

## *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

January 14, 2018

There were three mysteries mentioned at Vespers on the Feast of the Epiphany: the star leading the Wise Men to the manger, the day our Lord turned water into wine at wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, and the baptism of our Lord in the Jordan by St. John the Baptist. This second Sunday after Epiphany commemorates the second of these mysteries; namely, the first public miracle and manifestation of our Lord to the apostles.

St. Augustine points out that our Lord was invited to this wedding feast and He went there to reveal the mystery typified by it, which is the union of Christ and His Church. This is the union that St. Paul speaks of in Ephesians (5:24, 25) where he says: "Therefore as the Church is subject to Christ, so also let the wives be to their husbands in all things. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and delivered Himself up for it." Couples preparing for marriage, newlyweds and even those married for a long time must remember to invite our Lord to their wedding and their home and keep renewing that invitation everyday so that He can be present in the home, be invoked there, and bless the home as a result. Married life has always had its challenges, but, by the grace of God and faithfulness at living a true life of sacrifice, all challenges can be conquered and spouses become stronger and holier as a result.

The miracle at the wedding feast symbolizes the Holy Eucharist, where the water that was changed into wine foreshadows the wine that will be changed into Christ's Blood. This connection of the first miracle with the institution of the Sacrament of the Altar whereby we receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Savior also shows the connection between the two covenants. The married couple form a covenant with each other that is to last until death, and so likewise Christ, when He instituted the Sacrament of the Altar, established a covenant that joins us to the great nuptial banquet in heaven, where we are united to God for all eternity. We have to be transformed by Christ through our union with Him, thus becoming saints. We must do our part in this by corresponding to His grace, so that the water that we are can become the wonderful wine through God's transforming grace.

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