

# SIGNS OF LOVE IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The Wedding at Cana is Jesus' first miracle. A miracle might be defined as "God interfering in the laws of nature so that His presence, power or purpose might be understood." At the wedding Jesus made something extraordinary happen - water does not ordinarily become wine. John tells us, "Jesus did this at the beginning of His signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed His glory..."

As we sometimes hear, "Jesus came to show us what God is like." What do we learn from these signs?

The first twelve chapters of the Gospel of John have been called the "book of signs". In these chapters Jesus does seven miracles, all showing us who He is. We can't *fully* understand these signs or miracles, which is another description of a miracle - it is something understandable that can never be completely understood (not in this life, anyway.) But we can grow in understanding by pondering them.



# GROWING CATHOLICS

Leaflet 

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Gospel • January 16, 2022 John 2: 1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from — although the servers who had drawn the water knew —, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.



## EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

John is sometimes called the "spiritual" Gospel. It is written in a much more symbolic way than the other three Gospels. For example, in John's Gospel Mary is never called by her name. At the beginning and end of this Gospel, Jesus calls His mother, "Woman," hearkening back to Genesis 3:15 (which all his Jewish listeners would recognize), thus identifying Mary as the new Eve.

## LAST WORDS

In this week's Gospel we hear the final words from Mary in all of the Gospels, words we should take to heart: *Do whatever He tells you.*



## SEEDS FOR CONVERSATION

What do we learn about Jesus from the fact that His first miracle took place at a wedding?

If we look at wine as a "symbol" or "sign" what might it stand for?

What did the servants need to do in order to cooperate with this miracle?

In what ways are we willing to cooperate with Jesus (even when it might seem futile or ridiculous?) When have we refused to cooperate with Him?

Jesus made wine one of the special signs of His love. At every Eucharist we remember Jesus providing wine to His disciples. What did Jesus say at the last supper as He shared wine?

Wine is often seen as a symbol of joy, of celebration, abundance of life ....



## A Few Ways to Invite Mary into Your Home

**PRAY**—The most obvious way to bring Mary into your home is to ask her intercession in prayer.

If an entire Rosary seems overwhelming, a decade of the Rosary, or a Hail Mary, a few times a day may feel like a good way to begin.

**READ** - There are lovely books about Mary for people of all ages. A lovely picture book for children is *Our Lady's Wardrobe* by Sophia Press (available used at very reasonable prices.) *The Kitchen Madonna* by Rumer Godden is an inspiring chapter book.

**HONOR**—In addition to her feast-days, there are two months set aside to honor Mary, giving her special love and respect. May is "Mary's Month" and a perfect month to make a Mary garden outdoors, or to put up a statue, and adorn it with flowers. Likewise, October is the month of the Rosary, inviting us to pray, display and appreciate this special prayer.

**CELEBRATE**—There are many Marian feast days throughout the year. February 2 is the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for example. February 11 is Our Lady of Lourdes. Say a prayer and have a special dessert. St. Teresa of Avila said, "The devotions we practice in honor of the glorious Virgin Mary, however trifling they be, are very pleasing to her divine Son, and He rewards them with eternal glory."

**DECORATE**—Consider having a statue or painting of Mary displayed somewhere in your home. Even a small holy card propped on a bookcase can provide a moment's inspiration to pray or to consider Mary's virtues.

*The Mother of Jesus was there.....*

....and afterwards we hear that Jesus and His disciples are there, too. Perhaps this implies that wherever Mary is welcomed, there Jesus will be, too.

St. John Vianney suggests that we invite Jesus, Mary (and the Saints) to remain with us in our homes as a solution for many of our family problems. He used to encourage parents to create an atmosphere of prayer, Bible-reading, mutual love, mutual respect, and sacrificial service at home, so that the presence of Jesus and Mary might always be experienced in the family.