

## **August 20, 2023: 20<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**“Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.”**

**- Matthew 15:21-28**

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew’s Gospel. Last week we read about [Jesus walking on the water](#) and the disciples’ confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew’s entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead, our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today’s Gospel. In fact, the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus’ exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, “dog.” But the woman cleverly turns Jesus’ insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus’ unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus’ ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today’s Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew’s text we can hear this early Christian community’s struggle to understand how God’s selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel’s rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles’ acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today’s second reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God’s abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

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**August 20, 2023**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

# Sacred Heart Parish

**A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ**



## Parish Information

Pastor: **Rev. Lee Lainey**

Office Administrator: **Chelo Escalona**

Office Hours: **Monday to Friday 9am-12pm**

465 Curling Street  
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8  
Tel: (709) 785-5025  
curlingparish@hotmail.com

e-transfers: [sacredheartrcparish@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartrcparish@gmail.com)  
Password "**Church**"  
[www.sacredheartrcparish.ca](http://www.sacredheartrcparish.ca)  
Diocesan website: [rcchurch.com](http://rcchurch.com)

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.

### Mass During Week:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7 pm.

Friday at 10 am. **No weekday mass from August 21<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.**

### Lohnes Complex

First Fridays - 2 pm at the Lohnes Complex.

### Bible Study:

Post-poned until further notice.

### Holy Hour of Adoration:

Post-poned until further notice.

### Reconciliation:

By request.

### Marriages:

Six months’ notice required. A year’s notice is recommended.

### Baptisms:

Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

### Family Connections:

At [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com) you will find a link to family connections.

### St. Vincent de Paul:

To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS**

**August 12<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Regular Sunday	\$1,345.30
Loose Offering	47
Building Fund	35
St. Vincent de Paul	20

*Parish Dues was received from Doug & Donna Beales.*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

No mass intentions from **August 21<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>**. Our September calendar has a lot of open dates for mass intentions, specifically masses on **September 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>**. There will be fresh forms and envelopes available at the back of the church.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

<b>August 26</b>	
Gerry Buckle	Joan Penney
<b>August 27</b>	
Anna House	Calvin Gillis
<b>Communion to the sick – Barbara Neville</b>	

**PARISH OUTREACH:** This committee, consisting of, Marie Pennell (709-388-5090), Gerard Deveaux (709-638-4411), Pat Moore (709-785-2440), and Tony Griffin (709-632-5755) are offering to bring communions and provide a pastoral visit to those who wish to have this ongoing contact. They are also exploring social activities for the parish as a whole. Please support them in their efforts. Please call them if you or a family member wish to avail of this service.

**EMERGENCY COVERAGE IN THE ABSENCE OF**

**THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE:** The priests of the diocese will be gone for an extended period for their annual retreat and some much-needed professional development (Study Days) from **Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bishop Emeritus John Corriveau, OFM Cap.** Has generously offered to provide pastoral services in case of emergencies (funerals and anointings) during this time. He can be reached at **Cathedral residence (709) 634-5161**. Because he is providing for the entire region (from Deer Lake to the Bay of Islands), it is unsure when and if he can provide daily Mass. Please consult the Cathedral Parish’s social media platforms or phone the Cathedral Parish office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for daily updates on weekday Masses. **For those who are looking to attend Mass during the weekend (August 26th and 27th) Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral on Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. and at All Hallows’ at 9:30 a.m.**

**AUGUST MASS SCHEDULE:** Fr. Lainey will be away from **August 20<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>**. There will be no weekday masses during the time he will be away. There will be a **Liturgy of the Word on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>** within our regular weekend mass schedules.

**GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT GROUP:** NL Health Services Western Zone will be offering an 8-week Grief & Bereavement Group (in-person) at Western Long-Term Care in Corner Brook. An online group will be held during the winter of 2024. This group is free and is open to anyone that has experienced the loss of a loved one. Preregister by calling **Sandra at 784-2700 ext. 2669**.

**LADIES GROUP:** Congratulations are in order for the new Executive for the Sacred Heart Ladies League in September 2023, beginning with the President – Marie Pennell, Secretary – Veronica Stone, and Treasurer – Pat Jones. Many thanks go out to Veronica Stone for all her works over the last 15 years.

**THE GRAVEYARD CLEAN-UP PROJECT:** The graveyard clean-up project has just been completed. Huge thanks go out to John Carroll, Tony Griffin & Jim Griffin for the wonderful job they have done. To maintain the beauty of the graveyard, we request that you limit the flowers that you bring to the gravesite to 3 bouquets. **ATTENTION:** The main gate will always remain locked. If you wish to enter for visitation, please use the gate facing east on the side.

**SOWING THE SEEDS:** **September 15th - 17th, Basilica Parish Conference Rooms, St. John’s** - Connect with members from throughout the province, meet our youth representatives, learn more about our partners and ongoing projects. The weekend will include time to reflect on our role in caring for creation and ecological justice; youth engagement; discussion on synodal leadership; focused time on the development of diocesan councils, their roles, and the resolution process; and a kick off to the fall campaign. If you are interested in participating, please contact Patricia Walsh Warren, Animator for the Newfoundland and Labrador, [pwalsh@devp.org](mailto:pwalsh@devp.org)

**QUOTATION:** You can always tell a real friend: If you’ve made a fool of yourself, he doesn’t feel you’ve done a permanent job.

**WESTERN ZONE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:**

Looking for meaningful ways to spend your spare time and feel a sense of purpose? The Western Zone of Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (formerly Western Health) is looking for volunteers. You will get the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to our residents, patients, and clients. Spending time with volunteers makes our residents and patients happier and they feel less lonely. Share your skills, knowledge, and time. Work in a gift shop. Join an auxiliary. Prepare afternoon treats for palliative care patients and their families. Read to patients and residents. Be a dining companion. Plant a garden. Care for plants. Provide musical entertainment. There are many ways you can volunteer. If you are interested call 709 784 5369 or email [volunteerresources@westernheath.nl.ca](mailto:volunteerresources@westernheath.nl.ca) to find out more. You too will benefit as you will meet new people and experience personal satisfaction.

**HUMOUR:**

A man goes to the doctor and complains that his wife can’t hear him. How bad is it? The doctor asks. I have no idea, the husband says. Well, please test her. Stand 20 feet away from her and say something. If she doesn’t hear you, get closer and say the same thing. Keep moving closer and repeating the comment until she does hear you. That way we’ll have an idea of her rage of hearing loss. So, the man goes home and sees his wife in the kitchen chopping up vegetables for dinner. From 20 feet away: What are we having for dinner? No answer. From 10 feet: Same thing. From 5 feet: Same thing. Finally, he’s standing right beside her: What’s for dinner? She turns around, looks at him and says: For the FOURTH time, BEEF STEW!