

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Reading 1: Isaiah 62:1 – 5

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

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

Gospel: John 2: 1\_11

Readings may be found on the US Bishop's website:

[Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)



The Gospel of John appears today as the ministry of Jesus is introduced. The style of John's Gospel is different from Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Next Sunday, when we will return to Luke's Gospel, Luke will present how he has gathered information and is presenting it in an organized way. John's audience is in a much different situation. They are living toward the end of the first century and had expected Jesus to return by then. Their burning question is "Where is Jesus?" John will present a series of events that invite them to look for Jesus in the life of the church. John calls these events signs and invite readers to look deeper than the surface event. The sacraments are signs of God's work and baptism and Eucharist will be offered as additional signs in later chapters.

Wedding imagery in both the Old and New Testament connect to the relationship between God and God's people. The first reading from Isaiah is one example. Paul illustrates this and the church is presented as a bride in the Book of Revelation. This sign of a wedding and the transformation of the ordinary into something very special invites a reflection on what God is doing in the hearts and lives of people.

Jesus' mother, whom he addresses as "woman", gives the instruction that will be important for all members of the church. "Do whatever he tells you." One must not be limited by your expectations but open to everything that God can do. God is not limited by one's understanding but offers an abundance to us beyond our expectations. Listening is a key element to recognizing God's presence in our lives and in growing one's awareness of what is happening.

Pope Francis has spoken about the attentiveness of Mary in recognizing the need that existed at Cana and he challenges all of us to greater attention.

Like Mary at Cana, let us make an effort to be more attentive in our squares and towns, to notice those whose lives have been "watered down," who have lost—or have been robbed of—reasons for celebrating; those whose hearts are saddened. And let us not be afraid to raise our voices and say: "they have no wine."

The cry of the people of God, the cry of the poor, is a kind of prayer; it opens our hearts and teaches us to be attentive. Let us be attentive, then, to all situations of injustice and to new forms of exploitation that risk making so many of our brothers and sisters miss the joy of the party. Let us be attentive to the lack of steady employment, which destroys lives and homes. ... Let us be attentive to the lack of shelter, land and employment experienced by so many families. And, like Mary, let us say: they have no wine, Lord.

[Journey of Pope Francis to Chile](#)

Jan. 18, 2018

The second reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians offers some key insights into the Christian life. The type of action or ability does not make one better than another. One gift is not more important than another. Paul makes the connection that gifts come from the Spirit, forms of service from Christ, the Lord, and workings are from God the Father. All come from the same God and are given for some purpose. They are not for the glory of the individual but for advancing God's work and the service of others.

Each person has been gifted and must recognize their gift, who it is from, and the purpose for which it has been given. This process is part of the journey of a Christian into the community.

Reflection Questions:

What does marriage communicate to you about your relationship with God? What elements of marriage open new aspects of God's closeness to you?

Where are you attentive to those around you? What are the needs that are crying out for attention?

What Gifts have you been given? How are you using them?

Themes

Spiritual Gifts

Relationship with God

Response to God's invitations

Prayer Suggestions:

For a greater recognition of the Spirit's gifts: that we utilize the gifts that we have been given and encourage one another to build up the Body of Christ and to serve those who are in need

For all couples: that they may be channels of God's love to one another and signs of God's presence in society

For the unity of all Christians: that God will heal the wounds in the body of Christ and help us to give common witness to God through prayer and acts of loving compassion

For healing of the divisions within the human family: that racism, sexism, and prejudice may cease and that each person may be welcomed with dignity and respect