



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053 – Fax: 535-3127

August 20, 2023

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 56:1, 6-7*. The theme of the prophet here is the call of the Gentiles to the service of the true God on the great day which is to come. The temple of that future messianic age will be a "house of prayer" for all peoples.

Second Reading is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 11:13-15, 29-32*. In this reading Paul admits clearly that in the Christian Church is the fulfillment of all the hopes and promises made to Israel, yet this fulfillment of Judaism is composed of Gentiles as well as Israelites. Paul here calls himself the apostle to the Gentiles but still prays that the Israelite rejection of Jesus may one day be reversed. (Excerpted from *A Celebrants Guide to the New Sacramentary—A Cycle* by Kevin W. Irwin)

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 15:21-28*. There is a lesson, a very necessary one, for all of us in this episode of Christ's public life. It is the necessity of perseverance in our prayers of petition. Prayer is an essential part of our Christian life, and the essential part of prayer is that of adoration and thanksgiving, but prayer of petition has a big part in our daily prayers. We have so many spiritual and temporal needs, needs which we cannot provide by ourselves. Christ himself has told us to ask Him for these needs: "ask and you shall receive."

Do we ask with the fervor and perseverance which prove that we have "great faith"? That faith is the proof which Christ needs before He grants our requests. The Canaanite woman of whom we have just heard is for us an example of that deep-seated faith and trust in Christ's power and Christ's goodness. Even though He ignored her she continued to beseech Him, and when He answered with what seemed a direct refusal, her faith and trust did not waver. She answered His reason for refusal with another statement which showed that the granting of her petition would not in any way interfere with or impede His primary task, His mission to His father's chosen people. This was the proof of great faith which He required. He granted her request.

We must imitate and learn from this pagan mother. Her love for her child made her ready to undergo every hardship or suffering for the restoration to health of her loved one. When we turn to Christ in our needs is our faith in Him as sincere and unwavering as was this woman's? No doubt it often is, and yet we do not get the desired answer. As Christians we know that our particular request may not always be for our good, or for the final good of the person for whom we are praying. In that case, the good God will not grant what would be to our eternal disadvantage. But if our prayer is sincere and persevering, we shall always get an answer, and one which is better than what we asked for.

How often do we wonder at or perhaps doubt God's mercy when we see, for example, the young father of a family being taken from his loved and helpless ones, notwithstanding the prayers and tears of his wife and children. Where is God's mercy here? Where is His answer to these sincere prayers? But who are we to question God's mercy? The answer is there and often clear enough: that death brings out in his relatives and neighbors virtues which they would otherwise never have had occasion to practice—virtues that will earn for them eternal life.

It is only when we get to heaven - and getting to heaven is our purpose in life - that we shall see how our prayers, sincere and persevering, were answered by God.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection

August 13th

Envelopes	\$490.00
Donation	\$60.00
Donation from concert	\$150.00
Cemetery/Envelopes	\$250.00
Cemetery/Loose	\$170.00
Shrine	\$128.00
	\$1,248.00

NOTICES:

1: The Johnstown Market will be held on Sunday August 20th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

2: THANK YOU: A great big thank you to all who made the 90th Annual Milling Frolic another success. To all who donated their time and energy to make sure everyone had a great time. To all who brought food for the bake sale and lunch, to all who donated to the bingo and straw game, to all who came and parked cars in the less than ideal weather, and to all who came to sing Gaelic songs. A big thank you to all who came to enjoy the Frolic. Also thank you to the musicians who braved the nasty weather to play incredible music. An update of the proceeds will be provided later.

3: Funeral Mass for Mary B (MacNeil) Hureau will be held on Thursday August 24th, at 11:00 am in Sacred Heart Church, followed by a lunch at the hall.

4: L'Ardoise Legion Barbeque Sunday, August 20th/23 \$25 per person 12 oz strip loin steak, baked potato, coleslaw, sweets Take out 2-3 pm Eat in 4-6 pm while being entertained by Leona Burkey To book: Contact: Theresa 902-587-2511 or Gail. 902-951-0330 or call the Legion 902-587-2263 Fri & Set evenings

5: The faith community of Holy Guardian Angels Parish invite neighboring parishioners to join our special celebration on Sunday, September 3rd as we commemorate 200 years of Ancestry Faith and Family. A special mass of Thanksgiving will take place @ 3:00 P.M. with Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick as main celebrant, joined by our pastor, former clergy and invited guests. All are welcome.

6: Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine Mabou, Cape Breton

Save the date and plan to attend our Annual Celebration at the Shrine On Sunday, September 10th a Continuous Rosary will start at 1:00 pm at the Shrine and will continue until 3:30, just in time for Feast Day Mass at St. Mary's Church.

Following Mass there will be refreshments at the Mabou Hall Compliments of our CWL If you have any questions, please call 902-945-2221

In the meantime, the Shrine is always open for visitation year round and the gift shop is open daily from 10 am until 4pm. Thank-you for your support.

7: Support: If you still want to continue supporting Sacred Heart Parish, through your envelopes or just a donation, we are now set up for e-transfer: Please e-transfer to sacredheartjohnstown@gmail.com. Please include your envelope number. If you do not currently have a church envelope, please include your civic address. Receipts will be issued.