



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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THIS IS HOW GOD ACTS

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 19, 2025

The Gospel of today's liturgy recounts the episode of the wedding at Cana, where Jesus transformed water into wine for the joy of the newlyweds. And the Gospel ends: "This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him" (Jn 2:11). We notice that the evangelist John does not speak of a miracle, that is, of a powerful and extraordinary deed that causes wonder. He writes that a sign took place at Cana, that sparked the faith of his disciples. We can, then, ask ourselves: What is a "sign" according to the Gospel?

A sign is a clue that reveals God's love, that does not call attention to the power of the action, but to the love that caused it. It teaches us something about God's love that is always near, tender and compassionate. The first sign took place when a couple faced a difficulty on the most important day of their lives. Right in the middle of the feast, an essential element was missing, the wine, and their joy ran the risk of being dampened among the criticism and dissatisfaction of the guests. Just imagine how a wedding feast could continue only with water!. It is terrible! What a bad impression the newlyweds would make.

It is Our Lady who became aware of the problem and discretely brought it to Jesus' attention. And he intervened without fanfare, almost without being noticed. Everything took place with discretion, everything took place "behind the scenes" — Jesus told the servants to fill the jars with water, which became wine. This is how God acts: with closeness and with discretion. Jesus' disciples understood this: they saw that, thanks to him, the wedding banquet became even more beautiful. And they also saw the way Jesus acted — the way he served in hiddenness. This is how Jesus is — he helps us, he serves us in hiddenness, in that moment, so much so that it was the bridegroom who was complimented for the good wine. No one noticed, only the servants. This is how the seed of faith began to develop within them — that is, they believed that God, God's love, was present in Jesus.

It is beautiful to think that the first sign Jesus accomplished was not an extraordinary healing or a miracle in the temple of Jerusalem, but a gesture that responded to a simple and concrete need of common people, a domestic gesture. Let us put it this way — a miracle done on "tip toes", discretely, silently. He is ready to help us, to lift us up again. And then, if we are attentive to these "signs", we will be conquered by his love and we will become his disciples.

But there is another distinctive characteristic about the sign at Cana. Generally, the wine provided at the end of the feast was the one that was less good — this is still done today. At that point, people do not distinguish as well whether it is good wine or wine that has been watered down a little. Jesus, instead, makes sure that the feast ends with the best wine. Symbolically, this tells us that God wants what is better for us, he wants us to be happy. He does not set limits and he does not ask us for interest. There is no place for ulterior motives or demands placed on the newlyweds, in Jesus' sign. No, the joy Jesus brought to their hearts was complete and disinterested joy. It was not "watered down joy"!

I suggest an exercise that can be very good for us. Today, let us try to rummage through our memories, looking for signs that the Lord accomplished in my life. Let each of us say: what are the signs the Lord accomplished in my life? What are the hints of his presence, the signs that he did to show us that he loves us? Let us think about that difficult moment in which God let me experience his love... And let us ask ourselves: with which discrete and loving signs did he let me feel his tenderness? When did I feel the Lord nearer? When did I feel his tenderness and his compassion? Every one of us has these moments in our personal history. Let us go in search of these signs, let us remember them. How did I discover his closeness? How did great joy remain in my heart? Let us relive the moments in which we experienced his presence and Mary's intercession. May she, the Mother who is always attentive as at Cana, help us treasure the signs of God's presence in our lives.

Sunday of the Word of God: "I hope in your Word" (Psalm 119:74)

The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time marks the celebration of Bible Sunday in the Diocese of Hamilton. At the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis encouraged every Christian community to choose one Sunday a year to renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and widely diffused. Our celebration of Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how **#TheBibleSpeaks** in our hearts and within our communities of faith. This year, within the context of the Jubilee, we celebrate the Sacred Scriptures as a great source of hope for all the faithful.

The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults in celebration of Bible Sunday 2025. Visit our website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks/> for more information.

Domingo de la Palabra de Dios: "Espero en tu Palabra" (Salmo 119:74)

El Tercer Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario se celebra el Domingo de la Biblia en la Diócesis de Hamilton. Al concluir el Año de la Misericordia, el Papa Francisco animó a cada comunidad cristiana a elegir un domingo al año para renovar sus esfuerzos por hacer que las Sagradas Escrituras sean más conocidas y difundidas. Nuestra celebración del Domingo de la Biblia es un llamado a escuchar cómo **#LaBibliaHabla** en nuestros corazones y dentro de nuestras comunidades de fe. Este año, en el contexto del Jubileo, celebramos las Sagradas Escrituras como gran fuente de esperanza para todos los fieles. Las Oficinas Pastorales de la Diócesis de Hamilton han preparado una amplia variedad de recursos para jóvenes y adultos en la celebración del Domingo de la Biblia, 2025.

Visite nuestro sitio web: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks/> para obtener más información.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 18, 2025 **5:00 PM**
Nicole Scarfone & Family Deceased members

Sunday, January 19, 2025 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 **11:00 AM**
St. Agnes

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 **11:00 AM**
+Janet Palmer

Thursday, January 23, 2025 **11:00 AM**

Friday, January 24, 2025 **11:00 AM**
St. Francis de Sales

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 25, 2025 **5:00 PM**
+Rose & Joe Jr. Wytstal

Sunday, January 26, 2025 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

II Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Sabado 18 de enero, 2025 **7:00 PM**
+Consuelo Paez

Domingo 19 de enero, 2025 **11:00 AM & 1:00PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 21 de enero, 2025 **12:00 PM**
St. Inés

Miércoles 22 de Enero, 2025 **12:00 PM**

Jueves 23 de enero, 2025 **12:00 PM**

Viernes 24 de enero, 2025 **12:00 PM**
San Francisco de Sales

III Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Sabado 25 de enero, 2025 **7:00 PM**

Domingo 26 de enero, 2025 **11:00 AM & 1:00PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

ALPHA 2025: Alpha is an 11-week program that brings adults together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus. It's an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting. We start each session with a delicious home-made meal. After dinner, we watch a video and then break into small groups to ask questions, share thoughts and explore answers. All are welcome! For more information or to sign up, please contact Ron Denomme at stmarkalpha@gmail.com or 226-748-3210.

St. Mark's Parish, 55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener—Thursday evenings, Feb. 20 to May 1, 6:30 to 9:15pm

Couples for Christ, Christian Life program: You are invited to a nine week Christian Life program here in St. John's Church hall sponsored by Couples for Christ and it's Family ministries. Program runs from Thursday, February 6th to April 3rd inclusive. It is opened to Christian married couples, single women and men, widows, widowers and those separated or divorced.

At the same time we offer a program for children ages 12 and under. There is no fee.

Dinner is provided at 6pm and program starts at 7pm.

Be enriched by such talks as, God's Love, Who is Jesus Christ? Growing in the Spirit, Transformation in Christ. For more information or to register please contact Len/Marie Solomon at 519 744 5198.