is no such thing as a perfect wedding. I mention this statement at every wedding rehearsal, not to burst anyone's bubble but to ground everyone in reality. Inevitably, there always seems to be something that goes awry.

For example, here is a brief sampling of what I mean. Just before entering the church right before processing down the aisle the maid of honor stepped in chewing gum. The gum was everywhere. Somehow in the transition from home to church, a setting was lost in the bride's ring. Thankfully the ring was insured. Nevertheless, I still had to break the news to the bride before the wedding.

At one wedding I had the limousine broke down. As a result, the bridal party took a trolley to the reception. And it was not Molly's Trolley but Port Authority.

Illness can happen in an instant. For instance, at one wedding the maid of honor, the sister of the bride, fainted in the bride's arms. Another maid of honor fainted and fell backward. She was dehydrated. It took 5 bottles of water to bring her back to full strength. In the middle of one wedding, the bride became warm and nauseous causing her to leave the sanctuary. The organist and cantor had an impromptu concert. Finally, there was one wedding when the groom arrived an hour late due to illness necessitating a very brief service.

One year I was scheduled to officiate at a wedding on the first Saturday of February. That morning, the bride and groom and everyone else awakened to nearly 20 inches of snow. Needless to say, there was no wedding that day. The diocese, thankfully, granted special permission for the wedding to take place the next day.

Then there was the couple who wanted the scaffolding removed from the front of the church for their wedding day. It took nearly a week to erect the scaffolding. When I told them that the scaffolding could not be removed on the day of their wedding, they brought hard hats and posed in them in front of the scaffolding as part of their photos. Indeed, there is no such thing as a perfect wedding.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells the story about a wedding that is far from perfect. In this story, the King arranges a wedding for his son and invites all kinds of people, but he gets no response from them. In the meantime, the King sends out his servants to remind everyone about the invitation, but these servants are ignored and dismissed. Some are even mistreated. After instructing his servants to then go and invite anyone, one person arrives without the wedding garment. As a result, he is expelled from the wedding. Indeed, there is no such thing as a perfect wedding.

In spite of the imperfections we may from time to time encounter with weddings, it is important to note that weddings are often a metaphor for heaven. Any one of us who has been to a wedding can identify with this for the world seems to stop momentarily. We all leave our problems behind and enter a different space usually wearing our Sunday best.

Every time we celebrate Holy Mass it is a foreshadowing of the great wedding banquet of heaven. Every week we are invited to capture a glimpse of heaven on earth. The gospel today reminds us of the invitation that is ours to embrace heaven, not just on earth with the Holy Mass, but in the life to come.

It is also important that we echo this invitation, especially to Holy Mass. When was the last time we invited someone to join us for Holy Mass? During the recent Harvest Home Festival one of the parking lot attendants, Greg, issued many invitations to the people driving through to come to an outdoor Mass. That is real evangelization at work.

When we leave a wedding, we typically return to the ordinary and all the routines and struggles of life. The Good News about the Holy Mass is that while we return to the ordinary, we nonetheless take Jesus with us. As He accompanies us, let us pray that one day, we will be worthy of the eternal wedding feast in heaven, which truly is beyond perfection. That is one perfect wedding for sure!

- Don't forget to complete your Parish Census before October 15. The form is on the homepage of our website.
- Fall Day of Clean-Up will take place on Saturday, October 17 at the Saint Alexis campus and Saturday, October 31 at the Saint Alphonsus campus.
- Next Saturday, October 17 please bring your family to the Movie in the Orchard. The fun begins at 5:00 pm. The movie will start at 6:30 pm. To help us keep count please register by emailing [dpiccirilli@saintaidanparish.org](mailto:dpiccirilli@saintaidanparish.org)
- Holy Hour resumes on Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 pm in Saint Alexis Church.

Have a spectacular Sunday!

Fr. Dave