

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

The best way to read today’s gospel of the wedding at Cana is to see it as a model for prayer. We often ask God in prayer for what we need, and in today’s gospel, Mary asks Jesus for what she needs. Therefore, I believe it would be wise for us to follow the way that Mary’s request plays out.

But to do this, we must start at the beginning. The first line of today’s Gospel is, **“There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.”** This opening of the Gospel implies that Mary was at the wedding before Jesus and his disciples arrived and perhaps before any of the guests arrived.

Now, the story doesn’t tell us why the wine ran out, although some have suggested that the twelve thirsty fishermen that Jesus brought with him drank a lot more than anyone had expected. But when the wine did run out, it was possible that Mary saw it as her responsibility, as her need to make things right. So, she turns to Jesus and says, **“They have no wine.”** Just as we ask what we need from God, in this story Mary asks what she needs from Jesus.

Two surprises flow from Mary’s request. The first surprise is Jesus’ response. We would expect that Jesus would be deferential and helpful towards his mother, but this is not the case. Jesus says to her, **“Woman, how does this concern of yours affect me?”** There is no indication in Jesus’ response that he has any intention of helping his mother. That is the first surprise. The second surprise comes from Mary. She moves ahead as if Jesus is going to help. She tells the servants, **“Do whatever he tells you.”** So the pattern of this story is this: Mary asks Jesus for help. He says no. And Mary moves ahead as if he said yes. Why would she do this? Mary understands what is in Jesus’ heart. She understands that he loves her and loves the young married couple. Therefore, although it seems that he has said no, Mary is confident that he will say yes.

This experience of Mary is a helpful model for us as we turn to God for what we need. There are a lot of things we need in our life. Maybe we need a job. Maybe we need a cure for a sickness or peace in our family. So we turn to God and ask God to help us. But sometimes it seems that God is not interested in helping us. Sometimes things stay the same or get worse. Instead of an encouraging answer, we are faced with a deafening silence. Sometimes when we ask God for help, it seems that God says, “No.”

It is then that we should follow the example of Mary. It is then that we should look beyond what seems like a negative response and move forward, confident that God will act. Like Mary, we should remember what is in God’s heart. We should remind ourselves that God loves us and loves all the people in our lives who we love. Because of God’s love we move forward, convinced that God will do something, and that something will be for our good.



A Miracle happened at Cana, and there was wine for everyone. But that would not have happened had Mary not moved forward in faith and told the servants to do whatever He told them. So, pray. And when God says “No,” move forward with the confidence that God will say, “Yes.”

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Jan. 21st - ST. AGNES, memorial
Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 2:18-22
- Tue. Jan. 22nd - Hebrews 6:10-20; Mark 2:23-28
- Wed. Jan. 23rd - Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Mark 3:1-6
- Thurs. Jan. 24th - ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, memorial
Hebrews 7:25-8:6; Mark 3:7-12
- Fri. Jan. 25th - THE CONV. OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE, feast
Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18
- Sat. Jan. 26th - ST. TIMOTHY & ST. TITUS, memorial
2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5; Luke 10:1-9
- Sun. Jan. 27th - 3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor. 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21



PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2019

Have you picked up your new set of parish envelopes for 2019 from the entrance of the church? If you have recently requested envelopes, you will find them at the entrance of the church. Anyone wishing a set, please call the parish office.



ALTAR SERVERS

- Wed. Jan. 23rd - 7:30 PM - Volunteers
- Sat. Jan. 26th - 5:00 PM - A.Chavez, D.Giuliano, C & C Tsang.
- Sun. Jan. 27th - 9:00 AM - C.Barraca, J.Casino, J & R Huang, V.Velasquez. 11:00 AM - M.Balocan, N & N Nunez, C.Paule, S.Yip. 5:00 PM - M. De Leon, A.Ferreira, & < Hong, R & R Sukanob, K & K Tan.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat. Jan. 19 th	5 pm Mass for Alicia Tanada Afable, R.I.P.
Sun. Jan. 20 th	9 am Mass for deceased clergy 11 am Mass for the int. of Neo Regala 5 pm Mass for parishioners
Mon. Jan. 21 st	8 am Mass for Thanh Bui, R.I.P.
Tue. Jan. 22 nd	8 am Mass for Francisco Advincula, R.I.P.
Wed. Jan. 23 rd	9 am Mass for the int of the Laserna & Zalamea fml 7:30 pm Novena Mass Novena
Thur. Jan. 24 th	8:00 am Mass for Lucy Siu Ye Chan, R.I.P.
Fri. Jan. 25 th	8:00 am Mass for Choy Yet Sheung, R.I.P.
Sat. Jan. 26 th	9:00 am Mass for Esther Baldasso, R.I.P.



IN MEMORIAM

Reminder: Mr. Bill Salmon's Prayers, Friday, January 25th at 7 pm and funeral Mass Saturday, Jan. 26th at 1 pm. May he rest in peace!

RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Our RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult) has resumed. Interested? Know someone who might be? Come or invite them to join our parish program. The program is suitable for all those interested in learning more about our faith and for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and for those who would like to deepen their faith, whether you were baptized or not. For more info call the parish office (604) 434-6700.



SCHOOL NEWS

- School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- Re-Registration Packages are being sent home. Re-Registration will take place on Feb. 6th after the AGM.
- 3 Way-Conferences: will be held on January 24th. Students must come to school in uniform with their parents at their scheduled time.
- Scholastic Book Fair: will be held from Jan. 21-24th.
- Care Day: Friday, Jan. 25th. All students will be dismissed at 12 noon.
- Kindergarten Sibling Registration:

St. Jude School is starting to field registration questions from interested new families. In order for us to know how many spots we have available, we need to hear from our existing families that have children who will be entering kindergarten. So, if you have a child who will be entering kindergarten this September 2019, we ask that you please email Ms. Goh at the school - office@stjude.ca. Please also include the child's name and date of birth in the email.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." (1 Corinthians 12:7)

St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God's plan? How are you helping to build God's kingdom here on earth? Remember that if you don't do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it. Live the life God has intended for you, feel His love, peace and joy!

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25

The 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25, has the theme "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Dt 16:18-20) and was prepared by churches in Indonesia. Join with brothers and sisters of various churches in prayer, song, and witness to unity as followers of Christ. For a schedule of services and more information, visit <https://rcav.org/christian-unity>

Quo Vadis – Men's Discernment Events

Join us for a Discernment Evening with Fr. Nick Meisl - Hearing God's Call in the Bible on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish, Vancouver. Open to single Catholic men ages 18+ who want to answer the question: What is God calling me to do with my life? Please register in advance by contacting the Vocations Office 604-443-32.

Thanksgiving Mass for the 26th. Anniversary of the "Life in the Spirit Seminar" will be held at Immaculate Conception, Delta on Jan. 25th. At 7:00 pm. Main celebrant Very Rev. Father Gary Franken. The Charismatic Group of the diocese will also be Consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Father Gary. After Mass there will be Healing Service followed by reception at the Parish Hall.

World Day for Consecrated Life

The World Day for Consecrated Life was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1997, a day of prayer for women and men who have devoted their lives to God in consecrated life. Join Archbishop Miller, CSB, in celebrating and witnessing the renewal of vows of those consecrated to God at Mass on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 12 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Vancouver. All are welcome.

World day of the sick

Our Archdiocesan celebration will be held on the actual date this year which is on Monday, Feb. 11th. Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB, will be the main celebrant at a Mass of Anointing held at Our Lady of Sorrows, 555 S. Slocan St., Vancouver, at 11:00 a.m. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered after the Homily.

