

JANUARY 16, 2022
Sunday of the 2nd Week in OT
John 2: 1-12

“JESUS, OUR JOY AND SOURCE OF LIFE.”

“Johnny Carson (who hosted the Tonight Show for 30 years), was interviewing an eight-year-old boy one night. The young man was asked to appear on the Late Show because he had rescued two friends from a coal mine outside his hometown in West Virginia. As Johnny questioned him, it became apparent that the boy was a Christian. Johnny asked him if he attended Sunday School. When the boy said he did, Johnny inquired, ‘What are you learning in Sunday School?’ ‘Last week,’ the boy replied, ‘our lesson was about how Jesus went to a wedding and turned water into wine.’ The audience burst into laughter and applause. Keeping a straight face, Johnny asked, ‘And what did you learn from that story?’ The boy struggled in his chair. It was apparent he had not thought about this. But then he lifted up his face and said, ‘If you’re going to have a wedding, make sure you invite Jesus and Mary!’ And that is precisely the message of today’s Gospel: make sure you invite Jesus and Mary wherever you live and wherever you go – they are the only ones you’ll ever need. In other words, today’s Gospel lesson is about the sufficiency of Christ in our lives and the power of his Mother’s intercession.”¹

When you are invited to a wedding or any party, are we happy or bringing joy to the place? If it is a party or wedding banquet all must be happy unless otherwise. If some people do not agree with the groom or the bride or there is some animosity. But wedding or party is a joyous occasion. Jesus, His Mother, and the disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana. Maybe because the groom or the bride or their parents was a relative or friend of Mary and Jesus. Here we can see that Jesus and Mary were sociable people, they too had a relaxing and joyful moment in their lives. We, too, must see that as Christians, we are joyful people and that our religion is a religion of joy and happiness,

¹ stories4homilies.blogspot.com

and we know how to enjoy life with Christ and with others. This is also one of Jesus' manifestations and that He is a source of life. "During the recent Christmas season and up to now, we have been seeing God revealing himself through Jesus in several ways. First, when Jesus is born, as a refugee and homeless poor person lying in an animal's feeding box, God is revealing Himself in His solidarity with the poor and needy of the world. The first people to visit Him are the poor and social outcasts, the shepherds. They recognise their God and worship Him with hearts full of joy. Second, God reveals himself to the foreigners, strangers, believers in other religions and no religion, coming from remote parts of the world. This happens on the feast of the Epiphany when we remember those 'wise men' who come from 'a far country' to worship and offer precious gifts. Again, the atmosphere is one of joy and gladness. Third, God reveals himself when Jesus is baptised in the river Jordan and is filled with the Spirit of God. Of this young carpenter, at this stage still a non-entity in the crowd, it is said: 'This is my beloved Son – listen to him.' To listen to this young man, Jesus, is to listen to God himself. And now, today, for a fourth time, in John's gospel, God reveals Himself when Jesus performs his first sign."²

Our Lord gave great joy, blessing and generosity to the newly wedded couple, their families, and their wedding party, first, by his presence, and second by rescuing them from humiliation when the wine ran out. Even if His hour has not yet come, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus changed water into wine, 120 gallons of the best wine, many times more than needed, a remarkable act of kindness, a superabundance blessing which Jesus' offered. Even the chief steward declared that they kept the good wine to last. In the Jewish tradition and in the Old Testament wine symbolizes both as a gift and a blessing of God, the manifestation of God's goodness and fullness.

² livingspace.sacredspace.ie

My dear brothers and sisters, the gospel relates God's power, love, and mercy for His needed people. His kindness knows no boundaries, barriers, and limits. His goodness is abundant and plentiful. All of these were given and revealed to us in the person of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ who became flesh for our sake, and died for our sins and be redeemed, and rose that we might be raised up and glorified with Him. So, like the boy in our story, let us always invite Jesus and Mary in our lives that Mary may intercede for us to her Son and gives us abundant blessings and graces every day. Let us approach Jesus in the Eucharist with joyful heart and share that joy to others. May we bring Jesus, our source of happiness and life to others so that they too may experience how good God is. In and with Jesus, we will experience joy, abundant blessings, and eternal life. Like the Blessed Mother, let us entrust everything to Jesus. He will resolve all our miseries, difficulties, and problems as He is the source of everything.

Let this be our prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, you shared with us ordinary people the joy of the marriage feast. May we always invite you in our lives so that you may turn things into joyful and happy moment. You are truly our everlasting joy and source of life. May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us in times of need, problems, and challenges. Jesus come into our lives and bring us eternal life and may your Mother pray for us. Amen."