



AUGUST 20, 2023
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	8/20	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Living & Deceased Members of Francis & Mary Smurawa Mass at St John's Joel Cartier
Tues	8/22	6:30 PM	Mass at St John's For World Peace
Wed	8/23	8:15 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM	Mass at St John's For the End of Poverty & Homelessness Communion Service Faith Formation
Thurs	8/24	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's For Unborn Babies
Fri	8/25	8:15 AM	For the resolution of family problems
Sat	8/26	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's Bill, Marie & Jerry Kranzush
Sun	8/27	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of June Linsmeyer ~Anniversary of Death by Dean & Pat Ullmer Mass at St John's David & Rosemary Vande Hei

GOSPEL MEDITATION—The Master's Table

The suffering of a child symbolizes uniquely terrible evil as well as despair about the future. This week's Gospel gives a "limit" case in which Jesus encounters this evil in the form of a mother with a suffering daughter. What he does is stunning and massively helpful for us if we bravely ponder the details.

The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and begs his mercy. "My daughter is tormented by a demon," she declares to him. Shockingly, he responds first with silence, then with a dismissive comment, and only then finally accedes to her third request. Is this simply a lesson in perseverance in our petitions to God, who is like a genie in a bottle? Does that justify the humiliation and pain this woman suffers? Is the Lord cruel?

I don't think so. Notice how the encounter ends. She compares herself to a dog at the table of a master. Jesus responds by praising her great faith and fulfills her deep desire. Somehow this non-Israelite woman intuits that this harrowing situation is not dumb suffering. She senses that the door of God's family is, in Jesus, being opened to her and her loved ones. She trusts she is at the Lord's table, and her desires will be fulfilled and that all her sufferings — and her daughter's, too — will lead a great banquet. In our sufferings this week, the Lord wants us to treat him less like a genie in a bottle and more like the Master who has taken us — lost little dogs that we are — into his home forever. Trust that and keep praying in the face of evil.

— Father John Muir

Dear Lord,
Your love knows no bounds, your compassion no borders.
Your mercy extends to all people and places.
Form our hearts after yours.
Help us to open our doors, our minds, and ourselves to others. In the discomfort, be with us.
Amen.



Prayer for Unity

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
The Prayers God Always Answers

When I was a child, my mother bought a book called "The Prayers God Will Always Answer." I remember my anticipation as I cracked the spine & turned to the first page.

I had been spending a lot of time asking God — begging God, actually — over and over again for some specific things that were not materializing. Frankly, it was beginning to feel a lot like that time I asked Santa Claus for a new house, only to wake up on Christmas morning to find ordinary, non-house-shaped presents under the tree — and a growing sense of suspicion that my faith had been ill-placed.

To the great disappointment of my pre-teen heart, my mother's book was not a directory of magical phrases God is compelled to obey. It was a list that included things like "Forgive me" and "Help me." I tossed it aside, disappointed.

I marvel at the wisdom and the confidence of the Canaanite woman who persists in begging Jesus to heal her daughter. She is ignored, and still she will not be deterred. The disciples try to dismiss her — still, she presses on. Christ himself challenges her, and her faith makes her ready with a reply.

Somehow, I am sure that even if Christ had said, "No, it cannot be done for you as you wish," she would have still dropped to her knees and worshiped him, because she knew what I did not: God is not a vending machine, and he's not the genie from "Aladdin." Prayer is not a negotiation, but a relationship.

The story of the Canaanite woman is not a story about how to get God to give you what you want. It is a story about the prayers God always answers.

**"Then Jesus said to her in reply,
'O woman, great is your faith!'" — Matthew 15:28**

DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIBTORS	GREETERS	SERVERS	USHERS
SUNDAY	Julie Skinkis	Jake Hodkiewicz		Jackson Banker	Don Eisenreich
August 27				Cash Leisgang	Steve Hackl

St. Sebastian
Monthly Stewardship and Expense Report
2023 Fiscal Year

Ordinary Revenue

	July	Year to Date
Parish Support	\$ 8,932	\$ 8,932
Offerings and Other Unrestricted Income	219	219
Total Revenue	\$ 9,151	\$ 9,151

Ordinary Expenses

Worship, Music, non-Religious Ed Catechesis	\$ (48)	\$ (48)
Personnel Expenses and Salaries	5,324	5,324
Purchased Services and Supplies	1,248	1,248
Utilities	543	543
Building and Grounds	1,542	1,542
General and Office Expenses	604	604
Diocesan Assessments	1,859	1,859
Other Expenses	11	11
Parish Donations	-	-

Total Expenses

\$ 11,081 \$ 11,081

Revenue Net of Expense

\$ (1,930) \$ (1,930)

Thank you
Mary Linsmeyer,
for
sponsoring
our
August
Bulletin,
in loving memory of
Gerald Linsmeyer

Music in the Park

2023

Music starts at 6:15
Wednesday evenings
- Depot St -
Downtown Seymour

Aug 23

Rockin' Country

Classic Country and Rock & Roll

Aug 30

Chad Przybylski's Polka
Rhythms

Energetic Polka



Restoring Hope Gala
 tables, tickets on sale
 The 9th Annual Restoring Hope
 Gala is quickly approaching!

Tables and tickets are on sale now until October 13. Support St. John's Ministries mission to honor dignity, restore hope and create lasting change for those experiencing homelessness or housing instability in the Green Bay community.

The early bird rate until October 13 is: Tables (10 people) are \$1,000 and individual tickets are \$100. Sponsorships are also available.

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 1,333.17
Loose Collection	\$ 95.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 30.00
Votive Candles	\$ 7.25
Christian Women	\$ 5.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 40.00
Home Mission	\$ 10.00
Missionary Coop Appeal	\$ 35.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Liguori Publications	\$ 89.78
The Catholic Foundation	\$ 45.00
Vorpahl Fire & Safety	\$ 168.50
GIA Publications	\$ 36.00

AUDITIONS for K-8 students
 by appointment
 Saturday morning, August 26

CHRISTMAS STARS

Do you love to sing and dance?
 Fill out a cast application and schedule an audition to be considered for the 2023 cast.
 Go to www.christmasstars.org and click or tap the Join Our Cast button.
 Fill out an online cast application and get a link to schedule an audition.

Students entering Kindergarten through 8th grade
 Rehearsals are most Sunday evenings, beginning mid-September.

Auditions, rehearsals and performances at the Xavier Fine Arts Theatre.
 2023 show dates: Nov. 30-Dec. 3 & Dec. 7-10

RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

Ministry of the Sick: Please notify the parish office if a member of your family is confined to their home or is hospitalized. Also, please inform the hospital of your affiliation with your parish.

Baptisms: Please call the parish office two months in advance.

Marriage: Please call St. John's parish office eight months in advance.

Funeral Arrangements: Please call St. John's parish office.

Anointing of the Sick and Dying: Please call St. John's parish office.

Fr. Sengole Dass
St. John Parish Office - 833-6140

DC. Richard Matuszak
833-2294 or 609-5292

St Sebastian Parish Office - 833-2558
Current Hours: Mon & Thurs 8:00 – 4:00