

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

If the First Reading exalts God's fidelity to his promise, the Gospel, with the parable of the marriage feast, makes us reflect on the human response. Several of those first invited refused the invitation because they were attracted by different interests; others even disdained the king's invitation, provoking a punishment that afflicted not only them but also the entire city. However, the king was not discouraged and sent his servants out to seek other guests to fill his banquet hall. Thus the aspect of the refusal of those initially invited caused the invitation to be extended to all, with a special predilection for the poor and the disadvantaged. This is what occurred in the Paschal Mystery: the force of evil is defeated by the omnipotence of God's love. The Risen Lord can now invite everyone to the banquet of Paschal joy and he himself can provide the guests with a wedding garment, symbol of the free gift of sanctifying grace.

In the Gospel Jesus speaks to us of the answer that is given to the invitation of God — represented by a king — to take part in this marriage feast. Many guests were invited but something unexpected happens: they refuse to take part in the celebration, they have other things to do; indeed, some of them show contempt for the invitation. God is generous to us, he offers us his friendship, his gifts, his joy, but often we do not welcome his words, we show greater interest in other things and put our own material concerns, our own interests, first. The king's invitation even meets with hostile and aggressive reactions. Yet this does not impede his generosity. He is not discouraged and sends his servants out to invite many other people. The refusal of those invited first causes the invitation to be extended to everyone, even the poorest, the abandoned and disinherited. The servants gather together those they find and the wedding hall is filled: the king's goodness knows no bounds and all are given the possibility of answering his call. However, there was one condition in order to attend this wedding feast: that the wedding garment be worn. And, on entering the hall, the king notices that someone has not wished to wear it and for this reason bars him from the banquet.

I would like to reflect for a moment on this point with a question: why did this man accept the king's invitation, enter the banquet hall, find the door opened to him but not put on the wedding garment? What is this wedding garment? Saint Gregory the Great explains that the guest had accepted God's invitation to take part in His banquet, that in a certain way he had faith which opened the door of the banquet hall to him, but he lacked something essential: the wedding garment, which is charity or love. And Saint Gregory adds: "Therefore each one of you in the Church who has faith in God has already taken part in the wedding feast, but cannot claim to wear the wedding garment unless he jealously guards the grace of love". And this garment is woven symbolically on two looms of wood, one above and one below: love of God and love of neighbor. We are all invited to be the Lord's guests, to enter His banquet with faith, but we must put on and take care of the wedding garment: charity, to live in the profound love of God and neighbor.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Due to a large Confirmation class this year, Confessions will be heard on Saturday, October 24th from 2pm until 3pm.

We will be opening the 2021 Mass Book during the following hours:
Tuesday, October 13th from 9:30 until noon and from 5pm to 6pm and on Wednesday, October 14th from 1pm to 3pm.

Holy Hour has commenced on Mondays in the Chapel. **Confessions** will be heard from 5:30pm until 6:15pm. **Adoration** will be from 5:30 pm until 6:30pm.

Our Avon fundraiser will begin October 14 to raise funds for the bus to Washington, DC in January for the March for Life. If you would like see a catalog, please stop by the parish office. Various items besides makeup available for purchase. Start your Christmas shopping early.

Little Lambs is doing a Krispy Kreme fundraiser! Please stop by the parish office to place your order before October 19th. Coffee and Specialty donuts will be available as well.

In observance of Columbus Day, the parish office will be closed on Monday, October 12th.

St. Mary's Food Pantry is still available to all in our local and area communities. The next date will be Friday, October 16th from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know needs help, please have them come during those times.

Save the Date! Court Madonna #114 is hosting their annual appraisal day on Saturday, October 17th. For more information contact Kim Witkowski 856-2327.



It's SOCKTOBER! Every night in the U.S. over 500,000 people live on the streets or in a homeless shelter. The Junior Catholic Daughters of St. Mary's Church know that even the smallest acts of love, like donating a pair of new socks, can make a difference in the lives of our homeless neighbors. Did you know that every day the Catholic Church feeds, clothes, shelters, and educates more people than any other organization in the world? During the month of October there will be a box in the narthex for you to place new socks, hats, and gloves to donate to local warming stations. Please help the JCDA make a difference and donate.

The Cardinal's Appeal is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$18,905 from 95 donors. You can visit Cardinalsappeal.org. All Donations can be mailed directly to : The Cardinal's Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261. Our Parish number is **518**.

World Mission Sunday 2020/Propagation of the Faith will be celebrated the weekend of **October 17th/18th**. We are called through of Baptism to be part of the Church's missionary efforts, through prayer, self sacrifice, and support of the Mission Church through material aid. This year, Pope Francis asks us to respond to that call, saying "**Here I Am, Send Me!**". To "send" ourselves we can: Pray for the Church's worldwide missionary work. Offer financial help and charity through the collection for vulnerable communities throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands.

\$25 helps support a catechist for a month in remote Latin America

\$75 provides for the work of Religious Sisters caring for orphaned children in Africa

\$100 assists families in sending their children to school in Asia

As always, your prayers are your most treasured gift to the Missions. Your prayers and financial help for World Mission Sunday, support mission priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay catechists who are Christ's witnesses to a world so in need of His healing, love, and peace.

The collection for October 3rd/4th was \$5,961. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Announced Masses

- Monday, October 12**
9:00am Virginia O'Brien, by Rosemary and Paul Brislin
- Tuesday, October 13**
9:00am Maureen Jarvis Cardena, by Helen Marinaro
Hannah Babey, by Grandma & Grandpa
- Wednesday, October 14 (Callistus I, pope & martyr)**
9:00am Maureen Jarvis Cardena, by John & Marie Sanborn
- Thursday, October 15 (Teresa of Jesus, virgin & doctor of the Church)**
9:00am Christine D'Alto, by the D'Alto family
- Saturday, October 17**
4:00pm George & Mildred Berthiaume, by Jim & family
- Sunday, October 18**
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
11:30am Regina Horoski, by Michelle & Cono D'Alto

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, John F Flynn, Jr., Catherine Simons, Jose Ramos, Michael Medaglia, Robert Witherow, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Allan Garcia, Eric Hildebrandt, Stephen A. Odrechowski, Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ellen Pentland, Leticia Nuestro, Christina Nuestro, Alice Drew, Catherine Scopino, Amelia Quinn, Tonya Addy, Jackie Hamilton, Brandon Ulrichs, Helen Eckes, Gloria Hicks, Stephanie Gaide, Elizabeth Startup Jones, MaryLynn Beam, Nancy Crumley, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, and Donald Wolff.

St. Mary's will continue the tradition of providing those in need within our community with food baskets for Christmas. It has expanded to include additional foods considering children are off from school and normally that is where they get a daily meal. You will find bins in the narthex where you can place non perishable items. Children in the religious Ed program are encouraged to bring items to their classrooms.

Thank you in advance.

The Mount Carmel Society will be having their famous sausage and pepper curbside take-out . If you missed the last take-out you still have a chance to catch this one. On October 24th Saturday from 4PM until 7PM located at 21 First Street Port Jervis NY at our Mount Carmel Hall.