

Sunday Connection

A Gospel Reflection by Loyola Press

Sunday, August 16, 2026

20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time(A)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

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



GOSPEL BACKGROUND AND FAMILY CONNECTION

Jesus' initial unresponsiveness to the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel 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.

The other point to note is the boldness and persistence of the woman's faith and asking for what she needs. As a family, recall when a request was initially denied, but then through persistence was eventually granted. What led to the change of heart? What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman's daughter? God wants us to be confident in his mercy and bring our needs to Him in persistent prayer.



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

AUGUST 16, 2026

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

100 S. Main St. - PO Box 187 - Spearville, KS 67876 - www.stjohnspearville.com

Pastor

Fr. John Forkuoh, 385-2212

Parish Secretary/DRE

Jenny Schmidt, 385-2202

Bookkeeper

Tena Gleason, 385-0615

Parish Council-1st Thursdays @ 8PM

President: Jess Halling

Parish Center Office Hours

Hours listed are approximate and change often as needed.

Fr. John - frjohn47@yahoo.com:

T/W/F : 10 am-12 pm

(by appointment for sacramental needs)

Jenny - jschmidt@stjohnspearville.com:

M-F: 2:30 pm - 5 pm (during the school year)

MASS SCHEDULE: AUGUST 17TH - 23RD

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	MASS INTENTION
M-8.17	No Mass on Mondays - Father's Day Off		
T-8.18	8:30am	Parkview	Harper Trumble's Birthday
"	9:30am	Southwind	Berna Mae Stegman
W-8.19	8:30am	Parkview	Stephanie & Ryan Hagans Anniv.
Th-8.20	8:30am	Parkview	Mark Downey
F-8.21	8:30am	Parkview	Connie Burkhart
Sat-8.22	*4 PM*	Church	Elmer Schuette
Sun-8.23	8:00am	Church	All Parishioners of St. John

Confessions: Saturdays at 5:45 PM or by appointment.

MASS MINISTERS - AUGUST 22ND & 23RD

Collection: Jan Rabe & Kevin Rabe		
MASS	SATURDAY - *4:00* PM	SUNDAY - 8:00 AM
Sacristan	Bonnie Laudick	Karla Gleason
Servers	Chase Howerton Tessa Howerton Dawon Huston	Clare Bowman Elizabeth Bowman
Lector	Jamie Dodd	Rich Gleason
EMHC	Becky Downey Jolene Tasset Larry Tasset	LynAnn Bowman Connie Heskamp Riley Schmidt
Music	Gayla Kirmer	Gayla Kirmer
Ushers	TJ Ackerman Kevin Rabe	Jeff Heskamp Nathan Stein
Gifts	Larry & Linda Friess	Jacob Stegman Family

Get Connected



1. Visit formed.org/signup
2. Enter our zip code and select our parish.
3. Enter your name & email.

Join the Email Prayer Chain

To join the list or to send a prayer request, email Ginny Werner (ginny_werner@yahoo.com) or Lynnette Hessman (nettemae1984@yahoo.com).



K&C Meetings

1st Mondays
7:45 PM Rosary
Meeting Follows



The Daughters of Isabella
St. Vincent de Paul #211

D of I Meetings

2nd Mondays
7:00 PM
Oak Room



facebook

Find the most current announcements on our Facebook page!

BIRTHDAYS 8/17-8/23

8.18	Jan Rabe
8.20	D'Nelle Greenstreet Phyllis Indiek Amy Thompson
8.21	Louie Konrade
8.23	Lynnette Hessman



Parish Announcements, News, and Events

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION: In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the Romans, "God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." To what is God calling me today? What gifts are mine to share?

TITHING REPORT for AUGUST 8TH & 9TH:

Box: \$ 1,879.00

Online: \$ 1,230.00

ROSARY CHALLENGE:

As always, when you receive the statue, pray for increased vocations in our diocese, your own personal intentions, and the pope's intentions listed for the month.

August Intention: Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

August 16th-23rd: Pat Sanko



Please Note:

With Jenny's teaching position at the school, her parish office hours will be different now, as outlined on the front cover of the bulletin. They will also be limited as school gets underway. Please email her for the quickest response to your parish needs. You may text her if contact is urgent. Thank you for your patience during this transition!

DATES TO NOTE:

- **August 21st:** Outdoor Adoration and beginning of the St. John the Baptist Novena-**8:30 PM on the South side of the church.**
- **AUGUST 22ND MASS TIME CHANGE: 4 PM**
- **August 22nd:** KofC Cash Giveaway
- **August 24th:** Daily Mass at Church - 7 AM
- **August 26th:** Opening Mass & Registration for the '26-'27 Religious Education Year - Mass at 7 PM - Registration After Mass: \$25/child
- **August 28th:** Adoration, Benediction, & Confession - 6:30-7:30 AM
- **August 28th/29th:** Photo Sessions for the new Parish Pictorial Directory
- **August 29th:** Parish Celebration for the Passion of St. John the Baptist - Please use this as an opportunity to send off Fr. John!
- **AUGUST 29TH/30TH: Last Masses with Fr. John**
- **September 9th:** 1st Religion Class



PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY INFO:

Friday, August 28th & Saturday, August 29th

Please visit ucdir.com and click "Photography Session Sign-Up."

Use the church code: **KS245** and password: **245photos**.

Time slots are running out!

*If you cannot attend the photography sessions, you will have the opportunity to submit a digital photo for the parish directory. However, this will cost \$15 per submitted photo. Please only use this option if you will be gone or are homebound. If time slots run out, we can see about adding more.

If you're submitting a digital photo, please email a .jpg image file to jschmidt@stjohnspearville.com. Digital files must have a minimum photo resolution of 300 dpi at 2x3 inches. Email the picture and the following info: Full Name of Head of Household, Spouse (last name if different), and children listed oldest to youngest.

If you have digital photos that commemorate any moments we've shared with Fr. John in the last 11 years, please email them to Jenny by August 23rd: jschmidt@stjohnspearville.com. Thank you!

VOCATION REFLECTION:

"The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29)

Use the gifts that God has given you to stir into flame the gift of faith.

If you're discerning the priesthood, contact our Diocesan Director of Vocations:

Fr. John Stang @ 620-227-1500 or vocationpromotion@dcdiocese.org

Come Pray With Us!

Outdoor Adoration, Confession, & the St. John the Baptist Novena*

Friday, August 21st - 8:30 pm

St. John the Baptist Church

Bring a lawn chair and come spend some time in the presence of Jesus and others on the south side of the church, praying together for our parish. Fr. John will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation inside the church.

*August 21st will be Day 1 of the St. John the Baptist Novena. We encourage everyone to pray that each day for 9 days, ending on Saturday, August 29th, the Passion of St. John the Baptist.