

Dear Padre,

What is the Catholic Church's position on grace versus works?

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works" (Ephesians 2:8-9). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* attests that we have merit in God's sight only because "God has freely chosen to associate man with the work of his grace" (CCC 2008). After God acted first on his own initiative, it then follows that we're

free to act through his collaboration, "so that the merit of good works is to be attributed in the first place to the grace of God, then to the faithful" (CCC 2008). In other words, it's only through God's empowering Spirit in



each of us that makes our good works for salvation pleasing to the Lord!

Moreover, Catholics believe these good works "contribute to growth in grace, so that the righteousness that comes from God is preserved and communion with Christ is deepened. When Catholics affirm the 'meritorious' character of good works, they wish to say that...a reward in heaven is promised to these works. Their intention is to emphasize the responsibility of persons for their actions, not to contest the character of those works as gifts, or far less to deny that justification always remains the unmerited gift of grace" (*Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*, Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church, 38).

Christian prayer provides us with the grace that's needed for meritorious actions (CCC 2010).

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Do good works, don't just say words that are gone with the wind....Through the good works that we carry out with love and joy towards others, our faith emerges and bears fruit. Let us ask ourselves...Is our faith fruitful? Does our faith produce good works? Or is it sterile instead, and therefore more dead than alive?

—ANGELUS, JULY 10, 2016



Calendar

Monday
OCTOBER 12
Weekday
Gal 4:22-24, 26-27,
31-5:1
Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday
OCTOBER 13
Weekday
Gal 5:1-6
Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday
OCTOBER 14
Weekday
Gal 5:18-25
Lk 11:42-46

Thursday
OCTOBER 15
St. Teresa of Jesus,
Virgin and Doctor of
the Church
Eph 1:1-10
Lk 11:47-54

Friday
OCTOBER 16
Weekday
Eph 1:11-14
Lk 12:1-7

Saturday
OCTOBER 17
St. Ignatius of Antioch,
Bishop and Martyr
Eph 1:15-23
Lk 12:8-12

Sunday
OCTOBER 18
Twenty-ninth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Is 45:1, 4-6
1 Thes 1:1-5b
Mt 22:15-21

Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 11, 2020

Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time (A)

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

Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

Our Invitation from the King

When people think of heaven, they often imagine a place up in the sky. Episodes of *Star Trek* should challenge that notion. The Bible usually speaks of heaven as an experience. According to our first reading, it is like a banquet, "a feast of rich food and choice wines" (Isaiah 25:6). Such a meal is an extraordinary event for hardworking people who seldom get to enjoy such luxury. According to today's Gospel account, the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding banquet, a feast of "calves and fattened cattle" (Matthew 22:4), a celebration of love and new life.

FOR Reflection

* So often our invitation to the heavenly banquet is shrouded. What keeps you from recognizing this invitation?

Some people might prefer an image that thrills the ear rather than the palette, like a Handel concerto or a Beethoven symphony. Whatever image is favored, heaven is an incomparable phenomenon that cannot be described. It is an experience that will thrill us to the core of our being.

To be invited to such an astounding experience might well be the event of a lifetime. This is, after all, an invitation from the king. Who would possibly turn it down? And yet, some do. As the Gospel recounts, some are too busy with work. Others would rather watch "the game." Still others who might accept the invitation minimize it by refusing to dress appropriately. How can people be so foolish? Yet, you and I often are.

God's invitation to the heavenly feast simply asks that we realize the magnitude of the honor extended to us, that we accept it graciously, and that we enjoy the experience.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



[Jesus said,] "The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike."

MATTHEW 22:10



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336
Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smassh Catholics.org

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

In the first reading, Isaiah describes the Messianic banquet on the Lord's mountain in the Holy City of Jerusalem, which Yahweh is preparing for His people. The "Good News" is that it is a great feast of "rich food and choice wines." But, for the children of Israel, the "bad news" is that Yahweh invites all people, including Gentiles, to the banquet. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23), presents God as the Good Shepherd Who nourishes, leads, and protects His flock. In the second reading, St. Paul advises the Philippians to put their trust in the power and goodness of a providing God, Who, in Jesus, has given His Church everything His followers will need to participate in the Heavenly Banquet. In today's Gospel, by telling an allegoric parable of judgment in the Temple of Jerusalem two days before his arrest, Jesus accuses the Jewish religious and civil leaders of rejecting God's invitation to the Heavenly Banquet given to them through God's Own Son, Himself. They have rejected the invitation by not listening to the Good News preached by Jesus and by not reforming their lives. This invitation was repeatedly extended to Israel through the prophets, including John the Baptist. But the leadership at the time of Jesus rejected the reality that Jesus was the fulfillment of all prophecy and refused to accept God's invitation to righteous living given through John the Baptist and through Jesus, and was planning to kill God's own Son, Jesus. Hence, God invited the sinners and Gentiles for His banquet, and that was why Jesus kept the company of sinners.

We need to keep wearing the wedding garment of holiness and righteousness, the state of grace, all the time, do good for everyone, and appreciate and receive God's graces in the Church: a) We received the "wedding garment" of sanctifying grace in Baptism; the other Sacraments provide the additional graces we need to retain it. b) Our participation in the Eucharistic celebration and in personal and family prayers helps us to recharge our spiritual batteries and enables us to lead Spirit-filled, prayerful lives of doing good for all. c) Jesus nourishes us in the Church through the proclamation of word of God and through His Body and Blood offered to us as spiritual Food and Drink in Holy Communion.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese
Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
10/12	Monday	No Mass Today		
10/13	Tuesday	No Mass Today		
10/14	Wednesday	6.30 PM	Religious Education (CCD) classes	
10/15	Thursday	No Mass Today		
10/16	Friday	No Mass Today		
10/17	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Veronica Reilly
10/18	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Rick Hernandez
10/18	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Ted Panas

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

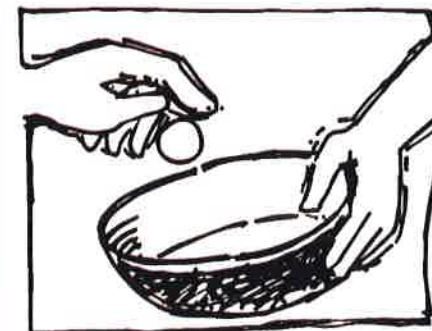
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER:
MASS TIME
Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Next Saturday
(10/17/2020):
Online Evening Prayer:
8.00 pm – 9.00 pm.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$555.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$386.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 941.00
MASS STIPEND	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$ 961.00
BUILDING FUND	\$163.00
HEAT/AC	\$650.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

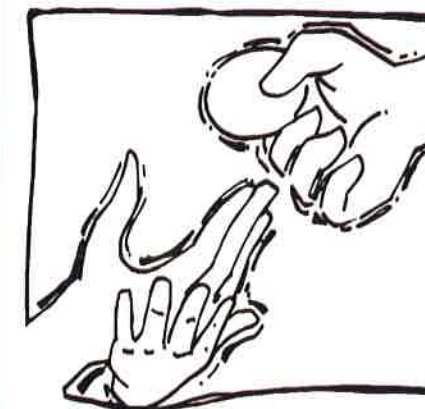
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER:
MASS TIME
Friday – 6:00 PM
Sunday – 8.00 AM

Next Saturday
(10/17/2020):
Online Evening Prayer:
8.00 pm – 9.00 pm.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$180.00
CHILDREN	\$.50
PLATE	\$211.00
SUBTOTAL	\$391.50
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 391.50
BUILDING FUND	\$25.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER:
MASS TIME
Thursday – 6:00 PM
Saturday – 5.30 PM

Next Saturday
(10/17/2020):
Online Evening Prayer:
8.00 pm – 9.00 pm.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$375.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	
SUBTOTAL	\$ 375.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 375.00
BUILDING FUND	\$4,324.63

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.

