

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 20, 2023

*“Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.”*

— *Isaiah 56:1*

### WHY PRAY?

The “foreigners” as Isaiah calls them, the “Gentiles” as Paul calls them, or the “Canaanites” as Matthew calls them are called to worship the one true God in prayer. As we listen to today’s readings, perhaps we are tempted to ask: Why pray? The question is rhetorical; it is tantamount to asking why should friends talk to one another or people in love kiss one another. Prayer is a way of relating to God, a way of talking to God. The apostles had the opportunity to talk to Jesus in the flesh. We have the opportunity to talk to Jesus Christ in prayer. Our relationship with him must be enthusiastic; it cannot be faint-hearted. John Donne, a fifteenth-century poet, knew what the qualities of good prayer were. Donne asks God to treat him differently from most Christians. The poet does not want God to merely “knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend,” but also to “break, blow, burn, and make me new” (*Holy Sonnets*, XIV). It takes a dynamic faith on our part to come to God in prayer. As Jesus once said, “Knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). It may take pounding the door down, but if we are as persistent as the woman in today’s Gospel, the results will follow.

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### TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — Thus says the LORD: “Stand firm in justice; do what is right” (Isaiah 56:1, 6-7).

**Psalm** — O God, let all the nations praise you! (Psalm 67).

**Second Reading** — The gifts and the calling of God are unable to be revoked (Romans 11:13-15, 29-32).

**Gospel** — Recognizing the Canaanite woman’s great faith, Jesus told her, “It shall be done as you wish” (Matthew 15:21-28).

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Monday:** St. Pius X  
**Tuesday:** Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Wednesday:** St. Rose of Lima  
**Thursday:** St. Bartholomew  
**Friday:** St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz

### ~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

#### PRAYERFULNESS

**Dear Jesus, at times I feel empty within. Slowing down and remembering all the things for which I am thankful provides opening to real prayer and not just mumbled phrases. Then feeling Your presence and friendship, I can bring to You my cares and also be open to Your invitation to love and give of myself for others. Show me the way. Amen.**

### REFLECTION

Once during a particularly severe winter in the Arctic, all but two people in a certain camp died of starvation. The two survivors were an Eskimo woman and her baby. The woman began a desperate search for some means of obtaining food. Eventually she found a small fishhook. It was a simple matter to rig a line, but she had no bait, and no hope of getting bait. Without a moment’s hesitation she took a and cut a piece of flesh from her thigh. Using this as bait she caught a fish. She fed her child and herself, saving the fish gut for bait. She lived on fish until spring when she walked out of the camp and found some other people.

It was no coincidence that the only adult to survive in that camp was a mother. What kept that mother alive was her concern for her child. There seems to be no limit to what a mother will go through for the sake of her child. A mother does not give up easily (Flor McCarthy).

Today’s gospel presents a Canaanite woman who persisted in her prayer on obtained from the Lord what she prayed for. Very often we set up walls which separate us from God and from one another. Today’s Gospel reminds us that God’s love and mercy are extended to all who call on Him in faith and trust, no matter who they are. In other words, God’s care extends beyond the boundaries of race and nation to the hearts of all who live, and God’s House is intended to become a House of Prayer for all peoples. It is therefore fitting that we should pray that the walls which our pride, intolerance, fear, and prejudice have raised, may crumble. Next, we must be grateful to God for all the blessings we enjoy.

As baptized members of the Christian community, we have been given special privileges and easy access to God’s love. But we also have serious responsibilities arising from these gifts. One of the responsibilities is to make clear to others, with true humility and compassion, that God’s love, mercy, and healing are for them also because they are too the children of God.

### CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Catholic Appeal of South Carolina (CASC) is the primary source of funding for many critical ministries. We are impacting the lives of our brothers and sisters both spiritually and physically – but there is still much to do. We must continue to fund programs focused on charitable works, outreach, education, and evangelization. Every gift to the CASC allows us to continue to fulfill the mission that has been entrusted to us. Your participation is highly appreciated and let us reach our goal (\$19,882.00) by fulfilling the pledge and generous contribution. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

### OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,697.00	\$2,022.00
Number of Families contributing	77	54
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (30 Weeks)	\$101,848.00	\$103,302.00
Received to Date	\$83,558.00	\$67,429.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$18,290.00	\$35,873.00

### LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$239.00	\$5,937.00

Twenty-one ladies contributed last week.

### PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$50.00	\$49,495.00

One person made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

### BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

### CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA (BAA)

Amount given to date	2023 GOAL
\$5,212.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$50.00.

12 CHILDREN contributed \$49.00.

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. The Family of Tommy Jude O'Hara in loving memory of him on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of his death with blue rose for Deputy's Mary Ann;
2. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE The Banns of Marriage are announced for the first time for Pete William Sherlock and Lacoste Carroll.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION will be held this Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. in the New Hall. The cost of registration is \$40 for one child and \$60 for two or more children.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES will begin Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held from 4:00 P.M.— 5:00 P.M in the New Hall on Mondays and Tuesdays only. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure their child/children attend Religious Education classes. Teachers and Teacher Aides are obligated to be at Religious Education for the day you volunteered for.

*Religious Education Classes are as follows:*

*Monday — 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> Grades*

*Tuesday — 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> Grades*

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite; and to a member for a donation in honor of St. Christopher for a special intention.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection this weekend will be for *Disaster Assistance*. Please be generous.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday:** For the repose of the soul of Tommy Jude O'Hara on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of his death.

**Tuesday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory; in thanks for Villa on her Birthday; for Jimmy Gorman; and in honor of the Queenship of the Blessed Mother.

**Wednesday:** For the repose of the soul of Kaiser on the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death and for the repose of the soul of Kaiser's Nanny.

**Thursday:** For Birdie's Patricia on her Birthday.

**Friday:** For the repose of the soul of Blonde Mary on the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death; and for the repose of the soul of O'Malley on the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death.

### READERS

**Sat. Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.**

Julie Ann & Christina

**Sun. Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.**

Lauren Ashley & Macy

**Sat. Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.**

Leah & Dayna

**Sun. Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.**

Lauren Ashley & Macy

### READERS – WEEKDAYS

**Monday** - Monroe  
**Tuesday** - Paris  
**Wednesday** - Dayna  
**Thursday** - Natalie  
**Friday** - Macy

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

**Monday** - Theresa Hun  
**Tuesday** - Jack's Mary Rita  
**Wednesday** - Julie Ann  
**Thursday** - Cathy Carroll  
**Friday** - Rosie Cat

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

**Saturday 4:00 P.M.**

**Right**

**Left**

**August 19<sup>th</sup>**

Jack's Mary Rita

Cathy Carroll

**Sunday 10:00 A.M**

**August 20<sup>th</sup>**

Ned's Rose Marie

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**

Ned's Rose Marie