

**For The Bulletin Of  
October 15, 2017**



**THE 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

***From Father Robert***

What child can refuse a dare? Maybe a few. A double-dare? Even fewer. A triple-dog-dare? None! Often a great deal of bravado accompanies a dare, but by the time the goading gets to a triple-dog-dare, there can be no backing down. For the third Sunday in a row, Jesus seems to be purposely goading “the Chief priests and elders of the people” into angry retaliation for His words of judgment. Jesus is relentless in the message of these parables because of what is at stake: living in the “kingdom of heaven,” receiving a judgment for fullness of Life, sharing in the eternal wedding feast. Actually, Jesus is purposely goading all of us – not to angry retaliation in response to His judgment, but to change our lives so that we might embrace Life itself. “Many are invited.” Only those who respond appropriate “are chosen.” Our very Life depends on it.

Jesus issues each of us a “triple-dog-dare.” This dare we cannot refuse. We

are to embrace conversion of life and choose to believe in Him and come to His wedding feast. We are all invited guests. Sometimes, though, we do refuse the invitation like those in the parable invited to the wedding feast of the king’s son. Despite Jesus’ goading, we sometimes refuse the dare and say no to the invitation.

The scandal of the refusal of our King’s invitation indicates why sin (the refused invitation is a metaphor for sin) is so damaging (both the sin of those to whom Jesus is speaking in the gospel and our own sin). We, too, are invited to God’s feast because we share a special, loving, covenantal relationship with God. Sin is our refusal to share in God’s feast and Life, and this refusal damages our own relationship with God as well as each other. A refused invitation is not simply a missed opportunity for a fine banquet. A refused invitation is a weakening in the relationship between host and guest. Like the wedding feast the king puts on for his son, God’s banquet will be served, too, and places are reserved for us. Will we come? Will we accept the divine triple-dog-dare to live in such a way that one day we will share in the fullness of Life God offers and sit forever at the eternal wedding banquet of love?

***Living The Paschal Mystery***

Even when we refuse to come, our King continually sends out invitations to us. God is relentless in calling us to live in the “kingdom of heaven” and participate in the divine wedding feast. This reminds us of how much God wants to share His Life and salvation with us. God sent His only Son to live among us and bring us salvation, even at the risk of His Son being killed. God’s banquet of

Life is worth any cost to God. It ought to be worth any cost to us.

We do not often refuse God's many invitations that are so important. We are invited, for example, to the Eucharistic feast every Sunday. We come, but do we truly participate in this banquet? We are invited to a feast of generosity through many opportunities to share our gifts with other less fortunate than ourselves. Do we willingly donate time, energy, and resources to others less fortunate? We are invited to a feast of relationships within family, workplace, neighborhood. Do we share our values and spirituality with others? Do we share our relationship with Jesus? Do we tell others the Good News? Which is the feast we choose? Will we come?

The scripture readings for these final Sundays of Ordinary Time become more challenging. There is a cost to discipleship? Are we willing to "pay" the price?

- Jesus goads me to...I respond by...
- The King's invitation to the wedding feast comes to me when...by...for...
- To come to the feast of Jesus, I must choose to...

### ***About Liturgy: Controversy In Matthew's Gospel***

In Matthew's gospel Jesus tells many parables about the kingdom after He arrives in Jerusalem (for the past four Sundays we've listened to some of these kingdom parables). The controversy between Jesus and some of the Jewish leaders is sharpening. Some of the parables even include the killing of someone; last week, for example, the

wretched vineyard tenants kill the landowner's son and this week in the parable about the king who invites guests to his son's wedding feast, the king's servant-messengers are killed. This imagery has layers of meaning. God's own Son will likewise be killed. Those expected to have eternal reward – to sit at the messianic banquet – lose out because of their bad behavior and those least expected share in God's graciousness. Matthew seems intent on not letting his readers miss his point about inclusivity and so has Jesus tell story after story demonstrating this theme.

Over and over in these parables about the kingdom Jesus confronts us with the message that those who are expecting to enter the kingdom will not, and those thought to be kept out of the kingdom will be ushered in. The thorny issue of the historical context of Matthew's gospel is that some of the Jewish leaders (chief priests, elders, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees) presume that they will inherit the blessing of God's promises because they meticulously keep the law. Sinners (prostitutes, tax collectors) cannot possibly be favored by God. Israel, as God's chosen people, will inherit; the Gentiles will not. Jesus' message of salvation for all is confronting, challenging, and intolerable for those who presume to know whom God favors and whom God does not.

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## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

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The Floral Arrangement at the Tabernacle today is placed to The Glory of God and In Loving Memory of **Georgene Duarte from Betty, Gary, and Andrew Duarte.**



*Neighborhood*

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*Clean-Ups*

Last Saturday was the most recent Neighborhood Cleanup held in the vicinity of Buchanan Road and San Jose Drive and all the streets in between. We met at 9:00 a.m. at the Covenant Church parking lot and were given our gloves, garbage bags, and instructions. It was a great turnout and I am especially grateful to our parishioners **John and Ofelia Langhirt** for joining me. In addition to the large group, we also had two of our officers and their families join us and it was great to have their presence, help, and support. Our next clean up takes place on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Watch my insert for more details.



### *Trip To Norway*

I spoke with Linda Grelli from Black Diamond Travel last Monday and there are presently 14 people signed up to join us for the trip to Norway next August, 2018. We are able to take up to 30 people on this trip so if you would like to join us, please either speak to me or contact Linda at Black Diamond Travel.

I have brochures and additional information with all the details so please do not hesitate to see me to get one.



...to our parishioner volunteers who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend and the week ahead: **Heather Hatteroth, Steve Rojek, Mency Osborne, Kathy Romeo, and Emilia Freking.**

...to our parishioner volunteers who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, and Patricia Britton.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

**Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.**

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

**Beth Enea, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Kathy Augusta, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho, Vangie Parrilla, Belen Farin, Kathy Augusta and Vince Augusta.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Bob Goncalves.**



***Adult Faith Formation Series On The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation***

Beginning last Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and continuing for the next two Tuesdays, October 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, we are privileged to have Father Tom Bonacci with us to give three sessions on the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Each session begins at 7:30 p.m. and hospitality will follow. Please come and join us for these informative and enlightening sessions to help us as we prepare for the Reformation Festival Service on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. which we are hosting and will include the participation of our neighboring Protestant communities.



***The Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch***

On the weekend of October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> we will celebrate the feast of our Patron, Ignatius of Antioch. Please wear RED to help enhance the liturgies that weekend. The Gala Dinner takes place on Saturday evening, October 21<sup>st</sup> and is a SOLD OUT event. Then on Sunday, following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, we will have the parish festival which culminates in the Grand Raffle Drawing. Please plan to be with us for these special days of celebration and honoring St. Ignatius of Antioch.

***October Is Commitment Month***

The weekend of October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> will be "Commitment Weekend" when every parishioner will be invited to come forward at the beginning of the Preparation Rite to bring forward their offering as well as their Commitment Form for the coming pastoral year. This is our way of indicating to God and our faith community how we will make use of our Time, our Talents, and our Treasure to support the building of God's kingdom here at St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish. Please be sure to sign the Commitment Form which will be placed in the Chest that will be put at the heart of the Altar and which will be a constant reminder of the covenant we have made between God and ourselves to be servant disciples. These forms will be mailed to all parishioners next week.

