

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The marriage feast at Cana which we heard in the gospel this weekend is one of the most appealing stories about Jesus. To see his interest and concern for the young married couple is something I believe we all appreciate. There is a warm humanness about the fact that Mary, his mother, apparently refused to take “no” for an answer from Jesus. And yet there seems to be something deeper about the gospel., something very significant underlying the charming narrative.

We have a hint that there is something more here than just a story, for St. John apparently takes it for granted that his readers know that the water became wine. He really does not emphasize the miracle at all. Everyone knew, in John's estimation that Jesus had worked a miracle. John's point was that the whole episode was a sign, a sign of the Church. John's thinking is a little complex, but it is worth going into.

It is noteworthy that the event takes place at a wedding feast. The Old Testament pictured the people of Israel as the spouse of God, and saw in a wedding feast a symbol of the Messianic Age.

Next, we must notice the prominence of Mary in the story. The Vatican Council has reemphasized an old, favorite idea of the early writers that Mary is a sign of the people in the Church. In a sense, she sums up in her person the whole human race as called to follow Christ. This is why Jesus addressed her with a term that strikes us as strange for a son to use, “Woman”. That word is rich in biblical connotation. It recalls the first woman, Eve, whose name means “mother of all the living.” Mary as the new Eve is the new mother of all the living, and so represents all of humankind. At Cana, Jesus stated that his hour had not yet come. Mary in effect told him that we wanted his hour to come. The word “hour” meant his death and resurrection, the great mystery whereby he would gain our salvation. When Jesus worked his first miracle at the implicit request of Mary, he was beginning that whole series of events that would inevitably lead to his death and resurrection.

By his death and resurrection, Jesus was to form the new people of God, the Church. As Jesus changed the water into a fuller and richer liquid, that of wine, so he was going to change the old Jewish religion into that fuller and richer religion of Christianity. The choice wine kept later in the history of the human race is Christianity, and we are the one who enjoy it.

Yes, we are the one who benefit by the Church, but the Church is not something we simply enjoy. It is not merely a source of goodness for us, as we sit back and drink its pleasant wine. Notice in the gospel story that, though Jesus worked the miracle by his power alone, he did so in cooperation with others: with Mary, the headwaiter, and his assistants. And so in the Church, each one of us has his or her job to do in cooperation with Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Tues.</b>	<b>January 18</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
Simeon Rojo†		Imelda & Dolly
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>January 19</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
Living Memorial		
<b>Thur.</b>	<b>January 20</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
Ana Licad		Lilibeth Licad
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>January 21</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
Ricarte Liguind Liguind		Jenny
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>January 22</b>	<b>4:30PM</b>
David Botta†		Bill & Elva
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>January 23</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>
Christina Quiapo		Mom & Dad
<b>Port Costa</b>		<b>11:00AM</b>
People of the Parish		



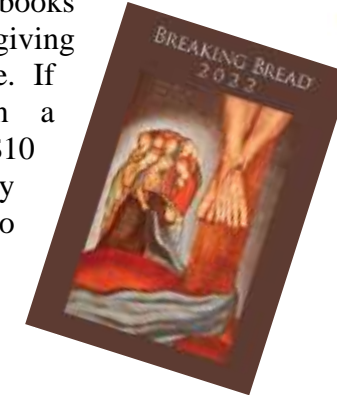
Sunday Collection - January 9th

St. Rose, Crockett Seminary	\$3287
	\$823
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa Seminary	\$225
	\$53

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

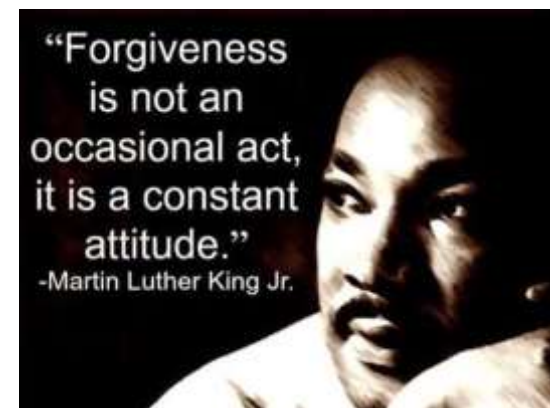
Breaking Bread Mass Book

We still have a few books available. If you would like to follow along during Mass, the new Breaking Bread music and reading books (Advent 2021-Thanksgiving 2022) are still available. If you are interested in a personal copy for a \$10 donation, please come by the office or let Father Leo know!



Office Closed

Reminder, the office is closed Monday, January 17th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr Day.



Our Mother of Perpetual Help



This Wednesday, January 19th, will be our monthly devotional service after 11:00AM Mass. We invite you to join us and ask our Blessed Virgin, Mother of Perpetual Help to intercede for us, especially for healing in the world.

Jesus Turns Water Into Wine

"Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." John 2:10 (NIV)  
The puzzle is based on John 2:1-11 (NIV).



X W T N N A J A R S X Y V S K  
 U E K G A L I L E E K L E U D  
 H D L A S T M O I F A L S K Z  
 W D B E S T P U W N P N E M D  
 C I H G L O R Y A I G G R V M  
 H N C C S M Y C C I L L V T A  
 G G Z W A X I S S T Q F A L S  
 P M G I V V I R M M I A N F T  
 L H O W E D H H A A J I T I E  
 Q V S W D M V B T C A T S L R  
 X A K A M H O A K A U H N L D  
 S D B T Q B W X T W S L O E V  
 S V K E H O I A F G U T O D A  
 B F R R B A N Q U E T P E U Z  
 A A B R I D E G R O O M P D S

wedding	faith	best
Galilee	tasted	bridegroom
wine	disciples	servants
saved	banquet	signs
last	Cana	
filled	glory	
master	water	
jars	miraculous	