

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

P. O. Box 159 – 671 Water Ave. : Hope, BC V0X 1L0
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Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 15, 2017

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday – 4:30 PM (anticipated Mass)
Sunday –9:00 AM

Confessions

Weekdays Tuesday to Saturday – 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM
Saturday - 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Always available upon request.

Please pray for our sick and shut in parishioners.

May Our Lord sustain, comfort and heal them through their faith.

Mimi LaBossiere, Ann Vinet, Don Appel, Lew and Dolores Hampton, Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, Gerard Born, George Stock, Jerzy and Irena Klimczek, Rita Rocan, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, Amanda Paller.

Last Sunday Offering

\$ Envelopes
\$ Loose
\$ Weekly Anticipated Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

Project Advance: We sincerely thank the **41 families** in our Parish who have already **donated \$21,340. There are 45.3% of our Parish families that have not yet participated.** There is still time to donate! Please place an envelope marked “*Project Advance*” into the offertory basket. The donations exceeding the Diocesan commitment of \$5,000 will be put into the *Building Fund Account* to cover future building maintenance costs.

Starting Planning for the Parish Potluck on October 28 after the 4:30 PM Mass

Bring your favourite dish of food to share with others and have a wonderful evening of meeting other members of your Parish. For more information: Michelle 604.869.2571

Archbishop Michael Miller has issued a **DECREE** that an **attendance census** of every man, woman and child be taken at every *Anticipated and Sunday Mass held on October 14 and 15, 2017 and October 21 and 22, 2017.*

Reflection on Sunday’s Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of a royal wedding feast where the King is giving an invitation for everyone to attend. The King is God, and the wedding is for His Son, Jesus, who is the Bridegroom. The Bride is God’s people, *all of us!* Thus, the people at the wedding feast are the family of God. God desires everyone to sit at His banquet table with Him in heaven. All we have to

do is say “yes” and accept God’s invitation to be a member of His family. No one can say, “But I was not invited.”

The Catholic Church has always believed, from the beginning, that the Mass is a participation in that eternal wedding banquet here on earth. As we participate in the liturgy of this Holy Mass, God increases our desire and readiness for the heavenly banquet that is to come. The Mass helps us to prepare for the wedding feast in God’s Kingdom. *But* there is a warning for the people. Those who accept God’s invitation must be ready and be wearing a wedding garment. In other words, they must have prepared themselves to be part of the heavenly banquet.

In terms of our readiness, we need to be always prepared, because the messenger announcing that the feast is ready could come at any time. The messenger could be in the form of a death from a car accident or from an illness. We don’t know the day or the hour that we’ll be personally called to attend God’s heavenly wedding banquet, when our earthly period of preparation will be over.

We can learn a lot in today’s parable from those who gave excuses not to attend the wedding. And how many people today use the same excuses for not coming to Mass that Jesus describes in the parable in refusing the invitation to His wedding banquet: work, housework, family, laziness, sleeping in, sporting events, holidays, etc.

What grabs our attention is this Gospel reading is the man at the back who came without wearing wedding clothes. That person accepted the invitation but was not properly dressed. The man who came in without wearing a wedding garment symbolizes a life that has undergone no changes, a life that has not produced the fruits of repentance, love of God and neighbour, and a daily carrying of one’s cross. This detail expresses an important caution for us. We need to give up our old clothes, that is, our old habits of sin and put on the new clothes of Catholic discipleship.

God tells us today, “Come to the wedding banquet!” He says it both about the Mass and about heaven. Preparing well for Mass each time we come will help us to always be ready for the eternal wedding banquet. If we are truly ready for this banquet every Sunday, we’ll be ready to respond with joy, readiness and an immaculately white wedding garment, free of sin and full of virtues and love whenever our Lord comes to take us home, because we have put God first and given Him our best each day of our lives.

The one thing necessary is to make sure that we will arrive safely to the banquet by responding to God’s love. We are never nearer to that love than when we accept the invitation to come to Mass here and sit at Jesus’ banquet table. We come forward at Mass to receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ in Holy Communion. Receiving the Holy Eucharist is a foretaste of the most beautiful heavenly wedding banquet that is to come when we leave this world.

God’s banquet is available to all people, but only those who are willing to give their lives to the King, to God, will experience its joy. God doesn’t force salvation on us. The invitation is freely given, but accepting the call is up to us.

World Mission Sunday – October 22, 2017

Next Sunday our Parish will celebrate *World Mission Sunday*. It represents a global sign of the Universal Church and Mission. We are invited to reach out and help build the Church in the most remote areas across our world. Your prayers and donations will support churches, hospitals, schools, and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Please show your generosity as much as possible during this collection, because it provides assistance to the young dioceses in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands. Thank you!

Jesus was having a conversation with St. Gerard and He was saying, “*Give me, give me.*” St. Gerard replied, “*I have nothing to give you. I have given you everything.*” Jesus insisted” “***Give Me your sins.***”