

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Sunday August 20	Is 56:1, 6-7 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 Mt 15:21-28
Monday August 21	Jgs 2:11-19 Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab & 44 or Thes 2:2b-8 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 21-22, 25 & 27 Jn 21:15-17
Tuesday August 22	Jgs 6:11-24a Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14 Mt 19:23-30 or Is 9:1-6 Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday August 23	Jgs 9:6-15 Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mt 20:1-16 or 2 Cor 10:17-11:2 Ps 148:1bc-2, 11-13a, 13c-14 Mt 13:44-46
Thursday August 24	Rv 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51
Friday August 25	Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10 Mt 22:34-40 or Is 58:6-11 Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9 Mt 22:34-40 or 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 or 13:4-13 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 Mt 18:1-5
Saturday August 26	Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17 Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 Mt 23:1-12

MINISTERIES FOR THE WEEKEND	
<u>HOSPITALITY</u>	
Saturday:	Richard Scoot, Brenda Mims, Rose Davis & Walter Davis
Sunday:	Alexandre Gamble, Jo'Nire Pete, T'Ana Williams & Candance Brown
<u>ANNOUNCER &amp; LECTORS:</u>	
Saturday:	A: Mona Richard L: Felicia Richard & Gary Mims
Sunday:	A: Reagan Pitre L: Hannah Allison & William Pitre
<u>ALTAR SERVER:</u>	
Saturday:	Reagan Pitre & William Pitre
Sunday:	D'Ana Williams
<u>EXTRE-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:</u>	
Saturday	Russell Bottley & Freda Guillory
Sunday:	Mr. & Mrs. Adam Jacobs

Attendance	
Saturday	53
Sunday	46
Weekend Collection	
Deductible	Non-Deductible
Mail In	\$ 110.00
Loose	\$ 73.00
Saturday	\$ 507.00
Sunday	\$ 867.00
<b>Total Deposit</b>	<b>\$ 1557.00</b>
<b>Expenses: phone</b>	<b>&lt;\$ 68.28&gt;</b>
<b>maintenance repairs</b>	<b>&lt;\$ 555.00&gt;</b>
<b>office contract</b>	<b>&lt;\$ 72.65&gt;</b>

**PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND**

John Abram
Mary Brown
Mary Crossley
David Jayce Carey
Courtney Chavis
Therese Ferguson
Hollis Fain
Joe B. Forward
Theresa Garrett
Ella Mae Garrett
Anna Garrick
Mark Mitchell Jr.
James Mims
Westley Popillion
John Richard, Sr.
Alma G Thibodeaux
Alma C Thibodeaux
Sammie Williams

To all our sick and homebound **THANK YOU** so much for your unwavering commitment and contributions to our parish. To better serve everyone Fr. Donatus is available to visit **ALL** parishioners at the appointed time. However, Fr. Donatus has reserved every other Friday for the homebound.



**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

James Arceneaux
Mable Durio
Mary Feathers
Alberta Fontenot
Frances Freeman
Debra Glaude
Margaret Green
Myrtle Guillory
Marvin Hampton
Celestine Johnson
Calvin Johnson
Stacy Johnson
Rose Lee Johnson
Lakeisha Guidry-Jones
Leothus Jones
John Milton
Ruby Milton
Bettye Odom
Clayona Pilette
Brushelle Scott
Robert Simmons
Joe Ware

**August Birthday List**  
**Happy Birthday to::**

Jill Mosby	1
Marina Taylor	1
Lauren Jackson	2
Christopher Henry	4
David Thomas III	6
Dorothy Jacobs	10
Gloria Richard	11
Veronica Warren	11
Walter Davis Sr.	15
Tyler Rodriguez	15
Mary Lazenby	17
Kimverlyn Caldwell	17
Morgan Jackson	19
Patrick Mims	27
John Riggs Sr.	28
Horace Broussard	29
Happy Anniversary	
Carroll & Mable Durio	4th
Patrick & Brenda Mims	18th
John & Tammy Richard	12th
Lester & Sanja Popillion	31st

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sunday August 20	9:00 a.m.+ Mr. Elias Gobert requested by Bryan & Sheila Metoyer
Monday August 21	No Mass
Tuesday August 22	6:00 p.m. +
Wednesday August 23	6:00 p.m.
Thursday August 24	6:00 p.m. +Elias, Magdalen, Cecilia Gobert requested by Angeline & Angela Gobert
Friday August 25	6:00 p.m Adoration
Saturday August 26	4:00 p.m. + Mr. Elias Gobert requested by Bryan & Sheila Metoyer

(N.B. You can request Mass to be offered for you/ your love ones, or the deceased.. Speak with the Pastor or call the office to schedule).

**Bishop Faith Appeal/Fundraiser**  
**Goal : \$25,000.**  
**Pledged: \$ 13,350. Paid: \$ 9,175.**

*It is the time of year again where we to begin the work on our BFA goal., and for those of us that has not yet pledged please do so and for those of us that has Thank You so much. For any information please contact Robert Gobert at (504) 232-5640 or Shirley Ray (409) 779-9922. We are look forward to the continued growth of our parish*


# St. Therese Catholic Church

*Served by The Missionary Society of St. Paul from Nigeria since 2000*

1409 6th Street 77630  
Email: sttherese1350@yahoo.com

Phone: (409) 883-3783  
Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400


Fax: (409) 883-4918  
Website: stthereseorantex.org



**Pastoral Team:**

**Rev. Donatus Mgbеajuo, MSP**  
Email: donachrisneo@yahoo.com  
Contact information: cell (409) 454-3958  
Rectory: (409) 920-4007  
Deacon Julian Richard (409) 221-2743  
Deacon Hazen Kenney (512) 791-0847

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



## 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### August 20, 2017

**“O woman, great is your faith!  
Let it be done for you as you wish.”**

**Eucharistic Celebration**

**Weekends:**  
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

**Reconciliation**  
Saturdays: 3:20 p.m. 3:55 p.m.

**Infant Baptism:**  
Please contact the pastor two (2) months in advance



**GREAT is Thy Faith**

**Weekdays:**  
Tuesday-Friday 8:00 a.m.  
Thursday: Faith Program 5:30 p.m.

**Adoration & Benediction**  
1st Friday each month 6p.m.-7p.m.

**Marriage:**  
Please call Rectory six (6) months prior to proposed date

<b>SECRETARY</b>	
Cindy Hampton	(409) 882-0935
<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b>	
Richard Scott, Chairman	779-7587
Rose Davis, Vice Chairman	883-0762
Steven Allison, Secretary	313-0586
Cecilia Davis	920-1136
Rose Bottley	886-1525
Charlis D. Rogers	988-8719
Adam Jacobs	883-9688
Albert Hebert III	746-2627
<b>DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	
Sanja Popillion	(409) 670-0808
<b>FINANCE COUNCIL</b>	
Andre Robertson	882-0012
Tina Kindle	238-4447
Robert Gobert	(504) 232-5640
Sheila Arnold	313-2062
Janice Semien	883-7126

# TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## Openness

Today's readings remind us that all of us are "strangers" who owe our "closeness" to God's openness and all-inclusive love. By definition, then, we have no business dabbling in any form of exclusiveness. As Isaiah puts it, God's "house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7    RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8**  
**SECOND READING: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32    GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28**

## Comment

The reading from Isaiah speaks to "insiders" and "outsiders." It reminds us that salvation is not contingent on membership in a chosen people. Rather, it depends on a person's attitude of faith. All who embrace the faith of Israel will enjoy the salvation God has promised Israel. God is not exclusionary. God is openness and welcome. That is why God's house "shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

In the second reading, we find Paul speaking of a remnant, a recurring theme throughout the ancient Scriptures. Paul emphasizes that the prophets have continued to announce that no matter what befalls God's people, God will save a remnant. Paul sees this as a divine gift, a gift of life out of death.

Paul is reminding us not to grow smug, not to write off the Jews. God is working in ways we cannot understand—perhaps cannot even imagine. The house of God will be a home for all, for God has so promised. God will stay true to that word. God will have no "them" and "us," no insiders and outsiders.

In today's Gospel passage, the Canaanite woman is the ultimate "outsider." She is a triple threat, you might say: she is a non-Jew; she is a Canaanite enemy; she is a woman. Maybe she's a quadruple threat: she's also bold. Her daughter is suffering, troubled and beset by a demon. The woman recognizes that Jesus is Lord, Son of David, so she boldly calls upon him to cure her child. Jesus doesn't offer her any response. However, the woman does get a rise out of Jesus' disciples. They don't feel pity for her, only embarrassment because of her. Their response is to entreat Jesus to get rid of her. Jesus proceeds to do just that. He tells the woman that his mission is to the lost sheep of Israel alone. The woman, however, is persistent. Jesus becomes more blunt, even insulting. She brushes off the insult and says that she'll take what she can get. Jesus can't refuse such faith. He gives her everything. He heals her daughter.

Since Jesus repeatedly denies the Canaanite woman and even goes so far as to call her the "D" word (dog), it's tempting to read sarcasm, even venom, in Jesus' words. To do so, however, would be to fail to recognize an ancient mode of Semitic dialogue and wit that matches wise aphorism with wise aphorism or riddle with riddle. Jesus tosses off a maxim to the woman and she turns it around on him to her own advantage. Jesus is impressed. He acknowledges her wisdom and praises her faith.

Matthew uses this event to explain how Jesus' mission of salvation is not a parochial one. Rather, the evangelist wants to make it abundantly clear that Jesus' mission is one that extends beyond the house of Israel to the ends of the earth and to all its people. Matthew wants us to understand that membership in the chosen people is neither enough nor essential. What is enough, what is essential is active faith.

## Reflection

The Canaanite woman is one gutsy gal. Unnamed, outcast, a foreigner, a woman, she stands for us as a model for faith and faith-filled prayer. Her prayer comes from a deep recognition of who she is and upon whom it is she is calling. Her prayer is "grounded" in humility (from *humus*, "of the earth/dust"). Her intercession is made not on her own behalf, but on behalf of her sick and tortured child. Her prayer is simple, to the point, and brooks no misinterpretation: "Lord, help me!" No matter that she is one of Israel's outcasts, she calls upon Jesus to "observe what is right, do what is just" (Isaiah 56:1). The woman's faith is strong. That makes her prayer persistent. Neither she nor it will be rebuffed. She calls to mind the words of Saint Paul, "There does not exist among you Jew or Greek, slave or freeman, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Here, in the middle of Matthew's Gospel, the Canaanite woman serves as our representative, one of the many ordinary, unnamed, and outcast people, on behalf of whom, at the end of the Gospel, Jesus commands, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19).

### \*\*SPECIAL MEETING OF PASTORAL COUNCIL\*\*

There will be a special Pastoral Council meeting to discuss the use of the Life Center on Wednesday, AUGUST 30, 2017 at 6:00 pm. For those Parishioners with ideas, suggestions, questions or concerns in this matter please give them to any Pastoral Council member. The first 30 minutes will be open to everyone and the Council will submit your information then. There after the meeting will be closed for discussion. ALL members of the Pastoral Council must be present. Thanks in advance

### \*\*\*Thanks For Everything\*\*\*

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a floral piece, If so we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, As any friend could say;  
Perhaps you were not there at all, Just thought of us that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts,  
We thank you so much whatever the part.

The Family of Mr. James Clint Richard

## Aren't Statues a Form of Idolatry?

In Deuteronomy, God warns the Israelites against "fashioning an idol to represent any figure, whether it be the form of a man or of a woman" or of other creatures (see 4:15-18). Joining biblical passages such as these with the divine commandment against idols (see Ex 20:4; "graven images" in the King James Version), many Christians insist that all statues of religious subjects are forbidden.

We must note, however, that as the rest of the commandment makes clear, God has forbidden only the making of such images with the intention of worshiping them, as the pagans did. He has by no means banned the creation of all religious images.

On the contrary, the Lord actually instructed the Israelites to store those very commandments, carved in stone, within a sacred container (ark) to be decorated with golden images of angelic beings called cherubim (see Ex 25:10-22). He also commanded the people to decorate the places where they worshiped with gold, bronze, and wooden images of animals and plants (see Ex 25:33-36; 26:1; 1 Kgs 6:23-7:51; 2 Chr 3:10-4:22)

Why do Catholic churches, schools, and homes display religious statues and other images? Such images are an aid to remembering and honoring our Lord, his mother, the saints, and the angels.

No Catholic who knows anything about the Catholic faith has ever worshiped a religious image. Even when Catholics kneel to pray before a statue, or burn candles or place flowers before it, they aren't worshiping the image. They are simply expressing love and honor for the person represented by the statue.

Think of how most people display photos of their loved ones in their homes and workplaces or carry them on their person. They may occasionally even kiss a picture. When they do, are they worshiping these images? Of course not! The affection they show to the photos is actually directed toward those the photos portray.

Does venerating saints and angels in this way somehow "steal" honor from God? No. They are his "handiwork" (Eph 2:10). Our praise of the masterpieces redounds to the glory of the Artist who created them.

Finally, consider this: If we cherish the memory of statesmen, war heroes, and even sports celebrities by making statues of them, then what can be our objection to honoring the heroes of the faith? (See Sir 44:1-15.)

**RELATED SCRIPTURE—Texts cited: Ex 20:4; 25:10-22; 33-36; 26:1 • Dt 4:15-18 1 Kgs • 2 Chr • Sir 44:1-15 • Eph 2:10. General: Rom 12:10 1 Cor • Heb 1:14; 11:1-40; 12:22-24. CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH-2129-2132**

### Silent Retreat for Women

Holy Family Retreat Center 9920 North Major Drive Beaumont, TX 409-924-4366 Thursday - Sunday, September 21-24, 2017

Registration begins at 4:00 pm on Thursday, opens with a light supper at 5:00 pm and ends with lunch on Sunday.

Cost: \$295/person \$75 deposit  
Pre-register by August 24

### Catholic Charismatic Renewal

A Catholic Charismatic Renewal will be held 7-9 PM, Friday, August 25th at St. Helen Catholic Church, 8105 FM 1442, Orange-field, TX. Fr. Noel Effiong, M.S.P., pastor of Our Mother of Mercy Church, Beaumont, will speak on "...all things work out for those who believe..." Rm.8:28. Ted Nelson will provide music for Praise and Worship. Refreshments, fellowship and individual prayer will follow. **All are invited.** For more information contact Brenda Toups, home phone # 409-727-5321, cell # 409-332-2921 and email: [toups@att.net](mailto:toups@att.net). Thank you for your consideration.

### \*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*

*If anyone has any announcements to be placed in the Weekly Bulletin, upon the Pastor's approval please submit your information to the parish office by 12 noon Wednesday's. THANK YOU*

### RETREAT WEEKEND FOR MARRIED COUPLES

The Office of Family Life Ministry is hosting another "I Do Again" marriage enrichment event to help revive, strengthen and celebrate marriages. Facilitators are Anthony and Tami Landry

September 8-10, 2017 Friday – Sunday Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza  
3950 I-10 South Walden Road  
Beaumont TX

Please register immediately as space is limited. For additional information, please contact:

Sandra Hall at 409-924-4325  
[shall@dioceseofbmt.org](mailto:shall@dioceseofbmt.org)  
Jerome Cabeen at 409-924-4390  
[jcabeen@dioceseofbmt.org](mailto:jcabeen@dioceseofbmt.org)

The cost of the "I Do Again" Marriage Retreat is \$100.00 per couple. This fee includes room, board, materials and instruction. Please make checks out to the "Diocese of Beaumont."

### Bishop's Faith Appeal Intentions Mass

6:30 pm ~ August 24, 2017  
St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica,  
Bishop Curtis Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.,

Reception to follow in Cathedral Center.  
RSVP by August 7 to (409) 924.4302  
or [bfa@dioceseofbmt.org](mailto:bfa@dioceseofbmt.org) so that we may plan properly for food. Light supper.

### NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. THERESE—THE LITTLE FLOWER

St. Therese, beloved friend, you promised to spend your time in heaven doing good upon the earth. WE come before you in our need. We believe that you listen to us and approach God for and with us. You are love in the heart of the God. Please accept these petitions, hopes, needs and dreams that I list below (pause). Please present them to our loving Father so that God may do what is best for us, for our loved ones, and for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom. Continue your shower of roses in our lives. We ask you, dear friend with the bold confidence and loving care. We make this prayerful petition in the name of Jesus and through the power of his Spirit. **AMEN.**