

Read

Isaiah 62:1-5

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

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

January 19, 2025



REFLECTION

This week we read about Jesus' first public miracle in the Gospel of John, turning water into wine at a wedding feast. Jesus' willingness to perform a miracle in response to the needs of others demonstrates his compassion and love for humanity. Even in the seemingly insignificant moments of our lives, God cares about us and wants to bless us.

This passage also demonstrates Mary's faith in Jesus. When the wine runs out, Mary recognizes that the hosts will be embarrassed because of their lack of hospitality (not able to offer wine), and she immediately turns to Jesus and lets him know of this need. Despite Jesus' initial reluctance to perform a miracle, Mary tells the servants to do whatever Jesus tells them to do. Her trust in Jesus shows us that we, too, can have faith in him even when we don't fully understand his ways or plans for our lives.

This passage is a powerful reminder of Jesus' love, power, and authority. It challenges us to trust him more fully, even in the small moments of our lives, and to anticipate with joy the ultimate fulfillment of his promises when he returns to make all things new.



ACTION

Look for opportunities to serve others this week. Begin by making a list of practical ways you can help individuals in your community. It could be something like mowing a neighbor's lawn or cooking a meal for someone who is sick. Then choose one action from your list and commit to doing it within the next week.



"The Wedding Gift"
(Season 1, Episode 5, *The Chosen*) <https://watch.thechosen.tv/episode/season-1-episode-5-the-wedding-gift>



QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What can the setting of this miracle tell us about Jesus and his interactions with others?
- ❖ What lessons can we learn from the servants in this story, who obeyed Jesus' instructions even when they didn't understand them?

Introduction to **ORDINARY TIME** during Winter



The Season

The brief period of Ordinary Time during winter seems 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 teaching 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 winter time 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 more sparse, 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 19, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #66C

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 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

This week we celebrate the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. During Ordinary Time, we join the disciples in following along with Jesus' ministry of preaching and healing. The turning of the water into wine at the wedding at Cana was Jesus' first miracle recorded in the Gospel of John and is unique to John. In this story, we learn of Jesus' initial hesitation, of Mary's trust and encouragement, and of God's lavish abundance. Because of this miracle, Jesus' identity began to be revealed, and his disciples began to believe in him. We, too, are called to be disciples and to recognize God's extravagant love for us all, revealed through the person of Jesus.

Q FOCUS: *God's abundant love is made known to us through Jesus.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

The week of January 18-25 is known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. For over one hundred years, Christians of all denominations have taken part in this week of prayer, working toward Christ's desire that we all become one in him (John 17:20-23). Tomorrow, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Although this is not a liturgical celebration of a saint, it is important to honor Dr. King during this week of our prayer for unity. Dr. King was a Baptist minister who believed that all people, regardless of race, are equal in the eyes of God. Inspired by his Christian faith, he led a nonviolent campaign for

racial justice during the civil rights movement. During this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we remember Dr. King and are called to actively participate as one Body of Christ in the works of justice and love.

Church Teaching Connection

"In today's world, which increasingly faces the challenges of social injustice, division and conflict that hinder the realization of the common good, Dr. King's dream of harmony and equality for all people, attained through nonviolent and peaceful means, remains ever timely. 'Each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths of dialogue' (*Fratelli Tutti*, 284). In this way we will be able to see ourselves, not as 'others,' but as neighbors, in the truth of our shared dignity as children of Almighty God. Only by striving daily to put this vision into practice can we work together to create a community built upon justice and fraternal love" (Pope Francis, Letter to Bernice King, January 18, 2021).

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 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:

Weddings in Jesus' time were large affairs in the community, celebrated with extended family, with feasts, music, and dancing. It was a time of great rejoicing, where families and their fortunes were bound together. Wine was a big part of the celebration. To run out of wine was to prematurely end the festivities, causing a very embarrassing situation for the host family.

We hear in today's Gospel that Jesus, his disciples, and his mother, Mary, were invited to a wedding. During the celebration, Mary noticed the wine was running low and realized how this could be a

potentially embarrassing situation. Mary was looking out for the hosts and for the wedding guests. She acted to diffuse the situation before the party was ruined. She turned to Jesus, recognizing the gifts in her son and prompting him to become involved. He seemed reluctant, but she encouraged him and called on him to embrace the path that God had set for him.

► Is there someone who encourages you to use the gifts that God has given you? How have they done this?

► How might you be able to recognize God's gifts in others and encourage them?

At Mary's encouragement, Jesus performed his first miracle by turning jugs of water into wine. In doing so, not only does Jesus diffuse the potentially embarrassing situation but he does so with an extravagant abundance. The passage tells us that there were six jars that held twenty to thirty gallons of water each. This is what he turned into wine . . . about 180 gallons of wine! And as if that isn't enough of a miracle, the Scripture tells us that it was not cheap wine, but of great quality.

This miracle is a sign of God's abundance. It is an extravagant, lavish display of God's generosity and love for us all. There is more than enough wine for the entire wedding party, and it serves as a sign to us that in God's kingdom, there will be abundance and more than enough for all.

► What are some signs of God's generous love for you in your daily life?

► How have these moments led you to a deeper belief in Jesus?

Earlier in John's Gospel, just before the account of the wedding, Jesus calls on his disciples to follow him. They knew there was something about him that made them want to follow him. After this miracle of the water and wine, we hear that "his disciples began to believe in him." Through this powerful act, they recognized that he was the promised one they had been waiting for. It convinced them to put their trust and faith in him. Like Mary and the disciples, we are called to put our trust and faith in Jesus and to follow him and share his abundant love with our brothers and sisters in need.

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 124.

Sometimes we need encouragement to follow God’s plan for us.

God’s abundant love for us is made known through Jesus.

We are called to respond to God’s love for us by living as disciples.

Act on the Word

Intercessory Prayers

For this activity, you will need a whiteboard, paper, and writing utensils.

Share with the teens that in today’s Gospel, Mary intercedes on behalf of the wedding hosts, trying to diffuse a potentially embarrassing situation. She acted for the needs of others. In a similar way, intercessory prayers are prayers of petition that we pray on behalf of the needs of others, whether they are for people we know, the community we live in, the Church, the world, and so on. Interceding for others is a way to support them spiritually. This kind of prayer also helps us to grow in our love for our neighbor and expands our hearts so that we recognize each other as part of the one body of Christ. Just as Jesus responded to Mary’s intercession, God is moved by our love for one another and responds to our prayers. We trust that God will help those we pray for.

In this activity, we will open our hearts with compassion to the needs of others by praying for them. As a group, invite the teens to brainstorm the

many individuals, groups, and communities that need our prayers. As they offer suggestions, write them on the board.

Then divide the teens into four small groups. Designate each group to write intercessions for one of the following categories: the needs of the Church, the needs of the world and its leaders, those individuals burdened by any kind of difficulty, and the needs of the local community. Ask them to write their prayers using the format we use for the general intercessions that are prayed during Mass, for example, “For _____, that _____,” When the groups are finished, hold a short prayer service in which their prayers are read aloud. Have one teen from each group read the group’s prayers. At the end of each petition, have the reader say, “We pray to the Lord,” and have the rest of the group respond, “Lord, hear our prayer.” Conclude by praying the Our Father and the closing prayer below.

Closing Prayer

**Triune God,
you bestow every good gift
according to your will.
Grant that we may use our gifts
in selfless service,
glorifying you in all that we do.
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. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.