

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

August 20, 2023 † Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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8404 CASS AVENUE

DARIEN, ILLINOIS 60561

Parish Phone Number: 630-852-3303

Religious Education Phone Number: 630-963-3053

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 4:30 PM

Sunday - 8:15 AM - 10 AM - 12 Noon

Weekdays & Saturdays - 9 AM

Holy Day Eve - 7:00 PM Holy Day - 9 AM - 7:00 PM

(Call Office to verify Mass times)

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday,
from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:15--4PM

Parish Mission Statement

We are the Church, alive with Christ, a diverse community rooted in faith, celebrating a liturgy of life. We are prayerfully responsive to the Spirit of the living Gospel, freely and fully ministering to all.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Smialek, O.Carm., Pastor

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Rev. Robert Carroll, O. Carm., Ph.D.

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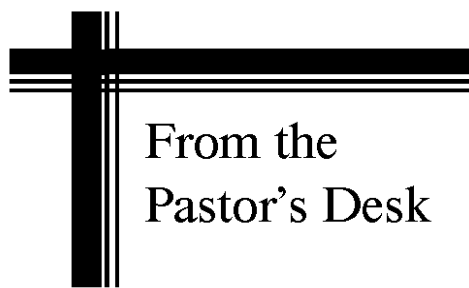
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From the Pastor's Desk

August 20, 2023

Ah! Late August, I remember thee well! Schools are starting up. This time of year is filled with excitement and a little trepidation for both students and teachers. The excitement of seeing friends again whom perhaps you had not seen all summer and looking forward to all the new learning and experiences to be had in the months ahead. However, the transition back to getting up early, being a bell routine and homework at night is not something to be relished. Even teachers and us former teachers feel the pain as well. Regardless, I want to wish all our students and teachers in the parish the very best. We are all praying that this school year will be a wonderful year for everyone. May God bless you all.

The Gospel today is the amazing story of this Canaanite woman who has the courage to confront Jesus. Even though she was foreigner and would have been looked down upon by the traditional Jews of the day (of which Jesus was one), this woman still was not taking no for an answer. No one would have blamed Jesus for ignoring her and even the apostles were saying that she should go away, yet she was not taking no for an answer. She was waiting for an answer. Life is what you do while waiting. The woman in today's Gospel, made life happen while waiting. She kept calling out after Jesus, and Jesus ignored her, or so it seemed. Please continue to hold and the next available operator will be with you shortly. Why does God make us wait often for an answer? We don't know. We do have two options; we wait it out and keep holding on the line for our answer or we hang up and give up. That option is always before us. The woman today, held on. She did not give up. She kept after Jesus. She kept on the line and did not leave until she got her answer. That is the example for all of us to follow. To keep on the line and not give up.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Pray for us.

Fr. Jeff

Readings for the week of August 20, 2023

Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51

Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12



Cathy's Corner— Choosing to Serve the Lord

Death, for Joshua, was drawing near. The Israelites had been living in peace for years in the land of Canaan. Joshua gathered the tribes, brought forward the ark containing the commandments, and reminded the people of all the Lord had done for them. How the Lord had rescued them and defended them and driven away their enemies, allowing them to live in a land that was already tilled and in cities that were already built. In no uncertain terms he directed them to observe and carry out all that was written in the book of the law of Moses, the heart of which was engraved in stone and carried in the ark. "Fear the Lord and serve the Lord completely and sincerely," Joshua commanded. And he directed them to choose, right then, between the Lord and all the other gods they had seen around them. Famously Joshua announced to all, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

For God is a holy God but also a possessive God, a God who expects the faithful love given to be returned as faithfully. In a relationship of mutual respect and love. The perfect vision of what a marriage between two human beings is meant to be. Of the 613 commandments in the law of Moses, very few deal with dissolution of marriage. The verses in Deuteronomy referenced by the disciples where Moses commanded a man give a woman a bill of divorce actually involve an odd situation involving second marriage to a wife one has divorced and who herself has been divorced. It does, however, by virtue of the discussion, implicitly ratify divorce itself.

And that divorce initiated by a man – in Palestine a woman was not allowed to take such action – could be for any "indecency." Rabbinical texts have stated that could include her spoiling a dish for him or he finding someone fairer than she. Jesus was having none of that. Not that he was against marriage. In fact, he disputed his disciples' rather extreme position that it is better not to marry if a man could no longer divorce his wife "for any cause whatever." Still the demands of the marital relationship are not for everyone, and some of those are ones who choose the single life as their way to serve God. But being married is also a way to serve God, since that committed relationship of mutual respect and love is to mirror the relationship our God has with us.

Indeed, a married couple's love for each other, if it does reflect the devotion and fidelity of God, by its very nature spills out into the world around, spreading the kindness and compassion, gentleness and mercy, that they share between themselves. The care they provide to each other expands into care they extend to others who are helpless and hurting and hungry. The bond that forms between them, therefore, is not one that can be dissolved "for any cause whatever." In an imperfect world, not every marital relationship can be thus described. But every marital relationship can be thus desired. And thus refined each day to mirror ever more closely God's love for us, God's own people. The household thus created is one that has, without a doubt, chosen to serve the Lord.
Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22 and 24



Got Questions? The Church has the answers!

Explore with us beginning in September. All are welcome!

Contact Cathy Lentz at catharine.lentz@ourladyofmtcarmel.org or 630-852-3303 ext 5 for
more information

Bishop Hicks' Column

August 2023

TRAVEL LESSONS



**View more photos online
at diojoliet.org**

"WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER" is usually the first essay of the school year for students. My own essay would include a trip to El Salvador, staying at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters"). NPH was originally founded in Mexico, by Father William Wasson in 1954, as a home to care for orphaned,

abandoned and at-risk children. He created a safe place where children could thrive within a culture of unconditional love and faith at its core. Currently, NPH nurtures children and transforms lives in nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

With permission from Cardinal George, I worked as a priest as the Regional Director of our NPH homes in Central America from 2005 until 2010. Last month, I returned to El Salvador, and as I walked through the enormous doors, the aromas of handmade tortillas mixed with the cow farm next door instantly filled me with memories from five years of service there. I instantly smiled and thought to myself, what a blessing to be back here! I knew, of course, I would be sacrificing many of the creature comforts of home during my visit.

While I was there, NPH celebrated its 24th anniversary of operating a home in El Salvador. We began the day with an early Mass, and I was uplifted knowing the tradition of full and active participation in the liturgy still exists there, as over 500 children enthusiastically sang and responded to the prayers.

After Mass, everyone changed out of their "church clothes" and into their "play clothes." By 9 a.m. it was already 95 degrees, so I, too, decided to change out of my black suit and roman collar and into a T-shirt and sandals. It was a good decision because the day's next activity was an hour-long Zumba/salsa class! Did the bishop Zumba and salsa? Yes! However, trust me when I say that I lacked all skill and grace while doing it—it was an exercise in true humility that also got my heart pumping.

The rest of the day was filled with games and soccer tournaments as we basked in each other's warm friendship and lively conversation. The highlight for the children was being served hotdogs, a bag of chips and a can of pop for lunch. While you may think this is rather basic food, these children are accustomed to eating rice and beans daily, so this was a wonderful and welcomed treat.

After my morning holy hour the next day, I waited for the daily ritual of the water trickling on at 6 a.m. After showering, I dressed in my black suit, roman collar and pectoral cross and got into a pickup truck to drive across the border to Guatemala—a trip that should have taken about two-and-a-half hours. However, because of the condition of the roads scattered with potholes and fallen trees, the drive took almost four hours.

I arrived in the town of Santa Rosa de Lima to ordain Juan Carlos Pirir. For the past four years he has been a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Joliet. After completing his studies, I ordained him a priest there in his hometown as he was surrounded by his parents, siblings, relatives and just about everyone else from the town.

Before and after the Mass, fireworks were launched. And outside of the church, with its large choir and sacred music, the spirit of fiesta filled the air with booming music along with colorful balloons, banners and decorations. It was an amazing celebration and reflected the deep faith in that community, which formed Father Juan Carlos Pirir and fostered his vocation.

Back in El Salvador, a strong storm came through and knocked out the power my last night there. But instead of being upset by this inconvenience, I was thankful for the rain which cooled everything down, including me.

As I went to bed, I thanked God for keeping me safe during my travels. I asked for special blessings upon the dear children of NPH and upon Father Juan's proud family and supportive community. My "summer essay" would thank God for the comforts we enjoy "back home" and often take for granted: our safety, food, water, electricity and our parish communities.

Do enjoy the rest of your summer!

DIOCESE OF JOLIET





RE NEWS

RE Stats September 10 & 11. If you have not registered yet, please do so ASAP. We are still looking for a few catechists and room parents so we can start the year off! Please see Sherry after all masses this weekend.

Questions of the Week:

Question for Children: What is your favorite way to talk with Jesus? What words do you use?

Question for Youth: Do you trust that God hears your prayers? Do you believe that your prayer makes a difference?

Question for Adults: When you pray, how do you know that Jesus will really respond?

Activities of the Week

The Canaanite woman confronted the evils of discrimination in today's Gospel. As a family, explore the topic of discrimination. Watch the evening news together. After the news, discuss the stories of discrimination in the newscast and what can be done about these situations. Talk about how faith plays a role in dealing with the evils of discrimination.

Maybe your family is a victim of discrimination. Talk to your children about their feelings and how they can cope with this discrimination. Remind your children that God loves them.

Save the Dates

We are going to be hosting a retreat day for People who care for persons with disabilities on Saturday, September 23. While this retreat will be for the caregivers, we will have sessions for your children and adults you are caring for. Call the RE office for more information.

HELP WANTED

Have you ever thought of being a Catechist? Well, we are looking to train and mentor a few good people to help us with our program.

In addition, we are looking for "Room Moms and Dads" who will start the children off with attendance and a simple work sheet or craft at the beginning of class. This only requires 15-20 minutes of your time. All materials are provided. Please contact the RE office if you are interested.

Right now, what we need is:

Sunday 9 AM: 5th, 6th, & 7th

Sunday 11 AM: 1st, 6th, 7th

Monday 5 PM: 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th

Monday 7PM: 1st, 3rd, 6th

We are also looking for a few dedicated individuals who would be interested in helping Children with Special needs through our CHRISTOS program. We have a few families interested, and we need a team to help reorganize this great program. Call Sherry for more info.]

Stellar Family Night

Want a taste of what VBS was like? Join us (and all our campers) for a reunion, Family night out on August 24, at 6:00 PM-It just so happens to be Shooting Star Day!

Call the RE Office for info and to register as we will need supplies.



Mary Anne Trochim **James Curley**
Julie Ann Lacey **Kim Hoover**
Jeanette Seebock **Nancy Kososki**
Bridget Gallmeier Raineri **Nancy Jisisju**
Kevin & Jenne Gallmeier
Bill Haran **Susan Nugent**
Evelyn Swartz **Abby Grace McCarver**
Jean & Mark Boyd **Allen Raineri**
Jamie Carpenter **Diana Clohecy**



Sgt. Ryan Thomas Lavine, Army
 SPC Jonathan Poynton
 Joe Barker
 Sgt. J. Bartlett Pvt.
 Cpl. Joseph Belgis, USMC
 Wayne R. Zefeldt, Army
 S. Sgt. Michael Mullahy
 Ryan Pertile, Army
 Major Thomas Bessler
 Mike Noonan
 Adam Kowalski, Army
 Capt. James Lucas US Army
 Sgt. Greg Burnett
 Sgt. Meghan Callham, USMC
 Ron Caruso Jr.
 Specialist Drew Stocks
 Christine Christensen, USAF
 Lt. Joseph A Vacek, USMC
 Colin Cusack
 Michael Sklodowski, Army
 Nick Radziwon, US Navy
 Gwen Zemaitis Baker
 James Lucas US Army
 Capt. Melissa Sprague
 Capt. Mark Sprague
 Zach Wallace
 James Chipman
 Keith Thomas
 L.C. David Treadwell
 Timothy Vaughn, USAF
 Zachary Bell
 Christopher Johnson USCG
 Sgt. Eric Kuchta, Army
 Pvt. Dylan R. Hagan
 Danielle Monahan SrA

ENS Allison Early, NAVY
 CPO Michael Early, USMC
 Elliot Broccardo, USMC
 Lindsey Johnson
 Diahann Bavan
 Ronan Randy S. BA.SAT-U.S.Navy
 Derek McCarthy
 Joe Michalski
 Steve Baker, Lt
 Luke Fluder
 Pfc Drew Hillebold, Army
 Vincent Napoli, USMC
 Nikolas Horskey, Army
 Lt. Col Jason O'Neil, USMC
 Capt. Tim Wilson
 Rachael Smith
 Kevin Pope
 Dave Rawlings
 LCpl Daniel Holakovsky, USMC
 Tom Reiter
 Nathaniel Rozgo
 Robert DeMatio
 Frank Andrew McKenna, Navy
 Captain Jackson Panice
 Ryan Snyder
 Capt. James Lienau
 Sgt. Kevin Gallmeier Jr.
 Pat Gill Petty Officer
 Brian Sheenhan, Army
 Joseph Higgins
 Gary Hogan
 Kevin Hornett
 Dan Eugene Bavan
 Dan Welters
 Alex Erkiens
 Capt. Michael K. Desmond, Jr., USMC
 1st Lt. Mark Marten, US Army
 Ted Cook

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, August 19, 2023

4:30PM Angeles Delfinado (Family)

Josephine Ray (Husband)

Sunday, August 20, 2023

8:15AM Deacon William Sayre (Rita Thompson)

Barbara Grady (Rita Thompson)

Grace, Nick, Lucy, Florence & Rose Ann Poli
 (Nick Rocco)

Maureen Miller (Daniel Community)

10:00AM Mary Claire Karnick (Family)

Dennis Bryar-1st anniv (Scanlon Family)

NOON Tim Reidy (Family)

Greg & Doree Cozzi (Family)

Peter Jurkash Jr.. (Family)

Intention of Smrz Children-living

Monday, August 21, 2023

9:00AM Edmund Majewski (Donatello Family)

Charles Antikauskas (Evelyn Antikauskas)

Rose Sunny (Sheri)

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

9:00AM William Mulcahn (Eugene Munin)

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

9:00AM Susan Nees (Family)

Nelson Tutor (Ampy)

Guillermo Tymaneng-30th anniv (Daughters)

Thursday, August 24, 2023

9:00AM Lorraine King (Sister)

Friday, August 25, 2023

9:00AM Rosalie Madejczyk (Spang Family)

Luis Udarbe (Family)

Saturday, August 26, 2023

9:00AM Jack Coffey (Eugene Munin)

John Klemens (Frank & Fran Modelski)



Volunteers Needed
Catholic Communion Ministry
Good Samaritan Hospital – Downers Grove
Contact: Gail Miskowicz-Retz at
Gail.Miskowicz-Retz@aah.org
or
630-852-5347