

St. Mary's Minooka

*Sunday, August 20, 2023
Fr. John Honiotes, Pastor*



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”
And her daughter was healed from that hour.*

Matthew 15:28

Christ and the Canaanite Woman by Jean Germain Drouais, 1784
© Diocesan



“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!

A note from Fr. John

Reflection for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time take from Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate <https://oblates.ie/gospel-reflection-20th-sunday-ordinary-time/>

Often the images we have of Jesus are very pleasant and nice; Jesus and the children, Jesus the good shepherd carrying a wounded lamb or Jesus who is teaching or healing. There is nothing wrong with these at all. However, the Jesus we meet in this Sunday's gospel is very far removed from the nice and polite Jesus we perhaps know from our childhood days. In his own words, Jesus tells us that he has '*come to set the earth on fire,*' and he wishes it '*were already blazing!*' What could Jesus possibly mean by these apparently destructive words and message?

This Sunday's gospel has a definite shock value to it. It names things we tend to avoid: fire, division and anguish. The message that Jesus speaks is not mild, gentle or timid. The message that Jesus offers us is life-changing, radical and has the power to transform our very lives. Jesus calls us to follow him; we have to respond in *some* way. The call of Jesus requires that we make some response, we can't ignore the call.

We have to make a decision whether to follow Jesus or not. If we decide to follow Jesus, then our lives will be changed. He clearly spells out the cost of his good news and the cost of being his disciple. His coming brings 'fire.' His own 'baptism' causes him pain. His preaching and radical message causes division even within the same family. When Jesus speaks he doesn't soften his message. Instead, he clearly spells out the cost of living his good news.

Some people will accept his message, others will not. His spoken words and actions put before us the choice we are asked to make if we are to faithfully follow him. In the scriptures we read that God is '*making all things new.*' Through Jesus all things are made new, especially each of us.

The choice to embrace and welcome this new life is ours. If we say 'yes' to follow Jesus, then we are also called to be made new and transformed. It is through the Spirit of God that we are encouraged and made new. The Spirit of God is powerful and life-giving. Archbishop Oscar Romero reminds of this with these words, '*The bible has a very meaningful expression; the Spirit makes all things new. We are the ones who grow old, and we want everything made to our own pattern. The Spirit is never old; the Spirit is always young.*'

We are a missionary church not a static church. May each of us have the courage to open ourselves to the life changing message of Jesus.

The Food Pantry needs replenishing!

We will have a church food drive after four years!

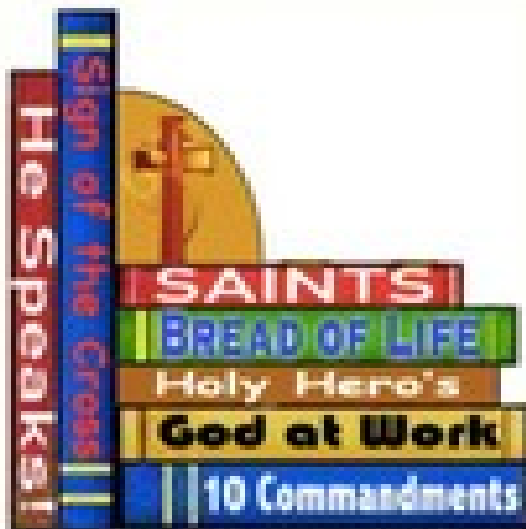
PLEASE MARK THESE DATES!

TAKE a bag after mass the weekend of August 19th and 20th.

RETURN the bag the weekend of August 26th and 27th.

Thank you for your generous support.

The Pantry Team



2023-2024

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

RE Registration forms and schedules for the 2023-2024 school year are available on the front porch of the rectory and also on our website.

www.stmarysminooka.com

As a reminder, all registrations and payments must be turned into the rectory not the RE Office.

Please return by August 25th.

Are you
LOOKING TO
BECOME
CATHOLIC?

JOIN
Rite of Christian Initiation
RCIA

Are you an adult who wants to become part of the Catholic Church?

Or perhaps you were baptized but didn't receive any other sacraments but wish to?

Classes start this Fall for adults who are looking to come into full communion with the Catholic Church!

St. Mary's Golf Outing 2023

Monday, September 11

**The Creek 5355 Saratoga Rd.
Morris, Illinois 60450**

**50/50 Drawing, Raffle Baskets,
Live and Silent Auctions,
Challenge Holes**



**Registration begins at 11:00am
Shot Gun Start is at 12:00 Noon
Dinner is at 5:00pm**

If interested in donating a Raffle Basket or giving a Donation, please contact Deb Bols at 815-210-8351 or the rectory at 815-467-2233. Thank you.

Please Pray For the Sick of our Parish Family

**Denise Tonarelli
Kimberly Gaydula
Paul Thien Phu
Ken Fosen
Tim Kilroy**

**Sara Lovell
Wren Wagoner
Baker Family
Bayley Webb**

**Lorenzo Benitez
Marlena Benitez
Judy Stafford
Ruth Kesselring
Olivia Arenella
Lisa Pelton**

**Robert Fonck
Marilyn Wilkens
Gerald Magolan
Paisly Schad
Bill Wizorek
Joe Overbeck**

**Jerry Moreno
Connie Hamilton
Pat Smania
Thanh Tran**

**If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please email
st.marysminooka@sbcglobal.net or call the parish office at 815-467-2233.**

Weekly Mass Intentions

Date	Time	Intention	From
Saturday, Aug. 19	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confession Dave Stafford Cal Walrath Cam la Moreno Ricco	CCW The Smith Family The Family
Sunday, Aug. 20	7:30am 9:00am 11:00am	Mary Kay Golimowski Don & Eleanor Bersano Marie Starks Laly Cyr	Peg Francisco Family & Friends The Family The Family
Monday, Aug. 21	8:30am	Martha Elizabeth Hilt	Mary & Kathy
Tuesday, Aug 22	8:30am	Gloria Maxwell	Anita Caruso
Wednesday, Aug 23	8:30am	Eleanore & Donald Bersano	Ken & Jackie Bersano
Thursday, Aug 24	8:30am	Angelo Paone	The Family
Friday, Aug. 25	8:30am	Jerry Davidson	Mary Jane Borzym
Saturday, Aug 26	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confession Dave Stafford	Dennis Furto
Sunday, Aug 27	7:30am 9:00am 11:00am	Don Ruettiger Parishioners Judy Bremer	Cathy Glover KC's



Special Intention
Tom Fabek
Angelo & Fern Paone

Police &
Firefighters
Gloria Ziebler

*If you would like a candle lit outside for a
Special Intention, please call the Parish Office
815-467-2233.*



Altar Servers

Eucharistic Ministers

Lectors

8/26/2023 @ 5:00pm

Brooklyn Lehner

Pat Favero

Carolyn Healy

8/27/2023 @ 7:30am

Bridget Phillips

Deb Bols
Nita Caruso

Rose Ruettiger

8/27/2023 @ 9:00am

Xander Esquivel

Erica Schramm
Sydney Yunker

Mike Schramm

8/27/2023 @ 11:00am

Keighera Fleming

Jessica Folsom
Jane Spray

Mike Folsom

Thank you for your financial support to St. Mary's

Please Remember St. Mary's in your will or trust

As Catholics, we are called to plan ahead and share the blessings of our lives with our loved ones and future generations. To help you be a steward of everything God has entrusted to your care, the Diocese of Joliet is sharing free, online will writing tools. It is cost-free and takes 20 minutes or less to protect your family and your assets and create a gift to pass the Catholic faith onto future generations.

Get started at FreeWill.com/DioceseofJoliet.



Thank you for your financial support to the good works of our Diocese.

PLEDGE REPORT:
8/13/2023

Parish Goal:	\$46,100.00
Amount Pledged:	\$ 37,318.00
Balance Due:	\$ 4,163.00

Please continue to make your 2023 pledge payments. Once we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the additional funds received will be returned to the parish for our use.



Fr. John Honiotes - Pastor

815-467-2233 ext.103

Pastorsdesk@stmarysminooka.com

Kathy O'Hagan- Pastoral Associate/Co-Website Editor

815-467-4228

Pastoral@stmarysminooka.com

Mary Blatti- Office Manager/Bulletin Editor/

Co-Website Editor

815-467-2233 ext. 100

Office@stmarysminooka.com

Heather Flanigan - Interim RE Director

815-467-2969

RE@stmarysminooka.com

Mary Mogensen - Bookkeeper

815-467-2233 ext. 101

Business@stmarysminooka.com

Rebecca Carmack-Regennitter - Music Director

815-467-2233 ext. 109

Music@stmarysminooka.com

Parish Office Hours-

Mon-Thurs 8am-4pm

Fri- 8am-12pm

Office Phone-

815-467-2233

Website-

www.stmarysminooka.com

Fax-

815-467-1760

Facebook

St. Mary's Minooka

Weekend Masses-

Saturday- 5:00pm

**Sunday- 7:30am, 9am Livestream
and 11am**

Weekday Masses -

daily at 8:30am

Confession-

**Saturday's 4pm-4:45pm
in the Church**

Anointing of the Sick - Please call the office