



Newsletter Oct 11, 2020

Dear Friends of Emmanuel,

Once again, we find ourselves caught in the grip of the COVID virus. Progress is made and then there are setbacks. Schools are open and then closed again. Now our President is stricken, and we wonder if our democracy can survive the challenges that face us. Can we feel safe traveling to vote? Will a mail-in-ballot get to its destination in time? Some of us are still feeling anxious about grocery shopping! When will this plague end? In our gospel for Oct. 11, God invites us to the eternal banquet where health and safety are available to all. Is there enough faith in us to respond?

In Matthew 22: 1-14 Jesus tells the story of the king who invited guests to the marriage feast of his son. Things go terribly wrong when no one comes and slaves have to be sent to call other guests, anyone on the street – and those who hear the invitation come. It is clear that the story is an allegory intended to show us that we are all invited by God to enter the kingdom. The slaves that go out with the invitation from the king are the prophets. They were sent into the world to be show us how to be faithful – to direct our lives toward God. Today's challenge is the same as then – can we recognize the invitation and then, can we come to the feast aware of its significance.

It is so easy for us especially today to be drawn away from our faith, to forget that there is something beyond our present reality. In our country, many of us think that democracy is the answer – that our leadership should bring harmony and safety. Perhaps we rely too much on those physical things in our lives rather than the things that are eternal. There is a feast waiting for us and all we need to do is show up.

God bless you,

The Rev. Joyce Caggiano

Priest in Residence, Emmanuel Church West Roxbury



**Live Zoom Service this week
at 5:00 pm Saturday,
October 10, 2020.**

Zoom Service Link:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99143061543?pwd=OW9tR0s0Q0Q0taKNGMmZkdTJXTm5nZz09>

Meeting ID: 991 4306 1543
Passcode: 232053

Virtual Coffee Hour follows
our live Zoom Service. (It is
not recorded.)

After 7:00 pm on Saturday,
view the TAPED service
anytime via our YouTube site:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jldhA

Have a comment? Or a
question on the readings for
next week? Email us at:
info@emmanuelwr.org

SPECIAL DONATION REQUEST



(continue reading on pg. 2)

Help Us Support our Local Food Pantry by Writing a Check

Due to Coronavirus restrictions, we will be unable to conduct our annual backpack mission for homeless and needy families this fall.

Since we cannot fundraise by way of our annual Thanksgiving bake sale, we have set our sights on another equally important mission that is still doable during these tough times.

The Vestry of Emmanuel Church applied and received a Diocesan grant for \$500, which we need to match, earmarked as a cash donation to Rose's Bounty, a food pantry operating from the Stratford Street United Church, our neighbor church located on the same block as Emmanuel, at 77 Stratford Street. The money would be used by the pantry to buy nonperishable food and other items for distribution to those in need in our community.

Rose's Bounty was started in 2015 and is a non-profit pantry open twice a month on location and also delivers groceries to homebound veterans and others.

Rose's Bounty has a number of different programs—delivering food to about 60 seniors each week, as well as to an additional 100 homebound adults each month, and on Fridays, they deliver food to 175 homebound veterans.

The pantry is open twice a month for in person distribution for those who come on foot or by car to pick up a box or bag of non-perishable food. Volunteers do deliveries, sort, and box food for pick-up and control street traffic for in-person pick-up. All distributions are done outside, at the side door of the church. On pantry days, a line can stretch around the block before the doors open.

Please help us reach our matching goal of \$500 (enabling us to give a check from Emmanuel Church to Rose's Bounty for at least \$1000) by writing a check to Emmanuel Church, indicating that it is for the food pantry. You can mail your check to the church at 21 Stratford Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132. Or just leave it in the church mailbox. We will then write one check to Rose Bounty from Emmanuel Church.

As this is a challenging time for everyone in so many ways, please know that any amount, small or large, is greatly appreciated and goes directly toward buying food for those in need.

We would like to reach our goal by **December 1** so that the money can be used to stock the shelves for the Christmas season.

We will provide updates on our progress as our fundraising continues, so look for next week's update in the newsletter which is also available online.

We thank you in advance and



Thank You, LORD!