



ALL SAINTS'

— CHURCH —

THIS SUNDAY August 28 & BEYOND



In his parable about finding a seat at a wedding banquet, Jesus is teaching us about more than prudence or good manners. By directing us to *choose* the lowest place, Jesus is showing us the way God's kingdom always comes. Throughout the Old Testament we see God choosing to work through the refugee, the barren women, and the younger sons, and the New Testament is no different. When God himself enters the world, it's not as a pillar of cloud or fire, a majestic, celestial being, or even an earthly prince. He comes instead as the son of a poor couple living in the country, and only after asking the young virgin's permission. Jesus was rejected by the rulers and authorities and even fled from earthly power when it was offered to him. At every turn he chose to reveal God's glory to the poor, sick, weak, and marginalized because the way of the kingdom is the way of love.

One of the most beautiful images I've heard used to describe the way God loves us is Him pouring Himself out like water. More than superficial fondness or sentiment, He touches everything, not stopping at what's highest or best, but cascading down to the lowest place. God rushes to settle where He's most needed, but often most unwelcome. This is the fullness of what it means to love – to will the good of the other, no matter what it costs or how it's received.

In his parable, Jesus is teaching how to grow in humility because pride always blocks love. It turns us inward, so that we can't will someone else's good if it's not at least as good

for us. If it puffs us up, everything has to glorify us, so that even our service to others has to be great and notable. If pride deflates us to less than we really are, we shrink back from God's call and blessings, believing that we're incapable or unworthy. Humility frees us from this self-absorption so that we can love as God loves, without any self-interest. If we're trying to lower ourselves to lift up others, nothing will be beneath us. If we know that God's grace is sufficient for us and that His power is made perfect in our weakness (see 2 Corinthians 12:9), no task will be too big for us. When we join our wills to God's and share His delights and desires, we'll begin to experience the eternal celebration here on earth, and our lives will be an invitation for everyone around us to take their seat at the table.

Father McQueen

Readings for this Sunday

Ecclesiasticus 10:12-18 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1-8 Luke 14:1, 7-14

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
 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)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
 9:30a MASS (St. Mary's Chapel)
 AA Meetings 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)
 8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
 8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY: 11:00a Rosary in St. Mary's Chapel
 11:30a MASS in St. Mary's Chapel
 Noon Potluck Luncheon in the Parish Hall