

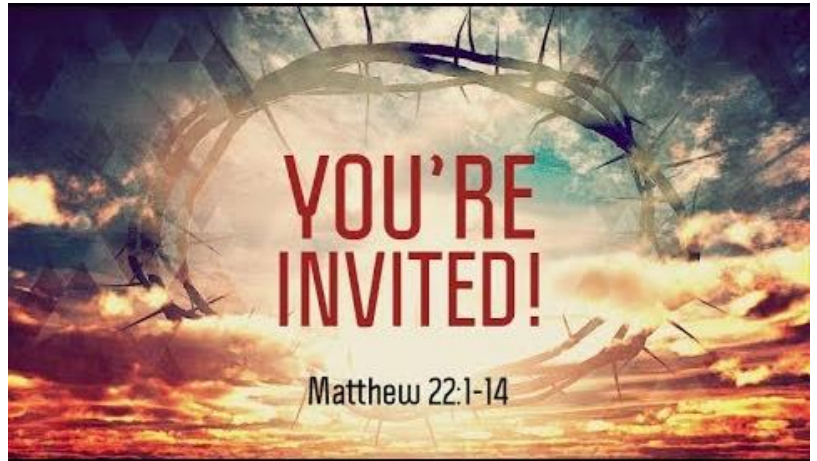


Isaiah 25:6-10a

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

Let's suppose that you are giving a party. When you have fixed the date, you draw up a list of the people whom you wish to invite. Then you send out the invitations with RSVP emblazoned on them and wait for the responses to come back. You can expect three kinds of response: Some will accept your invitation. Although their acceptance will make you feel happy not all will



have accepted for the same reason: Some accepted half-heartedly, they are coming only because they feel in some way obligated; Others accepted with enthusiasm, they feel honoured and grateful for having been included; Some refuse your invitation, and their refusal disappoints you, perhaps even hurts you, but at least you know where you stand. There can also be degrees of refusal: In certain cases, some people would like to come but have a prior engagement on the date in question; Others are simply not interested. It's not that they can't come but that they don't want to come. There is a third way of responding to the invitation - by not responding at all. Yes, that too is a response! You wait and wait for a reply, but none comes. This is the worst kind of response. It's worse than an outright refusal because you are left wondering whether the invitation got lost in the mail or you inadvertently did something to offend them. If you were to

contact them to find out why, they would probably not tell you the truth, so why bother.

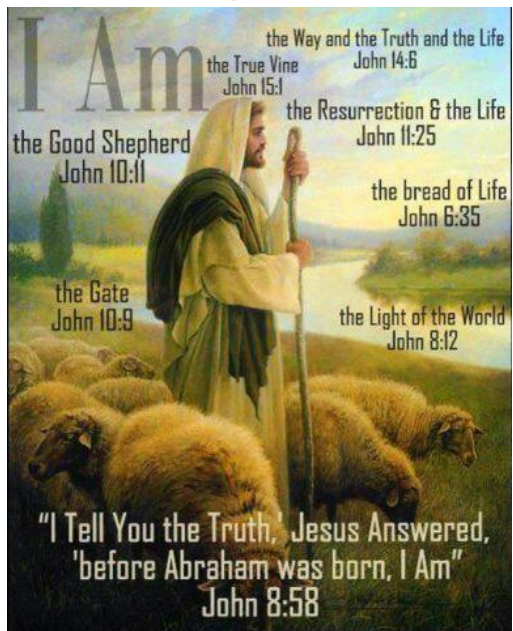
God does not *command* us to come to His Heavenly Banquet recognised by practicing Catholics to be the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Instead God *invites* us to partake of the sweet Bread of Angels, the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, Who said: *I am the living bread*



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*that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh, (Jn 6:51).*

Soldiers know that a command cannot be so easily ignored because there are usually dire consequences. An invitation, however, can be ignored but that too will have consequences. Unlike advertisers who entice us to buy products by resorting to all kinds of gimmicks to entrap and by using constant repetitions to wear down resistance so as to further our compliance, God does not resort to such tactics. He has too much respect for our personal freedom. God wants us to come to His Heavenly Banquet out of love for Him and in appreciation of the tortuous Sacrifice undergone by His Son for our salvation. Yet, for every invitation refused, there are outcomes and consequences. Just as you may refuse to attend your friend's party and so will lose out on meeting others who could have contributed to your life and future, so too, in refusing to attend God's Heavenly Banquet (the Mass): You will lose out in sharing now in His divine life which is given to us whenever we receive Holy Communion; You will lose out in receiving His manifold graces dispensed through the ministry of the sacraments; and upon death, you will lose out in entering into the Kingdom of Heaven. All that just because you refuse now to attend His Heavenly Banquet. Just look at what you're losing! All invitations challenge us to give up our isolationism, our exclusivism, our self-sufficiency so as to connect with our neighbor and with our God, and so to benefit from those human and divine interactions which ensue. To accept an invitation to God's Heavenly Banquet means to acknowledge your need and willingness to receive from others, to share with others, to associate with others, and



to collaborate with others. By offering three Sunday Masses in three different locations and by posting the Mass times on our Website, in the Parish Bulletin, and on all three outdoor church notice boards, this Parish of Saint Francis of Assisi sends out weekly an invitation to everyone to join her at God's Heavenly Banquet, yet many still choose not to come. Do they not know what they are missing, or do they simply not care? Yet how can one hope to know something of which one is ignorant? Many today are ignorant of Christianity in general and, because of resistance towards her morals and ethics which are counter-cultural and difficult to live, they shun the Catholic Faith in particular. However, given the vast access to information available

these days to everyone in Canada, people really have no excuse for not knowing about God's Heavenly Banquet, so we must assume that they do not care and so have freely chosen to reject

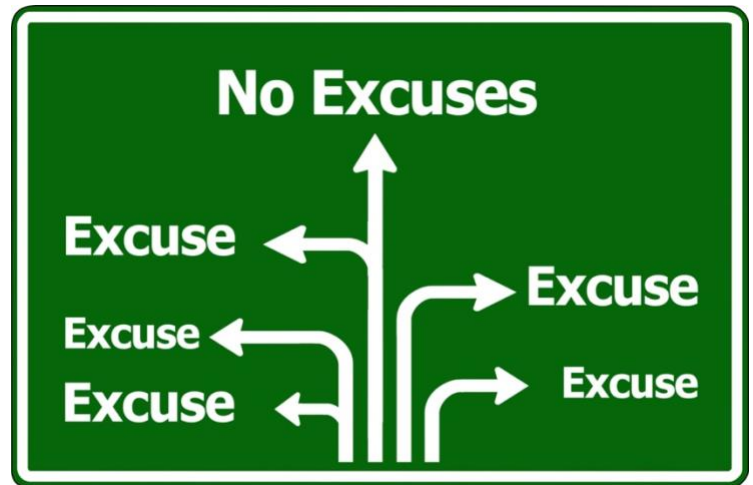
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His invitation. For our part, let us ask God to forgive their obstinacy, for yes, they do indeed know what they do, and let us pray that in time they will come to their senses.

**I attribute my success to this:  
I never gave or took an excuse**

*Florence Nightingale*

Excuses, excuses, excuses! We have excuses for not doing what we know we should do, and excuses for doing what we know we should not do. Some of these excuses are reasonable, some shabby, but all are effective in allowing us to do as we please. Once upon a time there was a tailor who mended the clothes of everybody in town, yet he himself went about with his coat in tatters, and to the embarrassment of his



customers, he appeared like that in church on Sundays. One Sunday a friend said to him: It's a disgrace that you, a respectable tailor, should go around town in a tattered coat. What can I do, said the tailor? I'm a poor man and I have to work all week to make a living. When do I find the time to mend my own clothes? Look, said the friend, here's \$100.00. Think of me as one of your customers. I'm paying you to take the time to mend your own coat. The tailor agreed and took the money.

However, when he reappeared in church the following Sunday, the friend noticed that once again he was dressed in his old tattered coat. Extremely annoyed, the friend said to him: Now there is no excuse for this kind of behavior. Did I not give you \$100.00 last Sunday to take the time to mend your coat? The tailor replied



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apologetically: What can I do. When I went home last Sunday, I examined my coat and realized that I would be losing money on the job if I did it for \$100.00. Yes, people like that will do as they please. . . for now!

**October – the Month of Mary**

In October, 20 minutes prior to the start of all weekend Masses, you are invited as follows to join the congregation in praying the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Batawa:	4:40pm	led by Mrs. Donna Maingot
Stirling:	8:55am	led by the St James Catholic Women's League
Frankford:	10:40am	led by Mrs. Shirley Balasubramaniam

I would suggest that you offer a rosary for your personal needs and intentions, and would ask that you considering also offering a rosary for any of the following Universal Needs & Intentions of the Church:

- For Church leaders, that the Holy Spirit might fortify them in their Gospel mission
- For our world, that the peace of Christ might touch the hearts of leaders and influencers
- For the sick, the lonely, and those who live on the margins in our communities, that neighbours might open their hearts to them
- For public authorities, that the love of Christ might penetrate their hearts
- For lawmakers, that God might guide them in living out their duty
- For victims of violence or racism that they might find healing
- For those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith that they might find peace in God's presence
- For the world, that God might lead us in ways to protect and serve one another
- For all those who feel alone or abandoned, that God might strengthen and comfort them
- For those in oppressed regions of the world, that God might guide them to places of freedom and peace
- For those who are held captive by their addictions, that God might lead them to find recovery and healing
- For victims of oppression and racism that God might soften the hard hearts of their persecutors
- For those who are ill with the Coronavirus, that God, the Divine Physician, might offer them hope and provide healing



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- For all who feel despair, that God might lift their cloud of darkness and fill them with hope
- For those who are in danger of premature death by natural or unnatural causes that God might stay the hand of nature and man
- For. . .

Where can you go this weekend to Mass? Here are the attendance numbers from last weekend Check it out!			
	SHJ – 5pm Saturday	SJM - 9:15am Sunday	SFA – 11am Sunday
	3 October	4 October	4 October
Placements Available in Church Each Weekend	16	47	16
Parishioners Who Attended Last Weekend	23	63	28
Placements Still Open Last Weekend	3	6	2



Face coverings are now mandatory.

### \*Weekdays\*

- If you are unable to make it to Mass on Saturday or Sunday, don't forget that we also have a weekday Mass at 9 a.m. in St Francis, Frankford every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Before setting out, however, be sure to check the Weekly Parish Bulletin, which is sent with this newsletter, because weekday Mass schedules can sometimes change!

### Weekends

- The doors of the church open 30 minutes before the start of Mass.

- Seating is on the basis of first-come-first-seated.
- Upon arriving at the church, please let the usher know how many people are in your group.

### **Parish Financial Support**



Thank you for continuing to help our Parish through these difficult times with both your prayers and generous donations. Your contribution will help to ensure that the Parish can cover its present financial obligations until we are able to reopen our doors.

Here are now 6 ways to donate:

1. Set up an automatic deposit to the Parish bank account – this can be done by calling the Parish at 613-398-6745.
2. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the Office at 288 Riverside Parkway, Frankford, and leave it in the small black mailbox to the right of the door.
3. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the St James Church at 236 Edward Street, Stirling, and leave it in the black mailbox to the left of the main door.
4. Send an e-transfer from your account to St Francis of Assisi Parish at email [assisifrankford@gmail.com](mailto:assisifrankford@gmail.com). Then email us at [assisi@sympatico.ca](mailto:assisi@sympatico.ca) to let us know (a) the password which you have chosen for us to access the donation, (b) your first and family names, address, telephone number, and the number on your regular Sunday donation envelope (if you do not have one, let us know that, too).
5. Mail your donation to St Francis of Assisi Frankford, ON K0K 2C0
6. At Mass in the Collection Box



Parish, PO Box 339,