

Sunday's

READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

Scan the code to read today's readings. ➔



Opening PRAYER

Your love for us, O Lord, is unimaginable, like the amount of wine at Cana. Help us to be aware of your abundant generosity as we journey through our lives. Amen.



Thoughts for REFLECTION

How does our culture view the gifts and talents an individual possesses?

How can you make yourself more conscious of your call to live for the Kingdom?



What You NEED to KNOW

Scripture Background

Isaiah 62:1-5

It is a safe guess that this passage from Isaiah was written upon the return from the Babylonian exile. Isaiah speaks in God's voice to the people he refers to as "Jerusalem" and "Zion." Zion was a specific place on a hilltop within the city of Jerusalem. Symbolically it represented the dwelling place of God. Notice the verses where God changes the Israelites' names from "Forsaken and Desolate" to "My Delight and My Espoused." Naming is significant in Scripture. If you have the power to name, you signify your relationship with a person or thing. How beautiful that God calls his people "My Delight." His forgiveness of their unfaithfulness is a shining light about his mercy. That light is what will attract others to him.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Corinth was a seaport city that was home to many peoples from many nations. Saint Paul is especially fond of this community and yet he regularly must call them to remember what it means to be a disciple. In this reading, Paul is scolding the community for thinking that the individual gifts they possess come with a hierarchy of importance. In addition,

according to Paul, the members of this community seem to believe that their gifts are generated within themselves. Paul is passionate about the source and the purpose of their gifts. God is the source of every gift. He gives gifts for the good of the community. One is not more important than the others. They all work together to advance his plan of salvation.

John 2:1-11

This is Jesus' first miracle recorded in John's Gospel and it is only recorded in his Gospel. The passage is familiar to us. Yet, a few details may offer deeper insight. Each of the six stone jars held twenty to thirty gallons of water. Servants would use the water to clean the feet of the guests as a sign of hospitality. Guests would have walked to the celebration, some from other villages, as Mary and Jesus did. After an exchange with his mother, who is aware of the embarrassment that is about to befall the bride's parents, Jesus changes this water into fine wine. This is also an unimaginable amount of wine. Not everyone at the wedding was aware of the event. But the disciples were, and it led them to see Jesus as more than a rabbi, a gifted teacher who spoke with authority.



Points to Ponder

Teacher and Disciple

A focal point in the account of the wedding feast at Cana is the relationship between Jesus and his mother. This wedding could have been a wedding of a relative, since Mary is very aware of the family problem. It is important to remember that upon entering the celebration, Mary is the teacher and Jesus the student. As Jesus' mother, Mary, along with Joseph, has formed the boy Jesus in the Covenant. She has supported and encouraged his relationship with God the Father. Mary, a servant of the Kingdom teaches Jesus through her awareness that the family needs help. Jesus, seems to be telling his mother that it is not yet time for him to reveal the Father's power in him. She disagrees and lets Jesus know that she believes. Mary who arrived at the wedding as a teacher, leaves it as a disciple.

- Has anyone ever intervened on your behalf when you needed assistance but were reluctant to ask? What effect did the experience have on you?
- When have you experienced a transformation from teacher to disciple?



Holy Communion assures me that I will win the victory. . . . The bread of the Strong gives me all the strength I need to carry on my mission and to do whatever the Lord asks of me.

—Saint Faustina Kowalska

Strengthen belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Scan here for Pflaum Eucharist resources. ➔



Connecting GOSPEL

and CHURCH TEACHING

Mary Leads Us to Her Son

Non-Catholics sometimes misunderstand and misrepresent the honor Catholics give to Mary. That reality may be aided by observing some of the practices they see concerning Mary and the saints. Catholics have a very special devotion to Mary. "In a wholly singular way [Mary] cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls" (*Lumen Gentium*, 61). "This very special devotion ...

differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the Incarnate Word (Jesus) and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration" (CCC, 971). From her womb, God is embodied. Mary prays with us that we will be faithful disciples. Her role in salvation, is always to point to her Son.

➔ To learn more, refer to CCC, 142–155 and 971 or go to Booklet 4, Session 3 in *Growing Faith*.



Closing PRAYER

Dear Lord, my prayer this day is to give you reason to call me your "Delight."
Guide my words and actions today. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Scan here for parent resources. ➔



Question of the Week

How can you know what Jesus wants you to do?



Family Prayer

Jesus, help us to be obedient, just like you were to your mother. Help us to do what you teach us. Amen.