

Dear Padre,

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin’s evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn’t written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 24:15–23	Ez 28:1–10	Ez 34:1–11	Ez 36:23–28	Ez 37:1–14	Ez 43:1–7ab	Is 22:19–23
Mt 19:16–22	Mt 19:23–30	Mt 20:1–16	Mt 22:1–14	Mt 22:34–40	Mt 23:1–12	Rom 11:33–36
						Mt 16:13–20

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ’s own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior’s prayer for the unity of all.

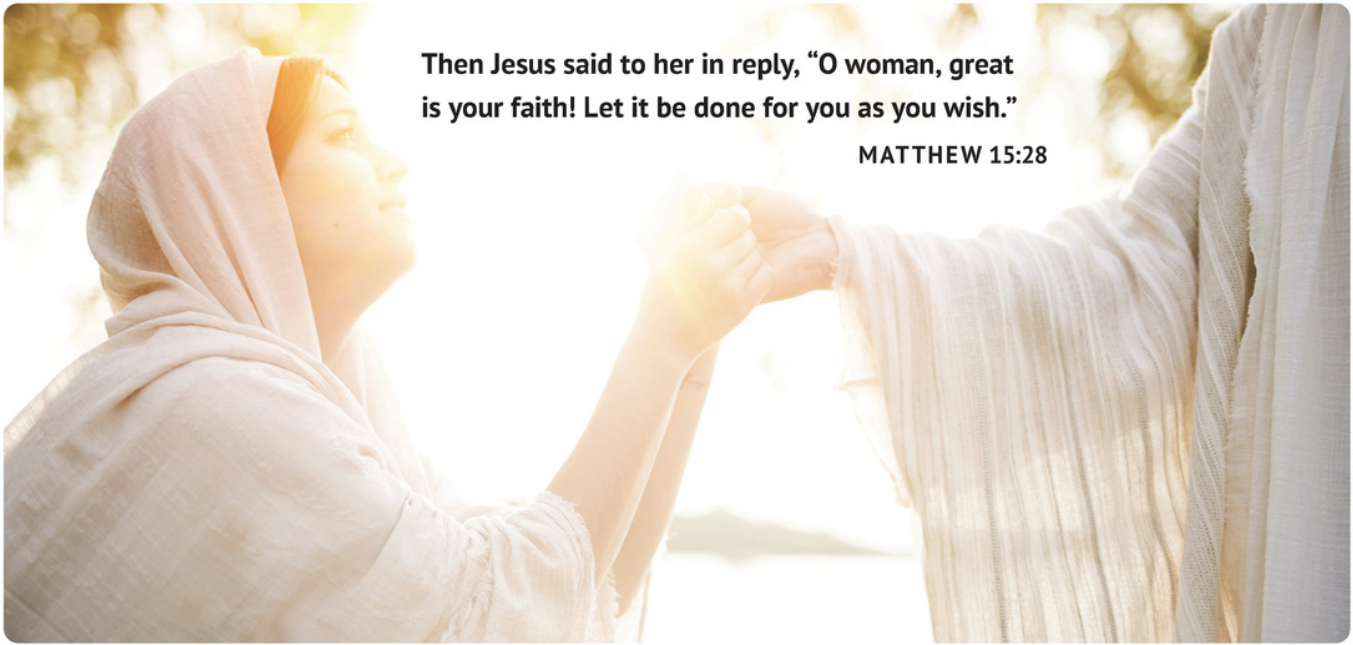
MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 16, 2026
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 56:1, 6–7 / Romans 11:13–15, 29–32 / Matthew 15:21–28



Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”
MATTHEW 15:28

Still Redeemable?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today’s gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for “the lost sheep” of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

With the trajectory of the encounter headed downhill (and picking up speed), it is hard to imagine that anything could be done at this point to change the outcome. If I were in her situation, I would have been so offended after the third dismissal that I would have simply slammed the door on the way out. But, remarkably, the story takes a 90-degree turn when the Canaanite woman enters into a verbal joust with Jesus and jolts him into taking her seriously. Very seriously. Jesus praises her for her faith.

“Faith in what?” one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

How strong is my faith? Strong enough to be persistent?



St. Paul Catholic Church
713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

20th SUN of O.T.
August 15 & 16, 2026

Parish Announcements

Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration and Liturgy of the Hours will be held on Wednesday, August 19, at 5:30 PM. Come and spend time in the peaceful presence of the Lord through prayer, silence, and reflection.

Lunch and Scripture

When: August 19 at 12:00 PM
Speaker: Fr. Rusty
Topic: Exorcism in Scripture
Location: Billy's Italian Restaurant
Pizza & salad lunch provided by St. Paul; donations are greatly appreciated. Please RSVP by calling the office at 601-636-0140 or replying to the Lunch & Scripture post on the St. Paul Facebook page.

Confession

There will be no Confession on Saturday, August 22. There will be Confession on Sunday, August 23.

Hallow

The St. Michael Lent Reflection has started! St. Michael's Lent is a 40-day period of prayer and penance that goes until the Feast of the Archangels on September 29. It is available to all parishioners through the parish Hallow App. Be sure to click on the church tab and register with St. Paul. If you need help accessing the app, please contact the office.
The link is:
<https://hallow.app.link/98TCuXMCp5b>

ACTS Retreat

The ACTS of Central Mississippi Women's Retreat will be held October 22-25 at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Retreat Center in Osyka, MS. The retreat begins Thursday evening with departure from Holy Savior Catholic Church in Clinton, MS, and concludes there with the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. The application Deadline is September 12, 2026. For more information, contact Jennifer Ratliff at jenniferrogillio@yahoo.com or Allie Roach at Alliegamble62@yahoo.com

Parish Calendar

AUG 16, SUN	Children's Church led by: Ashton Hotard Community Food Pantry Collection
AUG 17, MON	Offertory Counters: Renee Turner & Bruce Ebersol.
AUG 19, WED	Lunch & Scripture 12:00 PM
AUG 19, WED	Adoration 5:30 PM
AUG 29, SAT	Meals on Wheels

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget \$7,700

Online Giving

August 3 - August 9 \$2,192

Weekend Offertory

August 1 & 2.....\$5,201

August 8 & 9.....\$6,788

August 15 & 16.....\$ __, __

August 22 & 23.....\$ __, __

August 29 & 30.....\$ __, __

Special Collections

August 16: Solidarity Fund for Church in Africa.....\$ __, __



Sign up for automatic online giving at www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

www.ms-kojc.com/898

Become a KNIGHT.
Scan this QR code to join the Knights today!



AUG 18 Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by Degree Meeting

AUG 19 K of C Bible study after 5:30 PM Mass @ St. Michael.

AUG 25 Rosary @6:30 PM followed by Recruitment & Retention Social, all Catholic men welcome.



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713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

20th SUN of O.T.
August 15 & 16, 2026

Weekend Mass Schedule†

Saturday

‡Confession 2:30-3:30 PM
Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday

‡Confession 9:30-10:00 AM
Mass 10:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule†

Monday 7:00 AM
Tuesday 12:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 AM
Thursday 12:00 PM
Friday 7:00 AM

† All schedule updates can be found in the Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

‡ For Confessions during the week, please call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions

AUG 17, MON	Dan Fordice, Deceased
AUG 18, TUES	Kristin Mayr, Deceased
AUG 19, WED	Dan Fordice, Deceased
AUG 20, THUR	Hugh Lougue, Deceased
AUG 21, FRI	Jim Miller, Deceased
AUG 22, SAT	Dan Fordice, Deceased

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. *Sunday Mass is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.



Today's Readings

Visit bible.usccb.org or scan this QR code to find the readings



Check out our Social Media!



St. Paul
Catholic Church
of Vicksburg

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers placed at the Ambo are in memory of the Wedding Anniversary of Bill and Mildred Thompson

PastoralCare

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in urgent need of anointing, please call the church office Emergency Ext. 106

St. Paul Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Rusty Vincent pastor@stpaulvicksburg.org	Office Manager Ashley Roesch stpaulvick@att.net	Office Assistant Janis Koestler stpaulvick@att.net
Bookkeeper Beverly Connelly stpaulvickbkkeeper@att.net	Maintenance Charles Hahn	Organist Karen Harrison

Leadership & Ministries

Parish Council President: Travis Thornell
Finance Council Chair: Bill Fulcher

Bereavement Story Ebersole	RCIA Connie & David Hosemann Bruce Ebersole	Meals on Wheels Jan Jackson Christy Guizerix Rae Perry
Altar Flowers Cynthia Montalbano	Homebound Janis Koestler	
Baptism Prep Barbara Hill	Confirmation Jordan Amborn	Children's Church Ashley Lawrence