



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's
daughter was healed from that hour. - Mt 15:28

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Sincerity in Prayer, Humility in Faith

This Sunday we see a woman whose plight has been ongoing, and she seems to be at her wit's end with no answers on the horizon. She clearly loves her sick daughter, so this mother — a Canaanite who is not a part of the chosen people of Israel — attempts the unthinkable because she's run out of options. She humiliates herself with her desperate plea. Jesus Himself seems not to respond at first, and the disciples consider her a nuisance and want her to leave so they can be about the rest of their day. Instead of becoming angry and stomping away or becoming bitter at the lack of assistance, she worships Jesus, despite what this would surely do to her reputation. This catches His attention, and a quick dialogue ensues. She knows the inherent tension between the Canaanites and the Israelites, but this does not deter her from seeking help from the only option left. In the end, her prayer is answered according to her desire.

What a model of faith!!! So many of us are accustomed to prayers; we learned them when we were young. But our familiarity with prayers isn't always accompanied by a sincerity in our prayer. We rattle off words while our minds are onto the next task on our day's agenda. Our bodies are present, but our hearts haven't yet left the last moment of pleasure, concern, or anxiety. Our prayer life is fragmented because our need for help has been disconnected from our belief in Jesus' mission to save. Certainly, there are life circumstances that are graver than others that bring us to our knees faster; but that doesn't mean that kneeling in prayer — literally and metaphorically — is limited to the grave and dire situations. St. John Chrysostom remarks on the "earnestness of her prayer," and this catches the attention of Jesus in a new way. Jesus admires the tenacity of her faith, and then the miracle of her daughter's healing happens. As we review the flow of the text, this mother does not outright ask Jesus to heal her daughter, as it happens in other healing stories of the Gospels. This mother confesses her need for help with a situation beyond her control. And Jesus recognizes the confidence of her humility, and rewards that with the healing of her daughter. The mother brings all of herself to Jesus, and in her great faith, she sees that the powers of heaven are on her side.

How do we learn, then, to be more present each time we pray?

Listen to yourself breathing. So often, we rush into our times of prayer without properly disposing ourselves for a spiritual encounter. The Rosary and Lectio Divina are, for example, powerful tools for penetrating deeper in the mysteries of God, but without a stilled soul, our efforts lack a key ingredient. Taking a few minutes to quiet ourselves — externally and internally — can be a tremendous aid in deepening our prayer life.

Talk less. Listen more. We live in uncertain times. No doubt. There's an anxiety and hostility in the very air we breathe. There's much to complain or at least converse about. We look for answers to the very complicated situations we face. Yet the only answer is Jesus; the only path is towards the Cross and Resurrection. As we learn to listen to ourselves breathing, hopefully, one of the things that will happen is that we learn to listen to that still, small voice hidden in the deepest corner of our hearts. That small voice is so often crowded out by the mechanics of our prayer time and by the constant barrage of distractions in our interior world. If we can become silent, then God's booming voice can be heard.

Live in faith. Sometimes, we forget that we've already read the last chapter in the 'book of life!' We know that, in the end, Jesus wins! We know that Jesus has already shared his winnings with us because of our Baptism. Yet we approach Jesus in prayer with noncha-

lance (If you wanted to do this ...), doubt (I don't know if you can do this, but ...) or sometimes over-meekness (I'll accept whatever you want ...). While there is merit to each of these attitudes, this Canaanite mother gives us an example of the humble boldness of her faith in confessing her need for mercy. She knows she's coming to the Lion of Judah, not — if you'll allow me to be cheeky — to the mouse of Nazareth!

Our prayer life is not rooted in our own strength or resources to find answers to remedies to the complexities of life; rather, it ought to be rooted in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Each situation we find ourselves in can be seen — with eyes of faith — as opportunities to practice the kind of faith exemplified in the mother of today's Gospel. The prayer of this mother came from her heart to the heart of the only one left for her to ask. It's as if the depths of her heart was speaking to depths of Jesus' heart. Jesus always responds to the prayers that come from the depths of our hearts rather than the multiplicity or eloquence of our words! Would that our prayer life be more like that!

Br. John-Marmion Villa



Created to Believe: Called to Motherhood Join a group Fall 2020

Being a mom is hard and knowing you're not alone on the journey makes a huge difference! Do you sometimes wonder about who you are as a woman, wife, and mother? Do you desire strong friendships with other moms just like you? When you enter into "Created to Believe: Called to Motherhood" as part of The Cana Experience, you will more deeply know who you are in the light of your Catholic faith and be equipped with practical tools that can be applied right away in your marriage and with your children. To find a group near you and learn more about joining The Cana Experience with other mothers of young children this Fall 2020, visit canafamilyinstitute.com or contact Cathy at cathy@canafamilyinstitute.com.

Bethany House

Apply now for September 2020 – May 2021

Bethany House applications are now being accepted for September 2020 to May 2021. Bethany House is a home for women who live in community, pray together, take meals together and discern whether they are called to consecrated life. Bethany House is sponsored by the Office of Vocations and is located in Northeast Minneapolis. We are currently taking applications for women interested in Bethany House. Qualities of a good candidate for Bethany House include single women, ages 20 – 27, who are interested in dedicating a year to intentionally discerning a vocation to religious life. Please visit www.10000vocations.org for more information.



College Freshman? Meet new friends before you even arrive on campus.

As you prepare to move on to your next phase of life, don't leave your faith behind. Your college campus experience may look a bit different this fall. SPO would like to help you prepare for your first year by offering a networking opportunity with other Catholic students on your campus. By filling out this form we'll be able to place you into a group of other young men or women who also are looking for college to be everything it's meant to be. If you are someone who doesn't want to put life on pause this summer but make the most of preparing for the fall semester, then we'd love to have you. Small groups are forming now! For more information on SPO, visit spo.org

**Book Discussion: He Leadeth Me by Walter Ciszek
September 9, 2020, 7 p.m., Virtual Event,
led by St. Thomas More Catholic Community**

Jesuit priest, Fr. Walter Ciszek, spent 23 agonizing years in Soviet prisons and labor camps after being captured during WWII. In this book, he recalls how his utter reliance on God allowed him to endure. Read the book and join us via Zoom on September 9 for an in-depth discussion! Registration is required on our website at: <https://www.morecommunity.org/he-leadeth-me-discussion>. After registering for the virtual discussion, we will email you a link to join the Zoom meeting as well as a handout with questions to consider prior to the meeting.

Miriam Dinner – Save the Date!

Tuesday, September 29, 6 – 8:30 p.m., Holy Cross, Minneapolis
Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda and Father David Blume, Director of Vocations, invite women, ages 16 – 35, who are discerning consecrated life to join us for this event! Come for an evening of prayer and dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocations testimonies. Space is limited! It is typical for guests to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, or youth / campus minister. RSVP before September 24 at 10000vocations.org. Questions? Email stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org or call the Office of Vocations at 651-962-6890.

FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Lighting system update:

We have replaced the controls for the lighting system in the church space by a licensed electrician. The expected cost of this project will be approximately \$2,500. Thanks to some very generous donations, we have already collected \$975 to go towards this project. Thank you!

Face Masks:

Thank you all for following the Governor's statewide order requiring everyone to wear facemasks while inside of our facilities. We will maintain a modest supply of facemasks out on the Hospitality desk. We thank those who are able to make a small donation to help us offset this expense. Expect blessings.

Key Fob system update:

Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-August to change over our main entrance area to the keyless key fob system. In addition, all exterior doors are also being rekeyed as a security measure. The new key fob system will electronically track which key fob is used, and we will be able to closely monitor the issuance and usage of any key fob. We are working on the protocols on how one goes about requesting a key fob. FYI: our current system of pushing the buzzer on the exterior of the building will remain operational, and we will be able to grant building access when staff are present.

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PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677
Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ext. 11
John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
Carol McKenna,ext. 15
FAITH FORMATION 651-738-0677
Connie Hill, Director ext. 14
MUSIC
Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
PRAYER LINE
Please call Carol McKenna.....651-492-2778
CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

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BAPTISM - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
RECONCILIATION- Saturday 3:00-3:45pm
By appointment on other days
MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-W-F 1-11pm & Th 6am-noon
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

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Sunday, August 16
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 56:1, 6-7/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/ Mt 15:21-28
† Bernard Bearth
Parish Mass
Monday, August 17
Weekday
Ez 24:15-24/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday, August 18
Weekday
Ez 28:1-10/Mt 19:23-30
† Betty Blau
Wednesday, August 19
Weekday/Saint John Eudes, Priest
Ez 34:1-11/ Mt 20:1-16
† Maria DelPillar Vasquez Cordova
Thursday, August 20
Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Ez 36:23-28/ Mt 122:1-14
† Al & Joan Bierwerth
Friday, August 21
Saint Pius X, Pope
Ez 37:1-14/ Mt 22:34-40
† Rev. Francis Kittock
Saturday, August 22
The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ez 43:1-7ab/Mt 23:1-12 (Morning Readings)
† Nicholas Chavez
Sunday, August 23
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 22:19-23/Rom 11:33-36/ Mt 16:13-20
Lacey Ramirez Cruz
Parish Mass

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

August 16—August 23

The celebration of public Masses has resumed for a limited number of participants!

Please sign up online or call the parish office!

Other Schedule Information:

- Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 PM or call for an appointment.
- Livestream Mass—**Tuesday-Friday at Noon, Saturday at 4:00 PM and on Sunday at 9:00 am** on Facebook or watch later on our YouTube channel link via our website.

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

No information available at time of publication.

Marriage Encounter

These last months have been incredibly difficult on all of us and some marriages have suffered! Please let us help you to find enrichment, joy, and hope in your relationship! Register for the August 29-30 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for additional information or call 651.454.3238.

Marriage
Encounter

Movement and Meditation Classes available via Zoom

This Fall's Movement and Meditation Classes are scheduled to start on September 14. This 8 week session will last until November 2. Cost for the 8 week session is \$72.00 and it will be a "Zoom session." **Classes will not be held in the Robertson Room.**



To register and pay directly please click this link:
<https://yogadevotion.com/class/zoom-yogadevotion-with-nancy>

If you know someone who would like to attend these classes, have any questions, please contact Lisa @yogadevotion.com

HEALTH TIP

Silent Heart Attacks as dangerous as "regular" ones. The fact that they're so common should provide extra impetus to take steps now that are known to protect the heart: Keep your blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels in the optimal range (using medication if warranted). Maintain a healthy body weight; don't smoke; eat a high-fiber diet that's rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes, with moderate amounts of heart-healthy unsaturated fats (as found in fish and nuts, for example). Limit your intake of saturated fat; get regular exercise; and follow good sleep practices. Consult your doctor if you experience unexplained sluggishness, fatigue, or dizziness; heartburn that gets worse during exercise; or unusual nausea or vomiting. These are all less typical symptoms that might indicate that a heart attack has occurred or is impending.



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation this Fall

Classes begin September 1st! Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is offered semi-monthly on Tuesday mornings 10:00 to 11:30 am (NEW) or Wednesday evenings 6:15 pm to 7:45 pm. Confirmation classes (for students grades 8-12) meet semi-monthly 10:00 am to 11:00 am (after Sunday morning Mass). Family Formation is available Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings, or fully at-home. All Family Formation uses curriculum from Sophia Institute. Visit the website for details or to register. A few more catechists are needed to assist with sacramental prep classes.



Las clases comienzan el 1^{de} septiembre! La catequesis del Buen Pastor se ofrece semestralmente los martes por la mañana de 10:00 a 11:30 am (NUEVO) o los miércoles por la noche de 6:15 p.m. a 7:45 p. m. Clases de confirmación (para los estudiantes de 8 a 12 años) se reúnen semestrales de 10:00 a.m. a 11:00 am (después de la misa del domingo por la mañana). La formación familiar está disponible los miércoles por la noche, los domingos por la mañana o completamente en casa. Toda la Formación Familiar utiliza el plan de estudios del Instituto Sophia. Visite el sitio web para obtener más información o para registrarse. Se necesitan algunos catequistas más para ayudar con las clases de preparación sacramental.

What if

Faith Formation is flexible and responsive. In-person classes will follow Archdiocesan guidelines to minimize risk, including wellness screenings, masks, and widely-spread learning centers. If your family prefers a fully at-home experience this year, or if we need to suspend in-person gatherings, videos and family packets will give parents the tools for learning and living the faith at home. Parents are empowered as families grow in faith together. Questions? Contact Connie Hill at the parish office or cahill@blessedsacramentsp.org.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

This child-centered faith formation program is based on Montessori teaching principles. From the age of three, the child uses beautiful materials to cultivate prayer and a personal relationship with God. CGS offers sacramental preparations for First Reconciliation and First Communion beginning in first grade and culminating in second grade.





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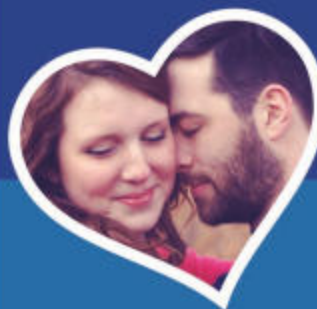


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