

Fr. Rudy's Reflections
The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
January 19, 2025

The Wedding at Cana

Consider a modern relationship between a parent and child who are so closely bonded that they understand each other's needs without lengthy conversation. Picture a mother at her son's piano recital. She knows every note, every nuance of his playing because she has heard him practice countless times. A simple glance from him during a moment of uncertainty, and she instinctively nods her encouragement. Nothing needs to be said; love speaks in silence. This profound understanding between two people reminds us of the relationship between Jesus and his mother, Mary, as witnessed at the wedding feast at Cana.

The Gospel of John is unique in recounting this extraordinary moment—Jesus's first public miracle. After 30 years of quiet preparation for his mission, Jesus begins his ministry, and it is no accident that his first sign occurs at a wedding feast. In ancient times, weddings were grand celebrations, often lasting several days, embodying joy and covenantal love. This setting signifies the intimate relationship God desires with his people, a divine union sealed through Jesus's life, death, and resurrection.

When the wine runs out at the feast, Mary turns to Jesus with a simple yet profound observation: "They have no wine." Her words are not a command, but they reveal her deep trust in his ability to act. No elaborate explanations are needed; she knows her Son. Her final recorded words in Scripture—"Do whatever he tells you"—offer timeless wisdom. They invite us to listen, trust, and obey Jesus, who can transform even the most dire situations into occasions of abundance and joy.

The miracle itself, transforming water into wine, is rich in symbolism. Water, representing the old covenant, is turned into wine, symbolizing the new covenant inaugurated by Jesus. Not only does Jesus meet the immediate need of the wedding party, but he exceeds expectations. The head steward marvels at the superior quality of the wine, a testament to how Jesus does not merely restore but elevates and renews. This miracle reminds us that with Christ, even our greatest lack can be transformed into overflowing grace.

Mary's role at Cana highlights her significance as a powerful intercessor for us. Just as she brought the needs of the wedding couple to Jesus, she continues to intercede for humanity, whispering our needs into his ear. Her maternal love and unique closeness to Jesus assure us that no request is too small or too great for her to present to him.

As we reflect on the Wedding at Cana, let us trust in Jesus's transformative power and heed Mary's call to follow him. Her intercession reminds us of her ever-present care, as beautifully expressed by Father George Berwanger: *"And while our impoverishment may not be all this apparent. . . whatever it may be it is something she is able to bring to his attention—she who once knelt by his crib; once stood by his cross; and now sits by his side and can whisper in his ear two words that no other. . . can utter. . . that can open all the doors—"My Son!" And her son who heard her plea at Cana will he not hear her now and evermore in the court of heaven as she just happens to mention, as a mother will, the many needs of her children here on earth?"*

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy