

Bulletin Insert: January 15th and 16th, 2022

We are fortunate to have Fr. Thomas M. Kommers celebrating weekend Masses during the 3 weekends that Fr. Steve is on vacation. Fr. Thomas is retired, and pleased to be with us, filling in while Fr. Steve is getting a much deserved rest. Fr. Thomas will be sharing his reflections on the weekend's readings during his time with us, contributing to our spiritual growth and understanding of the gospel.

Reflection by Father Thomas M. Kommers

My friends:

It's helpful to recall that the Church has a three-year cycle of readings which are simply designated as years: A, B, and C. And the 4 Gospels are assigned in this pattern: in Year A, we read from the Gospel of Matthew, in Year B, from the Gospel of Mark, and because Mark is so short we fill-in with parts of the Gospel of John, and then, in Year C (our current year) we read from the Gospel of Luke. However, on this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Gospel story is taken from the Gospel according to John ... so that we might hear about the Wedding at Cana.

You see, the Wedding at Cana forms the third part of a sort of Epiphany trio, which carries two themes from two of the Christmastide feasts leading us into the "green days" of the Ordinary Time we are now in. The two themes are: manifestation (a word meaning a showing forth or a revelation) and transformation (a word meaning a dramatic change in form, appearance, or behavior). The three Epiphany events: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus by John, and the Wedding Miracle at Cana, are, (as Pope Francis has described them), saying *"the three signs that the Liturgy brings in these days speak to us about the manifestation of God making God's-self known."* And, as we understand them, the story of the Magi (those foreigners coming from the East) reminds us that the child born in Bethlehem was born for all peoples, and the baptism of Jesus is the revelation that he is God's "beloved Son" (clearly declared to us last weekend at his Baptism in the Jordan).

So, then, what do we learn from the Wedding at Cana? In the transformation of the water into wine at the Wedding at Cana, we discover that Jesus wasn't simply another prophet or holy man. He was: (as said at his Baptism last weekend) God's "beloved Son." Clearly: Jesus (the Messiah) holds the power to transform (that is: to recreate and renew) not only: the elements of earth (water into wine) but, more importantly: the hearts, minds, and souls of his followers, including you and me. In the coming weeks of Ordinary Time, we will hear a number of stories in the Gospel of Luke of how this transforming and saving work (that was begun at Cana) changed the lives of Jesus' disciples forever! As Fr. Steve's Reflection in the Bulletin last weekend mentioned, it's important to recognize and remember that in our Baptism the transforming power of Jesus is shaping you and me right now today! Our challenge is to pay attention!

Fr. Thomas

West Side Senior Living

Humboldt offers 117 exceptional, yet affordable apartments for seniors who no longer want to live on their own, but want to maintain their independence. We currently have rooms open in both Assisted Living and Memory Care and are able to accept the Elderly Waiver. Please call Mary at 651-220-1786 for more information or to schedule a tour

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT ST. MATTHEWS!!

During this holiday season we were privileged to have the opportunity to donate food baskets and gifts to many families. Isaac's Blessing Bags made deliveries on both Thanksgiving and Christmas day. We spent the day stopping at several spots in the city, and even set up a table. Isaac also let kids pick out gifts to wrap for their siblings. It was incredible to spread that gift of hope. A woman in a tent today asked for warm food. So Jose Jr made sure she had a warm meal when we came back her way. One man told Isaac it was only his second night outside, and without the Blessing Bags he might not have made it.

We want to extend our sincerest gratitude to all of our family and friends who donate and support Isaac's work in the community year after year! Isaac Garcia

We couldn't do it without YOU!
Today we are grateful.

Isaac Garcia