Saint Mary Roman Catholic Parish

94 Walnut Road, Hamburg, Pennsylvania 19526

610-562-7657 ~ WEBSITE: www.stmaryhamburg.org

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 11, 2026

A Parish Blessed by
St. John Neumann

Founded 1854

Rev. David J. Loeper, Pastor
daloeps@yahoo.com
Mr. Thomas B. Drogalis, Permanent Deacon
Mrs. Marie Dooley, Religious Education, Youth Ministry & Safe Environment Coordinator
stmarysformation@gmail.com
Mrs. Laura Ludovici, Parish Office
stmaryhamburg@aol.com
Mr. Robert Lesnefsky, Director of Music
Mrs. Marie Dinich, Financial Secretary

Weekly Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Sunday Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil, 4:00 PM; Sundays, 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM
Daily Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9:00 AM; Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15-3:45 PM; 15 minutes before Daily Masses; anytime by appointment

St. Mary Parish warmly welcomes any guests or visitors who are joining us for Mass. If you are new to the area and looking for a parish home, we kindly invite you to join our parish. Please contact our Pastor or Parish Office for information on registration. If you are traveling through Berks County, we are happy to have you with us. Please know that you are always welcome and be assured of our prayers for your safe travels home.

Parish Information

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 610.562.7657
Religious Education (off hours): 484.575.1222
Email: **Stmaryhamburg@aol.com**
Web**: www.stmaryhamburg.org** *(Bulletin can be found here!)*
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/St.MaryHamburg

OUR MISSION

To invoke the prayers and intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patroness, as we seek to be drawn ever more deeply into the Paschal Mystery and the life of her Son, Jesus Christ. To provide the sacraments, liturgical services, pastoral guidance, and religious education for Catholic Christians in Northern Berks County. To provide opportunities to parishioners of all ages and abilities to share their time, talents, and treasure through religious and social programs. To support those in need through prayer, outreach, and good works. To manage the tangible assets of the parish with prudent administration through the cooperation of the pastor and the laity. To encourage participation in the inter-faith services and unite with all persons of good will in matters of faith and moral living. To be an asset to the Hamburg and Northern Berks Area and the Diocese of Allentown.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims of the Church.

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR:
Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC
DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE: 800-791-9209
DIOCESAN SECRETARY FOR YOUTH PROTECTION:
Ms. Pamela Russo, MSW, MS
610-871-5200, ext. 2204 OR prusso@allentowndiocese.org
CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE
1-800-276-1562, **www.ReportBishopAbuse.org**
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
Diocesan Policies & Procedures: **www.allentowndiocese.org**

ENVELOPE USE

With quite a few active parishioners, use of collection envelopes is the only way we have of knowing your Mass attendance. If you are asked to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, you will need a Certificate of Eligibility signed by Father Loeper. These certificates require Father to attest that he has knowledge of your practice of your faith. So please use your envelopes! If a minimal contribution is a financial burden, please put the empty envelope in the collection basket. This indicates that you attended Mass that week. *Please note, all envelopes are recorded according to when they were received, not according to the date on the envelope!*

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

You are encouraged to seek the Sacrament of the Sick if you are suffering from a serious illness or are going to be admitted to the hospital for surgery. Please contact Father Loeper or the Parish Office if you would like to be anointed.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is held weekly before 4:00PM Saturday Vigil Mass, from 3:15-3:45PM AND 15 minutes before daily weekday Masses. Also by appointment!

HOLY ORDERS: If you believe you are being called by God to serve the Church as a priest, deacon, or religious brother or sister, please contact Father Dave for more information!

BAPTISM: Administered Sundays at 12Noon. Call the pastor to arrange. Families must be registered and practicing for at least 3 months. Parents are to attend an informational session. Catholic sponsors (at least 16 years old) must practice the faith and need a letter of eligibility from the home parish.

MARRIAGE: Contact the pastor *at least 6 months prior to the desired date.* Bride or groom must be registered and practicing the faith for at least 6 months.

CARE OF THE SICK for Homebound: Please notify the office of aged, seriously ill or infirmed persons desiring Holy Communion and/or Anointing of the Sick at home.

HOSPITALS & NURSING HOMES: When a family member is admitted, please notify the parish office.

SPONSOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION for Baptism or Confirmation will be issued only to practicing parishioners who are members for at least 3 months. See "Envelope Use" below.

CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Family Faith Formation (PreK through grade 8) scheduled Sunday mornings during the school year. Contact Mrs. Dooley or the parish office, or email **stmarysformation@gmail.com**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Depending on location, our parishioners might attend any number of Catholic elementary schools or Catholic high schools. Contact the pastor regarding the parish subsidy policy for students attending Catholic schools or for further information.

OCIA: The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program for those preparing for baptism, reception into the Catholic church, or for those Catholics who are lacking one of the Sacraments of Initiation or who wish to return to the Church after an absence or simply wish to learn more about the faith. The program runs from September until Easter.

MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION: New members are to arrange to meet with the pastor. Membership involves a commitment to the life of the parish through regular participation spiritually and with one's time, talent, and treasure.

FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER: If you are MOVING, PLEASE notify the parish office!

BULLETIN DEADLINES: All announcements are to be submitted in writing or by email to **StMaryHamburg@aol.com** by ***the Sunday of the week prior to publication.***

TECHNOLOGY NOTES: Follow our parish news and events on Facebook, on FlockNotes, or on our website.

MEMORIAL FUND: Memorial gifts may be made to the parish in memory of deceased loved ones.

WILLS & BEQUESTS: Consider designating your parish in your last will and testament or living trust so that the blessings the Lord has given you may continue to build His Kingdom.

DIRECTORY of PARISH MINISTRIES & SERVICES

Altar Servers & Ministers of the Altar: Fr. Loeper
Bulletin (weekly): Laura Ludovici, **stmaryhamburg@aol.com**
Catholic Charities: Reading or Kutztown: 610-376-7144
Pottsville: 570-628-0466
Cemetery: John Driscoll
Children's Choir: Keith Symons
Christmas Bazaar: Bonnie Katzaman
Choir & Music Ministry: Bob Lesnefsky
Facilities Manager: Mark Kopp
Guitar Group: Tony LaMastra
Holy Name Society: Mike Sauer
NorthStar Women's Center (pro-life): 610-321-7277
Parish Council: Fr. Loeper
Parish Prayer List: Gail Braun
FFF/Religious Education & Youth Ministry:
Marie Dooley (call 484-575-1222)
Rental Information (Pavilion & Ave Maria Hall): Parish Office
SCRIP Website: raiseright.com or call Office
Ushers: Ed Burns
Taste & See (mercy meals): Mary Alice Kuhns

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 10: *28th Sunday* ***in Ordinary Time***
4:00PM + Angela Krupinski

Sunday, October 11: *28th* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
8:00AM ♥ Dorothy Lachina

Sunday, October 11: *28th* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
10:45AM + Elizabeth (Betty) Seidel

Monday, October 12: *Weekday*
9:00AM + Salvatore Ciliento

Tuesday, October 13: *Weekday*
7:00PM + Jonathon Roth

Wednesday, October 14: *St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr*
9:00AM + Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, October 15: *St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of Church*
9:00AM + The Kleckner Family

Friday, October 16: *St Hedwig, Religious; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin*
9:00AM **+** Elliott Bradley

Saturday, October 17: *29th Sunday* ***in Ordinary Time***
4:00PM + Lisa Palko Heckman

Sunday, October 18: *29th* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
8:00AM + Rose Marie Hayes

Sunday, October 18: *29th* ***Sunday in Ordinary Time***
10:45AM ♥ A Special Intention

+ Deceased **♥ Living**

Readings for the Week

Monday Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1; Psalms 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a, 6-7; Luke 11:29-32
Tuesday Galatians 5:1-6; Psalms 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48; Luke 11:37-41
Wednesday Galatians 5:18-25; Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Luke 11:42-46
Thursday Ephesians 1:1-10; Psalms 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Luke 11:47-54
Friday Ephesians 1:11-14; Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13; Luke 12:1-7
Saturday Ephesians 1:15-23; Psalms 8:2-3ab, 4-5, 6-7; Luke 12:8-12
Sunday Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; Psalms 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21

Parish Calendar

Sunday, October 11 ~ Sunday, October 18

Sunday: **PREP/Religious Ed, 9AM, AM Hall**
Monday: **Adoration, 6PM**
Tuesday:
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday:
Saturday:
Sunday:

Stewardship of God's Gifts

Received Sunday, October 4: $5,402

Facilities Maintenance Fund

Received Sunday, October 4: $1,675

One of the most pitiful characters found in several movie versions is a fellow called "The Father of the Bride." His story first appeared in a 1950 film, followed by a 1991 version and the latest in a 2023 version. This last added a Latino setting. The title character was first portrayed by the late Spencer Tracy, followed by Steve Martin and ending with Andy Garcia.

All the versions let us watch how a perplexed father has to cope with the overly elaborate plans and some pre-nuptial silliness that can come with a family wedding. The fun is watching how the poor man does it all as tension mounts. It is all innocent comedy. But as a former pastor who got involved with leading some wedding rehearsals with intended features more like Hollywood than holy rule, I can identify a little bit with the movie dad.

Today we read from Isaiah his use of a wedding banquet to illustrate heaven and God, the all-knowing "Father of the Bride," who sends generous invitations to a list of all kinds of people, including Gentiles.

Then comes Our Lord's masterful use of a royal wedding to teach His ideas and to illustrate how ungrateful invitees cause the king to expand his guest list. The original invitees—representing the chief priests and the Pharisees—lose their place at the royal buffet. The king then sends his servants to invite anyone. The servants do just that, and Matthew notes that the newly invited guests are a motley crew, made up of "both bad and good."

We present-day disciples have to remember that we are invited to a heavenly banquet. This despite our faults. We also have to follow a certain dress code. Jesus issues a warning that we "clothe" ourselves with a sincere transformation of life from bad to good. Only then will we be honored some future day with a smiling greeting from the real and heavenly "Father of the Bride."

Speaking of clothing ourselves, someone has likened adjustment in marriage to two porcupines that lived in Alaska. When the deep and heavy snows came, they felt the cold and began to draw close to one another. However, when they drew close, they began to stick one another with their quills. But when they drew apart, they felt the cold once again. To keep warm, they had to learn how to adjust to one another—very carefully.

God love you and give you His peace.

--Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH: Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

HOLY NAME CORNER: "IRON SHARPENS IRON"
MEETINGS every third Wednesday of the month!

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: A holy hour takes place in the chapel every Tuesday evening from 6PM to 7PM. Mass is then offered at 7PM. This is a simple holy hour (no Benediction).

QUILT NEWS: St. Mary's Quilting Bee is happy to announce the start of our 2026 quilt raffle. We extend our sincere thanks to Phyllis Yoder for donating this quilt from her collection. Tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00 and are available on the table in front of the quilt display in the side lobby. We also extend our appreciation to Gregory J. Rautzhan Insurance Agency for his generous donation to sponsor the printing of the quilt tickets. The winner will be drawn at our annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 21. Thanks!

FAITH NIGHTS AT THE HAMBURG STRAND THEATER: All films start at 7PM and are shown on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Admission is $10 which includes popcorn and soda. Tickets sold at the door only! The next film shown will be *"Beautiful Mind"* on October 13. *See flyer on lobby kiosk!*

PRAYER LIST: Let's pray for those in our parish & family community who are sick, recently deceased, or otherwise in need of prayer: TODD GLADFELTER, SHERRY LUDOVICI, CEREGHINI FAMILY, DAVID BACHMAN, TERRY DUNBAR, BETTY & MATTHEW SHAABER, FRICK FAMILY, DIANE OLEXSON, MARCUS KRAMER, JOSHUA & LORI KIDWELL, BOB PALKO, LEO SAUPPEE, BOB & KATHLEEN LLEWELLYN, MELISSA ENGLEMAN, KRISTIN YATES, RUTH KREMSER, JENNA PIASKOWSKI, DOROTHY MUZOPAPPA, THOMAS HOJNOWSKI, SR., THOMAS HOJNOWSKI, JR., JENNIFER MILLER, CLAIRE CRANDALL, CATHY & STACEY MONTES, LORI ODENATH, SALVATORE SANGUINITO, MICHELLE ANTALOSKY, MAHALA WACHTER, CHARLES SNYDER, ALEX VAUPEL, CAROLYN BONKOSKI, CAIT DRISCOLL, GARRITH DONLEY. Due to privacy laws, the actual person or an immediate family member needs to give us permission for inclusion & remain on the list for 3 mos. ***Please let us know when your loved one is better.***

Our Church is meant to be a place of prayer and recollection. Please refrain from conversation while you are inside the church worship space. Thank you for respecting God's house!

RESPECT LIFE CORNER: *"Those who speak out against life are people who are hurting. We pray for them to find truth, because we want them to know peace."*
— Abby Johnson

BVM PILGRIM STATUE: October 10-October 17: C Dunlap; October 17-October 24: OPEN; October 24-October 31: E & C Johnson. Please call the next host family on the schedule as a courtesy reminder.
PILGRIM STATUE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN: *There are weeks open. If you would like to sign up to have the statue in your home for a week, please call the parish office so that you can schedule a week from those available.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: All families with children in Preschool through 8th grades are welcome to join us! If you are new to our program, feel free to get in touch with Marie Dooley to complete registration as a new family. Classes meet twice per month in the Ave Maria Hall.

ALTAR FLOWERS *are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Haley Gravish and Brandon Hamilton.*

Liturgy Schedule: Weekend of October 17 & 18
4:00PM
Lector: A Miller; EMs: B & A Leon-Caraballo, M Muncy
8:00AM
Lector: S Churgai; EMs: D LaMastra, G Wertz
10:45AM
Lector: T Kast; EMs: J Copeland, J & N Kopp

FOOD PANTRY: The youth (Confirmation through High School) are invited to help at the Berks Food Pantry on Tuesday, October 27 at the Hamburg Middle School from 5:15-7:30pm. Please rsvp to help as spots are limited!

SUPPORT OUR CHURCH by donating $5! You will receive a 25% OFF discount shopping pass for **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends** Sale on Wednesday, October 21 (8AM-11PM). Your donation also enables you to register to win a $100 Boscov's Gift Card. See the Scrip Card seller after Mass in the lobby or stop in the parish office during the week and purchase your shopping pass!

HEADS UP*! The Parish Office will be CLOSED while the PARISH SECRETARY IS TAKING A VACATION!* Days ***closed*** will be: Thursday, Oct. 22, Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Thursday, Oct. 29. Please call ahead on Oct. 21, 23, 26, 28 & 30 to make sure that someone is there before stopping in! Parish secretary will be back on Monday, November 2, at 9:30AM.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: *What Does Our Faith Teach Us About the End of Our Life?*

Tuesday, October 20
7:30 PM

Join us as Dr. Joseph Blasiol, D.O., and Father Dave lead us through the church's teachings on end-of-life decisions. Dr. Blasiol and Fr. Dave will share the Catholic perspective and teachings on end-of-life decisions and treatments, as well as answer questions like "what are the minimum requirements for sustaining life?", "what is permitted, but not required" and "what is contrary to the teachings of Christ and His Church?" There will also be a review of Pennsylvania forms for Advance Healthcare Directives (living will and healthcare power of attorney) and Pennsylvania orders for life-sustaining treatment. *Sign up in the lobby!*

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Will take place on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 8AM to 1PM! Mark your calendars now! Volunteers are needed...please contact Bonnie Katzaman at 610-562-4036 if interested in helping out!

YOUNG ADULTS!

Faith...Fellowship...Community. Are YOU a young Catholic looking for more in your community? St. Mary is excited about starting a young adults group! And we want YOUR input! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Take our 2-Minute Survey to help shape the group! For more information or questions about how to get involved, reach out to clara.cairnie@gmail.com

"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

–St. Teresa of Jesus (St. Teresa of Avila)

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS are being accepted for three (3) openings on the St. Mary Parish Council. Those elected will serve a three-year term. Current council members are listed below, including those whose terms are ending and are eligible for re-election.

Current Parish Council Members include Joseph Cairnie (youth representative), Sammie D'Souza, Kathleen Heiler, Karen Hinkle (2nd Vice President), Ed Johnson (President), Jim Jurgielewicz (Past President), Phil Malloy (Recording Secretary), Tom McHenry, Mark Mehalko, Linda Pellish, Brian Tyson, Wayne Vaupel (1st Vice President).

Members Completing Terms (eligible for re-election): Mark Cairnie, Doug Greim and Jeremy Kopp. We extend our sincere gratitude to these members whose terms are expiring for their time, dedication, and service to St. Mary Parish for the past three years.

Please prayerfully consider submitting a nomination for a parishioner you think would be willing to serve our parish community. To submit a nomination, please add their name below, place the slip in a sealed envelope, and put it in the collection basket at Mass or drop off at the parish office. Nominations will be accepted until Sunday, Nov. 1. If more than 3 individuals are nominated, elections will be held in November to fill the vacancies. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and willingness to support the life and mission of our parish.

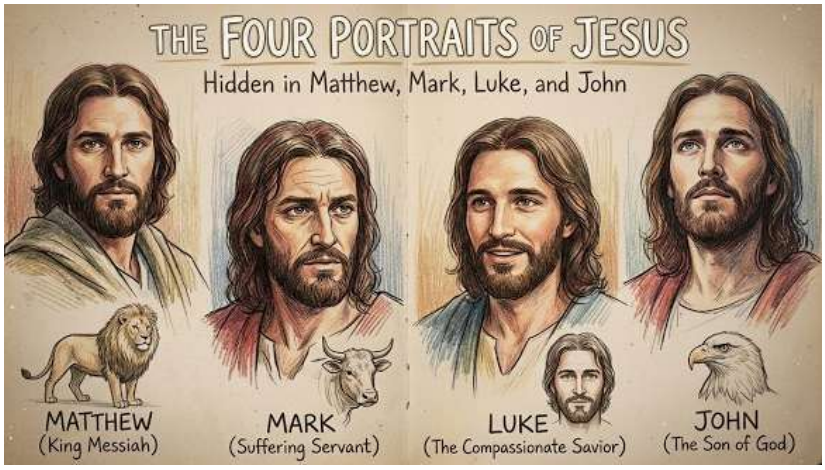
PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

NAME OF PERSON FOR NOMINATION:

_____

THANKS TO ALL FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HARVEST FEST!

Wrap-Up Session will be scheduled soon. God's blessings on all of our workers and those who attended!



Father, Please Tell Us! *WHY ARE THEY CALLED THE SYNOPTIC WRITERS?*

Have you ever noticed that Matthew, Mark, and Luke often sound like they are telling the same story in the same way?

They walk together. They see together. They speak together.
That's why the Church calls them "Synoptic."

The word comes from two Greek roots: "syn" (together) and "opsis" (to see).
So, Synoptic means "seeing together."

Think of it this way: imagine three people standing in front of the same house.
– Matthew looks from the left.
– Mark stands in the middle.
– Luke views it from the right.

They're all describing the same house, but each one notices different details.
Matthew, writing for Jewish Christians, points out how Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets.
Mark, fiery and urgent, writes for persecuted believers in Rome, his Gospel is like a fast heartbeat.
Luke, the careful historian and physician, shows the tenderness of Christ's mercy, especially for the poor, women, and sinners.

Three voices. One Gospel story.
Not copies. Not contradictions. But a harmony, three windows opening to the same Christ.
That's why when you lay Matthew, Mark, and Luke side by side, their stories often "line up." Scholars call this "parallel passages." It's almost like three witnesses describing the same event with their own unique touch.

And here's the beauty: together, the Synoptics show us that the Gospel is not locked in one person's memory. It is a living truth, witnessed by many, echoing the same song:
"Jesus is Lord."

John's Gospel, by contrast, is not "Synoptic." He tells the same Jesus-story but from the heights of contemplation, theology, and intimacy. If Matthew, Mark, and Luke are like three musicians playing the same melody, John is the one adding a soaring harmony that lifts the soul to heaven.

So next time you hear "Synoptic Gospel," remember this:
It means seeing Christ together.
Different eyes. Different voices. But one Light shining through.

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Faustina and the Spread of Divine Mercy

This episode of Divine Mercy and the Second Greatest Story Ever Told, reveals how a saint from Poland embarked on one of the greatest missions in the history of the Church, becoming a catalyst for the message of Divine Mercy.

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An offering from the Augustine Institute

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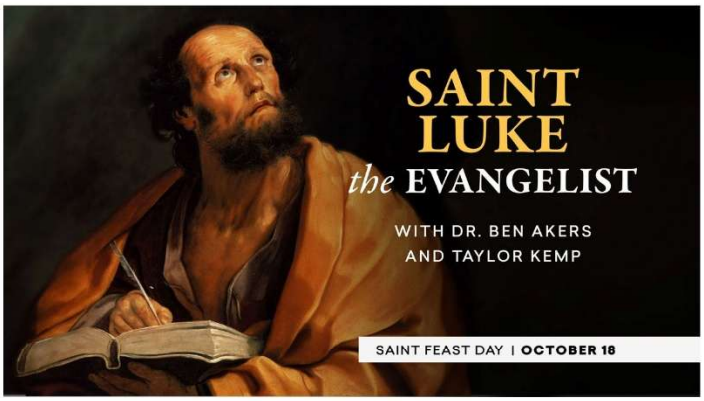

St. Luke | Catholic Saints

Known as the beloved physician and faithful friend of St. Paul, St. Luke is a crucial figure for the Church's knowledge of Christ's earthly ministry and the early Church. Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they explore the life and legacy of the author of the Gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

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An offering from the Augustine Institute

October 11, 2026

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 25:6-10a | Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 | Mt 22:1-14

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today's Gospel comes from the latter chapters of Matthew, in which Jesus repeatedly speaks about our readiness for the end times and the coming judgment. This parable concludes with the striking image of a man being thrown out of the king's feast because he was not dressed in a proper wedding garment. While Tradition has often used this passage to communicate the importance of being properly disposed when approaching holy Communion, we ought not forget its other sense. To find a place at both the *earthly* and the *heavenly* wedding feast of the Lamb, we must strive to clothe ourselves with righteous deeds (see Rev. 19:7-9), cooperating with the grace the Lord has given us in baptism.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our readings today reveal God's astonishing invitation to all humanity. Isaiah tells us that God "will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines." The king in Jesus' parable announces this same divine invitation: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast." In his letter *Desiderio desideravi*, Pope Francis wrote: "The world still does not know it, but everyone is *invited to the supper of the wedding of the Lamb* (Re: 19:9)." (5) As disciples of Jesus, our task is to be like the servants of the king in today's Gospel. So, too, the Lord sends us out to bring whomever we find to the feast. And, as Pope Francis said, "We must not allow ourselves even a moment of rest, knowing that still not everyone has received an invitation to this Supper or knowing that others have forgotten or have got lost along the way." (5)

PRAY

Immediately following baptism, infants, children, and adults are clothed in a white garment as an outward sign of the grace just received in the sacrament. In the prayer that accompanies this part of the baptismal rite, the celebrant exhorts the newly baptized to bring this garment unstained before the judgment seat of Christ. Take a moment this day to pray for all the newly baptized in your community, and indeed, for all the baptized – that together, we may strive for the holiness that is fitting for those who have "put on Christ" (Gal 3:27) and so come to share in his heavenly feast.

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