

January 19, 2025
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



A VISIBLE GOD

We find it difficult to convey ideas to people unless we can actually show them something, demonstrate what we mean. God, who is invisible and truly beyond human understanding, apparently faces the same difficulty. People want to see, not just listen to an idea. So God gave us Jesus Christ, God made visible in the world.

During these past weeks we have seen how Jesus was revealed as an infant to the shepherds and the magi, and then began his adult “public life” at his baptism by John. Today’s Gospel reading tells us of his “first sign,” providing wine for the wedding guests at Cana.

Of course, even Jesus, God made visible, was not always easily understood in his own day, nor is he even now. So we have to ponder what we see: the poverty and simplicity of his birth, his humility and openness before John the Baptist, his kindness and compassion toward people in their ordinary problems, such as running short of wine at a wedding. Yet it is in coming to know Jesus that we come to know God. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

REFLECTING ON GOD’S WORD

“Do whatever he tells you,” is what today’s Gospel pointedly suggests (John 2:5). Perhaps too pointedly, because it just may turn out that none of what he tells us seems appealing. Be that as it may, life does serve up new wine.

Yet as always the question remains, how does anyone know what we’re being told to do? How does one read the signs of personal times? A good marker, it would seem, is to pay attention to one’s gifts. It may not be the only marker, but certainly one not to be ignored. St. Paul writes to the Corinthians that our strengths and talents come from the Spirit, and that each is given for some benefit. Other translations say they are given for the common good, which seems to be a better way of putting it, because it broadens our view and prevents us from understanding any gift in terms of personal benefit or preference. It may be that the old wine we just drained did quench our personal thirst, but that the new wine is for the common good.

So when the old wine runs out and we’re offered new wine, it’s worth considering whether we’re being called

to some new role in life. It may be that life is ratcheting up our degree of participation, calling us to make some new contribution we have not even considered. And we may be surprised. It may enrich the taste of life.

On this day, then, raise a toast to God’s new creation. To new wine. The British say Cheers! The Germans, Prosit! Poles, Na Zdrowie! In Spain, Salud! And Lithuanians, Sveikas! Believers, well, they say Alleluia!

—Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis

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Living God’s Word - It does seem that somewhere along the path of life, the wine runs out for each of us. We get bored with jobs, or relationships, or maybe just the same four old walls. We can lament the loss of old wine, or we can open a new bottle, and carry on God’s work perhaps in a new way.

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Celebrate the Baby by Helping Babies!

The parish will be collecting baby items during the month of January to donate to the Women’s Pregnancy Crisis Center.

► **BABY DONATIONS to include:**

- Diapers – Sizes 4-6, Wipes,
- New or gently used Baby Clothes, preferably 12 months and up,
- Baby Lotions, and Baby Shampoo.

You can bring your donations to any of the Masses.

¡Celebra al Bebé ayudando a los bebés!

La parroquia estará recolectando artículos para bebés durante el mes de enero para donarlos al Centro de Crisis de Embarazo de Mujeres.

► **DONACIONES PARA BEBÉS para incluir:**

- Pañales - Tallas 4-6, Toallitas húmedas,
- Ropa de bebé nueva o poco usada,
- preferiblemente de 12 meses en adelante,
- Lociones para bebés y Champú para bebés.

Puedes llevar tus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas.

January 11/12, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$3318.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1414.26
ON LINE GIVING (Monthly Payment).....	425.00
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$5157.26

Thank you for your generosity!

CONGRATULATIONS to all our Parish Council members & officers! **President:** Martin Luna; **Vice-President:** Julia Madrigal; **Secretary:** Loretta & Leo Hernandez; Salvador Aguayo, Sandy Gallegos, Christa & Andy Soto, Aaron DeHoyos, Mike & Marianne Aguilar, Mila Gibson, Domingo Castillo Sr., Mary Hopkins and Marisela & Toribio Medellin. Thank you to our outgoing members for their service to the parish.

God Bless

Saturday, January 18th

5:00PM-IHM – +Maria Morales y Carlos Guerrero, Rodolfo Morales; +Alejandro Jaramillo



Sunday, January 19th –

8:30AM– +Uvalterio Carlos y difuntos de su familia;
+Socorro Ramon
11:00AM- For the People

Tuesday, January 21st 9:00AM – HF

+Beatriz Aguilera

Wednesday, January 22nd 6:00PM-IHM

In thanksgiving for Antonio C. Mendez’s birthday

Thursday, January 23rd 9:00AM-HF

For the health and well-being of Tony and Mat Albidrez and family

Friday, January 24th 9:00AM-HF

For the health and well-being of Patrick and April Villa and their family

Saturday, January 25th

5:00PM-IHM – +Belinda Gomez, Tomas & Guadalupe Morales; +Daniel Grimaldo

Sunday, January 26th –

8:30AM– +Martina Herrera; +Rodrigo DeLoera;
Por el bien estar de Isidro Loya
11:00AM- For the People

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The cause of church unity is commended to Christians for prayer and action every year around this time. This week is not so much to focus on the many divisions within the Christian family, but on bonds of faith and mission. Even though Christians have always shown an inclination to fracture, spin off, and mutate into new expressions, recent history shows some new points of convergence and agreement. Catholics are more firmly rooted in the word of God, for example, and many Protestants are more likely to celebrate Communion than in years past. Some denominations are merging and pooling resources, and people from various traditions are collaborating on projects.

The call of this week is to be mindful of the diversity of our traditions and customs while treasuring what we hold in common. The old advice to “lighten up” is good medicine, because sometimes our differences are delightful and amusing. If someone says, “Let us pray,” a Catholic might close the eyes, bow the head and fold hands; a Protestant reach out and clasp hands with the person in the next chair; and someone belonging to an Orthodox tradition might stand up with eyes wide open. Each has taken a different path, but the goal is always the same. This is a week not for focusing on the well worn paths of divergence, but for mutual delight in a common goal.
James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE

(January 22, 2025) January 22 is designated as a particular day of prayer and penance for Catholics in the United States, called the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.” The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, directs:

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

S.H.O.P. – (Sweetwater House of Peace) - 509 Locust

Due to the extreme cold weather spell this weekend, SHOP will be open to provide a warm meal and safe place for those in need. Donations are greatly appreciated and volunteers are always needed to help out. Text Becky @(325) 514-2204.

CCD - Classes Sunday, 9:30-10:40am.

Wednesday Classes - 7:00-8:30pm

OCIA (formerly known as RCIA) - Classes are held on Thursdays, at 6:00pm at Holy Family Hall, 507 Crane Street.

WEDNESDAY - Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass @6:00pm, & Adoration until 8:30pm @IHM.

PARISH MOVIE GROUP – meets at Holy Family Hall, this Sunday, January 19th, from 4:00pm-6:00pm.

BAPTISM – To schedule, please call the office

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2025–You can get your boxed envelopes from the parish office.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
- Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28, or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer
- Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
- Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12
- Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10, 11-12; 13-14; Mk 3:13-19
- Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
- Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19:8-10, 15; 1 Cor 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

Jan. 25 – Grupo Misionero Feb. 1 – Guadalupanas

Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory.

— Isaiah 62:2

#12 - General Intercessions

We pray the general intercessions recognizing that our Lord has called all of us to be priests – that is, people who intercede for others. And so we pray for the Church, for civil authorities, for those who are oppressed, for other specific situations going on the world, and for the salvation of the world. If we are truly in tune with God's heart, we will naturally want to pray for others. Having heard God's Word and responded to it, now we are ready to act like Him.

We do not go to Church to escape from the world, we go to Church to bring the world to the altar so that God might sanctify, bless, and heal what needs to be healed. The world is so broken. We pray that little by little, our Lord may transform the world to be like the kingdom of heaven. We even say those words during the Our Father, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Do we believe that God will answer our prayers? There is a story in the Book of Exodus where the Israelites were winning in battle as long as Moses stood holding his staff over his head. It says that when he rested his arms, the Israelites started losing the battle, and so 2 people stood on either side of Moses to support his arms so that the Israelites would be victorious. They won the battle. Now God is involving us in the salvation of the world. We stand with Jesus, holding his hands and praying for victory over sin in this world that has turned away from Him.

We know that prayer is not always answered in the way that we want or expect. Every time we pray, Our Lord hears us, and he responds as he knows is best for us. With that kind of faith, let us offer our prayers, trusting in the Father to give us what we truly need.

#12 – Intercesión General

Rezamos la intercesión general reconociendo que nuestro Señor nos ha llamado a todos a ser sacerdotes - es decir, personas que interceden por los demás. Así rezamos por la Iglesia, por las autoridades civiles, por los oprimidos, por otras situaciones específicas que suceden en el mundo, y por la salvación del mundo. Si estamos verdaderamente en sintonía con el corazón de Dios, naturalmente vamos a querer rezar por los demás. Habiendo escuchado la Palabra de Dios y respondido a ella, ahora estamos listos para actuar como Él.

No vamos a la Iglesia para escapar del mundo, vamos a la Iglesia para llevar el mundo al altar para que Dios pueda santificar, bendecir, y sanar lo que necesita ser sanado. El mundo está tan roto. Oramos para que poco a poco, nuestro Señor transforme el mundo para que sea como el reino del cielo. Incluso decimos esas palabras durante el Padrenuestro, "Venga a nosotros tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, así en la tierra como en el cielo".

¿Creemos que Dios responderá a nuestras oraciones? Hay una historia en el Libro del Éxodo donde los israelitas ganaban la batalla mientras Moisés se mantenía de pie sosteniendo su bastón sobre su cabeza. Se dice que cuando él descansaba sus brazos, los israelitas comenzaban a perder la batalla, y entonces dos personas se pararon a cada lado de Moisés para sostener sus brazos para que los israelitas salieran victoriosos. Ganaron la batalla. Ahora Dios nos está involucrando en la salvación del mundo. Estamos con Jesús, sosteniendo sus manos y orando por la victoria sobre el pecado en este mundo que se ha alejado de Él.

Sabemos que la oración no siempre es respondida de la manera que deseamos o esperamos. Cada vez que oramos, Nuestro Señor nos escucha, y responde como sabe que es mejor para nosotros. Con esa clase de fe, ofrezcamos nuestras oraciones, confiando en el Padre que nos dará lo que realmente necesitamos.