

Our Sacred Stories

They have no wine – God’s Great Sign

In the Gospel of John (2:1-11) we hear the story of what John calls the first of Jesus’ signs. It takes place at a wedding in Cana. The first part of John’s Gospel, (chapters 1-12) is often referred to as the Book of Signs. Through the wonders and miracles that John describes in this section we are given a whole series of signs which show forth the action of God amongst on the part of Jesus. They express God’s care and love through the touch of Jesus, divine and human.

Cana presents Jesus in action for the first time. He is launching his mission to make the Reign of God present and active in the world. The Good News is announced in the great sign – Jesus himself, but also, for John in a series of signs that reveal the divine presence amongst us in a saving and life-giving way. Is it possible that perhaps such signs are ever present in our lives? To recognize such signs around us is important.

The story begins with Mary at the wedding turning to her son and calling on him for help. She says something to Jesus that might seem a mere observation an expression of concern. Mary remarks: *They have no wine*. What a sensitive and caring appeal on Mary’s part. In John’s telling of the story, it is the Good News unfolding and it takes on much more significant meaning.

They have no wine expresses something is missing. The couple, the wedding, lacks something. Mary, in the account, speaks for all humanity. In this first of Jesus’ signs, she declares a fundamental reality of human existence – we lack. We are not, in the end, self-sufficient. Our fulfillment will only come when we allow God to act in our life and in our world.

This sign at Cana becomes an expression of the God’s great sign – God’s touch of humanity in Jesus. At the wedding, Jesus’ action fills the lack in the occasion. The story of Cana in this Gospel takes us to something deep within us. As much as we desire fulfillment, as much as we want to understand what life means for us, as much as we seek happiness and contentment – we cannot gain this on our own. *They have no wine* speaks to us of our human insufficiency.

We have many lacks. The lack of peace and harmony in our world and in our own relationships, our inability to communicate fully with one another, our incapacity to respect and care abundantly for each other, these are all expressions of our human insufficiency. Our great human lack lies in our loss of union with God and with one another.

The story at Cana is the first indication in the Gospel, that Jesus comes to fulfill God’s dream for humanity and all creation. His presence, active among us brings the dream to life among us. In fact, the image in the action of Jesus is beyond what Mary could ever have imagined.

The abundance that Jesus brings in response to Mary’s comment is revealed in the marvelous volume of wine that Jesus provides. What a sign of God’s love poured out on all. This is God’s reign among us. With this Reign comes the transformation of our world into a communion both with God and with one another. By ourselves we lack the means to be what God dreams for us. But then, it is not beyond God. The beginning for any of us is to recognize that the glory of God in Jesus and in one another is always present among us.

John Jennings
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Gertrude

Sts. Simon & Jude

Mission Churches

St. John the Baptist Parish

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(506) 328-3306 † E-Mail: sjbnb@rogers.com † Website: www.stjohnthebaptistnb.com

Facebook page : <http://www.facebook.com/st.g.church.1>

Pastor: Fr. Martin Arputham

Mass Times: St. Gertrude

Saturday 4:00 pm

Office Manager:

Sunday 11:00 am

Pastoral Council Chair: Sylvie Dempsey

Reconciliation Saturday 3:00-3:50 pm

Property & Finance Chair: Marg McCallum

St. Simon & Jude Sunday 9:00 am

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-12pm by phone only

Reconciliation Sunday 8:15-8:45 am

January 16, 2022

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	Jan	15	4:00 pm St. Gertrude	Anna Gallivan
Sunday	Jan	16	9:00 am Sts. Simon & Jude.....	No mass
Sunday	Jan	16	11:00 am St. Gertrude.....	No mass
Monday	Jan	17	No mass
Tuesday	Jan	18	12:15 pm.....	Rosary cancelled
Wednesday	Jan	19	No mass
Thursday	Jan	20	No mass
Friday	Jan	21	No mass
Saturday	Jan	22	4:00 pm St Gertrude.....	Gloria’s mom Olga
Sunday	Jan	23	9:00 am Sts Simon & Jude.....	No mass
Sunday	Jan	23	11:00 am.....	No mass

Please have announcement for bulletin into office by Wednesday

Please pray for the sick: Nora Gagnon, John Gallagher, Pat & Ed McGuire, Dorothy Hemsley, Margaret Bridgeo, Andy McLean, Dorothy Deriet, Anne Marie Voutour, Cindy Ouellette, Sarah Ann Wright, Carolyn Allain, Loraine Stone, and Janice Ryan
For those who have died: Frank Petrie

If anyone would like a visit from Fr. Martin, please call the office at 328-3306

CWL- PRAYER LINE: Prayers will be said daily for two weeks by the CWL women, on request. All requests are confidential; no information is required. To have prayers said, call Jocelyn Keirstead (328-9485) jkeirstead21@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:
50/50 – Jan 10, 2022 Winner Luann Varney **\$606** Tickets are \$2/week available at Martin’s Corner Store on Broadway or Smart Stop Ultramar in Grafton. Tickets must be purchased by 6 pm Sunday.

FOOD BANK

Sts. Simon and Jude donated 130 lbs of food on January 2nd with a value of \$338.00
 St. Gertrude donated 62 lbs of food on January 11th.

FREE VIRTUAL TOURS OF VATICAN MUSEUMS

Have you ever wanted to see Vatican City but can’t make it to Italy for a visit, especially now due to the world-wide pandemic? Now you can explore the many Vatican Museums from the comfort of your own home. A number of museums are offering FREE VIRTUAL TOURS, including one where you can see the Sistine Chapel (the Pope’s own chapel and location for papal ceremonies like the selection of new Popes). The 360-degree views of masterpieces by Michelangelo, Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci are breathtaking. These tours include areas that are usually off limits to the public. To access the virtual tours, go to www.museivaticani.va click on “collections”, “museums” and finally, ‘360 degrees’ and then use the navigational arrows. Where virtual tours are not available, museums are offering videos.

Founded in the early 16th century, the 26 Vatican Museums within Vatican City display works of art that have been amassed by the Catholic Church over centuries. The museums contain roughly 70,000 works of art, of which 20,000 are on display. In 2020, even though numbers dropped off by 80% because of the global pandemic, it still ranked 4th among the most visited art museums in the world. The Sistine Chapel was built between 1477 and 1480 and Michelangelo’s “The Last Judgment”, was painted between 1508 and 1512. The frescoes of the Sistine Chapel are considered to be the cornerstone of Renaissance art.

Also, under the Vatican’s news website (www.vaticannews.va), you can access the latest news on the Pope, the Vatican, the Church and the world. This past Sunday (January 9, 2022), 16 babies received the sacrament of Baptism in the Sistine Chapel on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The entire Mass is still accessible on this website.

COVID LEVEL 3

On Friday, January 14th, at 11:59pm our province will move to Level 3. At this time, faith services are only permitted outdoors or virtually. Fr. Martin will host a virtual only mass on Saturdays at 4pm and it can be viewed on our Facebook page (StJohn Baptist Parish). The video will remain on our Facebook page for you to view at any time. Eucharist will be available, in the parking lot, from 4:45-5:15pm following the mass on Saturdays. Please remain in your vehicle.

The office will be open for telephone calls only, Monday-Thursday, from 10am-12pm

Offertory January 9 2022

	<u>St. Gertrude</u>	<u>Sts. Simon & Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Loose	29	10	
Envelopes	1,140	497	
Candles		105	
E-Transfer		225	
Initial Offering	75	55	
New Years	150	20	
PAD	<u>1,417</u>	<u>222</u>	<u>77</u>
	2811	1134	77
Global South	30	St. Bonaventure	50
D&P	10	Poor and Needy	20

JANUARY FEAST DAYS

- January 12 - Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, first female saint of Canada, patron saint against poverty, loss of parents, people rejected by religious orders
- January 17 - Saint Anthony the Great (known as the 'Father of all Monks', not to be confused with Saint Anthony of Padua, patron saint of lost items, lost people)
- January 25 - the conversion of Saint Paul, the Apostle
- January 28 - Saint Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church
- January 31 - Saint John Bosco, pioneer in educating the poor and founded the Salesian Order