



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 10, Issue 25

January 16, 2022

Dates to Remember

- January 16: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time — Masses at 4:00 PM on Saturday and 9:00 AM on Sunday
- January 17: Memorial of St. Anthony
- January 21: Memorial of St. Agnes
- January 23: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Masses at 4:00 PM on Saturday and 9:00 AM on Sunday

Prayer for Generosity

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous;

Teach me to serve you as you deserve,

To give and not to count the cost,

To fight and not to heed the wounds,

To labor and not to seek reward,

Except that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

— St. Ignatius Loyola

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 2: 1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him,

“They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her,

“Woman, how does your concern affect me?

My hour has not yet come.”

His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.”

So they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”

So they took it.

And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from

— although the servers who had drawn the water knew —

the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,

“Everyone serves good wine first,

and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;

but you have kept the good wine until now.”

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee

and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Following Jesus

What does following Jesus mean? In his earthly mission Jesus called 12 persons to stay with him, to share his journey and continue his mission. He spoke to all without distinction: the great and the lowly, the rich young man and the poor widow, the powerful and the weak. He brought God’s mercy and forgiveness. He healed, he comforted, he understood; he gave hope; he brought to all the presence of God who cares for every man and woman, just as a good father and mother care for each one of their children. God does not wait for us to go to him but it is God who moves towards us, without calculation, without quantification. That is what God is like. God always takes the first step and comes towards us.

—Pope Francis

Sunday Gospel Connection: January 16, 2022

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle C

John 2: 1-11

Gospel Background: This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his first miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of his first disciples. John tells us that Jesus and his disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's liturgical history, 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. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the wedding feast is celebrated as an epiphany or a manifestation of Jesus' divinity.

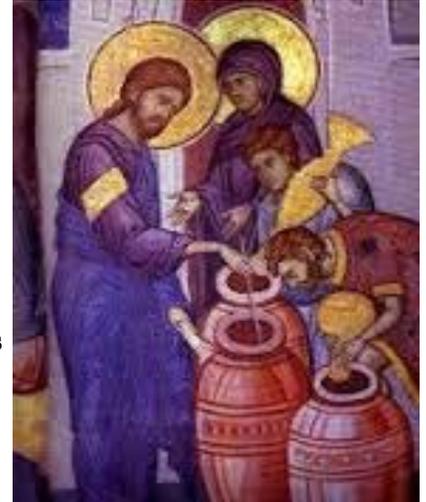
Yet awareness of Jesus' impending passion and death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' first sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' passion. When Jesus says to his mother that his hour has not yet come, he protests against her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that his hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to him.

Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' first sign. She will also be present at his Crucifixion, a witness to the final manifestation of his divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to his disciples. John never speaks of these signs as miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfill Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfillment among us.



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Family Connection: Weddings are wonderful family celebrations. We go out of our way to make the occasion festive and extraordinary. People work hard to please one another. What better image of the Kingdom of God! Not every day is a wedding celebration, but we can anticipate the Kingdom of God each day in our attentiveness to one another's needs.

If your family has attended a wedding celebration together, talk about the experience and the planning and cooperation that made the celebration memorable. Talk about how weddings and feasts are images in Scripture for the Kingdom of God. Consider how these festive occasions are images of God's tremendous love for us and examples of how we can show our love for one another. Then read together today's Gospel, John 2:1-11. Talk about Mary's attentiveness to the needs of the hosts and about Jesus' response. What could your family learn from this story? Consider ways that you might show these values in your family's daily life. Pray together [Saint Ignatius' Prayer for Generosity](#).

(See pg. 1)

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

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<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/second-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c-sunday-connection/>



An Update About Godfrey

Some of our FCFF families may remember Godfrey Kisekka. Back in 2013, our children in Religious Ed. sponsored Godfrey, a child from Nkokonjeru, Uganda. He is now 15 years old and is doing very well.

Unfortunately, for the past twenty months, students in Uganda have been unable to attend school because of the pandemic. No other country in the world has experienced a longer period of time with schools closed.

Finally, with a decrease in Covid cases, students are returning to school this month, and Godfrey will be able to continue his education as a Year 6 boarding student at Little Angels Primary School, under the direction of the Little Sisters of St. Francis.

A special Covid Relief Fund provided a Christmas gift of food and essential supplies for students and their families. Godfrey is pictured here with the food and supplies he received. The letter he wrote to express his gratitude is on the next page.

We have continued our sponsorship of Godfrey through the Little Sisters of St. Francis and would be grateful for any family who may be willing to contribute to his sponsorship. You may contact Ms. Coban for more information about Godfrey's sponsorship. Please keep Godfrey in your prayers!

LITTLE ANGELS P.S
P.O Box 67, NKOKONJERU

Dear sponsors,

How are you? Me am fine am very
happy for every thing yo have given me.
I pray to Almighty God to bless you in every
thing you do.

I have received my food Thank you -
GOD BLESS YOU. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Your son, Kisekka Godfrey