

Good Wine FREELY GIVEN

Today's first reading from Isaiah uses the imagery of marriage to emphasize God's deep and abiding love for the people. God, speaking to Israel in the midst of a crisis, says that Zion will not be abandoned. God is like a husband whose wife has been unfaithful but who still loves his spouse. God will fight for the bride: "For Zion's sake I will not be silent; for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet." The vindication God promises will be more than just restoring Israel to its place in God's heart. God is going to make a new creation out of Israel.

Isaiah uses marriage imagery to show that Israel has a new name, something that is given when new life comes, like a religious man or woman taking a new name when they are consecrated, or someone taking a new name when going through Confirmation. "Forsaken" speaks of being abandoned, and "desolate" speaks of land (or a woman) that is barren. Intimate language of a husband toward a wife is spoken: "you shall be called 'My Delight.'"



It is hardly surprising, then, that the first "sign" of Jesus' glory in John's Gospel takes place in the context of a wedding. Ultimately, however, the story is not about a wedding, for nothing in John's Gospel is as it first seems. This miracle of Jesus is a revelation of who He is and what His mission will be about. It is about the generous love of the Lord and our response to that love.

Jesus says to His mother that His "hour has not yet come." This hour is the moment that Jesus' glory will be revealed to the world. For John, this moment is not the resurrection. For John, Jesus' glory is found on the Cross, the perfect revelation of God's perfect love. There is love at a wedding, but God's love is something much, much more.

Water had been used for ritual purification, but what was found in the jars by the headwaiter was "good wine." Cheap wine had the consistency of syrup, thus wine had to be prepared by mixing in water to get it to the right consistency, an act repeated as the priest or deacon prepares the chalice at the altar. "Good wine," however, needed no preparation. It was perfect just as it was—and it was incredibly expensive. No longer would God's people need water for ritual purification. There would be a "new wine" that would soon be used for the purification of God's people, and it would be expensive. The new wine would be the Blood of Christ, that which we still share at the altar.

While this "good wine" is expensive, we do not have to pay for it. It is a gift freely given. Our God is committed to us, and this commitment is expressed in the ideal of a perfect marriage. This love is so generous it produces an abundance—there was upwards of 180 gallons of wine!

There is more to the story for not only do we learn about Jesus and see a show of God's generous love, we are also taught how to respond to it. Mary teaches us: "Do whatever He tells you." *from the The Priest Dec 2006*

CATHEDRAL MARDI GRAS DINNER

Mark your calendars for a fun evening of dinner and dancing.



The Cathedral will sponsor their first Mardi Gras Dinner Dance on February 10, 2007, at 6:30 pm in the Cathedral Lower Level. Come mingle with your fellow parishioners, enjoy Cajun food and swing with your mate. Tickets are \$20 each and will go on sale after all Masses starting January 14.

FEAST OF SANTO NINO JANUARY 20

The Filipino Community of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will celebrate the Feast of Santo Nino on Saturday January 20, 2007, at a special 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please contact **Ms. Vicky Bruce** at **(916) 726-6523** for more information about this yearly celebration and plan on attending the Mass and reception following.

JOHN PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Filipino Community of the Cathedral of the Blessed John Paul II Catholic School PTG Crab Feed Saturday, January 27, 2007 6 pm—Midnight \$40 per person (includes t-shirt). For tickets, call **916-457-5621** or get them online at johnpaulIIschool.com. The school is located at 5700 14th Ave, Sacramento, CA 95820, next to All Hallows Parish Church.

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH MARDI GRAS DINNER

Mount St. Joseph Seminary will have its annual Mardi Gras Dinner/Dance/Auction on Saturday, February 17, 2007. J.D. Mather will be the auctioneer. Tickets are \$40. Please contact **Helen** at **(916) 791-9418**.

LAY FORMATION INSTITUTE 2007

The Lay Formation Institute has been designed and established as a program which provides opportunities for adults throughout the Diocese of Sacramento to become more knowledgeable about the Catholic faith, to grow spiritually, and to receive training for specific ecclesial ministries within the Catholic community. The institute is open to catechists, teachers, parents, and lay men and women in the diocese. Courses maybe taken individually or an entire institute. Those who complete the Lay Formation Institute has completed the coursework for Basic Catechist Certification from the Diocese of Sacramento.

The cost is \$25 for each 8 hour course or \$175 for all 7 sessions. All courses are held on weekends at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 2110 Broadway. On Friday, Session One lasts from 7-9:00 pm. On Saturday, Session Two lasts from 9 am to 4:00 pm. For additional information, contact **Kathy Wilson** at (916) 733-0123 or kwilson@diocese-sacramento.org for a brochure of the whole year program.

Courses for the next few months include:

January 27/28	Foundations of Faith — Foundations of Christianity. Rev. Ed. Fassett, S.J.
February 2/3	Life in Christ: The Moral Life. Rev. Loreto Rojas
March 9/10	Celebration of the Christian Mystery. Jackson Schoos

PRESERVING OUR PAST ... BUILDING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

The campaign is \$26.2 million away from full funding. Bishop Weigand expresses continued gratitude for the generous participation of all those who pledged their support to the Preserving Our Past ... Building Our Future Campaign. We can all be proud of the restorations and new construction throughout our diocese. Bishop Weigand reminds us that we must now look toward building our future through payments yet to be collected. As of June 30, 2006, \$26.2 million remain to be collected. In addition to fulfilling payments to your own parish, these funds are needed for full funding or the social service programs, scholarships, and endowments outlined in the campaign. God bless each and every family for their commitment to the Campaign. As parishioners fulfill their pledges, most parishes will reach 100% completion by mid-2007.

PRO-LIFE MASS JANUARY 23

The diocesan Respect Life Office and Catholics for Life are jointly sponsoring the annual Pro-Life Mass on Tuesday January 23, 2007, at 10:30 am in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. In the celebration, we mark the 34th anniversary, and pray for the overturn, of Roe v. Wade and its companion decision which allows abortion at any time and for any reason during the nine months of pregnancy.

Please join all the deacons, religious, students, and the laity of our diocese who will attend this Mass to demonstrate their belief in the sanctity of human life. More information is available from Mike Schaefer, Pro-Life Coordinator at (916) 988-3171 or Reverend Loreto Rojas, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis at (916) 442-8315.

This Mass is a prelude to the California Pro-Life Council's annual Rally for Life at noon on the west steps of the Capitol. The rally features several pro-life legislators and other speakers who will inform and inspire us. For more information on the rally, contact **Kathy Markle** of the California Pro-Life Council at (916) 442-8315.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 1/15/2006	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
12:10 pm:	Winnie Klotz +
5:10 pm:	NO MASS
TUES 1/16/2006	Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:10 pm:	Winnie Klotz +
5:10 pm:	Rayden Angelo Cruz, S.I.
WED 1/17/2006	St. Anthony, abbot
12:10 pm:	Anita Van Huesen +
5:10 pm:	Helen Manning, S.I.
THURS 1/18/2006	Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:10 pm:	Robert Manning, S.I.
5:10 pm:	Francis Street +
FRI 1/19/2006	Weekday in Ordinary Time
12:10 pm:	Joan & Bill Colby, S.I.

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!