

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Wedding of Cana

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Rome, June 8, 2016. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Before beginning the catechesis, I would like to greet a group of couples, celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. This truly is "the good wine" of the family! Yours is a testimony that the newlyweds – that I will greet later – and that young people must learn. It is a beautiful testimony. Thank you for your testimony.

After having commented on some parables of mercy, today we reflect on Jesus' first miracle, which the evangelist John calls "signs," because Jesus did not do them to arouse wonder but to reveal the Father's love. John (2:1-11), in fact, narrates the first of these prodigious signs, and it is carried out at Cana of Galilee. It is a sort of "entrance door" on which words and expressions are carved, which illumine the entire mystery of Christ and open the disciples' heart to faith. Let us look at some of them.

In the introduction, we find the expression "*Jesus with His disciples*" (v. 2). Those that Jesus has called to follow Him He has united to Himself in a community and now, as one family, they are all invited to the wedding. Beginning His public ministry at the wedding of Cana, Jesus manifests Himself as the Spouse of the People of God, announced by the prophets, and He reveals to us the profundity of the relationship that unites us to Him: it is a new Covenant of love. What is at the foundation of our faith? — An act of mercy with which Jesus has united us to Himself. And the Christian life is the answer to this love, it is like the story of two who are in love. God and man meet one another, seek one another, find one another, celebrate and love one another: precisely like the loved and beloved in the *Canticle of Canticles*. All the rest comes as consequence of this relationship. The Church is Jesus' family in which His love is poured out; it is this love that the Church cherishes and wishes to give to all.

Understood also in the context of the Covenant, is Our Lady's observation: "*They have no wine*" (v. 3). How is it possible to celebrate the wedding and to feast if what the prophets indicated, as an element typical of the Messianic banquet, is lacking? (cf. *Amos* 9:13-14; *Joel* 2:24; *Isaiah* 25:6). Water is necessary to live, but wine expresses the abundance of the banquet and the joy of the celebration. It is a nuptial feast in which wine is lacking and the newlyweds are embarrassed by this. But can you imagine ending a wedding feast drinking tea? It would be an embarrassment. Wine is necessary for a celebration. In transforming the water into wine in the jars used "for the rites of purification of the Jews" (v. 6), Jesus carries out an eloquent sign: He transforms the Law of Moses in Gospel, bearer of joy. As John himself says elsewhere: "The Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (1:17).

Mary's words to the servants crown the nuptial picture: "*Do whatever He tells you*" (v. 5). It's curious: they are her last words reported by the Gospels.: they are her legacy that she gives to all of us. Today also Our Lady says to us all: "Whatever He says to you – Jesus says to you –, do it." It is the legacy she has left us: it's beautiful! It is an expression that recalls the formula of faith used by the people of Israel at Sinai in answer to the promises of the Covenant: "All that the Lord has spoken we will do!" (*Exodus* 19:8). And indeed at Cana the servants obey. "Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. Again He said to them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the steward of the feast.' So they took it" (vv. 7-8). In these nuptials the New Covenant is truly stipulated and to the Lord's servants, namely to the whole Church is entrusted the new mission: "Do whatever He tells you!" To serve the Lord means to listen and to put His Word into practice. It is the simple but essential recommendation of Jesus' Mother and it is the Christian's program of life. To draw from the jar is equivalent for each one of us to entrust ourselves to the Word of God to experience its efficacy in life. Then, together with the steward of the banquet who tasted the water that became wine, we too can exclaim: "You have kept the good wine until now" (v. 10). Yes, the Lord continues to keep that good wine for our salvation, just as it continues to gush from the pierced side of the Lord.

The conclusion of the account sounds like a sentence: "This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him" (v. 11). The wedding of Cana is much more than the simple account of Jesus' first miracle. As a casket, He keeps the secret of His person and the purpose of His coming: the awaited Spouse begins the nuptials that are fulfilled in the Paschal Mystery. In these nuptials, Jesus unites His disciples to Himself with a new and definitive Covenant. At Cana Jesus' disciples become His family and at Cana the faith of the Church was born. We are all invited to those nuptials, because the new wine is no longer lacking!

St. Gerard Catholic Church



640 Edrie St. NE
Aiken, SC 29801
803 649-3203

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time June 12th, 2016

Mission Statement
Called to be a People for Others

Vision Statement

*Anchored by faith hope and love in Jesus Christ,
we strive to be active disciples, serving each
other and all God's people by welcoming and
embracing the enriching diversity of our community of faith.*

Father Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator

One of the Pharisees invited him to a meal. When he arrived at the Pharisee's house and took his place at table, suddenly a woman came in, who had a bad name in the town. She had heard he was dining with the Pharisee and had brought with her an alabaster jar of ointment. She waited behind him at his feet, weeping, and her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them away with her hair; then she covered his feet with kisses and anointed them with the ointment.

Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, 'You see this woman? I came into your house, and you poured no water over my feet, but she has poured out her tears over my feet and wiped them away with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but she has been covering my feet with kisses ever since I came in. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. For this reason I tell you that her sins, many as they are, have been forgiven her, because she has shown such great love. It is someone who is forgiven little who shows little love.' Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Luke 7:36-38,44-48



SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

2 Samuel 12:7-10,13(93C)

Responsorial:

Psalms 32:1-2,5,7,11

Second Reading:

Galatians 2:16,19-21

Gospel:

Luke 7:36-8:3

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of June 12, 2016

Monday: 1 Kings 21:1-16,
Matthew 5:38-42

Tuesday: 1 Kings 21:17-29,
Matthew 5:43-48

Wednesday: 2 Kings 2:1,6-14,
Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Thursday: Sirach 48:1-14,
Matthew 6:7-15

Friday: 2 Kings 11:1-4,9-18,20,
Matthew 6:19-23

Saturday: 2 Chronicles 24:17-25,
Matthew 6:24-34

Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM,

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM

Confessions: after weekday Masses and by Appointment

Office Hours: 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM Tuesday - Thursday

Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 AM resuming in the fall, **CCD:** Sundays 10:30 AM during school year,

RCIA: Tuesdays 10:00 AM restarting in the fall

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Funerals: By Appointment, Contact the office.

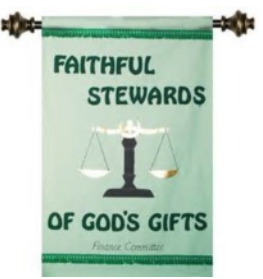
Contact Us: Phone 803 649-3203, E-Mail stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net

Facebook @stgerardaiken, **Emergency number for Father 803 637-2027**



Pray for our sick:
 Judy Riley
 Gary Gilbert
 Marge Glouser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda and Ike Ligons
 Joe Fulmer

The rewards of stewardship are plentiful. Stewards happily accept the call to give of themselves in response to the gracious gifts given to them. By helping others, stewards show their gratitude to God through their loving care for others.



Pastoral Council:
 Wayman Johnson, Chairman
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Nancy Durden
 Marge Glauser
 Joan Hesik
 Janet Menefee
 Gregory Wright

Finance Council:
 Robert Erikson, Chairman
 Leon Gagnon and Anna Marie Key, Auditors
 Lisa Solenberger, Secretary
 Art Wagner

Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM Mass for Valerie Cokl from Mark Smith
 7:00 AM Mass is said for your own personal intentions,
 9:00 AM Mass for Mabel Ussery from A. Lauer

Weekend Offering
 June 5, 2016

Collection	\$2,286.20
Needed	\$2,612.00
Under	\$325.80
Attendance	98

Stewardship a way of life

<i>The Gathering Hymn</i>	20 M
<i>All Hail Adored Trinity</i>	
<i>The Offertory Hymn is Blessed By Your Sacrifice</i>	28 M
<i>The Communion Hymn is</i>	CHOIR 376 BB
<i>Servant Song</i>	
<i>Our Song of Praise is</i>	27 M
<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	



Lay Ministers		
Saturday June 18	Sunday June 19	Sunday June 19
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
Lector: David Didimamoff	Denise Gelinis	Janet Menefee
E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon	Roger Gelinis	Mary Rose
Saturday June 25	Sunday June 26	Sunday June 26
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
Lector: Joan Hesik	Mary Key L'Esperance	Patricia Hayes
E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek	Gerard L'Esperance	Wayman Johnson
Refreshments June 12	Refreshments June 19	Refreshments June 26
Rosa DiStefano	Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes	Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key

New Lector and EO Eucharistic Minister schedules in process. Suggestions helpful!

We pray for the health of Fr. Emmanuel, Fr. Ernie and Fr. Don.

Second Collection for: Seminary Collection

The Legion of Mary
 1:30 PM Fridays

Ask Cathy Ciani about membership

Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Tuesdays at the 8:15 Mass

Our Lady of The Valley

Emergency Assistance Caseworker, Receptionist, and Voicemail Person
Food Pantry Helper on Monday during the summer
 If interested please contact Deondra Roper, Volunteer Coordinator at 803.857.6053

Joe Dennis, our deaconate candidate will be contacting ushers, altar servers, lectors, EO Eucharistic Ministers and sacristans. This will be in an attempt for you and him to be familiar with each other and to assure that all those programs are operating according to policy.

Finance Council meeting at 4:30 on the 14th
No Parish Council meeting on the 14th. Sorry

We have started planing for this years bazaar. Anyone that was involved last year please bring your experience and expertise to the table. We have more time to plan so we should be more successful this year.

Volunteer Corner
Thanks to Leonard Saunders for all he dose.

The Office of Continuing Education of Priests will offer a three-part workshop on "Ministering to the Dying and Grieving" on Wednesday, June 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Ministries & Administration building (Corley Conference Room), St. Joseph Church, 3512 Devine St. Columbia, SC 29205. The cost will be \$30. Of all the Church's various ministries, caring for and supporting dying and grieving persons (and caregivers) is one of the most critical. The pastoral ministry of care for such persons is one of the functions that priests, deacons and lay ministers perform regularly, sacramentally and otherwise. We who provide care do our best when we have the confidence of faith, and the knowledge and skills needed to minister to those dying and grieving. This workshop will be the first of several on this ministry in the forthcoming Pastoral Care track that Continuing Education is developing. Since each subsequent workshop will build on the previous ones, we suggest taking them in order, though that is not required. Each of the workshops in this series will be offered several times at different locations throughout the diocese. Various professionals will offer their perspectives (palliative care physicians, music therapists, hospice providers, psychologists, thanatologists, and clergy). To register please contact Helena Moniz or Msgr. Lofton at office@ssttheresachurch.com

"A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime!" Catholic Engaged Encounter invites you to attend an in-parish weekend, (Sat. all day and Sunday till about 3pm – no overnight accommodations provided) – which is a highly effective marriage prep program designed to meet the needs of today's engaged couples. This program will be held at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church in Clemson, SC, Saturday, July 23 and Sunday, July 24. For more information or to register: www.cce-sc.org

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is excited to announce the establishment of a Diocesan Missionary Team. The purpose of this groundbreaking program will be to evangelize youth in grades 6 – 12 and help them encounter Christ. Retreats will be offered beginning in September at our parishes and Catholic schools. To learn more or to help with the funding of this dynamic new program, go to <http://sccatholic.org/youth-ministry>

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: **James Ligon, Robert McHugh and James Rossini.** Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Hospital Visits: If you or a loved one is in **Aiken Regional Hospital (ARMC)** please let St Gerards know. Remember - ARMC does not inform us of Catholic patients, even if you register as a Catholic; it is up to the patient or family to do so. You can: ask the ARMC Chaplain to call the Catholic church, ask your nurse to inform the Catholic church (name & room number), call-St.Gerard at 649-3203 and leave a message or email St Gerard at: stgerardscatholi@Atlanticcbbn.net.

Childcare Worker Position Opening
 The individual selected will provide care and supervision for children in a daycare-type environment. Lead games and activities for multiple children, keeping them engaged. Change diapers and/or clean children up after activities. The opening is a part time position and is available immediately. It is the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month (except Nov-Dec will be only the 2nd Thurs); 5:45 pm-8:15 pm (2.5 hrs per day). **Location is Hope Center in Graniteville SC.** Skills and abilities required: experience with children; a positive, friendly demeanor and ability to stand, kneel, bend, stoop and lift up to 30 lbs. This position supports a program that is an affiliation of ACTS, Christ Central, FamCo, and HUGS, LLC. Beginning pay \$8.00/hr. Submit resume to carla@actsofaiken.org. Additional application guidance will be provided.

MERCY CENTER - COLORADO SPRINGS
2016 SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR PERSONAL GROWTH & HEALING

The Tour of Mid-Life Transitions
August 8-12, 2016
 In Phase One of life each person will be guided by their chosen archetype that helps in creating a personal and professional life-style and identity. By mid-life each person will move into their second archetype and experience a second birth that can lead to wonderment and bliss or if resisted and ignored depression and darkness. How do you cross the "poison river" of mid-life so that the journey to personal and professional transformation can be completed? Learning how to navigate the deep waters of mid-life will be our shared exploration during this week of dare and adventure.

Spirituality & Recovery
August 1-5, 2016
 All addictions are the absence of a grounded and embodied spirituality. If your drug of choice is food, alcohol, drugs, sex, pornography, money, love, gambling, power or control this week long program will take you to the core of your wounded self. Through mandala assessment you will discover what is missing and how personal and family grief and trauma can replicate itself in addictive thinking, feeling and behaving will lift the burden of guilt and shame. This program is designed for deep introspective moments, personal assessment and inner explorations while learning how to apply the power of prayer, forgiveness, serenity, achieving virtue and creating personal values that will guide you for a life time.

Mercy Center Inc., 520 W Buena Ventura St, Colorado Springs, CO 80907
 themercycenter@aol.com

ACTS has a position opening that supports our Women's Enrichment Program, 'Coffee with JoJo'. If you have questions or need more information, please call Carla at ACTS, 649-3800.

ACTS is partnering with the Augusta/Aiken Warrior Project (AWP) to provide available assistance to local Warriors of all service branches, regardless of era of service or wounded status. Please ask any veterans (especially post-9/11 veterans) to contact ACTS at ph#803.642.5919 They served us now let's help ACTS serve them.