

According to “Bride Magazine,” the average American wedding costs about \$26,000 (twenty-six thousand dollars.) Some weddings cost more, some weddings cost less. The British royal wedding a couple of years ago is said to have cost close to \$60,000,000 (sixty-million dollars.) And I just saw online that Prince William and Kate are looking for a royal housekeeper, because they’re expecting a baby in July. I don’t even want to imagine how much money a royal baby shower might cost.

Weddings are big business these days. There’s even a wedding planning industry. And if you look hard enough, you’ll even find that there are several wedding-themed reality shows on TV.

In today’s First Reading, we hear the prophet Isaiah speak about a Divine marriage:

*For as a young man marries a virgin,
your [Creator] shall marry you;
And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride
so shall your God rejoice in you.*

The prophecy that God Himself ... will wed ... His chosen people.

And we see in today’s Gospel, the first of Jesus’ signs ... the beginning of His public ministry with the miracle at the Wedding Feast at Cana.

This “sign” which Jesus performs at the wedding - which John refers to as the “*beginning of his signs.*” And this first sign points, as well, to Jesus’ last sign - His death on the Cross at Calvary.

Like bookends - the Wedding at Cana and Calvary - stand as first and last signs of Jesus' public ministry (within the Gospel of St. John.) And far from being disconnected, we see in Calvary the cost of the Divine wedding - the price that God pays to fulfill His promise that we heard in the First Reading.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ - let us reflect on two things: (1) first - God's desire for each and every one of us ... God's love for us - not just as a community, but as individuals ... we can each say it to ourselves: "God loves me;" and (2) also let us reflect on the price that God was willing to pay to save each one of us ... to buy us back from our debt ... to redeem us and make us His own.

And in today's Eucharist, let us be open to receive the transforming graces that pour from this altar - so that we may deepen our own relationship with God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - that we may manifest in our own lives the many gifts of grace ... poured out upon us ... for the benefit of our community ... and for each other.