





## JESUS PERFORMS A MIRACLE IN CANA

**T**hroughout His public ministry, Jesus Christ performed many dramatic miracles, all of which defied logical explanation. He gave sight to the blind. He enabled the crippled to walk. He cast out demons. He even raised the dead! But what was the FIRST miracle performed by our Lord? Ironically, the initial manifestation of His Divine powers occurred in a very human setting: A MARRIAGE FEAST.

St. John's Gospel describes this event for us. Jesus and His Apostles are guests at a marriage feast. A "crisis" of monumental proportions has arisen: the wedding host has run out of wine! Christ, at the urging of His Mother, intervenes, changing common water into wine. Not only did this miracle enable the celebration to continue along in a smooth fashion, but it also

caused the Apostles to believe in Jesus, realizing that no ordinary man was capable of doing such works.

If Christ chose to reveal Himself in such a glorious manner at a wedding, what does this say about the state of marriage itself? The Church places great meaning and significance upon this, pointing out that this shows us the union between husband and wife is a sacred and spiritual one.



The marriage feast in Cana of Galilee was blessed by Christ's presence there. Every time the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is administered in our Church, our Saviour is asked to bless those united by the bonds of marriage through HIS providence. He is called upon to BLESS THEIR COMING AND GOINGS, FILLING THEIR LIVES WITH GOOD THINGS.



## ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South*

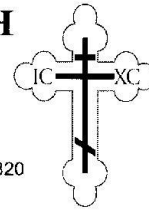
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Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

Warden Barbara Aldunate, Co-Warden Joel Miller, Treasurer Linda Labosky

Please Visit: **[www: straphaelchurch.org](http://www.straphaelchurch.org)** Church: 352-201-1320

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**SUNDAY, SEPT. 5, 2021 - 11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 2.**  
**Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of St. John the Baptist.**

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK	<i>Please join us after Divine Liturgy for a Coffee Fellowship in Myrrhbearers Hall Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious for a time</i>	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM		Mon: 2 Corinthians 5:10-15, Mark 1:9-15
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM		Tue: 2 Corinthians 5:15-21, Mark 1:16-22
Wed: Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM Nativity of the Theotokos		Wed: Genesis 28:10-17, Ezekiel 43:27-44:4, Proverbs 9:1-11, Luke 1:39-49; 56; 10:38-42; 11:27-28, 2 Corinthians 6:11- 16, Mark 1:23-28, Philippians 2:5-11
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Thu: 2 Corinthians 7:1-10, Mark 1:29-35
		Fri: 2 Corinthians 7:10-16, Mark 2:18-22
		Sat: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; 2:6-9, Matthew 10:37-11:1; 20:29-34

**+EPISTLE+ (1 Corinthians 9:2-12) Brethren: If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas & I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.**

**+GOSPEL+ (Matthew -18:23-35)** “Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him in prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

***Today is Charity Sunday – Citrus County Family Resource Center***

<p><b>THE GIFTS - AUG. 29</b></p> <p>Attendance 28  Regular Offerings 1392  Candles 120  Myrrhbearer Hall  Renovations 100</p> <p><i>Choir Practice  Sunday at 9 AM – No Choir  Practice on Labor Day</i></p> <p><i>We sincerely thank and bless  Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for  their ongoing generous donations.</i></p>		<p><b>VIGIL CANDLES - AUGUST 29</b></p> <p><u>Dolores Lichatz</u> - Health of Mark, Xanthy.</p> <p><u>Nick Borick</u> - Health of Eva, Paul, Mary Ann H., Olga, Ryan, Pat &amp; Nick.</p> <p><u>Ellie Ashley</u> - Health of Sandra &amp; Kevin.</p>
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