

## **Homily – Mass for Life**

**January 14, 2019**

**The Prologue to John’s Gospel highlights three themes about the messianic era: light, life, and love. Jesus is the Light of the World, dispelling the darkness. He is the way, the truth, and the life - - new life in the kingdom of God. Jesus has revealed the of God’s love for us in his life, death, and resurrection. So, let us celebrate light, life, and love today!**

**The Old Testament often portrays God as the bridegroom of his chosen people. God loves them fully, eternally, unconditionally. When we wander from our relationship with God, God gently leads us back to be reconciled, to enjoy again a loving relationship with him. So, too, the New Testament often describes the Church as the bride of the Risen Lord Jesus.**

**At the marriage feast at Cana, Jesus ushers in the messianic age with his first sign. Things have changed. The Word of God has become flesh. Jesus changes water into, not only wonderful wine, but also lots of it! His disciples begin to believe in him. They have much to learn about living in accord with his teaching. They need to accompany him to Calvary and beyond!**

There are indications in the story that much is happening at an even deeper level. The only other time that Jesus calls his mother “Woman” is at the foot of the cross. In Cana he also refers to his “hour”: his passion, death, resurrection, ascension, and sending of the Holy Spirit. The marriage at Cana points ahead to the Last Supper and the Cross. The Eucharist is a foretaste of the messianic banquet in heaven. We are celebrating light, life, and love right now!

As missionary disciples, we acknowledge that our lives are in God’s good hands. This implies that there must be newness of life within ourselves -- new attitudes, new ways of thinking about our lives in the world, new ways of relating in truly loving ways with one another, including the most vulnerable people in our society, especially including the unborn, but others as well.

We need to bring our gifts to the wedding banquet – the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation. The Spirit helps us to use our diverse gifts to build up the one Body of Christ. The Spirit leads us into unity, not divisions, as we defend every human life. Our Lady is always with us, just as she was at the marriage feast of Cana and at the foot of the Cross. Let us welcome her and let her show us how to live as authentic disciples of her Son!