

January 20, 2019

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Isaiah 62:1–3

Psalms 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 7–8a

1 Corinthians 12:4–11

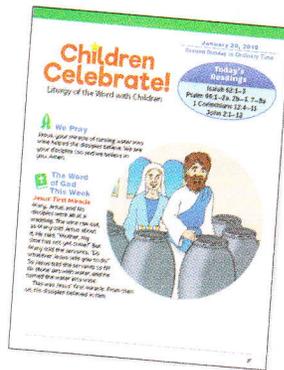
John 2:1–12

Jesus' First Miracle

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them. Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice before the LORD who comes, who comes to govern the earth, To govern the world with justice and the peoples with faithfulness. (Psalm 96:11–13)

## Scripture Background

Today's First Reading comes from a larger section of the Book of Isaiah, in which the prophet describes the glorious future that God's people will have when they return from exile to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem.

The significance of Jerusalem's Temple to the Jews of the Old Testament is difficult to overstate. As John McKenzie, SJ, says in his Bible dictionary, the temple was "the seat and symbol of the presence of Yahweh among His people" (p. 876). Rebuilding it was a necessary part of the people's returning home, reasserting their Jewish identity, and reuniting with the one true God.

Today's Second Reading affirms the giftedness of each person who is called by the Spirit to form the new people of God. In the ongoing life of the Christian community, every single person has a vital role.

In today's Gospel, Mary's role is vividly described. According to Bruce Vawter, CM, it is John the evangelist's intention to

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a green cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a picture or statue of Mary
- ▶ an empty vase
- ▶ paper or plastic flowers (one for each child)
- ▶ a music player
- ▶ a recording of a Marian hymn

## Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

**Gathering:** "God's Love Is..." (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #11) or "The Beatitudes" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #17)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #24)

portray Mary as not only the mother of Jesus but also as the mother of the new people of God.

Because of her caring intervention at the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus performs his first miracle, and thereby gives his first public sign of who he really is. Changing the water into wine serves as a tangible hint of the profound transformation he will work on all humanity when his time comes. His “time” or his “hour,” throughout John’s Gospel, refers to Jesus’ coming Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

## Children’s Connections

Asked what she learned from her mother while growing up, singer Gladys Knight replied, “My mom gave me something to live on if she weren’t around—spirituality and faith. She gave me her base, her spiritual base, her unshakeable base” (*Ebony*, May 1992).

Through Catholic biblical scholarship, we are constantly gaining new insights into the roles of various women in the life of Jesus, with Mary heading the list. It is refreshing to discover anew something the early Christians understood—Mary was no shrinking violet. Therefore, no one today need question her continuing suitability as a role model for women and girls.

Today’s Gospel provides a good example of Mary’s assertiveness. When she informs Jesus of the problem at hand, he mildly protests that now is not the time for him to begin publicly revealing who he is. Jesus and Mary in effect have a reasonable disagreement that any grown son might have with his mother.

After she has made her point, she quietly withdraws from the conversation but tells the servants to stand by “just in case” and to do whatever Jesus asks. She knows full well that Jesus will think things over and find a way to help without violating the divine plan. In response, he works a miracle behind the scenes, as verse 11 implies, showing “his glory” only to Mary and the disciples.

Mary did not hesitate to go to Jesus when she knew of a need, and she was not discouraged when he did not respond positively immediately.

## More About ...

### The Catechism on Prayer of Intercession

- On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon a gathering of Christ’s disciples at prayer. “The Spirit who teaches the Church and recalls for her everything that Jesus said was also to form her in the life of prayer.” (#2623)
- “Intercession is a prayer of petition which leads us to pray as Jesus did.” As Hebrews 7:25 states, the risen Lord never stops working for our salvation, but intercedes constantly for anyone who comes to him through God. (#2634)
- “Since Abraham, intercession—asking on behalf of another—has been characteristic of a heart attuned to God’s mercy.” A natural part of belonging to Christ is doing the work he does, praying unceasingly for the eternal good of others. (#2635)
- “The intercession of Christians recognizes no boundaries” and even includes praying for their persecutors. For there is always hope that those who reject the Gospel may have a change of heart. (#2636)

## The Children’s Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn about Jesus’ first public miracle, through a summary of the Gospel, prayer, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in “The Word of God This Week” after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

Families are given suggestions for ways to develop trust in their children. The children's activity reviews the Hail Mary.

Lord God women Mary Amen Jesus

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with

you. Blessed are you among women and

blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Before the children enter the worship area, give each one a flower. Explain that at the beginning of today's liturgy we will honor our mother Mary by placing flowers in a vase before her image. As the children enter the worship area, play the recorded Marian hymn.

Invite the children to sit down. Ask them what they know about Mary. Make sure they understand that Mary is our mother, too—not just Jesus' mother—because Jesus has shared her with us. In today's Gospel, we will learn an important lesson from Mary.

### Collect

**Leader:** *Invite the children to bow their heads. Then pray:*

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us your mother, Mary, to be our mother, too. May we learn from her all the important lessons that she taught you when you were a little boy. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Children:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

## First Reading

*Note: If your area has had a recent devastation, alter these questions appropriately*

**Leader:** Does anyone here know what a town or city looks like after it has been hit by a tornado or hurricane? How would you feel if that had been our town? In today's First Reading, Isaiah talks to the people of ancient Jerusalem after their city has been wrecked by war.

*Read Isaiah 62:1–3. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

**Children:** Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 7–8a.*

## Second Reading

**Leader:** The First Reading showed us that Isaiah knew how to say gentle, comforting words to suffering people. In today's Second Reading, Saint Paul reminds us that every single one of us has some special talent for bringing hope and joy to others.

*Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–11. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** What do you think a holiday meal would be like with only food to eat and nothing to drink? In today's Gospel, everyone is at a big wedding feast when the host starts running out of wine. It is a hot day and soon everyone will be thirsty. Jesus' mother is the first person to notice what is happening. Pay attention to what she says and does.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of John.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** Read John 2:1–12. Then say, “The Gospel of the Lord.”

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Base a homily on the following ideas and questions:

1. What was the first thing Mary did when she saw the wine running low?
2. Her example shows us that we, too, should go to Jesus right away whenever we feel concerned about something.
3. When Mary spoke to the servants, what did she say?
4. We are servants, too—servants of God—and Mary is telling us the same thing: “Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.”
5. In today’s story, what did Jesus tell the servants to do?
6. Notice that Jesus wanted the servants’ help to work a miracle. What was the miracle?
7. To do good in our world today, Jesus wants our help.
8. Everywhere we go, even at dinners and parties, there are chances to do good.
9. Later today at Sunday dinner, for example, what are some ways you can do good?

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the Profession of Faith and respond to each faith statement with the words, “I believe in God.” I believe in God the Father, almighty and all-loving.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ and Son of Mary.

**Children:** I believe in God.

**Leader:** I believe in God the Holy Spirit, giver of life and everything good.

**Children:** I believe in God.



## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** In today’s Gospel, we saw that Mary went to Jesus for help when she saw people in need. Following her example, let us go to Jesus with all our needs. To each petition, please respond, “Jesus, son of Mary, hear us.” Bless the Holy Father and all Church leaders who preach in your name, Lord Jesus. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Jesus, son of Mary, hear us.

**Leader:** Bless people of our parish with gifts from the Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Jesus, son of Mary, hear us.

**Leader:** Bless people living in cities and countries damaged by violence. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Jesus, son of Mary, hear us.

**Leader:** Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:

Let us pray. Almighty and all-loving God, our holy mother Mary tells us to do whatever Jesus says. Everywhere we go this week, in everything we do, help us hear his voice and obey it. This we ask in Jesus’ name.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven’t already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families.