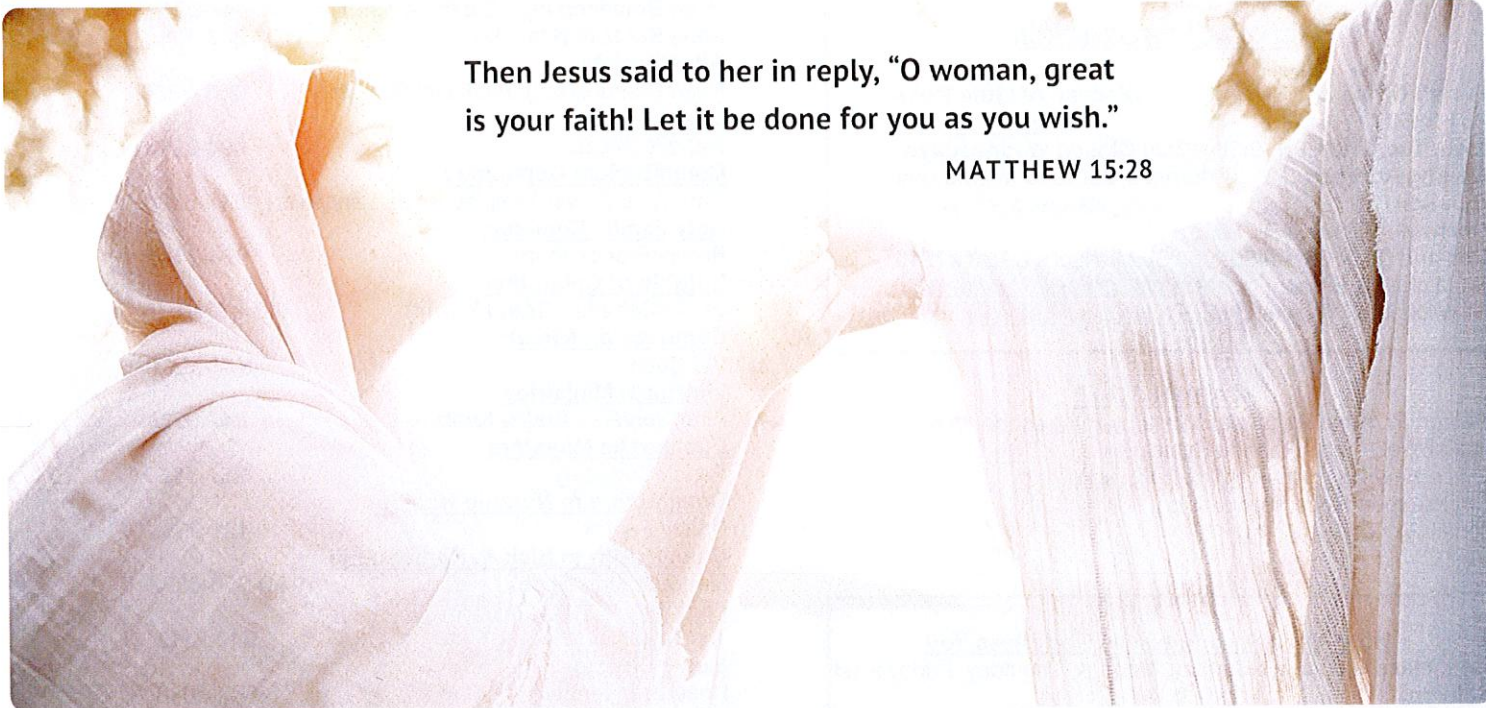


A photograph of a woman wearing a white headscarf and a white robe, looking upwards with her hands clasped in prayer. The background is bright and slightly blurred.

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?

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office Diocese of Little Rock
257-2850 www.dolr.org
Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, 9:30 – 2:30 Closed Wednesdays
Mailing Address Arkansas Catholic Newspaper
P.O. Box 970 www.arkansascatholic.org
Cherokee Village, AR 72525
Rectory: (870) 257-4456 St. Michael's CASA #7215
St. Michael's Email: stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com
St. Michael's Website: <http://stmichaelscvccatholicchurch.org>

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Amal Raju Lourduwamy Punganoor
Parish Secretary: Rhonda Bystry
Office Email: stmichaelsoffice22@yahoo.com
Bookkeeper: Rose Brandenburg
Email: stmichaelscv@yahoo.com

Holy Mass Schedule: May God Bless You

Holy Mass 9:00 a.m.: Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday & 1st Saturday
Evening Holy Mass 6:00 p.m.: Wednesday
Vigil Holy Mass 4:00 pm.: Saturday
Confession 3:00 p.m.: 3:45 p.m. Saturday, 1st Friday & 1st Saturday of the month after 9 a.m. Holy Mass or by Appointment.
30 minutes prior to every Holy Mass, we pray the Holy Rosary
For more information, please contact the Church Office.

Sacraments

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RISEN CHRIST!

The Sacrament of reconciliation is offered on First Friday and First Saturday after the 9 am Mass, Saturdays at 3 pm, and most any reasonable time by appointment. Your identity need not be known; your anonymity is respected.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is strongly encouraged by those seriously ill, the elderly, or those facing surgery. This sacrament of Our Lord's healing & comfort is usually available on the last weekend each month after every Mass, or by appointment.

The Sacrament of Marriage is a wonderful commitment to life and love, and the Church welcomes those who are called to this noble vocation. Christian marriage involves a couple's serious deliberation, prayer, and planning. The diocesan policy requires all engaged couples to contact the pastor at least 6 months before setting any wedding date.

The Sacrament of Baptism presupposes sufficient instruction according to the age of the candidate, and a desire to practice the faith. Expectant parents are encouraged to ask the Pastor for the Church's blessing for a safe and healthy delivery. Call the Church Office to schedule instruction and the service.

PARISH MINISTRIES

(Area code is 870 unless otherwise noted)

Adoration Chapel Coordinators

Rose Brandenburg (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) 847-5018
Anne Kootz (4 p.m. – 9 p.m.) 847-1985

Altar Society

Rose Brandenburg, Financial Secretary 257-2850

B-I-N-G-O

Isabelle Wiest 994-2243

Columbarium Committee

Jim Wege (Kevin Templet, Kevin Langellier) 847-3396

Holy Family Cemetery

Bernie Brandenburg 994-2744

Knights of Columbus

Jason Sabado (Grand Knight) 412-477-7946

Compassion Ministry

Pat Such 847-7224

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers - Buddy Kootz 847-0264

Eucharistic Ministers

Parish Secretary 257-2850

Communion to Nursing Homes

Nancy Paluck 421-9383

Communion to Sick & Homebound

Maureen Matselboba (941) 356-0333

Lectors

Teri Taylor 847-2112

Music Director

Rose Brandenburg 847-5018

Sacristans

Matt Winston 257-2857

Ushers

Joann Helfert 920-344-0365

Finance Council Committee

Michael Gagne (FC-Chair) (PC) 751-3419

Bernie Brandenburg (FC) 994-2744

Rhonda Bystry (FC) 994-2177

Maureen Fortuna (FC) 966-3367

Parish Council Committee

Buddy Kootz (PC-Chair) 847-0264

Rose Brandenburg (PC) 847-5018

Alison Munroe (PC) 847-7707

Joyce Speir (PC) 266-3586

Lori Templet (PC) 856-2261

Isabelle Wiest (PC) 994-2243

Prayer Chain

Kathy Gagne 751-3420

pray4me70@att.net

Religious Education C.C.D

Lori Templet 856-2261

lttemplet2507@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Nancy Paluck 421-9383

Help Line 257-3448

Altar Flower Decorator

Pam MacAulay 847-6742

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to St. Michael's! We're glad you're here.

Please introduce yourself to Fr. Amal, and register

by completing a registration form, then kindly

return it to the Church Office. Get involved! Volunteer! Let

us share with each other our God-given talents, love, and

service to our neighbors. R.C.I.A. Adult Education.



Mass Intentions

Saturday / August 15th – The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All deceased parishioners †
11:15 a.m. (St. Mary's in Horseshoe Bend)
4 p.m. Vigil Mass: Johnny Ivey †
by: Terry Phelps

*collection for the Assumption
2nd collection- Catholic Home Missions

Sunday/ August 16th – Twentieth Sunday Ordinary Time

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Dorothy Beardslee †
by: Dean Beardslee
2nd collection – Catholic Home Missions

Monday/August 17th – Weekday

9 a.m. Holy Mass : All volunteers at St. Michael's
by: People of the parish

Tuesday/ August 18th – Weekday

No Holy Mass

Wednesday/August 19th – St. John Eudes, Priest

6 p.m. Holy Mass : Kevin Templet
by : Lori Templet

*Altar Society card party at noon

Thursday /August 20th – St. Bernard, Abbott/Doctor

9 a.m. Holy Mass :Robert Belec †
by: People of the parish

*Bingo doors open at 4:30 pm games at 6 pm

Friday/ August 21st – St. Pius X, Pope

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Marty and Irene Barrack †
by: People of the Parish

Saturday / August 22nd – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

4 p.m. Vigil Mass: Joe and Maria Wilson †
by: People of the parish
Anointing of the Sick after Vigil Mass

Sunday/ August 23rd – Twenty-First Sunday Ordinary Time

9 a.m. Holy Mass : Mary Welch †
by: Ron Martin and family
Anointing of the Sick after Holy Mass



20th Sun- A
"O God
Let All The Nations
Praise You".
- Psalm 67:2
"O Woman,
Great is Your Faith"
Let it be done for You
As You Wish."
Mt.15:28

Mt.
15: 21-28
The
Canaanite
Woman
Teaches Us:
Faith
does not
Run
away from
God
During
Suffering:
Faith Runs
Towards
God.
Mt.7:7

Wishing you a Blessed Week



August 8th and August 9th 2026

Main Collection \$ 2169.36

Maintenance Fund \$ 875.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving !

Could you Not watch one hour with me ?

ADORATION CHAPEL SIGN-UP

Available Adoration

Wednesday 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Rose, (870) 847-5018, or

Anne, (870) 847-1985



God Bless the Donors and their Intentions

Altar Flowers are generously provided
by: Buddy Kootz in honor of his wife
Anne Kootz's birthday.

Tabernacle Roses are generously
provided by: Izzy Wiest in memory of
her son Greg Wiest.

Religious Education Registration

Mark your calendars for registration for religious education registration for adults and children. It will be on Saturday and Sunday August 15-16 and Saturday and Sunday August 22-23 before and after Holy Mass. Please sign up your children or any adult at one of these dates so the material can be ordered and be here in time for the classes when they start. Classes will begin in middle of September. For more information contact Lori Templet Ph# 225-717-0238 or email : ltemplet2507@yahoo.com

Our Condolences

To Brenda Gereda Manchisi and her husband Peter along with her other family members on the death of her mother, Francisca Sanbria who passed on August 6, 2026 in Mexico. May her soul rest in peace.

B-I-N-G-O

Come support our Bingo committee, they work hard to keep the bingo games going and the Knights do the concessions. **Games are every 1st Sunday of each month**, doors open at noon, games start at 1:30 pm and **every Thursday night of the week** doors open at 4:30 pm and games start at 6 pm. It's a great way to enjoy the hot summer nights in the cool with some good food from the Knight's and it benefits our church !

Winners of the Bingo Raffle

Microwave ,containers and ladies' wallet -Darrell Beason, Man's watch-Ray Jeanne, Blanket winners -Joyce Speir, Fr. Amal, Gail Lanman, Hand Blender- Joyce Speir ,Duffel bags-Harriet Poirier, Pillows-Shannon Langellier, Igloo cooler-Elizabeth Beason, meat thermometer-Fr. Amal, Blanket / Hand vacuum- Cat Jones, Football side dishes-Theresa Richardson, Fan- Cheryl Hill, Dutch oven- Brenda Wyble, Bowls/towels -Sue Nawrocki. **Thank you to everyone who participated in our raffle- Izzy Wiest**

Food Pantry collected items

There were 225 items collected the 1st weekend of August. This helps the needy in our area.



Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, Bernie Brandenburg, Robert Butner, Nell Kihm, Jack Heuser, Crystal Hawkins, Chuck Wolff, Jim Wege, Isabelle Wiest, Michael & Martha DeCoster, Larry Allen, Steve Allen, Georgia Harris, Dan Such, Dawn Logan, Sister Joy Wege, Tim and Betty Eash, Jimmy White, Gail Demarest, Nico Woode, Ray McHugh, Tim Starken, Marcella Birkhead, Michael Reddick, Colleen Royal, Gerald and Carol Metty, Darren Bates, Joseph Huff, Maryann Barber, Cecilia Cefalu, Darrell and Elizabeth Beason, Toni Travline, and Doug and Tammy Wortham.

Nursing Home: Ruth Klinge, KayLynn Rodenbeck and Timothy Huff

We wish you many blessings on your Birthday !

August 16th – Davina Boatwright

August 18th – Rhonda Bystry

August 19th – Juanita Gerringer

August 19th – Kevin Templet

August 22nd – Gale Scholz

August 22nd – BJ Simon

BIRTHDAYS



ANNIVERSARIES

We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary !

♡ No Anniversaries this week ♡

Collected from The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism, No. 2, Official Revised Edition

To Learn More About The Priesthood

Page 9

A priest is a MEDIATOR, a GO-BETWEEN, whose work is to unite God and man.

- a. God and Man separated by Sin

From the offense of the one man the result was unto condemnation to all men (Rom. 5:18)

- b. The work of Christ, the Priest, Reconciliation

The decree against us, which was hostile to us...He has taken it completely away, nailing it to the cross (Col. 2:14)

- c. The work of the Ordained Priest, the Ministry of Reconciliation

God was truly in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself by not reckoning against men their sins and by entrusting to us the message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19)

1. What is Holy Orders?

Holy Orders is the sacrament through which men receive the power and grace to perform the sacred duties of bishops, priests, deacons and other ministers of the Church.

2. What are some of the requirements that a man may receive Holy Orders worthily?

That a man may receive Holy Orders worthily it is necessary: *first*, that he be in the state of grace and be of excellent character; *second*, that he have the prescribed age and learning; *third*, that he have the intention of devoting his life to the sacred ministry; *fourth*, that he be called to Holy Orders by his bishop and be completed by age 27 years (for a priest).

3. What is meant essentially by a vocation to the priesthood?

By a vocation to the priesthood is meant essentially that invitation to receive Holy Orders given by the proper ecclesiastical superior to a man who, after a sufficient period of preparation and trial, gives signs that he has been called by God to the priesthood.

4. What are the chief signs that a man has been called by God to the priesthood?

The chief signs that a man has been called by God to the priesthood are: a sincere desire to become a priest, a virtuous life, and sufficient bodily health and intellectual ability to enable him to make the required studies and to perform the duties of the priestly life.

5. Do religious brothers and sisters receive the sacrament of Holy Orders?

No; religious brothers and sisters do not receive the sacrament of Holy Orders, but they have received from God a vocation to dedicate their lives to His service.

6. What are the effects of ordination in the priesthood?

The effects of ordination to the priesthood are *first*, an increase of sanctifying grace; *second*, sacramental grace, through which the priest has God's constant help in his sacred ministry; *third*, a character, lasting forever, which is a special sharing in the priesthood of Christ and which gives the priest special supernatural powers.

August 16, 2026

Christ is THE ONE priest is whom the fullness of the priesthood is found. All other priests share in the priesthood of Christ, as a mirror shares in the light of the sun. But just as a mirror really sheds light, so does the ordained priest really show forth the priesthood which he has from Christ through the priestly character/

7. What are the chief supernatural powers of the priest?

The chief supernatural powers of the priest are: to change bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Here he exercises his office of reconciliation by applying to the people the power of the Cross of Christ to unite man to God in love. The second is to forgive sins in the sacrament of Penance

8. Why should Catholics show reverence and honor to the priest?

Catholics should show reverence and honor to the priest because he is the representative of Christ Himself and the dispenser of His mysteries. "The priest is indeed another Christ, or in some way he is himself a continuation of Christ" (Pope Pius XI, encyclical on the Priesthood).

9. Who is the minister of the sacrament of Holy Orders?

The bishop is the minister of the sacrament of Holy Orders. To become a Bishop, one should be completed by age 35 years.

Prayer

O God, who for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of the human race did constitute Your Only-begotten Son as the supreme and eternal Priest, grant that those whom He has chosen as His ministers and the dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in the fulfillment of the ministry they have embraced. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen

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2nd Monday of the month
Rosary 5:00 p.m. Meeting 5:30 p.m.
Officers Meeting
Last Monday of the month
Rosary 5:30 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.



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Patriotic Degree of the order
FN Michael Gagne (870) 751-3419
Quarterly Business Meeting
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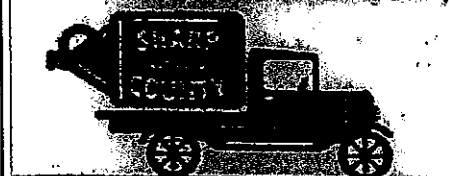
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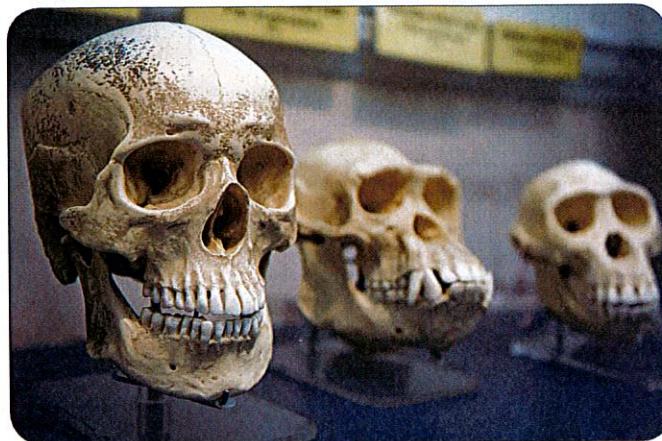
Dear Padre,

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. ●



JUUSKELAINEN / SHUTTERSTOCK

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



RUDIERNST / SHUTTERSTOCK

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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