

August 17, 2008

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# Sunday



LET'S ADMIT IT. Some of Christ's followers reject others. We may not even let those who disagree with us into the conversation. We've acted like it was up to us to not allow them into eternity.

Humans have disagreed about religion for millennia. Christians have persecuted other monotheists. Some of the worst cases of hate and misunderstanding have been toward those who are close to us in faith...*but not quite the same*. Can we do better? Where do we start?

Where do we get our vision? Our hope?

The prophet Isaiah sees a time when God's house of prayer will be a house for all people. In Romans 11:29–32, Paul looks at how the new covenant has grown from deeper roots, a process that brings him to two amazing statements: “the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” and “they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.”

The Second Vatican Council document Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra Aetate*) embraces the tension the Church must live in. Addressing other faiths—it names Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—it says, “the Catholic Church rejects nothing of what is true and holy in these religions.” Two sentences later, the same document “proclaims, and ever must proclaim Christ ‘the way, and the truth, and the life’” (*NA*, 2; John 14:6).

In today's Gospel story, Jesus heals several people at once. It's not quick or easy. He challenges the Canaanite woman who is following him; she challenges him back. And Jesus then acts, not only as the healer who helps her and her daughter: he is the ultimate spin doctor.

His disciples see a foreigner who is a pest. Jesus sees a woman of great faith. The message of the Gospel is sophisticated. It is difficult. *It is freeing.*

## Today's Readings

Is 56:1, 6–7

Rom 11:13–15, 29–32

Mt 15:21–28

Liguori

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# St. Stephen Catholic Church

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Rectory — 1904 Bethel Road  
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Web Page — www.ss-cc.org

Gift Shop — Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM  
Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM  
Noon to 12:30 PM

Club House—817-599-8423  
Pro Shop—817-599-8431

## MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted

Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM  
Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)  
Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM  
Daily Mass 8:45 AM

## WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	August 16	6:00 PM	J. W. Wright & Deceased Members of K.O.C.	Memorial of St. Stephen of Hungary
Sunday	August 17	8:00 AM	Violeta Cruz, RIP	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
		10:45 AM	In Thanksgiving	20h Sunday in Ordinary Time
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	20° Domingo Ordinario
Monday	August 18	8:45 AM	Richard Nadler, RIP	Memorial of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious
Tuesday	August 19	8:45 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>	Memorial of St. John Eudes, priest
Wednesday	August 20	8:45 AM	Tommy Lucia	Memorial of St. Bernard, abbot and doctor of the Church
Thursday	August 21	8:45 AM	Marlene Fronk	Memorial of St. Pius X, pope
Friday	August 22	8:45 AM	J. W. Wright, RIP	Weekday
Saturday	August 23	6:00 PM	Pat Wright, RIP	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday	August 24	8:00 AM	J. W. Wright, RIP	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
		10:45 AM	Our Community	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	21° Domingo Ordinario

**Marriage** — six months notice required — please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** — seis meses es necesaria

**Baptism Instruction**—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)

**Quinceañera** — three month notice required — girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* — please see Fr. Casey

**Prayer Chain Coordinators**—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)

**Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins.** Contact the church office to be on the schedule.

**Census Information**—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.

**Bulletin Notices** are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event — notices may be e-mailed — deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday — your cooperation is greatly appreciated — Thank You!

**REGULAR  
COLLECTION  
August 9 & 10  
\$10,493.00  
SECOND  
COLLECTION  
Priest Care Fund  
\$2,099.00**

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend  
Are a Gift from  
Bob & Tony Vrba  
In Honor of Their 26th Wedding Anniversary  
And  
Jim & Jackie Dixon  
In Memory of Carter Robertson, Grandson*



“At the heart of the marvel of creation are you and I, the human family, crowned with glory and honor.”

—Pope Benedict XI  
Welcoming Ceremony, World Youth Day

### 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Canaanite woman implored Jesus to reach out to help her daughter. Jesus was stretched beyond what he thought was his mission. Will you let yourself go beyond what is ‘safe’?  
(Matthew 15:21-28)

### 20° Domingo Ordinario

*Mi casa sera llamada Casa de Oración para todo el mundo.  
Como Iglesia, recemos para que haya más vocaciones a la vida sacerdotal y religiosa.  
(Isaias 56:6-7)*

This weekend, Fr. Ed Schoellmann, a Maryknoll missionary priest will speak at all Masses. He will share his experience serving missions of Africa and Russia. You will be invited to participate spiritually and financially in the Church’s mission that brings the Good News of Jesus to all people. You may enroll in the Maryknoll Society and receive their monthly magazine.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.** Classes in English will start on **Sunday, September 7 at 9:15 AM.** Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net) or 817-613-8008.

**LAS CLASES DE EDUCACION RELIGIOSA** comenzaran el Domingo, **Septiembre 14.** Las clases disponibles son para niños de edad Pre-Jardín hasta Confirmación. Aquellos que asistiran a las clases para **Primera Comunión** (Segundo Grado) deberan presentar copia del Certificado de Bautismo. Aquellos que se registren para **Confirmación** (Grado 10) deberan presentar copias del Certificado de Bautismo y de Primera Comunión. Por favor presente ambos certificados cuando registre a los niños. Cualquier pregunta, por favor contacte a Jeanette Houle a [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net) o llame al 817 613-8008.

**CALL FOR CATECHISTS!** The following Catechist positions are available for the 2008-09 Religious Education School Year. Training is available. **6th grade - 1 position; Children's Gospel—adult needed for the 8 AM.** Any questions, please contact **Jeanette Houle** at [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net) or call 817-613-8008.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, come join us Monday, August 18, 7 PM, in the Family Center.** Catholicism is a way of life. Becoming Catholic is a journey in faith. The Catholic Church has a process for initiating adults into the Catholic Church. The process is called the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)*. This ritual includes a four-stage journey. **First Stage: Pre-Catechumenate.** (*This stage is a time of inquiry, not of commitment.*) There are other options available if this does not meet your needs. Catholics who wish to renew their faith are also welcome. Call the church office at 817-596-9585 for more information.

**ANNULMENTS.** If you are divorced and need a church annulment, please contact the church office at 817-596-9585.

**GOING-AWAY PARTY.** We are hosting a going away party for Richard and Deborah Shepherd on **Sunday, Aug. 31, from 2-4 PM** in the Family Center. Richard has accepted a position in Indianapolis, IN, and they will be leaving early in September. Everyone is invited to come wish them well and say good-bye. They will be dearly missed. Please call Carole Malugani at 817-594-4252 if you have any questions.

**CENTER OF HOPE.** St. Stephen will be serving at the Center of Hope **September 2, 3, and 4.** Please help us assist those in need by donating food or serving. Sign-up sheets will be available after all Masses in the church foyer. *Please do your part! God Bless and Thank you.* For information call Norma Gonzales at 817-596-4876.

**MONTSERRAT LADIES RETREAT SEPTEMBER 11-14:** Come away and pray on the shores of beautiful Lake Lewisville in a women's retreat. Take time to reflect on God's love for you. Treasure the silence to talk and listen directly to our Lord and Creator. Call Helen Taaffe at 817-594-6697 or Carole Malugani at 817-594-4252 to register, or call Montserrat directly at 940-321-6020 to register by phone. It is also possible to register online at [www.montserratretreat.org](http://www.montserratretreat.org) anytime day or night.

**This year Bishop Vann is presenting a "Family Matters" seminar on September 6 at 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM** at St. Bartholomew in Fort Worth. "Family Matters" includes educational information about breast cancer and the theology, biology and psychology of family planning issues and choices. Call 817-623-2430 or mail reservation to Catholics Respect Life, PO Box 1806, Keller, TX 7624. **Reservations are due by September 2.** For additional information contact 817-623-2430 or 817-680-3535. Applications available at [www.catholicsrespectlife.org](http://www.catholicsrespectlife.org) or in the church office.

**Golden Anniversary Celebration.** On **Sunday, October 12,** the Family Life Office will host the 3rd annual **Golden Anniversary Celebration** for all couples who have been **married 50 years or more by the end of this year.** The celebration will take place at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Fort Worth. Bishop Vann will preside at a special Mass which will begin at **3 PM** and will include an opportunity for you to renew your marriage vows and receive an anniversary blessing. A reception with cake and punch will follow immediately afterward in the parish Family Life Center. If you were married before 1958 and want to be part of this special celebration, call the parish office and leave your names, address, and date of marriage with the parish secretary.

La Diócesis de Fort Worth y su Oficina de Asuntos Familiares invitan a todos las parejas que tienen 50 años más de casados a su tercera Celebración de Aniversario de Oro el domingo, 12 de octubre. La celebración se llevará a cabo en la Iglesia de St. Bartholomew, 3601 Altamesa Blve., en Fort Worth. El Señor Obispo Vann sera el celebrante de la misa que empezará a las 3:00 p.m. Durante la celebración de la Santa Misa las parejas tendrán la oportunidad de renovar sus votos matrimoniales y recibirán una bendición especial de aniversario. Habrá una recepción con pastel y bebidas inmediatamente después de la misa en el Centro Familiar de la iglesia. Si ustedes se casaron antes del 1958 y desean formar parte de esta celebración especial, favor de hablar con la secretaria de su iglesia dejando sus nombres, dirección y fecha de la boda.

**Internal Auditor—Catholic Center.** The Diocese of Fort Worth seeks a *fill-time Auditor* for our Internal Audit Program at the Catholic Center. Principal duties will include reviewing and testing the compliance with laws, accounting procedures and policies, and administrative procedures and policies as they relate to the temporal affairs of entities of the Diocese of Fort Worth. For a full job description and application, visit [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org). If interested in this new position, e-mail a resume to [misimeroth@fwdioc.org](mailto:misimeroth@fwdioc.org) or fax to 817-244-8839 to the attention of Mark Simeroth, Director of Human Resources. **Application due date is September 2, 2008.**

**YOUTH GROUP.** All youth ages 13 and above are invited to participate in the **Youth Music Ministry.** Any questions contact Anthony Lucia at 940-859-1449 or Jeanette Houle at [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net). **The Divine Mercy Chaplet** will continue on **Wednesday, August 20, 3 PM in the Church.** Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net). **Mark your calendars!!! Youth Group will begin Wednesday, September 3 at our usual time of 6 PM with our 2nd annual PIZZA PAPERWORK PARTY!!!**

**WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
(All activities held at Bethel Road)

**Monday, August 18**

6:00 PM Parish Pantry  
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72  
7:00 PM RCIA Informational Meeting

**Tuesday, August 19**

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Rm. 1 & 2)  
7:15 PM Knights of Columbus

**Wednesday, August 20**

3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet  
6:30 PM Choir Practice  
7:00 PM Catholic Daughters

**Thursday, August 21**

10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)  
7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion

**Saturday, August 23**

7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya (Spanish))

# dear Padre

## Is it better to be Catholic?



The pope says the Catholic Church is better than other religions. Are we better than those of other faiths?

Surprised

Dear Surprised,

We Christian brothers and sisters are a fractured family, and there are many churches. We must be true to Christ's Church, to being Catholics. But, no, Catholic people are not better than people of other religions.

The one and only God sent his one and only Son to be the one and only Savior of the world. The Gospel says he founded a Church, one Church only, to complete his task after his earthly life was over. Scripture also says this Church is considered his mysterious Body, still alive and available among us. The Catholic Church humbly and tremblingly takes the responsibility of being that Church. Jesus promised this Church would never disappear.

Scripture teaches that God wills the salvation of everyone, and only Jesus Christ knows who are truly his own. All Christians pray with Jesus that all may be one. Come, Lord Jesus. Make us one again and forever.

*John Hamrogue, C.Ss.R.*



### Monday August 18



Weekday

Ez 24:15-24

Mt 19:16-22

### Tuesday August 19



Weekday

Ez 28:1-10

Mt 19:23-30

### Wednesday August 20



*Saint Bernard, abbot and doctor of the Church*

Ez 34:1-11

Mt 20:1-16

### Thursday August 21



*Saint Pius X, pope*

Ez 36:23-28

Mt 22:1-14

### Friday August 22



*The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Ez 37:1-14

Mt 22:34-40

### Saturday August 23



Weekday

Ez 43:1-7ab

Mt 23:1-12

### Sunday August 24



*Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Is 22:19-23

Rom 11:33-36

Mt 16:13-20