



## **Twenty-Eighth Week in the Ordinary Time**

Throughout the Old and New Testament scriptures the image of the banquet is a familiar one. The prophets speak of God preparing a rich banquet to delight those who are faithful. In the reading from the prophet Isaiah, we hear of God on His holy mountain making ready a feast of rich foods and choice wines. The prophet goes on to describe how God will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, namely death. This revelation is foretelling of what the kingdom of heaven will look like. Our participation in this future kingdom involves placing our hope in God alone.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm expresses confidence in God who gives us everything we need. In fact, He surpasses our needs and offers us gifts beyond our hopes and expectations. This generosity is not always deserved but rather expresses God's nature which is giving and forgiving.

St. Paul in his Letter to the Philippians gladly boasts of his ability to do anything because of the one who strengthens him. Like St. Paul we are empowered by God who supports us.

In the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is speaking in parables again. The message points to God's generosity and our freedom. Acceptance of what God wants to give is never forced but rather only accepted by choice. "Many are invited but not all are chosen." May we remain faithful so as to be among those chosen.

Peace,

*Fr. Robert*