


**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Belchertown, Massachusetts**  
**January 20, 2019**



Scripture Readings: Isaiah 62: 1-5 ✠ 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 ✠ John 2: 1-12

 One of the characteristics of John's Gospel is that there is so much meaning to even an ordinary sounding sentence. One of those sentences is found in today's passage: "They have no wine." In other translations, the line is, "The wine has run out." That line, if we really think about it, becomes a powerful symbol.

Today, "the wine has run out" is a metaphor that perhaps the party's over; the enthusiasm, the thrill, is abruptly diminished. We have other ways of saying that — "the honeymoon is over," or perhaps "the bubble has been burst."

The metaphor plays itself out in so many ways: The college is a great college, but then a few weeks down the road come the exams and term papers. The new job is exciting, but now there are long stretches of boredom and the challenge is gone. The friendship is genuine, but little quarrels have put a strain on it and it's just not what it used to be. The marriage is good — or was good — and somewhere along the way the wine ran out. Faith was sustaining when things were going well but then illness and death and struggle entered the picture and, again, the wine ran out. Hope was easy to talk about to someone who was struggling but, when it was my turn, again, the wine ran out.

At different periods in our lives, even for the most hopeful and optimistic among us, we have to struggle to keep the wine from running out, we have to struggle to keep faith, hope, and love alive in our hearts.

Today's Gospel is a reminder that keeping these things alive is something that we cannot do on our own. We need the



help of Jesus and we need the help of one another as ambassadors of Christ in our world.

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus is given jars of plain old ordinary water and He transforms it into the finest wine. And that's what He wants to do for us as well. He wants to take our ordinary lives and make them magnificent. He wants to take our lives in times of dullness, in times of indifference, and bring vitality to them. He wants to take our lives in times of struggle and pain and doubt and bring to them the light and the life of faith, that we may be filled with the love and strength of God.

But we must do something first; we must bring our lives to God just as the servants brought the jars of water to Jesus. We must open our hearts and our souls to the love and the power of God if we are to be truly transformed.

May we find, after working hard to open our hearts and souls to God that, perhaps, the adage will be true: "the best is yet to come." ✠