

And the  
*Word*

became flesh and  
made his dwelling  
among us, and  
we saw his

*glory.*

John 1:14

CHRISTMAS  
2022

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Natività, Maratta (1655)*



**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

The **1st Day** of the **New Year**, traditionally – in our universal **Church** – is dedicated to the **Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God**.

**Mary** is **Our Lady**, full of grace and virtue, conceived without sin, who is the **Mother of God** and our **Mother**, and who dwells both body and soul in heaven. **Sacred Scripture** refers to her as the most exalted of all creatures, the blessed one, the most praised among women, full of grace, she whom all generations shall call blessed.

**Mary's** divine motherhood was proclaimed at the **Council of Ephesus** in **431**.

**Mary** is truly the **Mother of God**, since she gave birth to the **Second Person** of the **Trinity** who became man for our sake.

In the **East**, this **Dogma** is referred to by the original **Greek** title of **Mary: Theotokos**, which means “**God-bearer**.” **Mary of Nazareth** is clearly the mother of **Jesus**. She bore **Him** in her womb, gave birth to **Him**, and raised **Him** with the help of her chaste spouse, **Joseph**.

How can we say that **Mary** is the **Mother of God Himself** then?

Because **God** is, in fact, a **Trinity: One God in Three Persons**. Is **Mary** the **Mother** of the **Trinity**? No, **Mary** is not the **Mother** of the **Trinity**, she is only the **Mother of the Second Person** of the **Trinity** because it is only the **Second Person of the Trinity** who took on flesh. What the **Church** teaches about **Mary** safeguards the more central teachings concerning **Jesus Christ**.

When **Jesus** was conceived in the womb of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, **His** eternal divine nature was united perfectly to the human flesh offered from **Mary's** own human flesh. **Jesus** has a human nature and a divine nature, but we say truly that **He is a Divine Person**. However, mothers do not give birth to natures, but to persons. And so, we can say rightly that **Mary is the Mother of God** because **Jesus is God** and **Mary is the Mother of Jesus**.

On this solemnity of **Our Lady**, we begin the **New Year**. Truly there could not be a better start to the year, and to all the days of our life, than being very close to **Mary**.

*In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, let us pray:*

“**Holy Mary, Mother of God, you have given the world its true light, Jesus, your Son – the Son of God. You abandoned yourself completely to God's call and thus became a wellspring of the goodness which flows forth from Him. Show us Jesus. Lead us to Him. Teach us to know and love Him, so that we, too, can become capable of true love and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world.**”

**Blessed New Year – my Friends.**

**Keep smiling, be positive, God loves us!**

**Fr. Andrew**

The **Mass** is available on **St. John's Facebook** page or **YouTube** channel, **Saint John the Baptist, Cbus**. Go to our **website: [www.sjbitaliana.com](http://www.sjbitaliana.com)** under **Livestream Mass**.

**A Note of Thanks!**

**My friends, I hope you had a great Christmas and New Year's! I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity. I have received so many cards and gifts from you that it has made me incredibly happy, since I am far away from my family, and now you have become my new family. May God reward you and your goodness!**

**Fr. Andrew**

**Confessions Heard before Mass**  
**Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 1, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Valerie Milano, Krissy Ciacchi
<b>Euch. Min 1 &amp; 2.:</b>	Al Iosue, Ed Pagnanelli
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 8, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Nick D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto
<b>Euch. Min 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Sharon D'Alberto, Andrea Myers

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

<b>Sunday</b> 1/1	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>James Graf</b> by Louise Masdea
<b>Monday</b> 1/2		<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 1/3	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Joann Paesano</b> by Gary & Molly Sheldon
<b>Sunday</b> 1/8	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Nestor &amp; Rose Susi</b> by Michael and Kerree Susi

**PARISH INFORMATION**

*The Italian Catholic Community at*  
**St. John the Baptist**  
*Corner of E. Lincoln and Hamlet Streets*  
**Church Mailing Address: 168 E. Lincoln Street**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43215**  
**(614) 294-5319**  
**Fax: (614) 294-4303**

**Livestream our 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on our St. John the Baptist Facebook page or YouTube channel, Saint John the Baptist, Cbus, by visiting our website [www.sjbitaliana.com](http://www.sjbitaliana.com)**

**Office Hours are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Monday through Friday**

**Closed for New Year's, Friday, December 30, 2022, and**

**Monday, January 2, 2023**

**will resume Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

**Email: [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org)**

**Father Andrew Kozminski, SAC – Administrator/Rector**  
**Father Antonio Kim – Chaplain, Korean Catholic Community**  
**Ms. Aggie Howard – Executive Assistant**  
**Ms. Victoria Scruggs – Secretary and Bulletin Editor**  
**Ms. Gina Bishop – Director of Liturgy**  
**Mr. John Huffman – Organist and Musical consultant**

**Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – 9:30 a.m. each Sunday**  
**9:00 a.m. Mondays & Tuesdays**

**Sacrament of Penance – 9:00 a.m.**  
*(before Sunday Mass or by appointment)*

**Sacrament of Baptism and Baptism preparation**  
*(by appointment)*

**Sacrament of Matrimony (you must be registered at Saint John at least 6 months prior to scheduling your wedding by Deacon or Priest)**

**Sacrament of Confirmation and Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults**

*(please make an appointment with Parish Administrator)*

**Saint John Italian Festival**

*(please visit our website for more information)*


**Sala Hall and Marrapese Hall (scheduled with approval of Parish Administrator)**

**Bulletin Deadline: Announcements must be submitted in writing by Tuesday at noon.**

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**  
**Marian Lights:** Aldo Ventresca  
*by Irene Solazzo & Family*  
**Blessed Sacrament:** Carlo & Monica Ventresca  
*by Carol Ventresca*

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS\*\***  
**\*\*If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input. For Vienna D'Alberto who is residing at the Worthington Christian Village. Also, keep in your prayers, Laura Williams, Guy Williams, John Contino and Tony Caradonna.**

**The Rosary before Mass on Sunday:** We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact Kevin Koesters at 937-902-7446 or via email k.koesters32@gmail.com. Leaders for December and January are:  
 January 1 Kevin Koesters  
 January 8 Maureen Iosue

 **CONGRATULATIONS! To Michael Dennis and Markee Osborne who entered into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on December 31, 2022.**

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

January 1 Sunday	<b>SJB Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski</b> 9:30 a.m. – SJB Church <b>KCC Mass – Fr. Kim – SJB Church</b> 12:00 Noon-2:30 p.m. Meeting in Sala Hall
January 2 Monday	<b>Office Closed</b> NO MASS
January 3 Tuesday	<b>SJB – Mass Fr. Andrew Kozminski</b> 9:00 a.m. – SJB Church <b>St. John’s Prayer Group – Marrapese Hall</b> 5:30-8:00 p.m. <b>Piave Club Meeting – Marrapese Hall</b> 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
January 5 Thursday	<b>SH Young Professionals Meeting – Fr. Kozminski – Italian Cultural Room</b> 7:00-8:30 p.m. <b>KCC – Adoration – Fr. Kim</b> 8:00-9:00 p.m.
January 6 Friday	<b>KCC Mass – Fr. Kim</b> 6:00 p.m. – SJB Church
	<b>Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.</b>

**??\$? HOW IS ST. JOHN’S DOING? ?? \$ ?**  
**Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/22-6/30/23)**

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Wk.:	\$2,885.00	\$7,189.00	\$4,304.00	149%
FYTD:	\$72,125.00	\$66,334.61	-\$5,790.39	-8%

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN’S**  
 December 25, 2022 & January 1, 2023  
 Will be posted in the Bulletin January 8, 2023

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN**

December 18, 2022

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 51

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,727.00
Loose:	\$ 112.00
Holy Day:	\$ 5,350.00
Total	\$ 7,189.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (431.34)
	\$ 6,757.66

Votives	\$ 34.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 545.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 31.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 180.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 20.00
Total	\$ 810.00

**SJB Collection Counters for Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

Marjua Paule and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, January 9, 2023**

Nick Persichetti and Aggie Howard

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild Ohio State bowl game pool sold out in just 2 days, so a big thank-you to all who signed up. Pool numbers were drawn after Mass the second Sunday in December. The annual Super Bowl pool is on sale now. Cost will be \$50.00 per square, with winning payouts of \$1,000.00 per quarter. Good luck to all who participate and a sincere thanks for supporting the Altar Guild’s ongoing efforts to fund items for our beloved church.



**PAVERS:** The front Pavilion of St. John’s Church is covered with Pavers. These Pavers are available for purchase and engraving in remembrance of family members and loved ones. For more information, please call the office of St. John’s at 614-294-5319.

**New Year’s Mass Schedule**

New Year’s Eve	Church	Mass Time
December 31	Sacred Heart	4:00 p.m.
	St. John	No Mass
New Year’s Day	Church	Mass Time
January 1	Sacred Heart	11:00 a.m.
	St. John	9:30 a.m.

**The La Befana Celebration** will be January 8, 2023, after 9:30 a.m. Mass in Marrapese Hall. Please bring children, grandchildren and enjoy this beautiful Italian tradition. Sponsored by the Le Donne.

**Where Are My Offertory Envelopes?** The company that manufactures envelopes for our parish informed us of a manufacturing issue that is forcing production to run at a significantly slower pace. This delay is affecting the delivery of envelopes across the country. If you have not received your shipment of envelopes for December, please submit your weekly offering in an envelope that has your name and address displayed on the front of the envelope. Thank you for your cooperation.

 **Smile Break**   
 “People say New York has the best New Year’s Eve celebration. But honestly, it is overrated – every year they drop the ball.”  
*Proverbs 15:15: “For the despondent, every day brings trouble; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast.”*



*Saint John the Baptist ~ Christmas Flowers ~ 2022*

*Name:*

*In Memory/In Honor of:*

Mr. Mark Agriesti	Joe and Petrina Agriesti and the Agriesti Family
Ms. Katherine Cannon	---
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cirolì	Colangelo Family, Centofanti Family, Cirolì DiNardo Family, relatives and friends
Mr. and Mrs. John Contino	Robert W. Contino Sr. and Robert W. Contino Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Derek Elbaor	---
Rose Ann Graf	James Graf
Mrs. Margaret Harn	---
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Iosue	Albert J. Iosue and Marlene S. Iosue
Pam and Don Kutsick	Tom Rego, Nancy Rego and Helen Rego
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marchio	Antoinette and Sam Marchio
Ms. Daniel LaPenna	Daniel LePenna & Donato LaPenna, Blateri Family & Galilei Family,
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Milano	Mr. & Mrs. Weldon Vernon, Mr. & Mrs. William McNerney, Mr. & Mrs. Tony Milano and Mary Lochner
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Myers	Dean Quick & Alexandra Myers
Mr. Keith Pecinovsky	W. J. & Helen Pecinovsky, Ron Rotiletter, Chris Miller, & Dennis Elliott
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Pagnanelli	Ed, Clara & Cynthia Pagnanelli, Mr. & Mrs. Rocco Pagnanelli, Robert Pagnanelli, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bonafede, and Mrs. Fred Vagt
Judy Pishitelli	The Joseph Pishitelli Family
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Rigg	Our Families
Ms. Carol Ristucci	Danny & Carmela Ristucci, and Lora Maria Ristucci
Mr. Patrick Rossetti	Mary & Harvey Rossetti & The Coccia Family
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Shook	Rina Tiberi
Ms. Irene Solazzo & Family	The Solazzo and Ventresca Families
Mrs. Amalee Soteriades	James A. Soteriades and Calvin L. Beaver Families
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Susi	Nestor and Rose Susi
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Tiberi	Rina Tiberi and Charles Block
Ms. Tania Wade	---
Mr. Brian West	Dominic Trapasso
Ms. Margaret West	Raffele & Caterina Trapasso, Angeline & David Hoke





Thank you to all **St. John** parishioners who sponsored **Christmas Flowers** this **Christmas Season!**

### AROUND US

**Liturgical Calendar:** The first nine days of **January** fall during the liturgical season of **Christmas** which is represented by the liturgical color white. The remaining days of **January** are the beginning of the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green is a symbol of hope, as it is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of January 2023:** *We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.*

**Museum of Catholic Art and History:** **Nativity Displays** are at the **Diocesan Museum**. Join us for our annual **Nativity** display at the diocesan **Museum of Catholic Art and History**. Be inspired and see our five **hundred Nativity** sets representing cultures from all over the world. The display will be open until **January 9**. The **Museum's** hours are **Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Adult admission is **\$10.00**, and students/seniors are **\$5.00**. The **Museum** is in the **Catholic Foundation** building at **257 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215**. Call **614-618-4030** for more information.

**Museum Membership Opportunities:** Consider becoming a member of the **Museum** and encouraging your parishioners to do so. Membership includes:

- Admission to the **Museum** for one year.
- **Discounts** for offsite events.
- **VIP** preference for events.
- Three special members-only evening events.

A family membership is **\$200.00** a year and includes two adults and their children who are **18** and younger. An individual membership is **\$120.00** a year and includes one other unnamed adult.



INTERESTED IN  
HELPING SUPPORT  
OUR MISSION?

PLEASE CONSIDER...

- 1) BECOMING A MEMBER
- 2) BEING A MONTHLY SUPPORTER
- 3) MAKING A ONE-TIME DONATION



### **Nominations now open for the 2023 Catholic Man of the Year:**

The **Catholic Men's Luncheon Club** is accepting nominations for the **Diocese of Columbus 2023 Catholic Man of the Year**. The annual award will be presented by **Bishop Earl Fernandes** on **Friday, February 3, 2023**, at the **Men's Luncheon** held at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown **Columbus**. The **Catholic Man of the Year** is awarded to one layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant." The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony. Nominations will be accepted through **December 31, 2022**. For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/catholic-man-of-the-year>. Submit your nomination and let us know why your parishioner, husband, father, son, uncle, brother, or friend is the **Catholic Man of the Year!**

**Christmas Catholic Charities Collection:** This annual collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations including **J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-city Needs)**, **St. Stephen's Community House**, **Catholic Social Services**, **St. Francis Center**, **St. Lawrence Haven**, **St. Vincent Family Center**, and the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the **Catholic Charities** collection this year.



**January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:** This feast is the celebration of **Mary's** motherhood of **Jesus**. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the **Blessed Virgin** played in the plan of our salvation. Calling **Mary** "**Mother of God**" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as **Christmas** honors **Jesus** as the "**Prince of Peace**," the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** honors **Mary** as the "**Queen of Peace**." **New Year's Day** is also designated as the **World Day of Peace**, further acknowledging the role of **Mary** in our hearts and in our world.

**Today's Gospel:** The **Gospel** of today's feast is from the **Gospel of Luke 2:21**. This story of the humble shepherds of **Bethlehem** coming to find **Jesus** "**in the manger wrapped in swaddling clothes**" already read at the **Dawn Mass** on **Christmas Day**, is repeated today because of the feast we are celebrating, the **Divine Motherhood of Mary**. It is the feast of **Christmas** again, the feast of the **Incarnation and birth of our Savior**, but it is **Mary's** part in this wonderful mystery of **God's** love for men that the **Church** is stressing today.

**"Life is a gift that the Lord grants us, saying to us: Discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true."**

@Pontifex



### **Prayer**

*O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son. Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.*

**Amen**

*Hail Mary,*

Full of Grace,  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now,  
and at the hour of our death.

*Amen.*

**Sunday, Jan 01, 2023****And let it begin with me**

"The world must be educated to love Peace, to build it up and defend it." With these words, Pope Paul VI in 1968 called us each to personal responsibility for keeping the peace. Since then, successive popes have related the quest for peace to fighting poverty, protecting creation, defeating racism, caring for migrants, supporting education, ensuring opportunities to work, and overcoming indifference. As the pandemic bloomed, Pope Francis described peace as cultivating a "culture of care." Building peace includes encountering people outside our typical social cocoons. It necessarily involves creating good politics and living with hope. Make peace your personal priority.

OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). *"The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!"*

**Monday, Jan 02, 2023****Spirituality is a friendly endeavor**

Is there anyone you regard as a "spiritual friend"? Someone with whom you share your Christian journey and who helps you grow in faith? Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen were two such friends who were monks together for a while and later both became bishops. They lived in a time—the fourth century—when there was great conflict and heresy, and the pair worked to keep the church united on the right path. Gregory wrote of their friendship: "We seemed to be two bodies with a single spirit ... Our single object and ambition was virtue, and a life of hope in the blessings that are to come ..." If it's true that you are the company you keep, choose wisely!

MEMORIAL OF BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28 (205). *"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us?"*

**Tuesday, Jan 03, 2023****The name above all others**

The Most Holy Name of Jesus occurs in early January to signify the eight days since Jesus' birth—when, as a Jew, he was presented in the Temple and given a name. As the Bible reminds us, an angel told Joseph: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Today is also the main feast day of the Jesuit religious order, as their name derives from Jesus' name. Celebrate as suggested by today's most famous Jesuit, Pope Francis: "It means thinking like him, loving like him, seeing like him, walking like him. It means doing what he did and with his same sentiments."

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:29—3:6; John 1:29-34 (206). *"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."*

**Wednesday, Jan 04, 2023****Stand firm for justice**

Today, the church celebrates the feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first person born in the future United States to be canonized, and the de facto founder of America's Catholic school system. Seton was also a voice of reason in a time of rampant contradiction in the realm of human rights. Though her family owned slaves, Seton apparently rejected the practice and spoke lovingly of African Americans. Though her order did not protest the

practice, and in some cases benefitted from the labor of enslaved individuals themselves, recent studies have found no evidence that Seton herself ever engaged in the practice—a rarity for her time and social class. Let's pray that a spirit of holy resistance will fill us all in the fight against injustice—in a world where up to 50 million people live in modern slavery.

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42 (207). *"The person who acts in righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous."*

**Thursday, Jan 05, 2023****Live and learn—and pass it on**

Education was of supreme importance to both Saint John Neumann (1811-60), who is memorialized today, and to scientist and devout Christian George Washington Carver, who died on Jan. 5, 1943. Both men obtained an education long before it was seen as a birthright. Both made enormous social contributions as a result: Neumann to faith development of the masses; Carver to applied agricultural science impacting the country in numerous ways. For them, cleverness was never an end in itself; they both believed their talents were given by God to serve others. How does *your* education serve others?

MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51 (208). *"Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."*

**Friday, Jan 06, 2023****The door will be opened**

Born frail and weak in 1845 near Montreal and orphaned at 12 when both parents died, André Bessette tried a number of trades as a young man, none with much success. He was initially turned away when applying to the Congregation of Holy Cross but was finally accepted and given the humble task of doorkeeper, messenger, and laundry worker at Notre Dame College in Montreal. There he faithfully served for decades. His life of devotion and healing presence eventually attracted legions of visitors and 80,000 prayer requests mailed in each year. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he quipped near the end of his long life. Make yours a life of simple service and devotion—and a sense of humor won't hurt either!

MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38 (209). *"I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals."*

**Saturday, Jan 07, 2023****Signs of life**

All that water at the wedding feast of Cana was used, the story tells us, for "Jewish ceremonial washings." Such washings were prescribed by the Jewish *Halakha*, or body of laws derived from the Torah. The fact that Jesus turned pure water for cleansing into wine for drinking would have sent a powerful message of the true nature of "living water" to the wedding guests. That same message is transmitted to us as simple table wine becomes the blood of Christ at every Eucharist. Like the wedding guests at Cana, don't hesitate to drink deeply from the cup of life Jesus offers.

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-11 (210). *"Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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