



Bulletin Insert – Bring On the Wine!

When a young couple falls in love, the fascination they have for each other seems boundless. They want to know every detail about each other’s thoughts, experiences, and dreams. As their love grows, everything they ever wanted becomes negotiable to make room for the great treasure they have found in each other. The joy they share is like the “new wine” generously poured out for the guests in the Wedding at Cana.

As time goes by, the pressures of raising children, making ends meet, and the routine of daily life sets in, sometimes leaving the couple to wonder, “what happened to our wine?” In Cana, it took the loving heart of our Mother to notice that their wine had run out. When faced with this dilemma, Jesus’ heart was also moved with compassion. He changed the water into the best wine so that the joy of this couple’s special day might be celebrated to the full.

The grace that Jesus still offers to couples in the Sacrament of Marriage is the gift of “abundant life” (Jn 10:10) through a covenant love that lasts a lifetime. It is a daily call to husbands and wives to lay down their lives for each other (Jn 15:13), discovering the divine joy that flows forth as the “best wine.” It should surprise no one that among Christians who regularly attend church, Catholics have by far the lowest divorce rate. The sacramental grace builds on the hard work of making a life together... a constant reminder to return together to the source of our joy in Christ. Who doesn’t want more of the “best wine” in their marriage? Gracious Lord, bring it on!

“The Holy Spirit is the one who continues to perform, on a spiritual level, the miracle that Jesus worked on that occasion; namely, to change the water of habit into a new joy of being together.” (Pope Francis, General Audience of October 23, 2024)

Patriarchs Tobiah and Sarah

In the Book of Tobit, Tobiah journeys to Media along with the Archangel Raphael, the patron of marriage and healing. There, Tobiah meets Sarah and falls in love with her. But Sarah is plagued by a demon named Asmodeus, who has killed seven of her previous husbands on their wedding nights. Even as she suffered each loss, she was falsely accused of killing her husbands, compounding her grief.

Her parents give Tobiah permission to marry Sarah, encourage them, and pray for them. The newlyweds kneel in prayer in their bedroom, offering a burnt sacrifice to drive away the demon. Tobiah asks for God’s blessing, that they may help each other like Adam and Eve with sincere love. “Grant that I may find mercy and may grow old together with her.” When they awake in the morning, the demon is gone, and the whole family praises God for his mercy and compassion. Tobiah and Sarah are a beautiful example of healing in marriage, and faith in God’s providence.

Reflection questions for couples:

- Where do you see God pouring out the new wine of his grace in your marriage?

Reflection questions for parents and children:

- How has He blessed your family? What good gifts has He given you?

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