

## From Fr. Totton's Desk

Are you wearing the "wedding garment"?

The Gospel today takes a series of interesting turns.

On the one hand, the King lays out a lavish plan to hold a wedding banquet for his Son. As I have said before, in the Gospel, really in all of Sacred Scripture, when we see a wedding or a wedding banquet, we should immediately key in to the fact that this refers to Jesus Christ - the, Lamb of God, the Bridegroom - and the spousal relationship He has with the Church! At the end of the day, "The Wedding Feast of the Lamb" refers to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - that which we celebrate on earth in a Sacramental way, but is a participation in that Heavenly Banquet which is eternal! Some of the invited guests are indifferent, they have "better" things to be about, so they either ignore or decline the invitation! Others guests are belligerent to the king, even going so far as to seize his servants, mistreat them and kill them. The king lays waste their towns and cities! We may find this somewhat disconcerting - a side of God's justice that we'd rather not think about. But what he does next is important, for he issues a general invitation to fill his banquet hall:

*"Go out," He says, "into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find." The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.*

One would think the king would be happy, yet he still expects something of his new guests:

*But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'*

When I hear someone say something to the effect of, "God doesn't care how I dress for Mass" this passage from the Gospel - these words of Jesus - come immediately to mind! Now, before you stop reading this column, please bear with me! The "wedding garment" referred to here can be interpreted in a variety of ways, and there is probably some value to each of those interpretations.

First, if we look at it literally, it *does* matter how we dress for Mass. Does that mean that men must wear a tuxedo or a tailcoat to Mass and women must wear an evening gown? Not at all, but the way we dress for an event expresses (first to ourselves, then to others) the value or importance that we place on that activity (or the respect we have for the people at the center of that event)! Dressing "up" on Sunday requires a little more attention to detail, and that attention to detail is a small homage to the importance of God in our lives. On that note, I would challenge each of you to consider how you dress for Mass - is this the way you would dress for a wedding? If your answer is "no" then consider making ONE change. For example, if you're used to wearing jeans to Mass, consider wearing khakis or dress slacks. If you wear a sweatshirt, swap that out for a polo shirt. If you normally wear a polo shirt, consider a button down shirt with a tie. If you already wear a tie, add a jacket! You get the idea! Also, make no mistake, this is not about spending a fortune to look like a million bucks! Years ago, the best dressed family in my parish was the poorest family - they bought their clothes, including their "Sunday's best" from a thrift shop. This isn't about high fashion so much as it is about wearing appropriate attire for the occasion! The Church gives priests very clear instructions about how we are to dress (at Mass and other times too!). The lay faithful have more latitude, but we should always ask the question: "Does the way I am dressed express the importance I place on this event?"

On an even deeper level, "the wedding garment" also speaks to the state of our soul. I heard the story of a missionary priest in South America: At communion, he began to offer the host to the altar boy, who held up his hand and simply said, "Father, I am not wearing the wedding garment." by which the boy meant he was not in a state of Grace and therefore would not receive Holy Communion until he had had a chance to make his confession and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When we prepare for Sunday, do we take time to examine our conscience, to be sure that we are not conscious of some grave sin? Do we make regular use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that we may approach the Wedding Feast of the Lamb properly attired in "the wedding garment"?

Both of these reflections should help us to approach Mass each and every weekend, with a greater appreciation for the grandeur of God's Goodness, but also with a renewed sense of our responsibility to approach these Mysteries with the proper disposition of soul which is also reflected in an outward way, by the manner of our dress.

Fr. Joseph W. Totton

**Fr. Totton is asking to meet with all Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday, November 18 after the 6pm Mass. Please plan to attend this meeting. If you will not be able to attend on the above date and time, please contact Father directly by telephone or email.**



# ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

**Fr. Joseph Totton**

**Administrator**

### Mass Times

**Saturday: 6 pm Sunday: 8 am**  
**Confessions: 1/2 hr before Mass**  
**Office 816-473-2011**

**P.O. Box 197**

**107 North Shortridge**  
**Easton, MO 64443**  
**816-294-9841 - Fr. Joe's cell**

### Mission Statement

**We the members  
of Saint Joseph  
Catholic parish,  
will strive to be  
the reflection of  
Jesus in this  
particular time  
and place.**

### Cemetery Board

*Ed Fisher*

*Mike Roth*

*Steve White*



**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

### Parish & Finance Councils

*Jim Adams*

*Stacy Brown*

*Jim Ingle*

*Rosalie Ingle*

*Tony Kauzlarich*

*Marge Kinney*

*Julie Moran*

*Dennis Ottinger*

*Jordan Roth*

*Mike Roth*

*Wayne Weipert*

Email: [stjosephchurch@centurytel.net](mailto:stjosephchurch@centurytel.net)

Website: [stjosepheaston.org](http://stjosepheaston.org)

Fr. Joe's email: [fathertotton@gmail.com](mailto:fathertotton@gmail.com)

Office Manager: Marge Kinney

Hall Rental: Marge Kinney

### To Protect our Children:

To Report Abuse - Jenifer Valenti 816-812-2500

Victims' Advocate - Kathleen Chastain 816-392-0011

[chastain@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org)

October 15, 2017



# Ministry Schedule

**October 15 - 8 am Mass**  
**Greeter:** Jim Ingle  
**Lectors:** Scott Antle & Jan Pottier  
**Ministers:** Jim Ingle, & Jackie Pottier  
 Paul & Jan Pottier  
**Counters:** Richard & Mary Ann LaFollette

**October 22 - 8 am Mass**  
**Greeter:** Hubert Gregory  
**Lectors:** Bonnie Gregory & Jim Ingle  
**Ministers:** Diane & Jim Barber  
 Hubert Gregory & Marylou Euler  
**Counters:** Paul & Jan Pottier

## Mass Intentions



**Saturday, Oct 14 + Dick Brennan**  
 By: Steve & Pat Culver

**Sunday, Oct 15 + Brian Crouse**  
 By: Steve & Pat Culver

**Saturday, Oct 21 + Bob Sanders**  
 By: Steve & Pat Culver

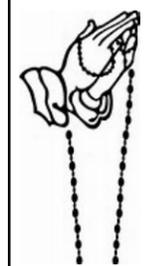
**Sunday, Oct 22 + Mary Pottier**  
 By: Pottier Family



## BIRTHDAY

Jim Adams	Oct 17th
Larry Grier	Oct 19th
David Houser	Oct 19th
Brint Connett	Oct 20th

Congratulations and Best Wishes Everyone!



## OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

In this month of October, let us consider this beautiful prayer of the Rosary as a means that we too can use in order to draw closer to Jesus and Mary by meditating on the great mysteries of our salvation. Now that fall is here, and vacations are done, children are back in school why not come 20 minutes early on the second Sunday of the month for recitation of the Rosary. Make it a family devotion!

**Mark your Calendars!**  
**Parish & Finance Council:** Nov 9 6 pm - Rectory  
**Altar Society:** Parish Hall after Donut Sunday  
**Hand Linens:** Sept/Oct: Bonnie Gregory  
**Donut Sunday:** Nov 5 - Knights of Columbus  
**Knights of Columbus:** 5067-1st & 3rd Thursday 7 pm  
**Rosary on 3rd Thursday 6:30 pm**  
**Dan Morey, Grand Knight**  
**Recitation of Rosary - 2nd weekend of the month**  
**20 minutes before Mass**

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, at 816.812.2500 or [JeniferValenti@att.net](mailto:JeniferValenti@att.net), if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or [chastain@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org) for more info.

**St Joseph Directory**

You can sign up **on-line** on our parish **web site** to have your family portrait taken. There will be volunteers after Masses in October to help with the sign up.

Dates available:  
 St. Joseph - Friday, Oct. 20, 2-9pm;  
 Saturday, Oct. 21, 10am-5pm  
 St. Ann - Sunday October 29, 11am-6pm;  
 Monday, October 30, 2-9pm

(Regardless of which portrait session you attend, be assured your photo will appear in the St. Joseph's Directory)

## Weekend Collection Oct 7 & 8, 2017

Envelopes: \$1,016 Plate: \$232 Mass Stipends: \$10  
 Hall Rental: \$100 Fundraiser: \$2,512

**Total Parish: \$3,870**

**2nd Collection: Parish Fundraiser month of Oct.**

**COLLECTIONS:**

**Oct To Date: \$ 5,796.80**  
**Oct Budget: \$ 7,491.66**

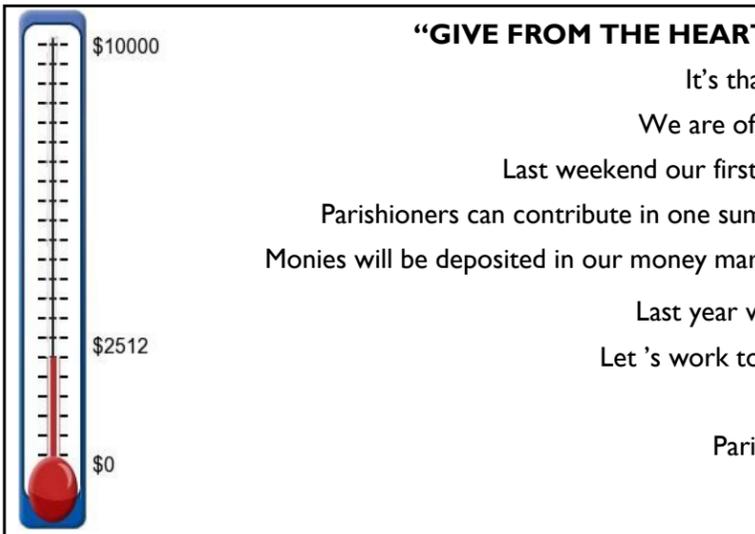
**Year-To-Date: \$ 25,732.97**  
**Year Budget: \$101,800.00**

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2018**

You will be receiving your invitation to participate in the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) this week. We have an opportunity to commit our support to diocesan programs and ministries that no one parish could provide on its own. Our theme,

**"How can I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me".**

Our goal is 100% participation.  
 No gift is too small - Please join our effort



## "GIVE FROM THE HEART" 6th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

It's that time again!  
 We are off to a great start!  
 Last weekend our first weekend we raised \$2,512!!

Parishioners can contribute in one sum or scatter donations over the next four week time span. Monies will be deposited in our money market account and will be used for operating expenses as needed.

Last year we raised just over **\$16,733!!**  
 Let's work towards or surpass last years' total!  
 We can do it!  
 Parish and Finance Councils



**Prayer Corner**  
*"To everything there is a season and a time...for every purpose under Heaven." Ecc. 3-11*  
*"...a time to heal..."*  
**Jon Clark, Mildred Ottinger**  
*"...a time of war and a time of peace..."*  
 We pray for the safety of all our service men and women who serve our country.

**BISCUITS AND GRAVY BREAKFAST NOVEMBER 5TH**



Sunday, November 5th the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a biscuit and gravy breakfast. Everyone is invited to come! There will be a **free will offering** for breakfast. All proceeds will be forwarded to the Cemetery Fund to help defray the costs of repaving the cemetery road. Come and support our cemetery ( We will also have donuts!)

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ST. JOSEPH NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

One of the Catholic Charities' mission is to provide basic needs to families who can't afford the essentials. CC's cupboards are in need of the following items: laundry soap, dish soap, bleach, paper towels, toilet tissue, Kleenex, deodorant, shampoo, soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, diapers, baby wipes and other items for personal hygiene needs.

Just drop them in the box in the back of the church marked "Catholic Charities" at your convenience. Thank you for your generosity to help those in need that live in our surrounding area.

