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While the Christmas season is over, today's Gospel presents us with one of the traditional images of the feast of the Epiphany. This first sign of Jesus, the wedding at Cana is seen as another moment when Christ reveals the arrival of the messiah to the world, in this case to the people of Cana. It is no wonder then, that the psalm is the same as what we sang at Christmas, or that the first reading is like Epiphany, with God coming to save the people and to enter into a covenant like that of marriage. In fact the first reading uses the word 'espoused' to describe the people. As Roman Catholics we understand our relationship with God in this way, so much so that marriage is considered a sacrament, blessed by God, and by Christ since that wedding at Cana.

Even the second reading comes from the chapter of First Corinthians just before the famous reading on love that we so often hear at readings. In this passage, however, Paul is focusing on another aspect of life in the faith community, the simple fact that God gives gifts in the spirit so that everything can get done if everyone does what they have been gifted to do. This is as true of marriage as it is of the life of the parish, and it challenges us all to offer the gifts we have been given to the service of God and neighbor, to parish and family.

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