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Coffee Sunday is next Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> after 9 am Mass and *everyone is invited! Please note...* If you haven't already done so and would like to be added to a group, please contact Brenda Robin at 204-564-2646 or cell 204-937-0270. To start the new year off Bev Roszell's group will be busy in the church kitchen downstairs next Sunday handing out the coffee and juice and providing us with some delicious goodies! Coffee Sunday is part of the Ministry of Hospitality, a time to gather together, greet one another and visit after Mass while enjoying coffee and snacks. *We hope to see you there!*

St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB      St. Theresa's Parish Rossburn, MB

**Prayer for Christian Unity – January 18 – 25**

**Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 96):** Declare the marvelous works of the Lord among all the peoples.

**Praying with Pope Francis January:** *For the right to an education:* Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

**Mass Intentions For This Week:**

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Saturday Jan 18 7:30 p.m. Russell Special Intentions req by Gary & Nicole Petz  
 + Aurora Forbes anniversary of death req by family

Sunday Jan 19 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. and YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**  
 + John Selby req by Doug and Donalda Wishart

11:00 a.m. Rossburn For all parishioners req by Father Paul

Monday Jan 20 Health of Family & friends req by Jean Goba

Tuesday Jan 21 Fr Paul req by Martin & Norma Dupont

Wed Jan 22 No Mass

Thurs Jan 23 10:30 a.m. Rossburn Adoration  
 11:00 a.m. + Suffering Souls in Purgatory req by Rose & family  
**7:30 p.m. Prayer for Christian Unity**

Friday Jan 24 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration  
 9:00 a.m. Fr Paul req by Gary & Nicole Petz



**3rd Sunday In Ordinary Time**

Saturday Jan 25 7:30 p.m. Russell Frank Horeczy req by Knights of Columbus

Sunday Jan 26 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. and YouTube after 10:15 a.m.**  
 For All parishioners req by Father Paul

11:00 a.m. Rossburn + For Deceased family members req by David & family

**\*\*First communion classes will be again today, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. after 9 a.m. mass. Thank you!**

\*\*\*Pot Luck St Theresa's Rossburn Sunday February 9th following Mass.\*\*\*

😊 **"It would have been a miracle."** There's an old story about a skeptic Jimmy who continually harassed the local pastor. His one delight in life seemed to be making the pastor appear inadequate intellectually. The pastor bore those challenges to his theology and faith with great restraint. One day the skeptic was heckling the pastor about his views on miracles. "Give me one concrete example of a miracle," the skeptic taunted. "One concrete example." This pastor hauled off and kicked the skeptic in the shin as hard as he could. The skeptic Jimmy couldn't believe it! "What did you do that for?" The pastor asked, "Did you feel that?" "Yes," Jimmy said as he nursed his sore leg. "Well, if you hadn't," said the pastor, "it would have been a miracle!" — I'm not sure that was the best way to explain miracles, but there have been times when I've wanted to explain things that way. Today we look at the very first miracle performed by Jesus as recorded in John's Gospel.

This year on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Church will be hosting a prayer service for Christian unity.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated around the world on January 18 – 25, which are also the dates recommended by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. However, there has also been a long-standing practice by a number of communities to celebrate the Week of Prayer on optional dates, in order to include two Sundays.

The universal week of prayer encourages Christians of all denominations to meet, to participate in various liturgical and other community activities, and to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires.

The importance of unity among Christians and the responsibility of the people of each parish to work for this unity should be emphasized throughout the week. All members of the parish should seek to have a deeper understanding of ecumenism.

**Food For Thought**

The setting for the miracle: Christ's first miracle, which John refers to as a "sign," takes place in the village of Cana in Galilee, the hometown of the disciple Nathaniel but an otherwise insignificant town, located some eight miles northeast of Nazareth. This miracle is the first in John's series of seven signs by which Jesus manifested Divine power and glory during public ministry. Presumably, the "disciples" who accompanied Jesus were Andrew, Simon Peter, Zebedee's sons James and John, Philip, and Nathaniel. Jesus' mother Mary was also present. Joseph is not mentioned in the story; he may well have died already. It is also possible that Mary was in some way related to the bride or groom and may have been serving as an assistant to the wedding director.

In verse 3, we read that, in the course of the celebration, "the wine ran short." This was a difficult situation for the young couple, and may indicate that they came from poor families. Among the Jews of that time, wine was not only considered a staple food item, but was also frequently used in times of celebration. To run short of wine at a wedding feast was certainly a serious problem, particularly damaging to the reputation of the host and an ill omen for the newly-married couple.

**Mary's intervention:** When Mary pointed out the problem to Jesus, the reply seems, on the surface, to be a bit sharp. This, however, is to misunderstand the passage. Although Jesus addressed his mother as "Woman" or "Dear Woman," the term was roughly equivalent to our word "lady" or "madam", and was not, in itself, unnecessarily harsh. It was, in fact, a term of respect and is the same word Jesus used in addressing Mary from the cross, saying of John, "Woman, behold your Son." Besides, by calling her "woman," Our Lord is linking the Blessed Virgin Mary to Eve.

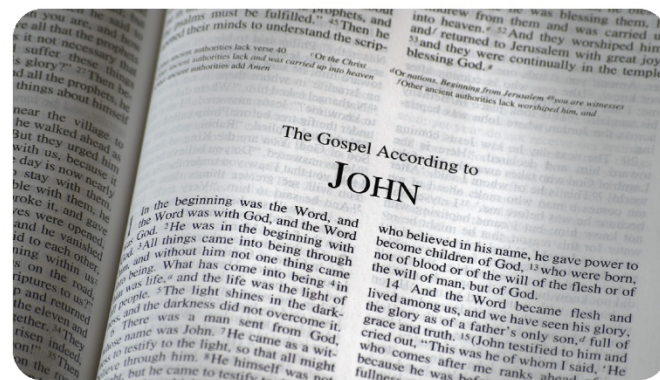
Jesus' next words are also easily misunderstood. He asked Mary, "What is it to Me. and to you?" This implies no rudeness on Jesus' part. Probably, it means, "We are guests, and guests are not expected to supply the things needed at a feast." Jesus further protested, "My hour has not yet come," The "hour" of Jesus includes the Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension taken as one great event. In spite of Jesus' detachment from the problem, Mary instructs the waiters, "Do whatever He tells you," showing Faith that her Son would do what the newlyweds and their families really needed. The Church uses the account of this miracle to remind us that, by virtue of her position as the Mother of God and our Heavenly Mother, Mary's intercession for us with God has great power.

# Dear Padre,

*Is there a year of John? I know we're now in the year of Luke, next year will be the year of Matthew, and the following year will be the year of Mark. Then the cycle starts over with Luke. Why doesn't John have a year?*

Matthew, Mark, and Luke, collectively known as the synoptic gospels, are narrative gospels. Together, they tell the story of Jesus of Nazareth. Although in some ways they might be understood synoptically, "the same," each narrative is unique in its emphasis. The Church desires that we hear these narratives and be nourished through the proclamation of the early memories of the Christian community.

John's Gospel, on the other hand, is not primarily a narrative, but is best understood as theological. As such, it is highly dependent on the use of symbolic representations to make the point it intends. For example, "I am the light of the world."



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Whoever follows me...will have the light of life" (John 8:12). The interplay between light and darkness illustrates the point. John's Gospel is intended to be experienced and engaged in as "bigger than life," proposing and celebrating Christian themes that are life-giving and inviting. Therefore, we hear John's Gospel when the Church celebrates the mystery of the saving life and resurrection of Jesus. For this reason, the Gospel of John is proclaimed on Good Friday, during the Easter season, and on other major feasts. ●

*Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org*

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

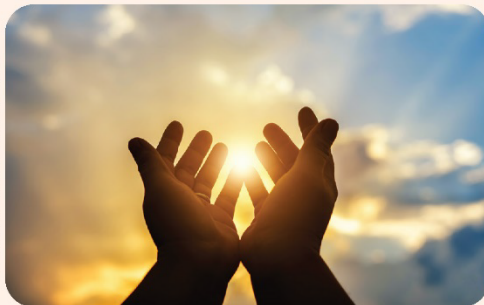
Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 20	January 21	January 22	January 23	January 24	January 25	January 26
Weekday	St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	Weekday	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Heb 5:1-10	Heb 6:10-20	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17	Heb 7:25-8:6	Heb 8:6-13	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
Mk 2:18-22	Mk 2:23-28	Mk 3:1-6	Mk 3:7-12	Mk 3:13-19	Mk 16:15-18	1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27
						Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*I suggest an exercise.... Let us think about that difficult moment in which God let me experience his love.... And let us ask ourselves: with which discrete and loving signs did he let me feel his tenderness? When did I feel the Lord nearer? When did I feel his tenderness and his compassion?*

ANGELUS, ROME, JANUARY 16, 2022



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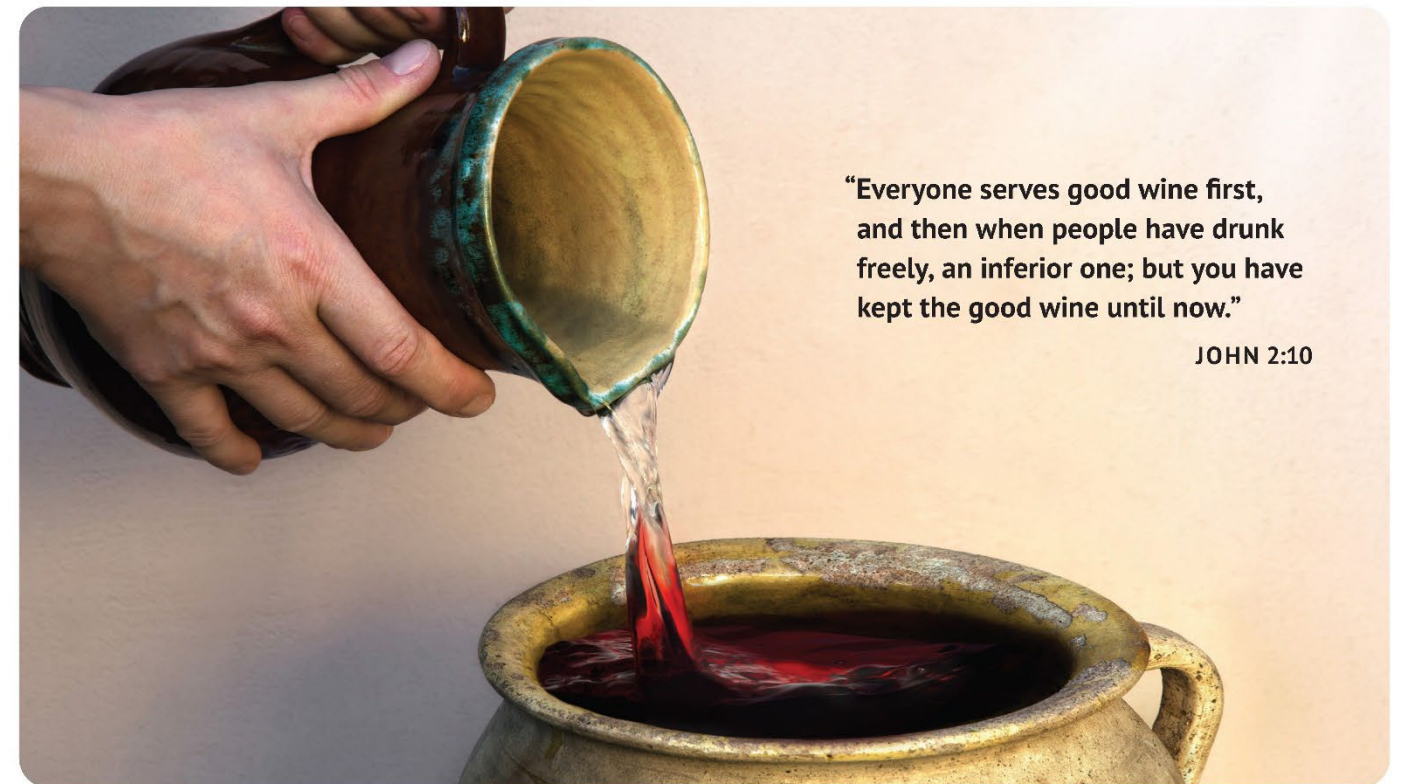
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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Isaiah 62:1-5 / 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 / John 2:1-11



**"Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."**

JOHN 2:10

## When Water Becomes Wine

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**F**or all of us, at one time or another, life seems to run out of wine. We look at our relationships and find ourselves saying, "There's no more wine." It may be a friendship of five years or a marriage of twenty-five years, but, for some, the wine runs out. For others, it is the job that loses its challenge. Or, one day, the foreman gathers everyone to announce that the plant is closing. In a moment, all has turned into vinegar; there is no more wine. For others still, it is when retirement suffocates the future, choking all that once gave meaning.

However, there are also those times when hope is reborn, when we feel "espoused" not only by life but also by God, when the ordinary turns extraordinary—and the water becomes wine. It is the phone call offering a new job after we have collected unemployment checks for months. It is falling in love when we have given up on the notion. It is conceiving a child after years of barren waiting. It is someone who listens, finally, when no one else would. It is at times like these—and many others as well—when we are caught off-balance and trip into God unwittingly, saved from drudgery and redeemed to live a life enriched, when water is turned into wine. It is a deeply felt joy that reveals God's presence. ●

## Reflect

**Is there an area in your life where you need "new wine"?**