

# Read

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3,  
7-8, 9-10

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

## LIVING THE WORD

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 16, 2022



#### REFLECTION

Have you ever been to a party that runs out of food? It's not good news for the hosts to have a bunch of hungry houseguests! Similarly, running short on wine at a wedding can wreak havoc on the celebration. This is the predicament the couple in Cana find themselves in during today's Gospel story. Luckily, their stellar guest list includes Jesus Christ, who ends up performing his first miracle at the wedding. He turns water into wine, and the day is saved!

However, the day might not have turned out the same without a little coaxing. Mary encourages Jesus to use his gifts in the moment. While Jesus claims, "My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4), Mary senses a greater purpose for her son. She instructs the servers to do what Jesus says, placing her complete trust in him to look after the needs of others.

Mary followed her motherly intuition, and in doing so, sets a good example for how we too can call forth gifts in our loved ones. Sometimes it takes an outside perspective to help us realize the talents we hold inside. We may not be able to turn water into wine, but each of us reveals God's glory in our own unique ways. A little encouragement on this front can go a long way.

#### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What is one way you can use your gifts to help another this week?
- ❖ Jesus helps solve a problem at the wedding. When have you helped solve a problem recently?



#### ACTION

Have you ever received an affirmation that helped you recognize a special gift or talent? Perhaps someone once pointed out the lovely way you care for others—and in turn, you started considering volunteering at an elder home or a career in nursing. Give someone else the gift of an honest affirmation. Tell a classmate what you appreciate about them or a teammate what they did well at practice.



**Post affirmations on your social media pages this week (for example, "You are loved by God because he made you"). Even though you aren't directing them to any one person, it might be exactly what someone needs to hear.**

# Introduction to **ORDINARY TIME** during Winter



## **The Season**

The brief period of Ordinary Time during winter seems like a liturgical breather between the seasons of Christmas and Lent. It is much more than this, however. While short in duration, this season bridges the incarnation with the ministry, teaching, passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord. Through key Gospel narratives, we hear the stories of Jesus' first miracles and teachings, and we learn that not everyone is open to his message. These are important lessons for us, particularly teens, as we consider the call of discipleship and its consequences in our lives.

For many, the months of January and February are colder outside; the days are shorter, and the pace of life is perhaps a bit slower. It is appropriate, then, to take this wintertime as a gift in which to reflect on our own encounter with Jesus, through reflection on the Sunday readings and prayerful consideration of our openness to the message of Christ.

## **Celebrating Ordinary Time during Winter with Teens**

While the pace of winter may be a bit slower for some of us, for teens, classes, activities, athletics, and relationships continue in their normal routines. This produces an opportunity through which to help your teens develop a regular rhythm of Gospel reflection, prayer, and application of faith in their daily lives. Winter is the perfect time to encourage youth to take the Gospel to heart day by day, week by week. The Gospel passages for this season seem perfect to help teens to take on appropriate faith-driven attitudes and action in their lives.

## **Preparing the Liturgical Environment**

Even though we return to green for this brief season, our environment will often be a bit sparser, reflecting the shortness of daytime sun, and the dormancy of many plants. Consider using a few stems of evergreen or a small evergreen plant in your prayer environment, reminding your teens that Christ's life and love are eternal.



January 16, 2022

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### LECTIONARY #66C

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8, 9-10

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

## Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

### Leader's Context

The wedding at Cana sets a foundation for Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel according to John. For all of the mystery involved in the miracle, it's a rather simple story: a problem arises, Mary calls for Jesus to act, and his instructions are clear. The disciples are won over by this powerful act; they believe in him due to the signs that he is the messiah. Mary, too, places her trust unwaveringly in her son. We are called to believe, even without seeing Jesus in person. However, we are surrounded by signs that point us towards God—the faith of the Church, the lived faith of those around us, and the Scriptures.

**Q FOCUS:** *Confirming our faith in Christ.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

We begin this stretch of Ordinary Time with the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. The First Sunday of Ordinary Time is usually displaced by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (the final Sunday and Feast of the Christmas season), but starting the Monday after the Baptism of the Lord, it is the first week of Ordinary Time. This week is technically the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, even though it feels like the first Sunday to us.

### Church Teaching Connection

The Gospel reading for today is one piece of Scripture cited as an example of Jesus' presence at all sacramental marriage celebrations, here and now. Although the wedding we hear about in this Gospel passage is not a sacrament in our sense today, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* uses this story to point towards the goodness of marriage and Christ's work in the sacrament of matrimony (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1613). All sacramental celebrations are a witness of God's love, presence, and grace. We see the presence of Christ in the newly-initiated Christian, the vowing couple, and our neighbor in the communion procession.

## Hear the Word

*Use this resource, a lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

John 2:1-11

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

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 the 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.

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

► **Why do you think this story of the miracle/wedding at Cana so well-known?**

It's known by many as the beginning to Jesus' public ministry in John's Gospel. In fact, this is unique to the Gospel writer John—no one else records this particular miracle story and feast! Wedding celebrations at this time would have lasted many days, so the hosting family was responsible for providing an acceptable feast for their guests. This leads to the tension of the main event: they are out of wine! When Jesus' mother approaches him about it, he responds seemingly brusquely, calling her “Woman.” Our modern ears probably perk up at this strange response. But this translation of “woman” carries with it more formality in the original Greek, and was used as a title of address.

Finally, Jesus responds, turning the water into more than enough wine for the gathering. At the end, we read that the disciples begin to believe in Jesus due to this first miraculous sign.

► **When did you first start to believe in God, beyond someone else telling you that God exists? Was there something that inspired this belief?**

► **What signs confirm the reality of God (and the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) for you today?**

This may seem hypocritical. In various passages in the New Testament we hear that we should not depend on sights or signs for belief; rather, we should believe out of pure faith and trust in God. While the disciples get signs, we are often left waiting, trusting, and falling into doubt. However, think back to our recent celebrations of Advent and Christmas. These are not only fruitful times of prayer, but also seasons which inspire and affirm our faith lives.

► **What aspects of Advent and Christmas confirm your faith in Christ?**

► **What aspects of Christian life, Scripture, or Church teaching challenge your faith?**

Mary is portrayed with constant, steady trust in Jesus' ability to care for the wedding celebration in today's Gospel. Perhaps her very witness, in addition to Christ's miraculous water-into-wine, convinced the disciples to follow and trust in Jesus. We are called to similar evangelization efforts: by our very lives as Christians, through trust, faith, hope, and love, we inspire the faith of others. This does not mean a blind faith, however. Rather, like Mary, each of us encounters Jesus in our own way and grapples with challenges as they come. Let us strive to be Christians rooted in both faith and reason, going beyond simply what we see, remaining in love.

## Wrapping It Up

*Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 112.*

**The signs that confirm our faith in God and in the Trinity come in very different forms.**

**These signs are not always clear or miraculous; our faith depends on our trust in the tradition of our Church.**

**Sacraments, the liturgical seasons, and Scripture are just a few elements that can reaffirm our faith.**

# Act on the Word

## I Believe . . .

*For this activity, you will need copies of the Nicene Creed and/or the Apostles' Creed, art supplies, pens, and extra paper.*

A creed is a statement of beliefs or values, usually held by a community. The Church community professes its faith during the Mass, through the use of the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed. Spend a few minutes as a larger group looking over the words of one of these creeds. Then, invite the young people to spend a few minutes reflecting on their own beliefs. After a few minutes of silent reflection have the teens write out their personal creed. Pose this question: if someone asked them what they believe, what are the most important things that they would say? Their religious beliefs, social beliefs, values, and morals will all contribute to their personal creeds. They can articulate these personal creeds in a variety of ways:

- ✧ Teens may edit the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed and explain what they add, take out, or edit from the original creed.
- ✧ They can write an entirely new personal creed (and consider weaving together parts of the Nicene Creed or Apostles' Creed throughout).

- ✧ Teens may create a visual representation of their creed (and be ready to explain to the class what it all means).

Ask each person to present their creed to the class, or in small groups, if applicable. What were some of the most commonly included beliefs? Was there something that many people left out or didn't mention?

## Closing Prayer

*O God,  
you quench the thirst of all  
who yearn for your presence.  
May we always trust  
that our concerns  
affect you and will be met  
with your abundant goodness.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## For Next Sunday

*To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.*