

January 19-20, 2019
Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5

First Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

Water into wine, a remembered snippet of information about Jesus. Not a vast cure of cancer, not the ending of all wars, not the feeding of the world. Water into wine....because the wedding feast, at which Jesus' mother, Mary, was in attendance, had run out of the festive drink. Did Mary have any inkling that her request of Jesus would be forever remembered as his 'first public display' of Godly powers? Had she privately seen other 'miraculous' actions in the 30 years she had thus far known him? We will never know until we can ask her, face to face. Our traditions instruct us that the absence of Joseph in the public ministry of Jesus implies he has already passed away by the time Jesus' public ministry begins. Thus, we can presume that Jesus did not prolong his Foster-Father's life but allowed him to continue the natural passage from this life to the next. Having finished our season of Christmas-Nativity-BABY Jesus (which are primarily meant as literary segues for the individual Gospels that speak of the Nativity) we are NOW about being re-introduced to the ADULT JESUS, the man who challenges us to draw close and enter into relationship with him. The subtleness of this FIRST miracle conveys the non-pushy character of Jesus in inviting people to get to know him. Most people at the Wedding Feast would not have known, nor cared, from where the fresh wine had come....they were just happy their glasses could be refilled. 'ONLY THE SERVERS' knew and we never hear of them again. This 'opening gambit' by Jesus in revealing his presence whispers LOUDLY at the gentleness of God's invitation to know the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity. Jesus helped a party to continue their festivities. He did not ask if the revelers were good people. He did not review their life's actions. He did not ask for a testimony of belief/faith. He simply offered them ample wine. So it is today...Jesus INVITES, he does not threaten. Jesus teases, treats and allures us to draw near. A God who helps the festivity of life to keep going, when, to our eyes, there are so many more important things to which his powers could have been directed. These might be good weeks in which to get to know Jesus in an entirely NEW way than the fire and brimstone imagery within which so many have been formed.

On this Martin Luther King Weekend, thank you for sharing some of your holiday hours with our Santa Clara community. Our 2019 Santa Clara Development Campaign Booklet will soon (perhaps already?) be in your hands. I ask you...urge you....beg you....please read it slowly and carefully for it outlines our plans to move forward with our ultimate goal of completing our Permanent Church and Youth Ministry/Parish Office structures. Our PLEDGE WEEKEND will be February 9th & 10th ...so please pray, consider and get ready to move our community into the FUTURE. Our Bulletins have more information about upcoming events, please take one with you...and as you peruse it or use it as something on which to place your coffee cup, please know that you are loved. FKB