



**OCTOBER**

**Month of  
the Most  
Holy Rosary**

***St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Hamburg, Iowa    October 11, 2020  
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

We are invited to a feast today. We gather around the table of the Lord, summoned by the Holy Spirit to share in this Eucharistic meal with family, friends, and neighbors, fellow pilgrims on the journey. May this feast nourish and sustain us as we go forth in joy to continue building the kingdom in our little corner of the world and beyond.



Cycle A -- Reflections on the Readings

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:12-14,19-20;  
Matthew 22:1-14

**Theme: A Preferential Option for the poor and marginalized**

**When Pain causes us to erect barriers**

At those moments when we most need others; we are often tempted to shut ourselves away in isolation. Pain causes us to erect barriers. We imagine distance to be safety. We may even portray God like this -- as aloof and apathetic as we are. The Scriptures we review here speak of a God who refuses to be left alone. This God nourishes and seats people at the table so that union becomes communion. Banquets and parties express this God's love.

**God's involvement with us.**

In our gospel for today, Jesus portrays God as a king who gives a wedding banquet for his son. Matthew develops the parable to create a view of God's involvement with people. The servants who urged the invited to come to the celebration are the prophets, the second group are Christian missionaries to the Jews. The Gentiles, brought in from outside the city, are worthy of the kingdom. The God of the Jews is the God of the Gentiles as well. The wedding feast symbolizes God's union and communion with all.

Many people, on hearing the parable of the marriage feast for the king's son, are likely to remember their own wedding and the reception that followed. A few of you may recall some of the mishaps that occurred. Someone spilled coffee on the bride's wedding gown. The wedding car or other vehicle got delayed because of an accident. And there was a shortage of food for the guests so that a few people went home hungry.

None of these things, however, are as dramatic and charged with emotion as the wedding feast of the king's son. We feel sad for the king because the guests don't turn up. Everything is ready and there is a sense of urgency. The idea that things are ready and prepared occurs three times in the parable. We are horrified to hear that the servants he sent to call the guests are brutally murdered. What amazes us is the fact that he sends his messengers to the crossroads to invite everyone they can find.

I can imagine a crowd trooping into the wedding. There are good people and bad, the sick as well as the healthy. But what puzzles us perhaps is the extremely harsh treatment meted out to the man without the wedding garment.

### **God invites all**

The parable with all its drama and literary exaggeration, is really a story of the kingdom of heaven. God's invitation was first made to the chosen people. This was a free act of kindness. But the scribes, Pharisees and other leaders of Jesus' day rejected this call. God's invitation was then made to everybody without discrimination.

The point that seems central to the story is that the kingdom of heaven, compared to a wedding feast, is open to all and not restricted to a select few, the elite. This has important implications for us Christians. The natural tendency for many is to fraternize and associate only with the rich and powerful, the educated and cultured people in society. It is more difficult to associate with the poor and weak, the outcasts and other marginalized people.

There is a distinction between the initial call and the final election on judgement day. There is no automatic entry into heaven. We need to wear the garment of a converted life, full of righteousness. Sinners are invited but they are expected to repent.

Today's readings suggest we are called to invite those who are in tears, those who are afflicted, those outside the walls. But since it is so easy to bypass the disadvantaged, our choice should be option for the poor and marginalized. For that is the way that God acts, and we are called to be like God. Shalom!

## **How Does the Church Help the Catholic Faithful to Speak About Political and Social Questions?**

*As the bishops of the United States of America have rightly pointed out, while the Church insists on the existence of objective moral norms which are valid for everyone, "there are those in our culture who portray this teaching as unjust, that is, as opposed to basic human rights. Such claims usually follow from a form of moral relativism that is joined, not without inconsistency, to a belief in the absolute rights of individuals. In this view, the Church is perceived as promoting a particular prejudice and as interfering with individual freedom" (USCCB, Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination (2006), 17). We are living in an information-driven society which bombards us indiscriminately with data-all treated as being of equal importance-and which leads to remarkable superficiality in the area of moral discernment. In response, we need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values. (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 64)*

### ***A Well-Formed Conscience***

17. The Church equips its members to address political and social questions by helping them to develop a well-formed conscience. Catholics have a serious and lifelong obligation to form their consciences in accord with human reason and the teaching of the Church. Conscience is not something that allows us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere "feeling" about what we should or should not do. Rather, conscience is the voice of God resounding in the human heart, revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil. Conscience always requires serious attempts to make sound moral judgments based on the truths of our faith. As stated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right" (no. 1778).

18. The formation of conscience includes several elements. First, there is a desire to embrace goodness and truth. For Catholics, this begins with a willingness and openness to seek the truth and what is right by studying Sacred Scripture and the teaching of the Church as contained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It is also important to examine the facts and background information about various choices. Finally, prayerful reflection is essential to discern the will of God. Catholics must also understand that if they fail to form their consciences in the light of the truths of the faith and the moral teachings of the Church they can make erroneous judgments.

### **The Virtue of Prudence**

19. The Church fosters well-formed consciences not only by teaching moral truth but also by encouraging its members to develop the virtue of prudence, which St. Ambrose described as "the charioteer of the virtues." Prudence enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act decisively. Exercising this virtue often requires the courage to act in defense of moral principles when making decisions about how to build a society of justice and peace.

20. The Church's teaching is clear that a good end does not justify an immoral means. As we all seek to advance the common good-by defending the inviolable sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death, by promoting religious freedom, by defending marriage, by feeding the hungry and housing the homeless, by welcoming the immigrant and protecting the environment-it is important to recognize that not all possible courses of action are morally acceptable. We have a responsibility to discern carefully which public policies are morally sound. Catholics may choose different ways to respond to compelling social problems, but we cannot differ on our moral obligation to help build a more just and peaceful world through morally acceptable means, so that the weak and vulnerable are protected and human rights and dignity are defended (cf. USCCB).

this  
'AND'  
that

❖ **RCIA – Adult Faith Formation:** Do you desire to know more about the Catholic Faith and deepen your prayer life through praying with scriptures (Lectio Divina)? Teaching has started. However, if you desire to join the Church, kindly register with the secretary.

❖ **Hamburg: Rosary Month** - Join us to pray the Holy Rosary 20 mins before 8:30 Sunday Mass, and every Tuesday & Thursday via zoom @ 8pm.

❖ **Shenandoah: Rosary Month** - Join us to pray the Holy Rosary 20 mins before the 4:30 Saturday mass and 10:30 Sunday Mass, and Tuesday & Thursday via zoom @ 8pm.

### **Journey songs, Third Edition**

❖ We have successfully taken delivery of the “Journey songs, Third Edition.” This is a hard copy with 3-year cycle Readings. Each journey songs book cost approximately \$20 without shipping cost.

If you have not purchased one yet in memory of a loved member of your family or in honor of someone, please do so. Your name and that of the person will be embossed in the hymn book.





Sharing a couple of pictures from the **High School youth group kickoff— Sunday Funday.**

Below is the egg toss—Thanks to Emily for being a great sport for this game:):):)



**“As our heavenly Father, God wants us to live for our brothers and sisters in this world, learning to serve them joyfully, working to support them in their needs, and creating such a family atmosphere that we will want to be with our brothers and sisters forever in heaven with him.”**

## Musicians' Liturgy, Blessing and Commissioning

Musicians, liturgists, pastors and guests: Please join the Des Moines Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) on Sunday, November 22, 2020, 2:00 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral, 607 High Street, Des Moines, IA, 50309. Come, "make a joyful noise" as we celebrate our second annual Musicians' Liturgy, Blessing and Commissioning. Contact Angie Murphy, Chapter Director, [angiemickeymurphy@gmail.com](mailto:angiemickeymurphy@gmail.com), to RSVP or for further information.

Live the  
Gospel of *Life*

RESPECT LIFE MONTH  
October 2020

The annual Respect Life Program is a year-round, nationwide effort to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life. The U.S. bishops provide the [Respect Life Program](#) to assist parish priests, staff, and volunteers; teachers and school administrators; diocesan leaders; and so many others. Contact [John Gaffney](#) or call him at 515-237-5026 if you have questions.

# Thanks



from the members of St. Mary's to  
Dave and Kim Dowling! Your  
donation of pumpkins helped us  
bring in the fall season.

It's Fall Ya'll!

Thank You again Dowlings!

## **Bulletin Announcements from the Diocese**

### **Call for civil dialogue. Join Civilize It**

Civilize It is about making room in your heart for those with whom you disagree. We are called to recognize that each person is a beloved child of God and should be treated with respect because of our inherent human dignity. Civilize It is a Catholic, non-partisan call to focus on the dignity of all people, even when we disagree, and to put faith in action by bearing witness to compassion and civility. Take the pledge and find helpful resources at [Civilizelt.org](http://Civilizelt.org).

### **Bring your mask**

If you're coming to Mass, please bring your mask. While you may not fear getting sick, it's an act of charity and love to do what we can to prevent others from getting sick. Thank you for doing all you can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

### **Support our parish**

From celebrating daily Mass to calling parishioners, arranging for outreach and more, our parish continues its mission of helping people know and love God. Please continue your tithing support so that we can continue our mission during these challenging times.

### **Hear the bishop**

Bishop William Joensen's weekly radio show airs on Fridays at 9 a.m. on Iowa Catholic Radio and the Spirit Catholic Radio Network. Tune in to hear "Making it Personal With Bishop Joensen."

### **The Third Option**

A marriage enrichment ministry, which meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month, is moving to All Saints Parish in Des Moines. Strengthen your marriage by joining us from 7-9 p.m. at All Saints, 650 NE 52nd Ave. Questions? Contact Adam Storey at [astorey@dmdiocese.org](mailto:astorey@dmdiocese.org).

## ***Schedule for Month of October***

**Sunday Oct. 11th**—Pray the Rosary before mass (8:10 am)

**Tuesday Oct. 13th** —The Sorrowful Mysteries via Zoom @ 8 pm

**Wednesday Oct. 14th**—Weekday mass @ 6 pm

**Thursday Oct. 15th**—The Luminous Mysteries via Zoom @ 8 pm

**Sunday Oct. 18th**—Pray the Rosary before mass (8:10 am)

**Tuesday Oct. 20th**—The sorrowful Mysteries via Zoom @ 8 pm

**Wednesday, Oct. 21st**—Weekday mass @ 6 pm

**Thursday, Oct. 22nd**—The Luminous Mysteries via Zoom @ 8 pm

**Sunday, Oct. 25th**—Pray the Rosary before mass (8:10 am)

**Tuesday— Oct. 27th**—The Sorrowful Mysteries via Zoom @ 8 pm

**Wednesday, Oct 28th**—Weekday mass @ 6 pm

**Thursday, Oct. 29th**—The Luminous Mysteries @ 8 pm

✱ ***You will receive the links for all Zoom events***

## **Readings for the week of October 11, 2020**

**Sunday:** Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14  
or 22:1-10

**Monday:** Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [cf. 2]/Lk  
11:29-32

**Tuesday:** Gal 5:1-6/Ps 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48 [41a]/Lk 11:37-41

**Wednesday:** Gal 5:18-25/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Lk 11:42-46

**Thursday:** Eph 1:1-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 [2a]/Lk 11:47-54

**Friday:** Eph 1:11-14/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13 [12]/Lk 12:1-7

**Saturday:** Eph 1:15-23/Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-5, 6-7 [7]/Lk 12:8-12

**Next Sunday:** Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10 [7b]/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt  
22:15-21

# ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

## PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES  
JOSH SIMMONS  
JACOB ANDERSON  
DERRICK HUBARD  
STEVEN ANDERSON



10-13—Mark Pitts  
10-14—Richard Dewhirst  
10-17--Verona Mitchell  
10-19—Marty Paper  
10-19—Joel Delong  
10-20—Louie Becker

## *Your Contributions*

*October 4, 2020*  
**Tithes—\$1596.00**  
**Plate—\$31.00**  
**Coffee—\$44.00**

*Thank You!!*



10-21-Scott & Beth  
Mayberry



Greg Andersen  
Grady Secht  
Reese Kemp  
James Dowling  
LeRoy Herscheid  
Noah Howe  
Mary Lou Miller  
Dottie Dankof  
Isacc Durr  
Nancy Dalton  
Todd Quick  
Verona Mitchell  
Joel Loggins  
Kenneth Russell  
Bill Long  
Henry Johnsen  
Lawrence DuBois  
Pat Sheldon  
Joe Kirk  
Tim Konecny  
Esther McCowan  
Shawn Collins  
Drake Travis  
Martha Gude  
Bill & Gloria Green  
Larry Dalton  
Vickie Graham  
Glen Whitehead  
Zayne Osborn  
Cathy Mason  
Anna Weber  
Alan Briggs  
Chuck Mitchell  
Dee Ann Crews



*I shall live in the house of the  
Lord all the days of my life,*

<b>2020</b>	<b>October 11</b> 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	<b>October 18</b> 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	<b>October 25</b> 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	<b>November 1</b> 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	<b>November 8</b> 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Dowling	Rick Jamison	Kathleen Lorimor	Carolyn Maher	Teresa Jamison
<b>Mass Setup</b>	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Rosie
<b>Cantor</b>	Cora Hirner	Kim Laumann	Beth	Kim Laumann	Kate Roberts
<b>Accompanist</b>	Kate Roberts	Donna Whelan	Nicole/Cale/ Emily	Nancy Pitts	Nancy Pitts
<b>Coffee and Donuts</b>	Jeff & Lisa Phillips	Shane & Connie Smith	Vince & Susan Hilton	Tim & Donna Whelan	
<b>Wash Linens</b>	Bev Finnigan	Bev Finnigan	Bev Finnigan	Ruth Paper	Ruth Paper

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[HTTPS://WWW.PARISHESONLINE.COM/FIND/ST-MARY-CHURCH-51640](https://www.parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-church-51640)

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