

Established
July 5, 1840

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u
St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / Confessions: Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church

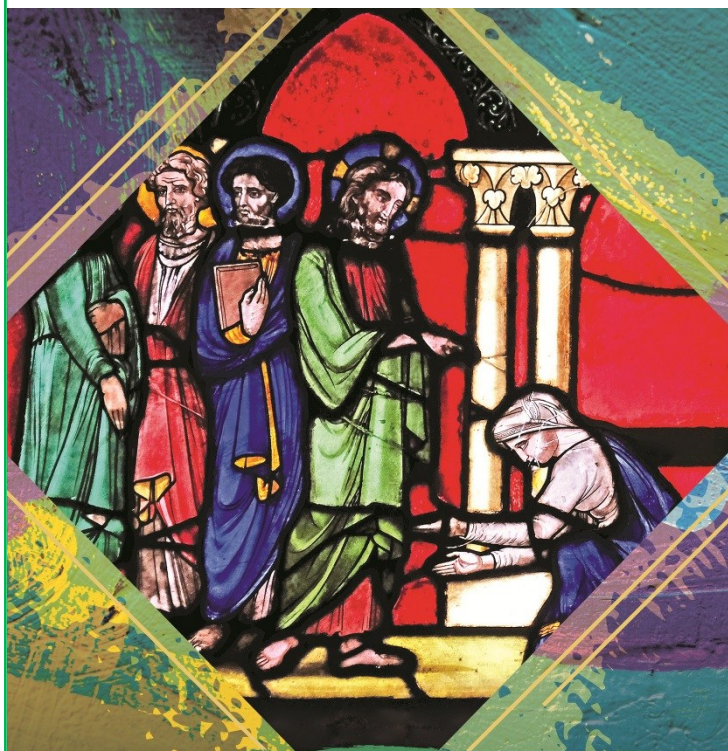
WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 12noon

Gift Shop Hours: Sun 7:30am - 11:00am (1st & 3rd Sundays until 1:30pm) Wed 9:00am - 1:00pm

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **August 16, 2026 | 16 de agosto de 2026**

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I - **Isaiah 56:1, 6-7** | Psalm - **67:2-3,5,6,8** | Reading II - **Romans 11:13-15, 29-32** | Gospel - **Matthew 15:21-28**
Reading I - **Isaías 56:1, 6-7** | Salmo - **66:2-3,5,6,8** | Segunda Lectura - **Romanos 11:13-15,29-32** | Evangelio - **Mateo 15:21-28**



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The woman came and did Jesus homage, saying,
"Lord, help me." - Mt 15:25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1968, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

CALLED TO ACT IN GOD'S NAME

"Let all the nations praise you!" (Psalm 67:4) today's psalm response exclaims. In the psalms and other Hebrew scriptures, this kind of invocation is actually an invitation to God to act, to intervene in human lives in a manner that will cause everyone-not just the Chosen People-to give praise. Stated a bit more strongly, it is something of a "put up or shut up" challenge to God, the sort of strong statement the psalmists of Israel, trusting in their intimate and loving relationship with God, were not afraid to make.

The Gospel has its own exclamation, announcing the appearance of the Canaanite woman with "Behold!" (Matthew 15:22) "Behold!" is a scriptural flag that tells us that God is about to act or announce something through an individual or a situation. In the case of Jesus, God was going to act through this woman, whom nobody among Jesus' followers would have believed to be an agent of the divine will. Like the psalmists, we might passively inform or perhaps even actively challenge God to do something so that everyone will come to belief, but God will always turn the tables on us. It becomes our calling, our duty (as it was for Jesus) to behold the situations and persons of our daily lives so that God can act through us, so the Kingdom can be announced through our living.

- Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: Isaiah (Isaías) 22:19-23

Psalm/Salmo: 138(137): 1-2,2-3,6,8

2nd Rdg/Segunda Lectura: Romans (Romanos) 11:33-36

Gospel/Evangelio: Matthew (Mateo) 16:13-20

Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at saintmichaelparishkona.org. To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.



August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 56:1, 6-7 | Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 | Mt 15:21-28

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I have often wondered why Jesus' words to the Gentile woman in today's Gospel sound so harsh. The woman was simply asking Jesus to heal her daughter, as so many others before her had done. Jesus' reply that he had been sent only to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" may have been true under the old covenant. But with his coming, Jesus initiated the new covenant where all are invited, all are welcome. Through the woman's gift of faith (whose prayer says simply, "Lord, help me"), she brings herself and her daughter into the joy and goodness of the kingdom. Jesus commends her faith (and her persistence) and heals her daughter. This passage demonstrates the healing God wishes to provide for all of his people.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Thus says the Lord in Isaiah: "My house shall be called a **house of prayer for all peoples.**"

Responsorial psalm: "O God, let all the nations praise you!"

Jesus to the Canaanite (Gentile) woman: "**O woman, great is your faith!**"

Our readings today spell out loud and clear that our God's love and forgiveness is meant for all. Not just the few. This is good news, indeed. What does God ask of us in return? He asks that we strive to do *what is right ... what is just*. In short, we must *join [our]selves* to the Lord, as Isaiah says, and God will welcome us into his holy kingdom. How do we do that? We can start by trying to imitate the generosity of God's grace and welcome those who seek God's mercy and healing. In other words, we reach out in love to each other and seek to build up the unity of his Church, the Body of Christ.

WELCOME

On some level, all the readings today speak of disparate people coming to the faith: foreigners, all the nations, the Gentiles, a Canaanite woman. Does your parish have some form of welcoming ministry – a welcome desk, ushers, greeters? The power of a friendly smile, a warm handshake, a disposition of "we're happy you're here" cannot be underestimated for visitors to our churches. Consider becoming a part of the team that welcomes the stranger to your parish.

Life of Stewardship

Today's Gospel from Matthew reminds us to trust the Lord even when it seems He is not answering our prayers.

God desires to lead us to the joy of heaven and eternal life with Him. To prepare us for that day, He calls us to grow in faith and to live each day as a grateful response to His goodness. In other words, He is forming us into saints. This is what the stewardship way of life is meant to accomplish. At times that process is difficult. Often, it stretches us beyond our comfort.

Jesus certainly challenged the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. She cried out to Him on behalf of her daughter, who was tormented by a demon. How did Jesus respond to this desperate mother's plea? At first, He "did not say a word in answer to her." Undeterred, she continued to seek Him, and He continued to test her faith.

She responded with such remarkable trust that Jesus proclaimed, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Imagine hearing those words spoken to us by our Lord. There could be no greater affirmation of a life lived in faithful discipleship.

The stewardship way of life will test our trust in God at times. But those are often the moments when He is doing His greatest work within us. Let us persevere in faith, trusting that His plan is always leading us toward the joy He has prepared for us. - *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants*

Parish News

St. Michael Statue Brick Garden - Final Phase

If you've been thinking about purchasing a brick, this is the last opportunity to be part of this beautiful project. There are a few 4x8 and 8x8 bricks left. Information and order forms are available after Mass at the coffee station, at the kiosk, or from the Parish Office during the week.

Sharing Garden Needs More Helping Hands

"By feeding the hungry, we realize Corporal Works of Mercy."

Our Sharing Garden grows fresh vegetables and fruit to nourish our community. Volunteers gather on **Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 7 to 9:30am**. We plant, weed, water, and harvest together in fellowship and service. The harvests are distributed at the St. Michael Food Pantry, Mālama Nā Keiki, and The Homes at Ulu Wini. **No gardening experience needed - just a willing heart and helping hands!** To learn more or to join us, please contact **Beth through the Parish Office**.

Women of the Word Ministry Needs Your Kokua

Join the Women of the Word Ministry (WOW) with their new project to help **Mental Health Kokua** furnish their **Ho'omau Hale**, that will house 6 adult men and women who are striving to improve their mental health. We are looking for living room furniture, a dining table with six chairs, four night stands, a single bed frame and mattress, two dressers and four night stand lamps. The house has a large balcony that could hold an outdoor table and chairs, and deck chairs. If you or you know someone who is moving or replacing used furniture in good condition, we would love to repurpose the items for this good cause. Contact Shirley David at shirleydavid49@gmail.com.

Grief Recovery Method Program (9/21-11/9)

The Grief Recovery Method program provides a safe environment for you to look at your old beliefs about dealing with loss, which losses continue to affect your life, and take actions that will lead you to complete unresolved emotions that may still be causing you pain. It's an action based group, involves reading and writing assignments outlined in *The Grief Recovery handbook - 20th Anniversary Expanding Edition*. There is **no cost for this program**, but it does require a firm commitment to attend every session of the eight week program. Facilitated by Suzanne Zaw, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, this 8-week program will begin **Monday, September 21 to November 9, 2026 from 5:30 - 7:00pm in the Grace Parish Center**. Pre-registration is required. Please call Suzanne to register at 808-339-7980.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Is a Lifelong Journey

REMINDER to all parents:

Faith Formation doesn't end with the Sacraments. Even after receiving First Communion and Confirmation, children continue to grow in their understanding of God's love and their role in the Church. Faith Formation classes help to nurture that growth through prayer, learning, and community. We encourage you to bring your children to Faith Formation and Youth Ministry classes so they may continue their spiritual journey!

Faith Formation Registration (Grades K-5)

Faith Formation Registration forms are available in the kiosks. There will be a registration table outside the Parish Center after the weekend Masses on **August 15/16 and August 22/23**. You may also register online at saintmichaelparishkona.org.

Kids' Bulletin

The Kids' Bulletin is a great resource for kids who would like to have some fun while learning about the readings from the Sunday Mass each week. Bulletins are available in English and Spanish and can be found in the kiosks or online at www.thekidsbulletin.com.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Does God ignore or act a bit rough with you? Jesus crosses the border into the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon, the territory long outside the covenant. There, a Canaanite woman calls out, **"Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David."** At first, he is silent. Then he rebuffs her. **"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."** But the Church Fathers saw this not as an insult but as an initiation. Christ draws out of her heart a deeper faith.

She presses on. **"Please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."** Jesus' silence and response solidify her humility and trust. She thus becomes a model for prayer for centuries of Christians. St. Augustine said she shows how sinners come to grace by moving from silence to humility to perseverance.

This woman is the Church. She is you and me. She is every soul who dares to cry out from the margins, who

Stewardship of Treasure

August 3rd - 9th, 2026

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 3,815.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 14,639.00
BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	\$ 8,311.00

We are grateful that our construction debt for the Grace Parish Center has been paid off. Our weekly second collection will be for our Building Repairs & Maintenance. *Mahalo* for your continued generosity!

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or use our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2026 MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: \$14,082.75

The Diocesan Assessment covers shared staff and administrative resources from the Diocese supporting every parish. The new "Annual Appeal" assessment starting in January provides funds for collaborative Catholic ministries and services that extend beyond the capacity of any single parish.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit saintmichaelparishkona.org and click our **ONLINE GIVING** tab. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

endures divine silence until it turns to compassion. When Jesus says, "O woman, great is your faith," it is the joyful cry of God discovering faith where the world least expects it. Even the smallest crumb of Your mercy, Lord, is enough to heal the soul. Do we have the courage to show faith like that?
- Father John Muir, ©LPi

Treasures From Our Tradition

Once the way was cleared for additional Eucharistic Prayers, those who were appointed to compose them had to look deep within the tradition for sources. One of the prescriptions for new prayers was that they be "unencumbered by useless repetition." From the start, therefore, the writers knew that the old Roman Canon, which had the priest bowing and crossing himself many times in a long, complex prayer, was not a model of simplicity.

Aside from the prayers treasured by Eastern Christians, there is an obvious model from ancient Rome. For about a hundred years now, the historical text "Apostolic Tradition" has shed some light for us on the shadowy shape of worship in the early church. In it, its author, Hippolytus, took care to record the actual texts of worship used at the time. He himself has a shadow side, since he was so ardently conservative in his tastes that he broke ties with the Bishop of Rome and became first in the line of history's anti-popes. At the eleventh hour, however, he reconciled with his enemies and actually died a martyr. In fact, he was shipped off to the Sardinian mines as a slave with the true pope as his companion in chains. Because his tussle with the pope was over theological innovations and not liturgical texts, we are sure that his account of the style of Eucharistic Prayer in the third century is accurate. It forms the core of today's Eucharistic Prayer II.

- Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Everyday Stewardship - Give Mercy to Others

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is now in the history books and looking back I wonder if I have been changed at all by the observance. Certainly the focus on mercy wasn't all about God's mercy toward me? Yes, I focused on my sin and the need for God's forgiveness and grace, but hopefully that changed how I live my life and how I offer mercy to others.

The mercy we receive from God is not something we are to keep bottled up or hidden from others. Jesus taught us to treat others the way we would like to be treated and to love everyone, even our enemies. When Jesus healed the Canaanite woman I wonder what she did next. I would hope she in turn offered mercy and healing to others. Of course, I know she was imperfect just like me so I am sure in no time she was back to needing the mercy of Jesus. Her demon was gone, but there is always a new evil around every corner.

However, the fact that we are a broken people always in need of mercy does not lessen the command for us to offer mercy. Mercy is a gift like so many others that God lavishes on us with great generosity. We are called to cultivate this and share it with others as well. If we cannot do that then what was the real effect of God's mercy in our lives? If we do not allow God to change us into more generous stewards ready to offer mercy and love to all, then perhaps we are fooling ourselves that we are true disciples of Jesus at all. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

The Challenge of Stewardship

Every day we are called by Christ to respond in some way. The more practice we have at giving of ourselves freely and living in His presence, the easier it is to discern that call. Once we hear the call, the choice is ours: will we respond with yes or no? We could say that we are not required to say yes because God has given us free will. However, our response speaks much to where we are in our maturity of faith. When we were children, the word "no" used to be one of our favorites. If we continue to say that as we get older, well, that says something about where we are in our walk with the Lord. If we truly are disciples of Jesus Christ and are serious about growing in our faith, we will say "yes." We are not required to say yes, but we say yes because that is who we have become.

This is the challenge of a stewardship way of life. Have we matured enough to say yes when God calls, regardless of how much our answer may cost us? What matters more to us: what it will cost us or our relationship with Jesus? Some days we will easily be able to say yes. The grace and love he gives us will be plenty to see us through whatever situation in which we find ourselves. However, we are imperfect beings and there will be days when we are more into ourselves than him. It is on those days that we find ourselves at a true crossroads of a challenge. The choice is always ours. Hopefully, our faith will be strong enough. His call is never for his own sake. He calls us because the world he

YOU ARE INVITED

(schedule may change without advance notice)

MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

TUESDAY

- Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:00-7:30pm
(meetings resume on Tuesday, 9/8)

WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Gift Shop Open 9am-1pm
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Hula Ministry Practice 5:30-6:30pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm
- Neocatechumenal Way 6:00-7:00pm
(Last Wed. of each month) 7:00-8:00pm

THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm
(3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm
(1st & 3rd Thursday-meetings resume on 8/6)

FRIDAY

- Women of the Word 12:00-1:00pm

SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

SUNDAY

- Gift Shop Open 7:30am-11am
- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Immigration Seminar 1:00-2:00pm
(Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father 2:45pm
(1st Sunday of each month)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

Baptism

Baptism Classes are held monthly.

Parents and Godparents must attend class. Our next baptism class will be held on Saturday, August 22 at 8:30am in the Grace Parish Center.

To register, please email baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation.

created and the Church he instituted need us. They wait just as he does for our response.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Chess, Not Checkers

There's a saying that good leaders have to play chess, not checkers.

It will surprise no one who knows me well that I am terrible at chess. It's not so much a lack of skill (although that's part of it) as a lack of effort. I find chess exhausting. To succeed at this complex game of strategy, you have to see not just the board in front of you, but the person in front of you - and more than that, you have to consider not just what is, but what could be. I prefer checkers.

When I read a Gospel passage like today's, I think of what Jesus would be like as a chess player. It's so easy to see this account of the Canaanite woman and her tenacity and take it at face value, as a reminder to pray without ceasing, to never stop asking God for what we need. And certainly, it is that.

But it's not only that. We see a woman begging God for help, and we see God refuse - at first. We see her persist, and we see him capitulate. At least, that's what it looks like to us.

What does it look like to Jesus? Jesus sees this woman's face and hears her words, just as his disciples do - but he also sees her heart. He sees her whole life. He sees every moment that leads up to this one. He sees her belief, but he also sees her unbelief. He sees her wounds. He sees her daughter.

He sees the game board not just for what it is, but for what it could be.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman © LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The Canaanite woman did not take Jesus' initial refusal as rejection, but as an invitation to engage with God, to show him the depth of her faith. When our prayers are not answered as we wish, will we have the courage to do the same? - ©LPi



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Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH

- 4pm - Alejandro "Peter" Ganir, Rest in Peace

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 7am - Norberto Jerry Ramos, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Reymund Transfiguracion, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - David M. Schamber, Rest in Peace

MONDAY, AUGUST 17TH

- 7am - Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Pinto & Nathalia Pinto, May they Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Elizabeth Jean Reye, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18TH

- 7am - James Stephen Passos, 1st Anniversary of Death, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - MISSA PRO POPULO

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH

- 7am - Elizabeth Jean Reye, Rest in Peace

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20TH

- 7am - Fr. Lio, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Darlene Bearth, deceased, Birthday Remembrance

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST

- 7am - Fr. Lio, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Lorna Appleby, deceased, Anniversary of Death

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND

- 7am - Lance & Diana Botelho, 23rd Wedding Anniversary and Kiana Botelho, 21st Birthday Blessings

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771**.

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."

—Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 9 - 9:45am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.



SCAN ME

Use this QR Code for our Amazon Wishlist. Items purchased can be mailed directly to the Parish Office. Mahalo for your support!

Outsiders Included

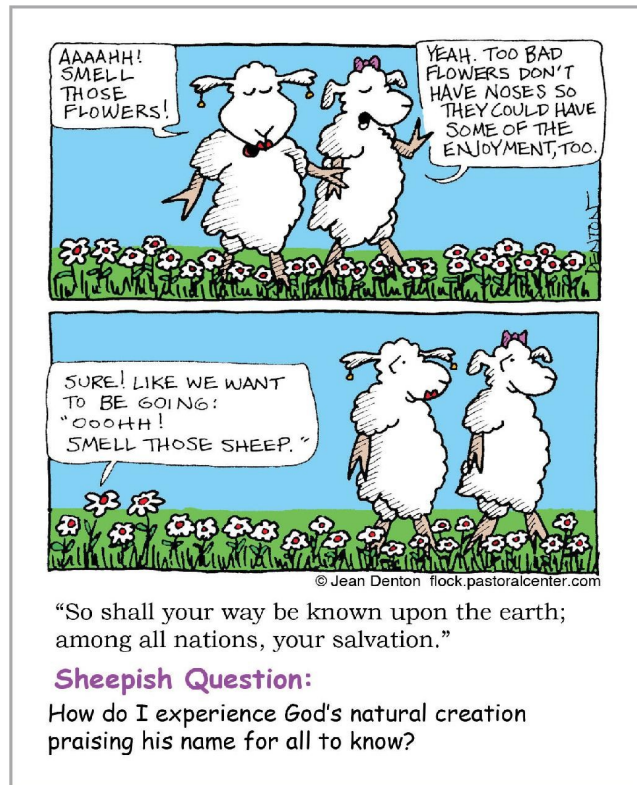
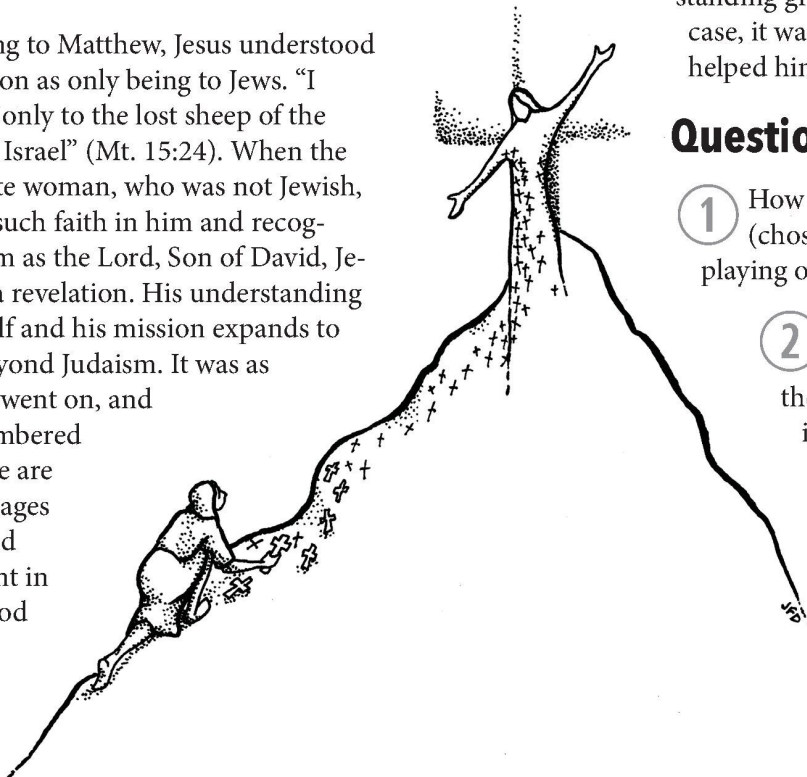
This Week's Readings at Mass

- Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 • The Lord's house open to all
- Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 • Israel's final conversion; the triumph of God's mercy
- Matthew 15:21-28 • Faith of the Canaanite woman

This Gospel story often puzzles us because of what sounds like a disrespectful and harsh reply from Jesus to a woman's plea for help. Some find it troubling because it suggests that Jesus wasn't perfect, and a woman had to help him learn something new and change his mind. The story makes more sense if we understand more about the Jewish context Jesus was living in during his day.

A strong streak of teaching in the Old Testament instructed Jews to keep themselves separate from non-Jews so that they wouldn't be tempted to stray from their worship of Yahweh to other gods. They weren't supposed to marry anyone outside of their faith to help maintain their Jewish purity. They were proud to be God's "chosen people," and it was a short move from believing themselves to be the chosen ones to relegating others to being less-than because they weren't chosen.

According to Matthew, Jesus understood his mission as only being to Jews. "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Mt. 15:24). When the Canaanite woman, who was not Jewish, showed such faith in him and recognized him as the Lord, Son of David, Jesus had a revelation. His understanding of himself and his mission expands to those beyond Judaism. It was as if a light went on, and he remembered that there are also passages in the Old Testament in which God tells the people that



"So shall your way be known upon the earth; among all nations, your salvation."

Sheepish Question:

How do I experience God's natural creation praising his name for all to know?

he is for *everyone*. We heard an example of that in the first reading today when Isaiah, speaking for the Lord, said that foreigners could "join themselves to the Lord"—which is exactly what the Canaanite woman did (Isa 56:6). Yes, Jesus was divine, but he was human too, and just like any human, his understanding grew and matured over time. In this case, it was a foreigner, and a woman, who helped him become who he was meant to be.

Questions of the Week

- 1 How do you see the notion of "insiders" (chosen ones) and "outsiders" still playing out in Christianity today?
- 2 What is your reaction to Jesus changing his mind because of the faith of this woman. Do you find it troubling in any way? Or do you find it heartening? Please share.

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Pastor and Vicar Forane of the
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REV. CLAUDIO AGUIRRE
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Finance Council Chair

SHARMAYNE NAONE
Stewardship Committee Chair
& Safe Environment

DON DAVID
Capital Campaign Committee Chair

WALTER BACXA
Music Ministry

MIGUEL SALAZAR
Spanish Music Ministry

CAROLINE SMITH / LOUELLA BRANCO
Funeral Ministry

PAULETTE ADAMS
Wedding Coordinator

MAYRA RAMIREZ
Spanish Wedding & Quinceañera Coordinator

BILL CULHANE
Food Pantry Ministry

THELMA BACXA
Community Outreach Ministry

STEPHANIE CHAIKIN
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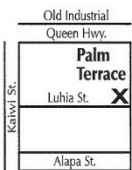
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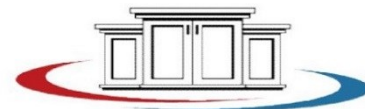
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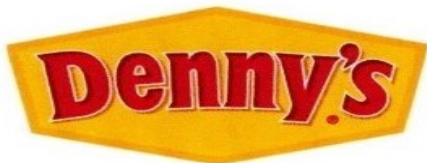


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