

“Roll out the barrel! We’ll have a barrel of fun!” the polka band would play at good old fashioned Polish wedding banquet. I remember good old Polish weddings when I was growing up. Everyone and their neighbor were invited. No fancy halls. The banquet was held at VFW hall. No air-conditioning. Family style meals meant: pass the kielbasa, the kapusta, pierogi, and potatoes around the table. The open bar only seemed to have beer, highballs, and shots. The polka band played all night. Everyone danced. Everyone had fun. A real family time.

Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven as a big royal wedding banquet.

Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who has prepared a banquet feast for his son. The King is obviously God. The Son is Jesus. And the very concept of a wedding banquet invites us to ask the question – Who is the Bride?

Scripture tells us the answer: the Church is the Bride of Christ. Heaven is the place where Jesus and his Bride come together – as a Bride and Groom at a wedding. And weddings are supposed to be colossal feasts where there is more than enough food, drink, laughter, and good times.

It’s a bit strange, however, that many people do not associate God with celebrations like a wedding banquet. Many don’t associate God with having a good time at all. So often God is portrayed as someone who is very serious, and we have to fear. God, to many, is not someone with whom we can have a good time.

I’m sometimes asked: Won’t heaven be a bit boring? Is heaven going to be like being in church for all eternity? I wish these folks could experience a good old fashioned Polish wedding, then tell them, “Heaven’s going to be like this, and more!”

In the Book of Revelation St. John says, *“I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth was passed away – and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”*

The New Jerusalem symbolizes the people of God – that is the Church – that is the Bride of Christ.

Jesus describes heaven as a *royal* wedding banquet. Royal weddings in the first century Middle East lasted for several weeks and the banquet was the icing on the cake – the key social event of the decade.

Heaven will be a royal wedding banquet that will last for all eternity. And at this royal wedding banquet there will be no sorrow, no pain, no boredom—only sheer joy, pleasure, happiness, and LOVE. We will be embraced by our Beloved Groom—Jesus Christ our Lord.

So, roll out the barrel! Get ready, because we are going to have a barrel of fun!