

During this unprecedented time in our world's history, we offer you the following material for your praying and reflecting on God's Word.

Introduction - January 16, 2022

The wedding feast of Cana is closely associated with the baptism of the Lord and the adoration of the infant Jesus by the Wise Men, which the Gospels proclaimed in the two last weeks. The sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated also as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

In his first recorded miracle, Jesus is a guest at a wedding along with his mother, Mary and his disciples, when the hosts stumble upon a very great source of embarrassment and humiliation - they have run out of wine! Mary suggests that Jesus fix the problem and he answers in rather harsh language back to her. There were six stone water jars for drinking and ceremonial washing. When guests arrived, their dirty feet were washed, and during the feasting it was required that the hands be washed between every course of the banquet. Those jars held between 20 and 30 gallons of water. Jesus instructed the servants to fill them with water and to draw the 'water' out and give it to the steward. He tasted the water, and realized that it was wine. He couldn't say where it had come from, but the servants knew. The head steward realized that there was now more wine, missed the actual miracle and only questioned why the hosts decided to serve the good wine last.

What we celebrate today is the beginning of these signs in which God revealed His Divine Glory to mankind. St. John recorded them, and the Church celebrates the first of them as a feast, to call each and every one of us to see Christ's Divine Glory, to understand that He is God.

Lectio Divina with the Sunday Gospel

Lectio Divina means 'divine reading'. It is a way to pray using the holy scriptures in a step-by-step process. Gather the entire family around and make the sign of the Cross. Light a candle.

Leader: "Holy Spirit, you inspired the authors of Sacred Scripture to write what you wanted us to know for the sake of our salvation. Inspire us now to hear those words not only with our ears, but our hearts, so that we might know your saving Word for us today."

- Have one person **read** the scripture slowly, out loud and have a few moments of silence afterwards. (It may be helpful for everyone to have a copy of the reading).
- **Read** the scripture again out loud and choose a single word or short phrase that touches, speaks or surprises you. Share with everyone.
- **Read** the scripture out loud one more time and discuss what is happening directly in the text.
- **Meditate** on what God is doing now in our lives through this text.
- **Respond** to what God is doing through prayer.
- **Contemplate** on what God is asking of me through this text and how to use these words as a gift for others through my actions.
- After a period of silence, end with the Sign of the Cross.

(see over)

The Holy Gospel for January 16, 2022

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

Then the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,

"They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her,

"Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?

My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants,

"Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars

for the Jewish rites of purification,

each holding about a hundred litres.

Jesus said to the servants, "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 chief steward."

So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,
and did not know where it came from,

though the servants who had drawn the water knew,

the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

"Everyone serves the good wine first,

and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.

But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee,

and revealed his glory;

and his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother,

his brothers, and his disciples;

and they remained there a few days.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(see over)

Family Activities

- ❖ Find a pitcher of some sort that you can not see through. Add a small packet of Kool Aid grape drink crystals to the bottom of the pitcher. Gather the family around and read the Gospel about the miracle of Cana. Explain that the hosts of the wedding ran out of wine. Show the empty pitcher. Ask family members to fill the pitcher with regular water. Pour out the contents of the pitcher into individual glass cups (see-through) and watch their amazement. Reflect on their reactions. Although this was not really a miracle (divulge your secret), the reactions may have been the same as when Jesus performed this miracle. This miracle shows us who Jesus really is - he is God, who is capable of performing these amazing miracles!
- ❖ When Mary noticed that there was no more wine, Mary brought the need she saw to Jesus, because she believed that Jesus could make the situation better. Jesus not only made things better for the hosts at the wedding feast, he used this as an opportunity to show us that God will respond to our needs and to the needs of our world in ways beyond our imagining. Pray a prayer of intercession to Mary so that you may ask for your needs and the needs of others around you.
- ❖ Tonight, prepare a feast with a beautiful dinner table decorated with a tablecloth, candles, flowers, fancy plates and cutlery, etc. Prepare a sumptuous meal that everyone loves, but rarely served. Go all out to make sure that it is very special. Play music in the background and dance around. After the meal, reflect on what the members of the family observed and felt. As disciples of Jesus, we too are promised a great Feast in Heaven where it will be even more special and that it will last forever! All of our needs will be met with great abundance and love from God.

Pray with this week's Psalm:

Leader: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.
Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

All respond: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Leader: Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

All: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Leader: Give to the LORD, you families of nations, give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his name!

All: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Leader: Worship the LORD in holy attire. Tremble before him, all the earth;
Say among the nations: The LORD is king. He governs the peoples with equity.

All: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations. Amen