

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

We celebrate the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time with the Gospel passage of the Wedding Feast of Cana. Along with the Adoration of the Magi and the Baptism of the Lord, this is the third “Epiphany” of Jesus and according to John’s Gospel the first of His “signs” to reveal His glory. This is a different picture of Mary, no longer the young mother at Bethlehem, holding her new-born baby and pondering, in her heart, all that is happening and all that is yet to be. Here, she informs her grown-up Son that they have no more wine for the wedding. Jesus responds by asking how this concerns Him and explains: “My hour has not yet come.” Mary turns to the servants and says: “Do whatever He tells you.”

I imagine mothers, more than anyone else, can understand Mary’s tender feelings as she holds her baby in her arms and then, years later, to have a serious conversation with her adult child and to wonder: “Where did the years go? When did he become all grown-up?” She knew at that moment in Cana that He had the power, the authority to do whatever he wished. She humbly accepted that “His hour” may not be in accord with her timeline and instructed the servers to do whatever He willed as she returned to visit with the guests. What faith was needed for her to accept His plan, His decision, not knowing what it would be, not yet grasping what it could mean? Once again, as she did when the Angel Gabriel visited her so long ago, her heart would reply: “Your will be done.”

How often do we go to the Lord with our wishes, our expectations, our decisions only to discover that the “Hour” for His will to be revealed to us is His own choosing, not ours. We can be angry and stubborn, insistent and argumentative or we can respond as his humble servants and faithful disciples: "Lord, I will do whatever you tell me." And then, go to find our place near our Blessed Mother, waiting to welcome us with a loving heart and to behold together the signs of God’s glory freely given to us to feast upon.

“For we can only wonder At every gift you send,
At blessings without number And mercies without end”

A blessed week to all of you,

Father John