

Can Catholics who commit suicide be buried in Catholic cemeteries?

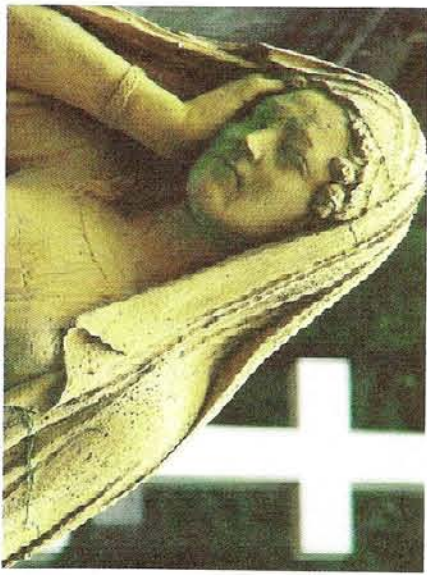
My friend's son committed suicide. He was distraught over his brother's death and not in his right mind. Can he be buried in a Catholic cemetery?

Janice

Dear Janice,
Before I answer your question, I offer my heartfelt sympathy to your friend over the loss of his sons.

The Church teaches that our lives are "not ours to dispose of" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2280). Suicide is a serious matter, but the Church also says that "Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide" (2282). Bearing that in mind, the Church compassionately states, "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives.... God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (2283).

In general, Catholics who commit suicide are neither deprived of full burial rites in the Church, which



commends all of the dead "to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins" (*Order of Christian Funerals*, 6), nor are they deprived of burial in a Catholic cemetery—a sacred place that helps bring peace to those confronted by the suddenness of suicide.

Byron Miller, CSSR
sundaybulletins@liguori.org

For materials to support Catholics dealing with suicide and depression, call 800-325-9521 or visit liguori.org.

Monday OCTOBER 10	Tuesday OCTOBER 11	Wednesday OCTOBER 12	Thursday OCTOBER 13	Friday OCTOBER 14	Saturday OCTOBER 15
Weekday Rom 1:1-7 Lk 11:29-32	Weekday Rom 1:16-25 Lk 11:37-41	Weekday Rom 2:1-11 Lk 11:42-46	Weekday Rom 3:21-30 Lk 11:47-54	Weekday Rom 4:1-8 Lk 12:1-7	Saint Teresa of Jesus, virgin and doctor of the Church Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 45:1, 4-6 1 Thes 1:1-5b Mt 22:15-21

©2011 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63071-9999. Printed in U.S.A. Imprimatur: "This encyclical with 327 permission of the Holy See, published by the Vatican Secretariat of State, is hereby approved and recommended for publication by the American Bishops' Conference, October 1, 2011. The text of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO, in the work entitled from the *American Bible* revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970. Copyright © Christian Teaching, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Design by Wendy Barnes. To order Liguori Sunday Bulletins, call 1-800-325-9521.

October 9, 2011
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday

"God can't expect us to live as Christians as Christians 24/7, right?"

Sometimes Jesus' words can seem quite vague to us; at other times, he makes his point with extreme clarity. The latter is the case today. For the past three Sundays, Jesus has used

parables to indict the religious leaders for their self-righteousness, their assumption of God's favor, and their rejection of Jesus. Today he compares them to wedding guests who decline their invitation to attend. Some must see to more important matters; others believe they needn't attend because they're already in the host's good graces.

The story doesn't end well for them, and outsiders accept the invitations. Jesus indicates the religious leaders can't slide by in the Father's eyes—salvation is guaranteed to no one, especially not to those who reject the Father's invitation.

We might too easily dismiss this story as one that doesn't apply to us. We wouldn't reject an invitation to God's banquet. Yet don't we often put other responsibilities and activities before our relationship with God? Don't we sometimes take God's love for

granted? "God can't possibly expect us to live as Christians

24/7?" "That little lie I told isn't so bad!"

"God always forgives us, right? We don't have to try that hard."

If those thoughts sound familiar, we have more in common with the invited wedding guests than we thought. Our response to God's invitation should be an ongoing, daily response rather than one given only when it's convenient. We have important responsibilities every day, but we can't accomplish any of them without God—a truth Saint Paul echoed in our second reading: "I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me." With these words first on our lips, we can *respond*, *show* yes—and renewed commitment and conviction.

JANEL ESKER | sundaybulletins@liguori.org

Today's Readings
Is 25:6-10c
Phil 4:12-14, 19-20
Mt 22:1-14
or 22:1-10

Liguori
PUBLICATIONS
©2011 Liguori Publications
Liguori, MO 63071-9999

October 9th, 2011
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m. Mass Plate offering: \$ 3,182.00
Second Collection: \$ 143.00

Total: \$4,125.50

A Warm Welcome To All Visitors!!!

REFLECTION

In today's gospel, Jesus uses the image of a wedding banquet to teach about the kingdom of God. Servants are sent by the king to invite guests to a banquet. Some refuse to come, some are too busy, and some even kill the servants. The king gets angry at the refusal of the invited guests. He wants people to attend his banquet so he tells his servants to go out and invite everyone they can find.

In today's parable the sending of the servants is like the preaching of the prophets. The preaching first is directed to Israel and with their refusal, finally it is directed to the Gentiles. The message to those who sit at the banquet table is to act accordingly, and to live as followers of Jesus.

MEETINGS WITH FR. SIM

Bazaar Committee - Thursday, October 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Ministers - Tuesday, October 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Choir - Wednesday, October 19th at 7:30 p.m.

**Please make a special effort to attend and to be on time.

RCIA - Persons interested in becoming Catholics are asked to contact the Parish Office.

MEN'S GROUP - Monthly meeting, Monday October 10th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY - Will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with a special service next Sunday October 16th, at 4:00 p.m. under the theme "THE POWER OF FAITH". All are invited to attend.

YOUTH GROUP - Begins Friday, October 21st, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. All young adults are invited.

Number of persons in attendance at Mass last Sunday, **250**

Hurricane Season

As a basic minimum, we should maintain in our homes enough non-perishable foodstuffs to supply our household for at least a week. Starting now, we should have on hand enough drinking water to last a week. Those who need prescription medicine should ensure that they keep at least one week's supply on hand. We should have flashlights and a transistor radio and a supply of fresh batteries ready. We should also keep a manual can opener ready, as well. Now is the time to begin to ensure that all of our hurricane shutters and the tools necessary for putting them in place are ready and available.

"A Weekend to Remember...An experience you'll never forget..."

The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life is sponsoring a Marriage Renewal Weekend to be held Friday, November 4 through Sunday, November 6, 2011 at Emmaus Centre, Fox Hill. All married couples desiring to enhance and deepen their relationship are invited to register. Cost: \$150.00 per couple (meals and accommodations included). Deadline for application is Friday October 28, 2011. Please contact the Office of Family Life at 322-8919 or 328-4310 for more information.

Soul Healing Songs - CD by Sister Cecilia Albury to aid St. Martin's Monastery roof repairs. We are asking a donation of \$10.00 or more to help with the cost. Please obtain a CD copy of the songs from St. Martin's Monastery or at St. Joseph Adult Day Care Centre.

Cook-out & Raffle for Eddie Burrows - Saturday October 29th, 2011 on the Church grounds from 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. Please come out and give your support.

Pray this week for our Sick & Shunt-Ins

Omeria Adderley, Grace Jenoure, Suzette Knowles, Maria Richardson, Charles Sweeting, Inez Miller, Paulette Green, Renee' Carroll, Archiles King, Wenzel Lightbourne, George Capron, Roselda Sawyer, Keishler Johnson, Barbara Rolle, Eugie Raymond, Philip Sturup, Stephen Burrows, Eddie Burrows, Michelle Munroe and Helen Arahna.

Sunday Chuckle - One beautiful Sunday morning, Samuel, a priest, announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands, three sermons...a \$600 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver".

Can Catholics who commit suicide be buried in Catholic cemeteries?

My friend's son committed suicide. He was distraught over his brother's death and not in his right mind. Can he be buried in a Catholic cemetery?

Janice

Dear Janice,
Before I answer your question, I offer my heartfelt sympathy to your friend over the loss of his sons.

The Church teaches that our lives are "not ours to dispose of" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2280). Suicide is a serious matter, but the Church also says that "Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide" (2282). Bearing that in mind, the Church compassionately states, "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives.... God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (2283).

In general, Catholics who commit suicide are neither deprived of full burial rites in the Church, which



commends all of the dead "to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins" (*Order of Christian Funerals*, 6), nor are they deprived of burial in a Catholic cemetery—a sacred place that helps bring peace to those confronted by the suddenness of suicide.

Byron Miller, CSSR
sundaybulletins@liguori.org

For materials to support Catholics dealing with suicide and depression, call 800-325-9521 or visit liguori.org.

Monday OCTOBER 10	Tuesday OCTOBER 11	Wednesday OCTOBER 12	Thursday OCTOBER 13	Friday OCTOBER 14	Saturday OCTOBER 15
Weekday Rom 1:1-7 Lk 11:29-32	Weekday Rom 1:16-25 Lk 11:37-41	Weekday Rom 2:1-11 Lk 11:42-46	Weekday Rom 3:21-30 Lk 11:47-54	Weekday Rom 4:1-8 Lk 12:1-7	Saint Teresa of Jesus, virgin and doctor of the Church Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 45:1, 4-6 1 Thes 1:1-5b Mt 22:15-21

©2011 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63071-9999. Printed in U.S.A. Imprimatur: "The content of this publication is in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church and the teaching of the Holy See. The content of this publication is not to be used in any way without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO. In the work mentioned in this publication, no part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO. All Rights Reserved. Design by Wendy Barnes. To order Liguori Sunday Bulletins, call 800-325-9521.

October 9, 2011
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday

"God can't expect us to live as Christians as Christians 24/7, right?"

Sometimes Jesus' words can seem quite vague to us; at other times, he makes his point with extreme clarity. The latter is the case today. For the past three Sundays, Jesus has used

parables to indict the religious leaders for their self-righteousness, their assumption of God's favor, and their rejection of Jesus. Today he compares them to wedding guests who decline their invitation to attend. Some must see to more important matters; others believe they needn't attend because they're already in the host's good graces.

The story doesn't end well for them, and outsiders accept the invitations. Jesus indicates the religious leaders can't slide by in the Father's eyes—salvation is guaranteed to no one, especially not to those who reject the Father's invitation.

We might too easily dismiss this story as one that doesn't apply to us. We wouldn't reject an invitation to God's banquet. Yet don't we often put other responsibilities and activities before our relationship with God? Don't we sometimes take God's love for

granted? "God can't possibly

expect us to live as Christians 24/7?" "That little lie I told isn't so bad!"

"God always forgives us, right? We don't have to try that hard."

Today's Readings
Is 25:6-10c
Phil 4:12-14, 19-20
Mt 22:1-14
or 22:1-10

Liguori

PUBLICATIONS
©2011 Liguori Publications
Liguori, MO 63071-9999

If those thoughts sound familiar, we have more in common with the invited wedding guests than we thought. Our response to God's invitation should be an ongoing, daily response rather than one given only when it's convenient. We have important responsibilities every day, but we can't accomplish any of them without God—a truth Saint Paul echoed in our second reading: "I have the strength for everything through Him who empowers me." With these words first on our lips, we can *respond*, *respond* yes—and renewed commitment and conviction.

JANEL ESKER | sundayletters@liguori.org

Sunday Gospel Reflections
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
October 9, 2011

Read Sunday's gospel, Matthew 22:1-14.

Gospel Summary

Matthew dealt harshly with the wedding guests who made excuses for not attending the king's son's wedding. Not only did they refuse the invitation, but they beat the servant who went in search of them. The king knew that there would be those who appreciated the banquet and sent more servants out to the crossroads to find anyone willing to come. Matthew ended his Gospel with what was probably a separate parable. Someone dressed inappropriately was removed from the banquet. Most likely, Matthew intended his listeners to respond appropriately to God's invitation.

Reflection for Families

Sometimes our children drag their feet and say they don't want to go someplace where they've been invited. Many times we whisper to ourselves, "If only she would get there, she would have a great time." And sometimes she does get there and, sure enough, she does have a great time. If we're honest with ourselves, we may find that the same is true when we have gone reluctantly to an event that turned out to be quite a pleasure. Wouldn't those who received the original invitation to the wedding feast have enjoyed a splendid party! The words of today's gospel caution us not to miss out on a great celebration. We need to say "yes" to God's invitation.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

Invite someone you know who has been away from the Church for a while, maybe a family member, a neighbor, co-worker or classmate to come to Mass with you this weekend (or sometime soon). Help them remember the joy of receiving Eucharist at the Lord's table by reaching out to them in love free from judgment.

Discussion Starters

1. I remember a time I received an invitation and did not go. Later I learned something about the event and regretted my decision because...
2. Once I was really hurt when someone refused my invitation...
3. I know that sometimes I am like the first people invited to the wedding celebration. I makes excuses to God when I...