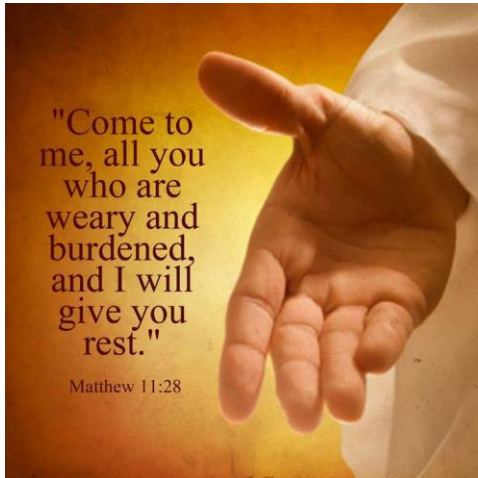




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY July 9 & BEYOND

Jesus' Invitation



When I was a child, I loved anything that came in the mail. If it had my name on it, that was best of all. There was something magical about the mail pushing its way through the slot.

Invitations were best of all, and I still enjoy them. Being invited to a party, a wedding, a baptism, or any kind of event is still a highlight in my life. Invitations come in many sizes and shapes, hand written or typed, with rich, textured paper, or something very simple. Yes, even an email counts as

an invitation to me. I accept.

That's why, when I looked at the verses from Matthew 11:28-30, I thought of invitations. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

To me, these verses are a great invitation, and one that I truly respond to. Jesus is inviting us to come to him. I imagine his arms outstretched with a gentle smile on his face. He wants us to reach out to him and accept his invitation to give us rest. Blessed be God.

He is inviting the weary and those carrying heavy burdens. Again, I often feel that invitation is for me. My 'weary burdens' are nothing when compared to many of my friends and parishioners. So many of them begin each day with greater challenges than I have ever had to face. Still, I am aware of the burdens that are my own, and the difficulties that I face that belong to me. That Jesus cares about these things, means so much to me. That he calls me in invitation and openness, gives me new strength.

Life is not always easy, but it is worth it. We all face challenges that make it hard to get from one day to the next. I think of friends who have debilitating diseases or

paralysis. For them to face a new day is quite a challenge. Their faith and courage inspires me greatly. We all know someone like that, may we lift them up in prayer.

Jesus invites us to take his yoke upon us, for his yoke is easy and his burden is light. When I think of the ‘yoke of Jesus’ I am reminded of his sacrificial suffering and death. The yoke seems heavy indeed, but I’m reminded that he lifts it with us. He stands besides us and gives us strength and respite in our weariness. For Jesus to join me in my struggle is a worthy invitation indeed.

Finally, I’m reminded of one of my favorite verses from John’s Gospel: “I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (16:33). Another invitation I’ll gladly accept.

Father Steven L. Schuneman

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)
 —*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors’ Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

THURSDAY 6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)
 9:30a Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)