



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In the Middle Ages, there was an organized group of Irish Benedictines, called the "Schottenkloster", who established monasteries in Europe, extending from Germany to Kiev in the Ukraine. Some traces of their foundation still survive, particularly in Germany. There is a memorial plaque to one of them, St. Makarius, in the Mariankirche in Wurzburg. He was the founder of the Irish monastery in that city. It is recorded that on the day that his monastery was officially dedicated, he performed a miracle. Lest his young Irish novices be overcome by the grandeur of that occasion, he turned the wine into water. A most un-Irish miracle and, arguably, an un-Christian one too. It was the reverse of the Cana miracle in more senses than one. He devalued the wine and diminished the festivities.

The miracle of Cana as recorded by St. John in this weekend's gospel, has some surprising details, worth reflecting on. Mary seemed to be the first to notice that the wine had run out. Certainly, the person in charge, the steward, was not aware of it, nor it seems was the bride and the groom. That it should happen at all indicates that the newly-weds were not very well-off. It was the sort of happening that could have caused them enormous embarrassment, and ruined what should have been the happiest day of their lives. Weddings, then as now, were events of enormous social importance. It is one of those rare occasions when families put themselves in the public arena to be judged by their peers. Even families who can ill-afford it will splash out for a daughter's wedding. Failure to measure up here might mean that they could never hold their heads high again among their neighbors. Cana was a small, close community. "Remember the day the wine ran out at so and so's wedding," would be recorded in the annals. Mary was well aware how much was at stake. She approached the only one present whom she knew could do something about it, her son. Yet, Jesus had never performed a miracle and there must have been umpteen times when that little family in Nazareth could have done with one. Whenever one was needed there, it was Mary who had performed it. "They have no wine," she said. No fuss. No histrionics. What followed largely explains why Catholics have always had this extraordinary devotion to Mary. How many husbands have said to their wives,

how many sons have said to their mothers, what Jesus said to Mary? "Why ask me? What can I do.?" Mary knew, as countless wives and mothers know, they will not be refused.

It is a marvelous model as to how we should act, when helping others. We should be sensitive enough to anticipate their needs. We should help them without their ever knowing, being scrupulously careful to avoid putting them under obligation to us. And whatever we do, we should never mention it to anyone. Most people who need help don't want other people's charity, and those who most need it are the least likely to ask for it.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time. Rows include Tues. January 21 11:00AM (Special Intentions), Wed. January 22 11:00AM (Living Memorial), Thur. January 23 11:00AM (Special Intentions), Fri. January 24 11:00AM (Special Intentions), Sat. January 25 4:30PM (Teddy & Steve Gallo †, Your family), Sun. January 26 9:00AM (Alex & Beverly Delsid †, Andrea), and Port Costa 11:00AM (People of the Parish).



In your prayers, please remember in a special way Sheila Elliott. A funeral mass will be held on Friday, January 31st at 11:30am at St. Dominics in Benicia.

Sunday Collection - January 12th

Table with 2 columns: Location, Amount. Rows: St. Rose, Crockett \$1433; Seminarian \$472; St. Patrick Mission \$155; Seminarian \$20.

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the changing times!

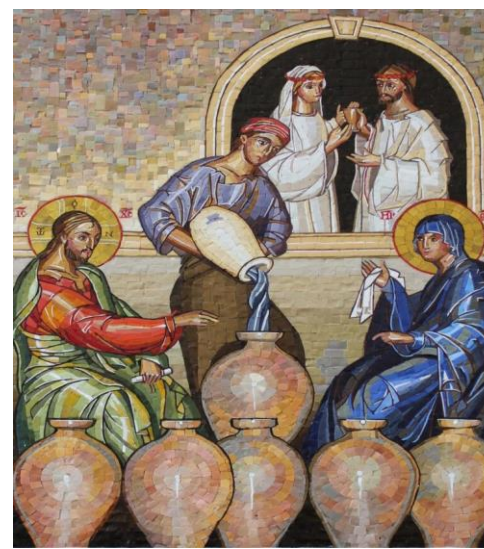
***In able to meet our 2025 budgets, we would like to remind parishioners that we will need a minimum of \$2,100 for Sunday plate collections at St. Rose every weekend, and \$250 every Sunday at St. Patrick Mission. ***

A celebration of life will be held for Fred Clerici on Sunday, January 26th at 2pm at the Crockett Community Center. Please RSVP to them if you plan on attending.



First Offering Envelopes

For those that receive their parish envelopes in the mail, the January envelopes include one labeled First Offering. The money collected in this envelope helps to offset some of the cost of the envelope service the parish uses. In preparing a budget for 2025, our Finance Council found that if all of the families in our parish donated just \$20 to this collection, it would just about pay for the envelope service for the whole year!



Winter Word Search grid with words like COLD, SNOWFLAKE, ARTIC, FROSTY, BOOTS, EARMUFFS, ICICLE, JACKET, FROZEN, CHILLY, SWEATER, SLED, FIREPLACE, BLANKET, FLANNEL, WINTER, BLIZZARD, MITTENS, SCARF.