



SPIRITUAL GROWTH PACKET

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

October 11, 2026

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying,

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.

He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.

A second time he sent other servants, saying,

'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."'

Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business.

The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come.

Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.'

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**The servants went out into the streets
and gathered all they found, bad and good alike,
and the hall was filled with guests.
But when the king came in to meet the guests,
he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment.
The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it
that you came in here without a wedding garment?'
But he was reduced to silence.
Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet,
and cast him into the darkness outside,
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'
Many are invited, but few are chosen."**

The Wedding Feast of the Liturgy
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)
Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come." Matthew 22:1–3

Today's parable is part of Jesus' final teachings in Jerusalem during Holy Week. It continues His direct confrontation with the religious leaders of Israel—specifically, the chief priests and elders. Through this story, Jesus unveils the mystery of the Kingdom, the tragedy of Israel's rejection, and the universal call to salvation.

The central theme of this parable is found in the opening line: "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son." In this parable, the king is God the Father, the Son is Jesus, and the Wedding Feast represents the Messianic Banquet—a celebration of the eternal joy of union with God. Today, the Holy Mass is a real participation in that Messianic Banquet and a foretaste of its fullness to come.

The first invited guests "refused to come." This is commonly understood to refer to many among the people of Israel who rejected Jesus as the Messiah, especially the religious leaders. The second invitation was ignored by some and met with hostility by others. This reflects the way the prophets were treated throughout salvation history—ignored, rejected, and often persecuted.



When the king learned of their refusal, he sent his troops to destroy those who had been invited, which is a clear reference to God's justice, His judgment, and the penalty of grave sin: spiritual death. The king then sends his servants out to invite everyone they can find. This is the mission of the Church. From the moment Jesus founded His Church and entrusted it to the Apostles, the invitation to the heavenly banquet has gone out to the ends of the earth, and it continues to this day.

Each of us has received this divine invitation. Today, the fullest way to participate in the Wedding Feast is through the Holy Mass. The Mass is truly our wedding banquet, and our union with Christ is sealed in Holy Communion. But do we see the Mass this way? Often, we tend to evaluate the Mass by the personality and preaching of the priest, the quality of the music, or other superficial elements.

When we fail to attend Mass as we would attend the Wedding Feast of the Son of God, then we, like the first group, "refuse to come"—even if we are physically present. True attendance requires spiritual attentiveness and interior participation. When we view the Mass as a burden or inconvenience, we act like those in the second group who responded with indifference or hostility.

Ideally, we will attend Mass every Sunday—and more often if possible—willingly, joyfully, reverently, and with hearts prepared to encounter the Bridegroom. This requires that we remain in a state of grace. The parable ends with a sobering image: A man found at the feast without a wedding garment is cast out into the darkness. The "wedding garment" symbolizes the state of the soul, especially the presence of sanctifying grace, which is received in Baptism and restored through Confession. To approach the altar without this garment is to risk being cast out, as the man in the parable was. We must therefore examine our conscience, repent of sin, and prepare our hearts with devotion so that we may worthily partake of this Heavenly Meal.

Reflect today on the Mass as the true Wedding Feast of the Lamb. Do you approach this sacred celebration with joyful reverence, spiritual preparation, and genuine love for the Bridegroom? Strive to make your presence at Mass much more than physical; let it be the expression of a soul properly clothed, joyfully responding to the King's invitation. May our worthy participation in the Eucharist be a foretaste of the eternal banquet prepared for those who are invited and respond with all their hearts.

My King and Bridegroom of the Church, the Mass is Your Wedding Feast and a foretaste of the eternal Banquet of Heaven. You invite us to this Feast not only in body, but with hearts recollected, minds engaged, and souls prepared by grace. May I always respond to Your invitation with faith and love, and celebrate the Holy Mass with all my heart, clothed in the garment of sanctifying grace. Jesus, I trust in You.

With the Eyes of God

On this mountain, he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.

ISAIAH 25:7-8

Isaiah offers us an image of a tender, caring God who feeds us richly, who wipes away our tears and who removes our reproach. This same Holy One, insists the prophet, will destroy the veil that veils all peoples.

Could this veil be anything superficial that stands in the way of our seeing one another as beloved and held in God's unconditional love? And once the web that is woven over all nations has been lifted, might we catch at least a glimpse of what God sees in every soul: God's unique and cherished Creation? How might this unveiling, this new way of seeing, transform the way we approach every person in our beautiful yet wounded world?

Loving God, Holy One, help me to see as you do.

Sr. Chris Koellhoffer, IHM

Life Promise Prayer

In the name of the One God, ever living and life giving, faithful and true, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I accept God's gift of life to me in the circumstances of my conception and birth, of my parents, of my family, of all whosoever care for me or did me harm in all the years that began the journey of my life.

God who calls by name works all together for my good. I choose life.

I accept God's gift of life around me, the sacred treasure of each human life whether sister, brother, friend or stranger; however whole or broken, small or great, saint or sinner, rich or poor, ill or well, ally or enemy, or indifferent.

Each is crafted in God's image, to each is offered Christ's redemption, in each moves the spirits blessing. I choose life.

Weekly Prayer Intentions:

- For the Sick: May those residents who are sick feel God's healing presence.
- For the Church: That we may faithfully accept God's invitation and share the joy of the Gospel with others.
- For our world: That nations and leaders may work together to build a world where all people have a place at the table of peace and dignity.
- For those who are struggling: That those who feel forgotten, lonely, or excluded may experience the welcome and love of Christ through the care of others.
- For the Respect of all Lives: That we may recognize the sacred dignity of every human life, from conception to natural death, and welcome each person as a precious gift from God.
- For our Clement Manor community and parish family: That we may recognize the many blessings God has given us and respond with grateful hearts, always ready to accept his invitation to the heavenly banquet.



Annual Memorial Service

Tuesday, November 3, 2026,
6pm

This is a special evening for
all of you
and for us here
at Clement Manor.

We hope you will find space
To remember, to grieve,
to be comforted and to find
hope.

We Are Called

**God of All People,
You came as one of us to show how
we belong to each other. You served
among us to show how we are to
serve one another. You called us to
follow you that we might build a
better world together.
God of Wisdom and Compassion,
Renew our minds with your call to
humble learning and service. Refresh
our hearts with your call to equity and
integrity of community. Reignite our
spirits with your call to justice for our
brothers and sisters. God of
Righteousness and Justice,
Make us relentless as we examine the
structures that perpetuate inequity.
Make us humble as we lean in to listen
and learn what we do not know.
Make of us steady allies and
advocates, leveraging the strength of
our shared ministry for the good of
your people.
Amen.**

Holy Father's Monthly Intention October 2026

For mental health ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.



St. Josaphat, Milwaukee

Prayer for Mental Health Ministry

Loving and merciful God,

You know the struggles we carry in our minds and hearts. Help us to build a Church where every person is welcomed, respected, and treated with dignity. Give us compassionate hearts to listen without judgment, courage to speak openly about mental health, and wisdom to recognize when someone needs support. May we overcome the stigma and discrimination that can cause people to suffer in silence. Bless those who provide mental health care, counseling, companionship, and spiritual support. May Your Church become a place of healing and hope, reminding every person that they are loved, valued, and never alone. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Respect for Life

**God of life and love, You created us in Your image
and sent your Son to bring us life.**

Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death.

Empower us to work for justice for the poor.

Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry.

Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the newborn.

Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill.

Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect.

Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



October 15

St. Teresa of Avila

Let nothing disturb thee,

Nothing affright thee;

All things are passing,

God never changeth!

Patient endurance

Attaineth to all things;

Who God possesseth

In nothing is wanting;

Alone God sufficeth.

AMEN

Saint Teresa, PRAY FOR US.

October 17

St. Ignatius of Antioch

(On the way to be cast to the wild lions in the Roman Amphitheater, Ignatius said: "I am God's wheat, may I become the pure bread of Christ")

Blest are you, God of the Universe,

You inspire leaders to proclaim Your Word of truth. May the preaching and sufferings of Saint Ignatius help us to be zealous for the faith.

May we endure the daily irritations with patience.

We ask this through Jesus, the Christ.

AMEN. Saint Ignatius, PRAY FOR US.

Saint Ignatius, PRAY FOR US.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

Sunday October 11, 2026

Reading 1, Isaiah 25:6-10

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

Gospel, Matthew 22:1-14

Reading 2, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Daily Reading for

Monday October 12, 2026

Reading 1, Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 113:1-2, 3-4, 5, 6-7

Gospel, Luke 11:29-32

Daily Reading for

Tuesday October 13, 2026

Reading 1, Galatians 5:1-6

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48

Gospel, Luke 11:37-41

Daily Reading for

Wednesday October 14, 2026

Reading 1, Galatians 5:18-25

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6

Gospel, Luke 11:42-46

Daily Reading for

Thursday October 15, 2026

Reading 1, Ephesians 1:3-10

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

Gospel, Luke 11:47-54

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Daily Reading for

Friday October 16, 2026

Reading 1, Ephesians 1:11-14

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13

Gospel, Luke 12:1-7

Daily Reading for

Saturday October 17, 2026

Reading 1, Ephesians 1:15-23

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 8:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Gospel, Luke 12:8-12

Daily Reading for

Sunday October 18, 2026

Reading 1, Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

Gospel, Matthew 22:15-21

Reading 2, Thessalonians 1:1-5

