

This week another flag arrived at St. James. It is the flag of Zambia (East Africa). Zambia is the homeland of parishioner Bester Seemani and her daughter Suzen Fylke. We are happy to have Bester and Suzen with us and to be able to see their flag join the others that represent the lands of our parishioners who are first-generation in the U.S.

St. James welcomes all – from any land or nation. St. James continues to be a *bridge* parish – a bridge between races, nations, neighborhoods, political positions, personal identities and more.

In the readings for this Sunday we are told that God prepares a rich feast for all. Some choose to accept the invitation and others do not. Each has the gift of free will. It is our privilege to accept the invitation to God's feast and to reach out and invite others to join in the feast as well. The Eucharist is the Feast of this life. The eternal Banquet of Heaven is the Feast of everlasting life.

We find in the gospel that one person did not come prepared for the feast. That is a sad situation to be sure. It appears that this one was not prepared because of their own neglect, as the feast was *open to all*. This is a reminder to us to keep ourselves prepared at all times – as the Reign of God *is at hand*... in our midst. And all those invited to the Banquet of God are our sisters and brothers. We encourage one another and assist each other to come to the Feast of God now and be ready for the feast that goes on forever.



ZAMBIA FLAG