

Scripture Study

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time—Cycle C



Opening prayer

Isaiah 62:1-5

(Psalm 96:1-3, 7-10)

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

Overview of the Gospel:

- In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus, his Mother and some of his disciples are invited to a wedding in Cana, a small village 4-5 miles from Jesus' hometown of Nazareth. Wedding feasts at the time could last more than a week (Judges 14:10-12). The time is right after his baptism (which we celebrated last week), but before he begins his public ministry.
- (**Note:** in the West, we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany and the visit of the Magi 2 weeks ago and the Baptism of the Lord last week. In the Eastern Church, Epiphany often includes those two events, as well as today's Gospel reading, the Wedding at Cana. All three events are seen as being an *epiphany*—or “unveiling”—of Jesus to the world. The appearance of Jesus in Galilee also marks the beginning of God's promise to restore and bring glory to his people, Israel—see the First Reading.)
- Mary (who is never mentioned by name in John's Gospel) brings it to Jesus' attention that the wine has run out—a situation that would be an immense source of embarrassment for the newlywed couple and their families.
- Even though Mary does not specifically make a request for Jesus to intervene, he knows what she is asking. He also knows that performing this miracle in public will make it necessary to begin his ministry and his journey toward the Cross.

Questions:

- Jesus is not yet known as a miracle worker, so why does Mary approach him (verse 3)? What do you learn about Jesus' relationship with his Mother from this story?
- How does Jesus' use of the word “woman” (v. 3) point to a parallel between Eve and Mary (Genesis 3:15; John 19:26-27; Revelation 12:1-6, 13-14)? Should it be seen as a sign of disrespect—or a sign of honor and election?
- What associations might be attached to the headwaiters expression “the good wine” in verse 10 (Isaiah 25:6; Amos 9:13; John 6:53; 1 Corinthians 10:16; Revelation 19:7-9)?
- This “sign” (verse 11) is the first of seven that will be highlighted in John's Gospel (see *Introduction to John* in the NAB). What “sign” led you (or is leading you) to put your faith in Jesus?
- How unconditionally do you do whatever Jesus tells you to do (verse 5)? Do you ever try to place limits on what he can tell you to do? What spiritual gifts has he given to you and to those around you to help carry out his will (see Second Reading)?

Catechism of the Catholic Church: §§ 486, 495, 969, 1335, 1613, 2618

Closing prayer

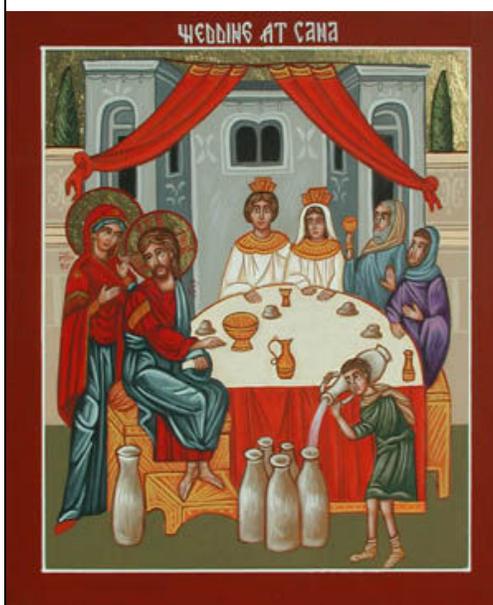
When our hands have touched spices, they give fragrance to all they handle. Let us make our prayers pass through the hands of the Blessed Virgin. She will make them fragrant. -St. John Vianney

Remember to read and meditate on the daily Mass readings found in the bulletin!

“Jesus manifested his glory at Cana in Galilee”

Scripture: John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this he



went down to Caper'na-um, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples; and there they stayed for a few days.

Meditation: God reveals his glory in the unlikeliest of places – in a stable at Bethlehem, at a wedding party in Cana, on a bloody cross on Golgatha. In today's gospel reading we see the first public miracle or sign which Jesus did. Jesus blessed a young couple and brought joy to their wedding party. First by his presence, and second by saving them from embarrassment when the wine ran out. Changing water into wine was a remarkable act of kindness; but giving the best to last was unnecessary and unheard of. In the Old Testament wine is seen as both

a gift and blessing of God (Deuteronomy 7:13; Proverbs 3:10, Psalm 104:15). That Jesus would miraculously produce 120 gallons of the best wine (many times more than needed) shows the superabundance of the blessings which he came to offer.

This miracle signifies the "new rich wine" of the Gospel and it points to the "wine of the new covenant" and the "bread of life" which Jesus provides for his disciples in the Lord's Supper or Eucharist. It also points to the Messianic banquet which Jesus will provide at the end of the age when he comes again in glory. The miracles of Jesus demonstrate the power of God's love and mercy for his people. God's kindness knows no limits. And the ultimate expression of his love is revealed in the person of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He became flesh for our sake, and he died for our redemption, and he rose for our glorification. Do you thirst for God and for the life of holiness he offers?

"Father, you have revealed your glory in our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill me with your Holy Spirit that I may bring you glory in all that I do and say."

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