

TWENTIETH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 16, 2020

From the priests' desks:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Sacred Heart:

The first thing that jumps out at me in today's Gospel is that a woman was calling out to Jesus with these words: Lord, have pity on me and Jesus did not say a word in answer to her! Then the disciples also chimed in with: Send her away! Why did they want her sent away? Because she was 'not one of them'. She was from the land of Canaan. She was of no importance to the disciples' "circle". Jesus himself finally spoke to her and said: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel". She persisted. Jesus remarkably scolds her with: It is not right to take the food of the (Israeli) children and throw it to the dogs! TO THE DOGS!! Our Lord referring to her and her people as dogs!! But soon Our Lord's message was apparent for he was teaching the disciples a lesson that now is the time to be loving and accepting of EVERYONE! Look at today's current events! News is filled with messages of tolerance and peace and the recognition that all people are to be loved and respected for each and every one of us is indeed the image and likeness of Almighty God!

Fr. J. Michael Rafferty, OAR, Pastor

Loyola Press

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about [Jesus walking on the water](#) and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles,

"dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

August 2020

Dearest Parishioners,

I pray this note reaches you in good health and spirits. I know we are all in agreement that 2020 has been a year of trial and turmoil thus far. Although things are slowly returning to normal, nothing seems quite the same. As you are probably aware our beloved Catholic School has closed its doors, after 110 years. Heartbreaking news for sure. As Christians and Catholics, we know that trials and tribulations are a part of life and that no matter what, our Lord is with us. That being said, He also wants us to move forward.

At Sacred Heart we typically post our weekly donations in our parish bulletin, doing so in the worst of the pandemic proved difficult. Two weeks ago, we posted a monthly comparison for the months that donations were not posted weekly against last year's figures; this was done on a monthly basis to show the total of the losses. Understandably, the parish revenue is down. Adding, to the loss is our Easter Collection which was less than half of our normal donation amounts. In addition to that and due to the pandemic, we felt it prudent to cancel our yearly \$10,000 Raffle, which is currently our largest fundraising event of the year.

After considerable thought we are reinstating the \$10,000 Raffle beginning this September. The drawing will be held on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29th at 3:00pm in

our gymnasium. With your help and support which we greatly need, we pray, this will be a financial boon to the potential winners and to the parish.

I hope we can count on your support! The tickets will be on sale beginning September 1! Please drop by the rectory to purchase one (or more!) and we will also be sure to have them available after Masses on a few weekends.

Please know that the parish priests and staff have you all in our prayers daily and are here for you if you are in need. God Bless us all!

Yours in Christ,



Fr. J. Michael Rafferty, OAR

**BOOSTER CLUB WINNERS
SPECIAL DRAWING FOR**

**AUGUST 16, 2020
CONGRATULATIONS!**

First Prize: \$1,000.00 - Mario & Rose Scaglione

Second Prize: \$500.00 - Shannon Keane

Third Prize: \$250.00 - Susan Conklin

Fourth Prize: \$100.00 - Tom & Connie Duffy

Many thanks to all who participated!

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, August 17

Mass at 9am

Tuesday, August 18

Mass at 9am

Wednesday, August 19

Mass at 9:00am

Thursday, August 20

Mass at 9:00am

Friday, August 21

Mass at 9:00am

Saturday, August 22 - Holy Rosary-12pm

Sunday, August 23

2021 MASS BOOK

The 2021 Mass is now open. To begin, no more than 5 Masses per person will be taken at a time. Please send your requests via email to shsuff@gmail.com. Masses will be given out on a first received first given basis. If you wish to come in person, please use the social distancing and mask wearing protocols as directed by the CDC.

CARDINAL'S APPEAL 2020

Parishes are only as strong as its parishioners.

As you are aware a church's resources come only through the generosity of its parish family. Please

consider donating today. Bless you all and pray for an end to this virus. To date we have raised \$88,737.00 towards our goal of \$122,500.

**RENEW AND REBUILD
UPDATE**

As you may remember just a few short years ago in less stressful times the parish embarked on a campaign **Renew and Rebuild** to help our Church properties. At the time it was decided that all the pledges received would go to the preservation and repair of our beautiful Church building. We were, at the time very successful and pledges totaling, \$1,807,887 were received. As you may recall 26% percent plus the Cardinal's Appeal for that year were included in what was raised and would go directly to Archdiocese. They also received their portion first. Presently we are working with the Archdiocese to install bathrooms in the church (with an addition in the library area). As you may recall last summer the new roof promised was completed. In reviewing the status of monies needed for the installation, it became very clear that a number of donors have lapsed over the last two years in payment of their pledges. To date we have a balance owed of \$905,444.21 thru total pledge amounts and in lapsed donations of \$237,447. The impact of the loss of received payments will of course mean that we will be unable to complete all the projects we were in hopes of accomplishing with the monies. We do realize these are tough times for us all and if possible, we ask that you honor your pledge if at all possible. We also want to keep all informed of where we are in the process of honoring our commitments and accomplish all we are able. Thank you very much.

**SACRED HEART RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION PROGRAM
REGISTRATION**

2020-2021

Registration

Tuesday, August 18th – 5 to 7pm

Wednesday, August 19th – 10am-12pm

*****All In Person Registrations Are By
APPOINTMENT ONLY*****

Please call **357-6044**

If you are uncomfortable about registering under the current pandemic, we do understand and want to make you aware that we will be providing an online course that will mimic in-class work until the current health issue is resolved. A program for children with Special Needs is also available. Please supply us with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate for registration. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome into the Roman Catholic Church and our Parish Community the following child who was recently baptized at Sacred Heart:

ELLA JAMES CLIFFORD
Daughter of Christopher and Emily



Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Keith Alanis, Jenna

Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Michael Brady, Angie Clifford, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Mirella Cosentino, The Cosentino Family, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, David Eckert, Sr., Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene Gentile, Joseph Gilson, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Senan Halpin, Clement Hayes, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Anna Kasperska, Eileen Kennedy, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Matthew Luludis, Rosemarie Manthey, Kathy Masserano, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Rosemary McCormick, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Jacob Mendelsohn, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Mary Lou Oldfield Napolitano, Barbara Neilson, Robert Nunes, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Overend, Daryl Pack, Shace Paljusevic, Noreen Pidgeon, Peter Princi, Etta Rooney, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, (Baby Ty) Reilly, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Shaun Stein, Patricia Steiper, Janet Tamburro, Richard Vanadio, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, Robert Vogt, Fr. Wing, and Vladimir Zaslavsky.

FOR OUR ARMED FORCES & FIRST RESPONDERS

OF ALL KINDS, AND OUR DOCTORS & NURSES

We pray for all the men and women serving our country AND especially the sons and daughters, grandchildren and loved ones of our parishioners.

ALTAR MEMORIALS

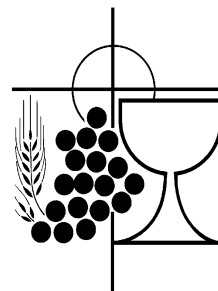
AUGUST 16, 2020

**Altar Candles In Memory of
BARBARA KOWALSKI**

**Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of
MARY SPIEGELMAN-LEWIS**



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones, Especially: **Mary Ann Intonic and Victor Ballestereos, Sr.**



**9:00AM DAILY – (MONDAY – FRIDAY)
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SUNDAYS**

**8:30AM, 11:30AM AND 5:30PM
10:00AM – (SPANISH)**

**LIVE STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.SACREDHEARTPARISH.ORG**

SATURDAY, THE ASSUMPTION (Not a Holy Day)

9:00am – Palma & Henry Heck
12:00pm – Holy Rosary
12:30pm - Robert J. Neilson
5:30pm – **Vigil Mass** -Mary & Luciano Antonucci

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

8:30am – Dianne Messina / Brian Foster
10:00am – Spanish
11:30am –Intentions Marion & Michael Seman /
John McGrath
5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

9:00am – Bernard & Bonnie Wysocki
7:15pm – **NO Novena**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

9:00am- Lester Bernstein

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

9:00am – Gino Pellegrino

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00am – Alan Lesser
/ Salvator Cambria

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

9:00am – Mary P. Sheehan

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

12:00pm – Holy Rosary

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 VIGIL MASS

5:30pm – Barbara Sandberg / Annemarie Nappo

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

8:30am – Frances Finnegan /
Andrew & Steve Statham
10:00am – Spanish Mass
11:30am – Ramona Zuño / Marge Gladkowski
5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners