

**Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,**

One day it seems a certain curious person in heaven asked St. Peter, "How many Hindus are there in heaven?" St. Peter replied, "No Hindus." Then he asked, "How many Muslims?" "Not even one." The man was surprised. He said: "Oh, then, there are only Christians in heaven? "No, there are no Christians in heaven either." "How many Catholics?" "No Catholics either". Then Peter said: "Heaven is not meant for any particular group of people." All are welcome here. In heaven there is no distinction between Hindus, Muslims or Christians, but all enjoy the loving presence of God. The Gospel of today gives us the message that no one is excluded from the love of God; rather, anyone with faith in God is welcomed to enjoy His blessings.

The men dominated Society of Jesus' time believed and propagated that salvation is only possible for Jews and not for Gentiles. Jews always condemned Gentiles as unclean dogs and dishonored them whenever it was possible. Jews even taught that Gentiles are excluded from God's Commandments and Love. It is in this background of the society we should see the interaction of Jesus with the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel.

In the Gospel of Matthew 10:5, we see Jesus is commissioning His disciples by saying, "Do not visit pagan territory and do not enter a Samaritan town. Go instead after the lost sheep of Israel." Today we see Jesus Himself takes an initiative to go to the Gentiles regions like Tyre and Sidon. Yes, Jesus is initiating a great transformation in the traditional beliefs and customs of Jews by interacting with the Canaanite woman. The Canaanite woman cry out "Have Pity on me Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon". If you remember last weekend's Gospel we can still hear the cry of St. Peter, "Lord Save me." If we compare the cry of St. Peter and the Canaanite woman, we can find that the Canaanite woman did a better job than Peter; so Jesus says, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish". Yes, a cry with faith will never be neglected from the hands of God. The greatness of the woman's faith is that she believed and professed her faith in Jesus before the fulfillment of her great need. The great woman addressed Jesus as Lord, Son of David, but last weekend, it was after everything calmed down the disciples said "Truly, you are the Son of God." Today, as we sit before the Lord, we need to ask a question, "why am I here today?" Am I waiting for a miracle to happen in my life through this Eucharist to strengthen my faith in Jesus like Peter and the other disciples? Or, am I here with a strong faith like the Canaanite woman to thank the Lord for all the blessings received and for all the blessings anticipated?

There is no doubt; most of us have gone through a feeling of rejection and humiliation from God and from others just like the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman's request was really embarrassing. Jesus says, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel....It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." Yes, Jesus says to her very clearly that, she is not disqualified by her birth to receive the blessings, but we see she qualifies herself excellently by her strong faith in Jesus. Yes, Jesus always appreciated the quality of Faith, and Jesus could see the quality of faith more among the Gentiles than among His own people; remember the story of the ten lepers, the Good Samaritan etc.

Yes, dear friends, the qualification to get blessings from God is our true Faith in God. So before we pray, we shall not forget to check the quality of our faith in God. "O, man and woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." **God Bless you.**

**Marriage Anniversary Celebration Mass Canceled**

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the annual Diocesan Marriage Anniversary Celebration Mass is being canceled. (The Mass was originally scheduled Sunday, September 27th at Christ King.)

**Sophia Award Mass Update**

The annual Sophia Award Mass will be canceled this year because of the concerns raised by the pandemic. We will honor the named individuals and convene the Mass again next year, honoring this year's nominees. Prayers for everyone trying to minister during these difficult times.

***Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless & Be Safe.***

**Financial Report - August 9, 2020**

<b>St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly</b>	
Regular Collection	\$ 3,193.00 + 254.91
Emergency Fund	\$ 175.00
Brescia	\$ 17.00

**Financial Report - August 9, 2020**

<b>St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly</b>	
Regular Collection	\$ 953.00 - 194.46
Emergency Fund	\$ 25.00
Brescia	\$ 95.00
Cemetery Fund	\$ 5,319.88

**Money Counting**

Due to safety reasons we are suspending the duty of counting money. At this point in time Sarah Brown will be counting the collection. Thanks.

**Mass Schedule**  
**August 16 - 23**

**Sunday - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Martin Hamilton*  
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*John W. Miller Jr.*

**Tuesday - Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time**

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*V.J. Steele Jr.*

**Thursday - Saint Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)**

-6:00pm - Mass at St. Charles  
*Souls in Purgatory*

**Saturday - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)**

-5:30pm - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Luke Searcy*

**Sunday - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Joe Hayden*  
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*Joe Bickett*

***"What we love we shall grow to resemble."***  
***-Saint Bernard of Clairvaux***

**Prayer List for members of our community:**

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Stella Ibrahims, Elaine West, Lisa Jackson, Howard Hillard, Brett McPherson, Stephanie Payne, Kathy Hudson, Evelyn Drury, Teresa Jones, Brittney Neal, Ethan Settle, Tom Schutte, Kim Staples, Katherine Roberts, Patricia Hardison, Tommy England, Dennis Millay, Todd Tichenor, Patricia Hayden, Jim Lebold, Jimmy Clayton, Candace Miller, Mary Jewell, Charlie May, David Abrams, Jackie Lee, Debbie Neal, James & Paula Tichenor, Tony Calvert, Mike Dant, Alice Durbin, Jim Logsdon Betty Bickett, John Muster, Pat Calhoun, Kyle Hicks, Kathy Owen, James Lewis Dant, Gloria Farmer, Allie & Josh Kirk, and Lisa Vaught. *Please call the office to have a name added to the prayer list. This list will be purged at the end of each month. Thanks*

**Please pray for our Military**

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zarembo, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey & Corpsman Aly Franklin

**Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings**  
**Outside the Liturgy**

Effective immediately (July 1, 2020), parish gatherings outside the liturgy (parish picnics, faith formation gatherings, RCIA meetings, etc.) as well as non-parish sponsored events held by groups renting or using parish facilities or property.

- Limit the persons in attendance to no more than 50% of the maximum permitted occupancy capacity of the space.
- Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household.
- Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask for the duration of any event held on parish property if closer than six feet to anyone not living within the same household. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age, health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home.
- Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.
- Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms.
- Encourage those at high risk to stay Healthy at Home.

**St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday**

Lynne Scott - August 17  
Isaac Caraway - August 22  
Laurie Scott - August 22

**St. Charles - Happy Birthday**

Hailey Neal - August 21  
Michelle Calhoun - August 23

**St. Sebastian - Happy Anniversary**



Donald & Cindy Durbin - August 16  
John & Catie Schutte - August 20  
Jerry & Earlene Abney - August 22

**New Optional Memorial**

Pope Francis inscribed a new optional Memorial of Saint Faustina Kowalska on October 5th each year. Information for liturgical texts can be found here: <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/saint-faustina-kowalska.cfm>. The Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America are emended as follows:

October 2020  
5, Monday, Weekday, green/white/white  
*[Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin; USA: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest]*  
Gal 1:6-12/Lk 10:25-37 (461)

Whenever you are unable to fill your ministry, please find someone to replace you and/or contact the office so your name will not be printed in the bulletin. Thank you for your understanding.