



AHS PARENT CONNECTION

KEEPING YOU INFORMED / October 31, 2019



Mission: *To inspire excellence and personal growth grounded in Catholic principles and tradition*
Vision: *A community of academic excellence, Catholic in spirit and culture, nurturing integrity and respect.*

Dates to remember:

- Oct. 31: ACS Halloween Costume Party 6:30-9:30 (All K-12 families and Guests are invited to attend.)
- Nov. 1: No School K-12
- Nov. 2: Cross Country @ STATE
- Nov. 4: NHS Induction
- Nov. 9: Auction Royale
- Nov. 11: Royal Parent Meeting
- Nov. 15: Hex 2 ends
- Nov. 27-29: Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 29-30: Cranberry Classic

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BECKER: "Ooh, Heaven is a Place on Earth"

Recently I have been on a classic rock kick. Listening on Pandora many of the songs were favorites of mine, others recognized, still others completely unknown to me. One such song I have never heard before was entitled "Heaven is a Place on Earth" by Belinda Carlisle. The tune is kind of catchy, but it was the refrain that caught my attention.

*"Ooh, baby, do you know what that's worth?
 Ooh, heaven is a place on earth
 They say in heaven, love comes first
 We'll make heaven a place on earth
 Ooh, heaven is a place on earth."*

Heaven is a place on earth. This phrase hit me like a ton of bricks. I had to stop my workout when I heard it because it is such a powerful line. Many times God gets my attention through music, "Becker! Wake up and pay attention!" I'm weird. I know. As it is, the song is about two lovers who, when they enter into their intimate embrace, make heaven a place on earth. Though the lovers do not in reality make heaven a place on earth, their marital love, in a way, images an event where heaven does indeed become a place on earth, the Mass.

In His letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul speaks about the marriage between two lovers, Christ and His Church (cf. Eph. 5:32). Throughout the New Testament Jesus is referred to as the Bridegroom, and the Church is referenced to as the Bride. John the Baptist makes this connection explicit when he tells his disciples of his relationship to Jesus (Jn. 3:29). Motivated by love, Christ unites Himself to His bride, the Church. Some go so far as to say, Jesus Christ consummated His marriage to the Church on the marriage bed of the cross. Two lovers. One intimate embrace.

Represented for us on the altar at Mass is that embrace, the same sacrifice of Christ. Placed before us is the same Christ, (body, blood, soul, divinity), which hung on the cross. The Bridegroom is present. The bride, the Church, is present. And the cross, the instrument of Christ's inestimable love is present. Here at Mass a Heavenly Lover embraces His bride.

Many Fathers of the Church speak of the Mass in this way as well as the Second Vatican Council. The Mass is the wedding feast of the Lamb. Dr. Scott Hahn, a convert to Catholicism, explores further this incredible mystery in his book, "The Lamb's Supper". (I highly recommend this book.) He, like the Fathers of the Church reiterate that the Mass is not a mere commemoration of this supper, but a participation in the Lamb's High Feast in Heaven. At Mass we join the angels and the saints in worshipping God as well as eating and drinking Christ's body and blood.

Heaven is present in this embrace of bride and heavenly bridegroom because God Himself is the bridegroom. Husband and wife image in a way the marriage between Christ and His Church (cf. Eph. 5:22-32). It only makes sense that the love they share would reflect the love expressed between Christ and His Church. By attending Mass we enter heaven in which, love comes first. In the Mass, Love, Jesus Christ, makes Heaven a place on earth.

On Sunday Mission 9:24 celebrated Halloween and the upcoming feasts of All Saints Day and All Souls day with a pumpkin carving contest. We had a lot of fun and saw some very impressive pumpkin sculpting! Mission 9:24 is a group of teens led by young adults in the community that are interested to diving deeper into their faith and helping one another "run the race" to win the eternal reward. We have fun every other Sunday night 6pm-8pm with games or competitions and include prayer and a faith topic also. Our next Mission night is November 10th. Join us! If you have never been come check it out! You won't be disappointed. "So Run that you May obtain it." 1 Cor. 9:24-27



"Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present."

Dear God, Sunday gift You give us because we need rest and refreshment. Thank you that I can attend Mass and find spiritual nourishment. Thank You that I can set aside the frustrations of work and focus on my family. Thank you that I will be prepared for the challenges ahead. Amen.