



St. Anne  
CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY

**January 17, 2010**  
**Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*“And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you” Isaiah 62:5*

Dear Friends;

What does God look like to you? What image comes to your mind?

Divine clock maker (got the universe going and left it to itself). Is your God a Police officer or Big Brother, divine accountant or record keeper, fearsome ruler, invisible friend (who happens to always agree with me); maybe a manager sending out his sales representatives to sell the goods of religion? Is your God the coach who spurs the team on or the referee who makes sure the rules are played fairly?

Maybe your God is a teacher who seeks to enlighten his pupils so they can be prepared to face life. Maybe your God is the divine symphony conductor coordinating the efforts of the musicians to play the notes given to them? Is your God the chess master who moves humans as rooks and pawns in accord with a divine strategy?

We all have our images of God, but it is interesting to see how they compare with the image by which God desires to be viewed. Both the reading from Isaiah and the Gospel of John present to us the image of lover and bridegroom.

Isaiah tells us that this lover calls us “my delight.” And the first sign (miracle) that Jesus works in the Gospel of John is at a wedding. And thus Jesus is revealed as the bridegroom who is madly in love.

The readings for these weeks following Christmas time continue the theme of Christmas and Epiphany—God has appeared among us as vulnerable child, light and now lover. This God that is revealed to us in Jesus loves us so much that he has become one with us. And what’s more he desires that we fall in love with him.

The stone water jars represents the obligations of the law—water for purification rites. It is this that is transformed into the new wine of the Kingdom of God. Jesus ministry is an invitation not to rules, regulations and penalties. The Kingdom is not about duty or obligation—it is about falling in love. Jesus will reveal the vulnerability and the depth of that love on the cross. And he invites us to become vulnerable to this kind of radical love.

The Kingdom of God that Jesus reveals comes about when we are broken open to love. He reveals that love is our constant calling and in the end will be our fulfillment. A light has appeared in our midst—the one that is our hearts deepest desire—Jesus our beloved.

Peace,

*Fr Ron*