

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A
Our Sunday Best: A Heart Ready for God

The world around us is changing very quickly. Not only the way we live, but also our attitudes, our behavior, and even the way we dress.

There was a time when people spoke about wearing their Sunday best. It meant wearing our best clothes when we went to church, as a sign of respect for God and for the celebration of the Mass.

Here is a little joke about a wedding. A little girl attending a wedding for the first time whispered to her mother, “Why is the bride wearing white?”

Her mother replied, “Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.”

The little girl thought for a moment and asked, “Then why is the groom wearing black?”

We smile at that question. But today’s Gospel tells us about a wedding banquet with a much deeper message.

A king prepares a wedding banquet for his son and invites many guests. But they refuse to come. Some are busy with their work, and others simply ignore the invitation.

The king does not give up. He sends his servants out again and invites everyone they can find. Finally, the banquet hall is filled.

But then Jesus tells us about a man who comes without a wedding garment. Why does this matter?

The wedding garment reminds us that accepting God’s invitation is not enough. We must also prepare our hearts and allow His love to change our lives.

My dear friends, every Sunday, God invites us to His table. We gather to listen to His Word and receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

But let us ask ourselves: When we come to Mass, are we truly prepared to meet the Lord? We may be dressed beautifully on the outside, but what about our hearts? Are we holding on to anger? Are we refusing to forgive someone? Are we making time for people who need our love and attention?

God does not expect us to be perfect. We come to Mass because we need His grace. We bring Him our struggles, our weaknesses, and our failures. We ask Him to forgive us, strengthen us, and help us begin again.

The important thing is not that we come to Mass perfect, but that we allow Jesus to make us better.

Our first reading gives us a beautiful picture of what God has prepared for us. The prophet Isaiah speaks of a great banquet where God will wipe away every tear and destroy death forever.

This is our hope. In a world filled with suffering and uncertainty, God promises that suffering will not have the final word. He invites us to a banquet where we will share in His joy forever.

And every Sunday, the Eucharist gives us a foretaste of that heavenly banquet. We gather around the Lord's table, receive His gifts, and are strengthened to continue our journey. In the second reading, St. Paul tells us, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." Paul wrote these words while he was in prison. He knew what it meant to suffer and to go without. Yet he had learned to trust Christ in every circumstance.

His peace did not depend on having an easy life. It came from knowing that the Lord was with him.

We, too, can find peace when we trust God, appreciate the blessings we have, and remember that we are never alone.

And when we leave Mass, Jesus invites us to carry His love into our homes and families. St. Paul tells us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Above all, we must put on love.

These are the garments God wants us to wear every day.

My dear friends, Sunday is more than another busy day of the week. It is the Lord's Day, a time to worship God, gather with our families, and remember what truly matters in life.

So let us not only wear our Sunday best. Let us also give God our best: our faith, our gratitude, our kindness, and our love.

God invites us to His banquet, welcomes us to His table, and strengthens us with His grace. May we respond to His invitation with hearts ready for Him and lives filled with love for one another.

Amen.