



“Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.”

JOHN 2:10

When Water Becomes Wine

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

For all of us, at one time or another, life seems to run out of wine. We look at our relationships and find ourselves saying, “There’s no more wine.” It may be a friendship of five years or a marriage of twentyfive years, but, for some, the wine runs out. For others, it is the job that loses its challenge. Or, one day, the foreman gathers everyone to announce that the plant is closing. In a moment, all has turned into vinegar; there is no more wine. For others still, it is when retirement suffocates the future, choking all that once gave meaning.

However, there are also those times when hope is reborn, when we feel “espoused” not only by life but also by God, when the ordinary turns extraordinary—and the water becomes wine. It is the phone call offering a new job after we have collected unemployment checks for months. It is falling in love when we have given up on the notion. It is conceiving a child after years of barren waiting. It is someone who listens, finally, when no one else would. It is at times like these—and many others as well—when we are caught off-balance and trip into God unwittingly, saved from drudgery and redeemed to live a life enriched, when water is turned into wine. It is a deeply felt joy that reveals God’s presence. ●

Reflect

Is there an area in your life where you need “new wine”?



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES . . .

JANUARY 18/19th - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM **Lector:** Karen Marsh **EM:** Kathy Anderson
10:15AM **Lector:** Cherry Ramdass **EM:** Pat Robinson
Collection: The Almeidas

JANUARY 25/26th - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM **Lector:** Laura DeFrias **EM:** Karen Marsh
10:15AM **Lector:** Pat Robinson **EM:** Madelena Almeida
Collection: Karen Marsh

MASS INTENTIONS . . .

JANUARY 18/19th - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For those affected by Natural Disasters around the World.
10:15AM For the Deceased Members of St. Michael's

JANUARY 25/26th - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Josephine & Nyal Clinton
10:15AM For the Deceased Members of St. Michael's



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

January 4/5th Collection: \$411.00
Votives: \$69.00 Poor Box (SVDP): \$12.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.
YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Bishops Corner . . .

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

I would like to share with you some events that are to take place in our Catholic community in Bermuda in 2025. I am not including the main Christian solemnities nor Government public holidays.

- 18th to 25th January – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 26th of January, Sunday – Word of God Sunday
- 5th of March, Wednesday – Ash Wednesday
- 17th of March, Monday – St. Patrick's Parish Liturgical Feast
- 19th of March, Wednesday – St. Joseph's Parish Liturgical Feast
- 26th of March, Wednesday – 4:00pm – 6:00pm – Lenten Reconciliation Service at St. Patrick's
- 27th of March, Thursday – 6:00pm – 8:00pm – Lenten Reconciliation Service at St. Theresa's
- 15th of April, Tuesday – 7:30pm – Chrism Mass at St. Theresa's
- 26th of April, Saturday – 11:00am – Annual Mass for the Deceased at Holy Calvary Cemetery
- 27th of April, Sunday – 3:00pm – Divine Mercy Devotion at St. Patrick's
- 13th of May, Tuesday – 7:00pm – Our Lady of Fatima Feast at St. Patrick's
- 1st of June, Sunday – 1:30pm – Senhor Santo Cristo Feast at St. Theresa's
- 8th of June, Sunday – 2:00pm – Confirmation Mass at St. Theresa's
- 12th of June, Thursday – 58th Anniversary of the Establishment of our Diocese
- 13th of June, Friday – St. Anthony's Parish Liturgical Feast
- 15th of June, Sunday – 2:00pm – Divino Espirito Santo Feast at Stella Maris
- 29th of September, Monday – St. Michael's Parish Liturgical Feast
- 1st of October, Wednesday – St. Theresa's Feast, Patroness of the Parish and of the Diocese
- 4th of October, Saturday – St. Theresa's Celebration & 10th Anniversary of Bishop Wes' Ordination
- 13th of October, Monday – 7:00pm – Our Lady of Fatima Feast at St. Patrick's
- 1st of November, Saturday – 11:00am – All Souls' Mass at St. Theresa's
- 12th of December, Friday – 7:00pm – Stella Maris Parish Liturgical Feast

Jubilee 2025 Events:

- 8th February, Saturday – Jubilee of the Sick at St. Patrick's
- 22nd March, Saturday – Jubilee of the Married Couples at St. Joseph's
- 21st June, Saturday – Jubilee of the CCD Children at St. Anthony's
- 26th July, Saturday – Jubilee of the Grandparents and the Elderly at St. Michael's
- 27th September, Saturday – Jubilee of the Migrants and Foreign Labourers at St. Theresa's
- 18th October, Saturday – Jubilee of the Widows, Widowers and Singles at Stella Maris

Have a restful weekend and a blessed week!

+ Wes Jurewicz

Bishop Wes



Pastor's Point . . .

ONE OF TODAY'S ISSUES - Beginning on January 22, 1973 with Roe v. Wade, and during the nearly 50-year period following the Supreme Court decision, nearly 64 million children have been killed (in the USA alone not including other countries, even Bermuda) the untold numbers of women and men suffer in the aftermath. Even with the overturning of Roe v. Wade on June 24, 2022, (Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization) we praise God for the great opportunity state and federal legislators now have to protect preborn children. While God, in His mercy, ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, right now state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to preborn children. In essence there could be 50 different positions since it is up to the states to fashion abortion policy.


So, great prayer and advocacy is very needed not only in the United States, but also for the abortions that are taking place here in Bermuda. Women, men and families are affected by this action that takes place in our society and unfortunately throughout the world. As Catholics, we need to pray for an end to this and pray for the "adoption option" instead.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "**Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.**" For example, the Church 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.

As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or almsgiving. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides resources to help parishes, schools, families, ministries, and individual Catholics participate in this important day of prayer and penance. However, really we can observe these suggestions and practices at any time.

In addition, the USCCB also sponsors an annual, nationwide novena called 9 Days for Life, which encompasses the liturgical observance of the Day of Prayer. Each day for nine days, a different intention is featured, accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions, and related information as we pray for the respect and protection of every human life. Visit respectlife.org/9-days-for-life for more information on the annual campaign.

Let us pray for the eradication of abortion worldwide as no child is unimportant since we are created by God for a reason. We all have dignity and worth that is in part why Christ has come into our world for sinful humanity. January is a good time to reflect upon life, but let us pray throughout the whole year for women and men to make the right decision to CHOOSE LIFE. We need to thank our father and mother who chose life for us. We need to be PILGRIMS OF HOPE as our Jubilee 2025 theme indicates.


God bless,
Fr. Joe, Vicar General

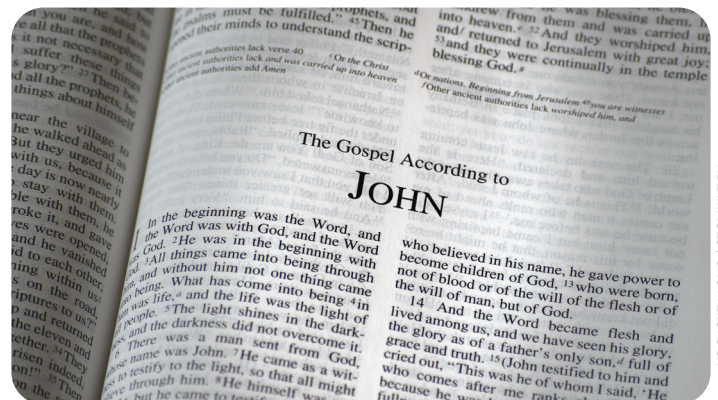


Dear Padre,

Is there a year of John? I know we're now in the year of Luke, next year will be the year of Matthew, and the following year will be the year of Mark. Then the cycle starts over with Luke. Why doesn't John have a year?

Matthew, Mark, and Luke, collectively known as the synoptic gospels, are narrative gospels. Together, they tell the story of Jesus of Nazareth. Although in some ways they might be understood synoptically, "the same," each narrative is unique in its emphasis. The Church desires that we hear these narratives and be nourished through the proclamation of the early memories of the Christian community.

John's Gospel, on the other hand, is not primarily a narrative, but is best understood as theological. As such, it is highly dependent on the use of symbolic representations to make the point it intends. For example, "I am the light of the world."



VIBE IMAGES / SHUTTERSTOCK

Whoever follows me...will have the light of life" (John 8:12). The interplay between light and darkness illustrates the point. John's Gospel is intended to be experienced and engaged in as "bigger than life," proposing and celebrating Christian themes that are life-giving and inviting. Therefore, we hear John's Gospel when the Church celebrates the mystery of the saving life and resurrection of Jesus. For this reason, the Gospel of John is proclaimed on Good Friday, during the Easter season, and on other major feasts. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- EMMAUS Bible Study to restart on Tuesday, January 14 at 3:00 pm in the Pastor's Office at St. Michael's

St. THERESA'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am and WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS at 12:10pm.

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:15am

St. PATRICK'S

- The Rosary is recited every, WEDNESDAY at 10:00am.
- The 6pm PORTUGUESE Mass and Rosary will resume Wednesday, January 8th at 7:00pm.
- Adoration at St. Patrick's on Thursdays during winter months will take place at 6pm.
- A mass in Tagaog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am.

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP is open, TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS 10:00am-2:00pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS start next week, Sunday, January 12th at 11:15am in the Hall. We look forward to welcoming our First Communion candidates. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Patricia Carreiro, our CCD Parish Coordinator, email: pcarreiro1976@ gmail.com.



SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY SEE JANUARY 18TH/19TH

As a bond of unity and charity with churches throughout the world, Canon Law 1271 annually requires bishops in dioceses worldwide to financially help the apostolic works of the Holy See through a special collection. In Bermuda, this collection will take place on the weekend of January 18th and 19th. Please use the special envelopes provided for your donation, or make a contribution online to (insert your church and banking info), and be sure to include "Holy See" in the memo field. Thank you for your stewardship.

2025 JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday, 8th of February, we want to create an opportunity to launch our 2025 Jubilee celebrations starting with those who are sick. There will be a special Mass for their intentions at St. Patrick's church with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00am, followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and individual benediction, and a social following downstairs in the parish hall. If you need transportation to get to church for this event, please call your respective parish office or our Chancery Office.

Please also let us know in the same way if you or your family member is sick and either home bound or bed bound, and would like to receive a visit from the priest with the Sacraments.

WORDS OF LIFE . . .

"There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt and how best to apply them. But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem. In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is always and radically incompatible with the love of God and the dignity of the human person created in His image."

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops "Living the Gospel of Life," © 1998 USCCB

The Catholic Company presents

GET FED™
Bite-Sized Faith

This saint had 3 saintly grandchildren...

St. Macrina the Elder left a saintly family legacy.

GRANDMOTHERS CAN FLY UNDER THE RADAR, but it's about time we recognized a very special grandmother...

Meet St. Macrina the Elder, a 4th-century grandmother who practically wrote the manual on shaping a faithful and loving family.

Macrina wasn't just any grandmother. She was the powerhouse behind not one, not two, but three saintly grandkids—Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, and Macrina the Younger.

She didn't come by all those grandmothing skills from an easy life. She lived through some of the toughest times of the early Church. She and her husband fled persecution during Emperor Diocletian's reign, hiding in the forests of Pontus in order to keep practicing their faith.

What really makes Macrina so relatable, though, is her role as the glue of her family. Like so many other grandmothers, she planted seeds of faith in the hearts of her grandchildren that would grow and bear fruit for generations.

In Macrina's case, this fruit was destined to benefit the entire Church. You see, in addition to her nurturing love, Macrina had an impressive understanding of theology that she worked to inspire in her family. It's said she passed on the teachings of St. Gregory Thaumaturgus to her children and grandchildren, inspiring their deep theological work. Her influence turned her family into a dynasty of holiness.

Think about it: how many grandmothers today quietly shape the future by babysitting, sharing life lessons, and teaching their grandkids prayers? Macrina was doing all of that centuries ago, showing us that grandmothers don't need to be flashy to leave a legacy—they just need to be steadfast in their faith and love.

So, if you're a grandmother—or if you love one—consider calling on St. Macrina. She's a reminder that the small, faithful things grandmothers do every day can ripple through history, just like her family's legacy has. Plus, who wouldn't want a saint in their corner who knows a thing or two about tough times and teaching the next generation to shine?

Honor the mothers and grandmothers in your life with this charming Heart of a Mother Quote Block. Featuring a lovely quote on motherhood by St. Thérèse—"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother"—it's a perfect tribute to a mother, grandmother, or godmother. Available today from The Catholic Company!



Our Sunday Readings



God is Revealed

ISAIAH 62:1-5

Reading closely

1. What motivates the speaker?
2. What are all the images the speaker uses to describe what happens to Jerusalem?
3. What might life have been like for the people of Jerusalem when this prophecy was first spoken?
4. How might the people of Jerusalem have responded to these words?

Living the word

5.
 - a. Have you ever felt ruined?
 - b. What words of consolation did you hear?
 - c. What did you want to hear?
6. When have you and God rejoiced together?

A note on the Gospel selection

The second Sunday in ordinary time always features a reading from the Gospel of John. John emphasizes the divine origin of Jesus more than the other Gospel-writers. Passages from this Gospel create a bridge from the Christmas season to ordinary time. Our attention shifts from the divine origin of Jesus to Jesus' public ministry.

THE FIRST READING

The ruined city

This passage was written at least fifty years after the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem and sacked the city and the temple. The Jews are now free to rebuild, but the work is slow, and there are many obstacles.

The prophet says he won't stop preaching (he won't shut up!) until the work is finished. He has a sort of holy impatience to see the city rebuilt because he is eager for the city to reveal God's glory once again.

Transformed

Once the city is restored, her radiance will catch people's attention (v.1b). Other nations will see that God favors Israel above all others (v.2a). The city and surrounding region will receive a new name in honor of her transformation (vv.2b,4). God will hold her aloft like a crown (v.3).

The passage closes with language about how much God loves his people. God is like a man who's excited to be getting married (v.5). The city that was once ruined and abandoned will rejoice that she is wedded to her savior.

JOHN 2:1-11

Reading closely

1. Place yourself in the story.
 - a. Who are you in the story?
 - b. Who is near you?
 - c. What do you see and hear?
 - d. What do you say and do?
 - e. How does Mary seem to you?
 - f. How do Mary and Jesus interact?
 - g. Why do you think Mary tells the servers to do whatever Jesus tells them?
 - h. What does Jesus do? How does he do it?
 - i. Who notices what Jesus does?
 - j. How do people respond?
 - k. How does Mary respond?
2. Which part of the story most captures your attention? Why do you think this is so?
3. What all could this story mean?

Living the word

4. When have you interceded for someone?
5. What signs of God have you found in your life?
6.
 - a. How has God transformed you?
 - b. How has this change affected others?
7. In what ways do you need to be transformed?

THE GOSPEL READING

The first sign

The first twelve chapters of John are sometimes called *The Book of Signs*. Here Jesus works seven signs that reveal his divine origin and compel people to accept or reject him. In some of these signs, Jesus replaces an aspect of Jewish ritual with himself. Now that God’s Son has come into the world, all worship centers around him.

Weddings & wine

In the Old Testament the relationship between God and his people is often described as a marriage. This metaphor expresses the deep love God has for his people. The setting of Jesus’ first sign – a wedding banquet – reminds us of this close and joyful bond.

The joyful banquet also alludes to the fullness of God’s reign. Many Old Testament passages speak about God’s kingdom as a great feast. In ancient

times wine was a feature of these celebratory gatherings. Descriptions about God’s heavenly banquet often include references to an abundance of wine (Isaiah 55:1f; Joel 4:18; Amos 9:13f).

The symbolism

Mary represents the church, those who believe that Jesus is God’s Son. Her comment that the wine has run out implies that Jesus can provide something even better and richer than what their own Jewish tradition provides.

Jesus responds that it isn’t time for him to provide his great gift. The word **hour** refers to his Passion, death, and resurrection. The time for these events has been set by God and can’t be changed by anyone.

Jesus does act, however. He discreetly transforms water used for religious purposes into enough wine to last for days. He gives a foretaste of what will happen because of his hour. When his hour comes, he will reveal the fullness of God’s love and offer people eternal life.

The story works beautifully at the symbolic level but raises questions at the level of history. Why does Jesus dismiss his mother’s concern but then act on it? How does she know he’ll help? These are questions we simply can’t answer with certainty.

PRAYER

from the Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
 Body of Christ, save me.
 Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
 Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
 Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
 O good Jesus, hear me.
 Within your wounds hide me.
 Separated from you let me never be.
 From the Evil One defend me.
 At the hour of my death call me.
 Into your presence lead me
 that I may praise you with all your saints
 forever and ever. Amen.