

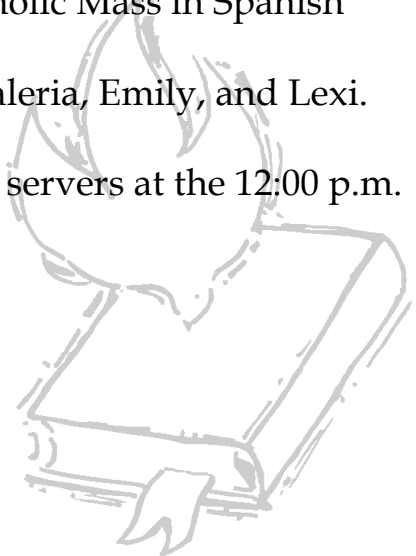
Homily
28th Sunday OT - A
Rev. Peter G. Jankowski
October 10-11, 2026

Is 25: 6-10
Ps 23: 1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
Phil 4: 12-14, 19-20
Mt 22: 1-14



When we
celebrated our
community picnic
on September 13th
with all the
wonderful people

that joined us at the event (with our horses dancing, our vendors selling, all our food vendor sales, and our procession of the Blessed Sacrament, our Rummage Sale, our kids' activities, bingo and so much more... three of the from our community who attend our Catholic Mass in Spanish wanted to help at the parish. Their names are Valeria, Emily, and Lexi. These three young ladies also help us us as altar servers at the 12:00 p.m. Mass.



At this picnic, they were selling their wonderful trinkets that they had made, set up with all the vendors at their special table. At the end of the picnic, Valeria, Emily and Lexi approached me and asked if they could be introduced to the crowd at the picnic. In response, I brought them in front when the last musical act was about to finish. I introduced them to the community and told them about how spectacular these kids were and what they wanted to do to do their part to help out the parish.

I then showed the community the trinkets they were selling, some of which they gave me. The key chains and bracelets were attached with words like, "I love you" and "You are important." As the kids gave me a couple of these gifts (which I intend to keep!), I told them that we would always support them, and we would always take care of them. I told Valeria, Emily and Lexi that if parishioners ever want to call the parish office and buy these trinkets, these doodads, then I would fully support them.

I believe in my heart that it very important to support these kids. I have talked at Mass about Marissa Facko, one of my servers from the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, who has been very diligent as a youth in this



parish of being
active and
supporting this
community in that
particular way.

After the 10:30 a.m.

Mass, she and other youth at the parish love to play with my dog
Gabby; Gabby plays the role of making all these kids feel welcomed and
loved coming into church.

When people say to me, “Where are the youth of our next
generation?”, then I point out these kids to them – *there they are* – they
are playing with the dog and they are having a good time. We have
talked about it before at church. The big complaints now that our adults
lament is that we have too many candy wrappers on the property, not
enough parking in our parking lots, and not enough room for all the
kids in religious education. What a terrible dilemma to have over at St.
Patrick’s.

Over at St. Anne's, we have an altar server named Christopher Chaca. His brother received confirmation a few years prior. Christopher is an altar server at our 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Anne's and is a very kind soul, very dedicated to this ministry. I pick on poor Christopher mercilessly, and he responds with a wonderful smile on his face, and a wonderful disposition.

Another student at St. Anne's is named Ben Nicholson, who just received the sacrament of Confirmation this year. He and his mother often sit in the front row of our church, and Ben was the one on Mother's Day who wanted a flower for himself so he could go to his grandmother's grave at St. Anne's Cemetery and place that flower on her grave. His mother saw what Ben did and then took her own flower and did the same as well, because Ben loves his church and he loves his family. In fact, one of our catechists named Dana Miramantes wrote me the following note concerning Ben Nicholson. She wrote,

Ben stood out from all our other confirmation service project leaders. He is the kid that leads by example. He is not a follower. Well, maybe the only person he follows is Jesus.

All these individuals come to us because they want to be accepted, they want to be loved and they possess the innocent disposition each of us must possess if we wish to enter the kingdom of heaven. They want to have a purpose in life. They want to know that they have value. So they come to us.

So many people in our world are kids who want to be recognized but sometimes are dismissed. So many people in this world feel like outcasts who want to make a contribution in the world yet have been rejected. Meanwhile the entitled in the world, the people who feel like they supposedly think they hold the metaphorical “keys to the kingdom,” so to speak, they take this faith and life for granted.

Many of those who feel cast off come to join us; many of the entitled do not come, and they forget that just like in our scripture reading this weekend, when God is calling people to the feast and people do not come, God shuts the door and the entitled are forbidden any type of keyless entry. Our gospel today teaches us that when God welcomes the poor, the outcast, the lame, those who are on the outside, when they come, God welcomes them because they show God that they care. No

matter who we are, rich or poor, of high class or low, when we approach our Lord with a humble disposition with the intention to be good stewards of what we have been given, then great things happen.

This is the basic theme to our scripture readings today. This theme is not a pleasant one, but look what happens in the book of Isaiah when we approach the Lord in humility. When the humble come to this feast, the humble are going to receive perpetually this wonderful heavenly feast and this wonderful drink.

Look at our reading today from Philippians. It is at the end of the letter where Paul knows he is going to die for the life that he has chosen to lead, that he is going to be sacrificed. This “Apostle to the Gentiles” is going to be martyred for the faith and this community that loves him so much did not want him travelling to Jerusalem to meet his father. Regardless, St. Paul tells the faithful at Philippi that he possesses the faith of God, and even though his life on earth will be short as a result, by living that kind of life, God will welcome him into heaven.

So when I see these kids doing what they are doing at our parishes, wanting to be accepted, wanting to find purpose, and wanting to know

that they are important and valuable in the church, we have an obligation out of love them, to take care of them, to welcome them and to embrace them, just like we do for all of our kids in religious education, just like all of those in the initiation process for adults. We must dedicate ourselves to showing them that we care. That is why we are here today.

I ask you, please pray for the kids of the next generation. Please pray for the kids of our parishes, that they know they are loved, that we embrace them and that they have value, so that when we get to the other side, we can show God that we welcome the outsider. For those who feel they are entitled, for those who feel like they have everything and do not need not come or to welcome others, God tells us that they are not welcome into heaven.

We need to welcome everyone. We need to get back to getting everyone to church, to embrace this message of God's love and to show God we can share that love with the people that we meet. This is our prayer.