



*O woman,  
great is  
your faith!*

MATTHEW 15:28

AUGUST 16, 2020  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE LORD WELCOMES ALL

All of us who ache to be accepted find lavish comfort in today's readings. Rich in mercy, the Lord welcomes all of us—no exceptions. Isaiah extends God's invitation to all nations, even to foreigners who often arouse suspicion from the "in crowd." Saint Paul takes advantage of these fearful suspicions by provoking the Israelites' jealousy: if even Gentiles can offer acceptable worship to the one true God, then God's chosen people should surely do the same. In a similar way, Jesus provokes his disciples in today's Gospel from Matthew. Bantering with a Canaanite woman, Jesus draws out her tremendous faith, which endures despite the typical rejection she faces from scornful Israelites. Whether we identify more with the privileged disciples or the marginalized Canaanite woman, we cannot mistake God's universal invitation to believe in the One who saves us.

### REJECTED

At one time or another, we have all been rejected or ridiculed, left out of a conversation, or not invited to a party. It hurts to be excluded. God makes all things new, though, and our scriptures today invite us to turn over our aching hearts to the Lord. Some of us might feel reluctant to give our hearts to the Lord, especially if our suffering somehow involves God or the Church. Why pour out hearts to God, after all, if God seems to be the cause of our troubles? A tragic loss, a painful death, or an unavoidable catastrophe can disrupt or destroy our life plans. When people clumsily console us then, saying, "It's God's will," we can easily become suspicious of God and the almighty will. If we suffer from the sinful structures or actions of God's representatives and ministers in the Church, we might look with skepticism at the prayers of that same Church.

Even so, our Canaanite woman today persuades us not to lose hope. The disciples scorn her, complaining that she "keeps calling" out for help. Like irritable children, the disciples ask Jesus to "send her away." And just when we might expect Jesus to take her side, to scold the disciples and reward the woman's persistence, he shocks us by implying she is a dog. Undaunted, the woman accepts Jesus' remark and parlays its aggression into her own forceful plea: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

### ACCEPTED

The woman's faith is irresistible—to Jesus, and to us. Jesus grants her heart's desire, healing her daughter from that very moment. We too are won over by her indomitable confidence in the Lord. Truly, this woman is one of the heroes of the New Testament. When difficulties suffocate us and we feel turned away like a stray dog, we can recall the Canaanite woman's simple words: "Lord, help me."

## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7

Psalms 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8

Romans 11:13–15, 29–32

Matthew 15:21–28

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# ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

PHONE: (859)336-3569 EMAIL: [stdom@bellsouth.net](mailto:stdom@bellsouth.net) WEBSITE: [stdomparish.org](http://stdomparish.org)

## WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass 2:00 p.m.

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** See Mass Schedule & Intentions section of bulletin

**CONFESSIONS:** Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

### 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**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. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## WEEKEND LITURGY

**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).

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## READINGS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

**Monday:** Ez 24:15-24; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22

**Tuesday:** Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt 19:23-30

**Wednesday:** Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16

**Thursday:** Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

**Friday:** Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-9; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

## **MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (Aug. 17-23)**

Monday 8:30 AM: Ned Borders

Tuesday 5:30 PM: Florine Kelty

Wednesday: **NO MASS**

Thursday 5:30 PM: Joey Mann

Friday 8:30 AM: Mike Kays

Saturday 8:30 AM: Brenda Spalding

4:30 PM: Wheatley & Mudd Families

Sunday 8:30 AM: Woody & Sharon Dean, Marsha Daugherty

10:30 AM: For the Parish

2:00 PM (Spanish Mass): Presider's Intention

## **LITURGICAL ROLES**

**Weekday Lectors:** (Mon.) Shirley Barber, (Tues.) Mary Lynne Fenwick, (Wed.) NO MASS, (Thurs.) Betty Carol Barber, (Fri.) Mary Ann Hale, (Sat.) Julee Jones.

**Weekend Liturgical Roles** for August have been sent via email.

## **MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS**

**Congratulations to Our Newly Confirmed!** Archbishop Joseph Kurtz came to our parish on August 8th and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on the following St. Dominic School & Parish Religious Education eighth-grade graduates: *Addison Marie Bowman, Molly Claire Brady, Jordan Marie Nguyen Frye, Blake Ivo Goff, Celeste Ann Graves, Carter Alexander Hilton, Emma Merrick Hood, Cameron Lee Jones, Austin David Kelly, Efrain Lemus, Jr., Emma Marie Mattingly, Meredith Ann O'Cull, Laura Beth Redmon, Jaime Jacob Rodriguez, Dalton Louis Smith, Farrah Ann Smith, Nicholas Andrew Smith, Ann Marie Taylor, Dustin Louis Taylor and Benjamin Wilson Thompson.* Your church family is very proud of you, and we wish you all the best as you continue to grow in your faith!

**Interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister for St. Dominic Church?**

Fr. David will be offering a 1-day (2-hour) Communion Minister Formation Training (for St. D Parishioners only), on Mon., Aug. 17th at 6:00 p.m., for those desiring to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, as well as those who are presently serving in this role that may need a mandate renewal. The program will include the Theology of the Eucharist, Liturgical Ministry and the Practical Aspects of the Role of the Communion Minister. Please sign-up by contacting Sonya @ the St. D Parish Office @ 336-3569 /stdom@bellsouth.net.

**Catechists Needed:** Our parish RE (religious education) program is in need of two catechists, as well as substitute catechists. Classes are held in the school classrooms each Wednesday evening, September through April, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., with the first class taking place on September 9th. We are very blessed with a wonderful group of dedicated catechists who willingly share their time, talents, and faith in order to ensure the future of our church, the children. We would love to have you be part of

this awesome group! Please contact Angela Young for more information (336-3569 or 481-2587).

**Parish Religious Education Program** classes will begin on Wednesday, September 9th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Our RE program is open to students in grades K-8 who do not attend a Catholic school. Information packets have been mailed to all families who have children that were enrolled in last year's program. If you are a new family interested in enrolling your child/children, please pick up an information packet from the table in the narthex of the church, or stop by the parish office. Packets can also be downloaded and printed from the church website (stdomparish.org>documents). If you have questions or need more information, please contact Angela Young at the parish office (336-3569).

**Safe Environment Training:** St. Dominic will host SET on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Training is limited to 50 people and is based on first come/first served basis. Every participant must wear a mask, and no one under the age of 16 will be admitted to the training. Anyone working with children on a regular basis, as well as field trip chaperones, must attend this training and have a background check that is less than five years old. This is a one-time training, if you have attended in the past, you do not have to attend again.

**Masses:** Just a reminder to call ahead (Monday through Thursday) if you plan to attend Mass this coming weekend, space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Please contact us in one of the two ways, by calling 859-336-3569 or by email at stdom@bellsouth.net. Seating charts are finalized on Thursday afternoons. Peace to you all!

**2020 Peter's Pence Collection:** This weekend, we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. Contributions can be dropped in the collection basket in the back of church this weekend & next weekend. An envelope for this collection can be found in parishioner's tithing packets.

### **ST. D PRAYER LIST:**

Coronavirus Pandemic, World Peace, Healthcare Workers, Victims of Abuse, U.S. Military, Unborn & Elderly, Addictions, Glenn Mattingly, Kyle Logsdon, Sr. Mary Louise Yurik, Jeannie Hatchett, Lames Thomas, Ashton Kelly, Katie Haydon, Edwin Thompson, Jane Rudd Volz, Dennis Newton, Lucille Spalding, Marcie Abell, Mary Devine, Roberta Williams, Jerry Craig, Larry Smith, Tom Miller, Margaret Faye Martin, Charlotte Disponett, Carolyn Greene, Marian & Wade Elliott, Sue Carter, Michael & Jennifer Jarboe, Debbie Hamilton, Buddy & Charlotte Smith, Wheatley Hamilton, Frank Peters, Corbin Noel, Dorothy Mattingly, Colin Walker, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. *Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569.*

**Tithing Contributions** for this past week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$6,065.00