

Prayer of Blessing:

Celebrant: *Let us pray.*

Blessed are you, Lord God, Who fill the hungry and satisfy the thirsty, and give us wine to gladden our hearts. Grant that all who drink this wine as we celebrate the wedding of Monica and Perry may rejoice in You and be invited to sit at Your heavenly banquet for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

The wine is now sprinkled with holy water.

Concluding Rite:

Celebrant: *(with hands outstretched over the couple)*

May God look with favor on your devotion to each other and in His goodness give you His unfailing help. As Mary came to the aid of the wedding couple at Cana, may you have confidence in her intercession with her Son for your needs.

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: *May you learn from her example of fidelity to the Word of God and always "do whatever He tells you." May you keep His commandments, trusting in His wisdom to enlighten you on your way to happiness on earth in this life, and eternal life in the next.*

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: *As you travel together in mutual fidelity, the path of life marked out for you by God, with all its joys and sorrows, coming finally to the fulfillment of love and the reward of old age, may you be able to exclaim like the waiter in charge, in praise of God: "Truly you have kept the best wine till now!"*

All: *Amen.*

Then he blesses all present:

Celebrant: *And may Almighty God bless you all, the Father, + and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. +*

All: *Amen.*

A toast to the married couple may follow.

**"I am the vine and you are the branches;
he who lives in Me and I in him
will bear much fruit, for without Me
you can do nothing." Jn 15:5**

"You Have Kept The Best Wine Till Now"

John 2:10

A Blessing for Wine At The Wedding Reception



"...there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the Mother of Jesus was there." John 2:1

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Order of Blessing

Celebrant is to be a priest or deacon

It was at a wedding that Christ performed His first public miracle: that of transforming ordinary water into a rare choice wine. The Gospel story of the wedding feast at Cana throws light on the sacred institution of Christian marriage, which in the Catholic Church is also transformed beyond the ordinary realm of a legal contract into a holy and sacramental union. This covenant relationship – the total and mutual self-giving of husband and wife to each other – images the total gift of Christ the divine Bridegroom to His Bride, the Church, for whom He gave His very life.

The day-to-day living out of this total self-giving, considering our fallen human nature, is not without serious challenges. But Christ offers the married couple special sacramental graces to help them do so.

At Cana, Mary's plea to her Son, "They have no more wine," on a deeper level expresses her benevolent solicitude for the married couple and their entire welfare, both material and spiritual. She knows they have need of His presence and His power in their lives.

Similarly, married couples need the "wine" of Christ's presence and power in the Holy Eucharist and the Holy Spirit, as they live out their covenant union in loving service to each other, their family, and society. This grace obtained in the Sacraments and prayer will enable them to daily fulfill the final words of Mary to the servants: "Do whatever He tells you."

The miracle of the wedding feast at Cana directs married couples towards the heavenly Wedding Feast of eternal and indescribable joy with Christ, their beloved Savior and all their dear ones. This vision sustains them as they labor in the vineyard in the heat of the day or stand in the shadow of the Cross and feel the sword of sorrow pierce their hearts. It is a promise of glory to come and joy restored, when every tear will be wiped away, and sacrifice will be recompensed a hundredfold.

Today, in this ritual Blessing of Wine, we express these sacred truths, as well as offer our prayers that the "wine" of Christ's presence and power may flow, rich and full-bodied throughout the lifetime marriage of this couple, renewing, transforming, and purifying them on their way to true happiness on earth, and in preparation for the heavenly Wedding Feast they will celebrate with Him for all eternity.

Introduction:

Celebrant: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: *The Lord be with you.*

All: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: *God makes known His mighty power and His abounding goodness to all the ends of the earth; but He also directs His Church to bless the simplest and most commonplace things. He does so in order that all who devoutly make use of these material things that are seen, while invoking His name and blessing upon them, may be drawn to the world that is unseen, and the deeper realities signified by these things. Thus may they give glory to God, Who alone performs the wonders we call miracles, but Who is wonderful also in His creation.*

Reading of the Word of God: John 2:1-11

Celebrant: *On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had likewise been invited to the celebration. At a certain point the wine ran out, and Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine." Jesus replied, "Woman, how does this concern of yours involve me? My hour has not yet come." His mother instructed those waiting on table, "Do whatever he tells you." As prescribed for Jewish ceremonial washings, there were at hand six stone water jars, each one holding fifteen to twenty-five gallons. "Fill those jars with water," Jesus ordered, at which they filled them to the brim. "Now," he said, "draw some out and take it to the waiter in charge." They did as he instructed them. The waiter in charge tasted the water made wine, without knowing where it had come from; only the waiters knew, since they had drawn the water. Then the waiter in charge called the groom over and remarked to him: "People usually serve the choice wine first; then when the guests have been drinking awhile, a lesser vintage. What you have done is keep the choice wine until now." Jesus performed this first of his signs at Cana in Galilee. Thus did he reveal his glory, and his disciples believed in him.*

Celebrant: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*