

**First Reading:** *Isaiah 56:1,6-7*

The Lord reveals his salvation to all.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalms 67:2-3,5-6,8*

All the nations will praise God.

**Second Reading:** *Rom. 11:13-15,29-32*

God's favor to Israel is irrevocable.

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 15:21-28*

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

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about [Jesus walking on the water](#) and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-

possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman 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.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>

### Parish News

Our parish relies on our regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. By making your pre-authorized offertory gift, you are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. You can also use the online giving page on the diocesan website to set up a one-time or recurring donation to your parish via credit-card. Funds donated will be transferred to the selected parish. Give now at <https://www.catholicyc.ca/give>

### Faith Formation

**Masses are now resumed! For more information, please visit our website at [www.stanthonydrum.ca](http://www.stanthonydrum.ca) or contact the Parish Office.** For those unable to attend, consider watching Mass on television on the following networks:

**Salt + Light TV** (Daily at 4:30 & 9:00 am, 1 & 8:30 pm)

**EWTN** (Daily at 6 & 10 am, 5 & 10 pm)

**Vision TV** (Daily at 6 & 10 am)

**TELUS Optik TV Channel 876 is now providing livestream from our Diocese:** To access the livestream, go to Channel 876 after you turn on TELUS Optik TV, and select the [Diocese of Calgary](#) tile with the left/right arrows on the remote control. Click the OK button one more time to expand to full screen video. The schedule is shown below.

### Mass and Intention Schedule

Tuesday, August 18	6:30 pm	No Mass
Wednesday, August 19	9:00 am	No Mass
Thursday, August 20	9:00 am	No Mass
Friday, August 21	9:00 am	No Mass
Saturday, August 22	7:00 pm	+ Verna Beckler
Sunday, August 23	8:00 am 10:30 am	(Spec) St. Anthony's Parishioners (Spec) Terry Heptonstall

**Parish Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9 am – 11 am**

### Sacraments

**Reconciliation:** The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 5:30 – 6:30 pm Saturday evenings and by appointment. To schedule an appointment, please call the Parish Office or email Fr. Lukas at [fr.lukas.d@gmail.com](mailto:fr.lukas.d@gmail.com).

**Baptism:** Please contact the Parish Office at (403)823-2683 to arrange an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact the Parish Office at least 6 months prior to your desired date.

### Scripture Readings

**Monday, August 17:** Ezekiel 24.15-24 | Deuteronomy 32 | Matthew 19.16-22

**Tuesday, August 18:** Ezekiel 28.1-10 | Deuteronomy 32 | Matthew 19.23-30

**Wednesday, August 19:** Ezekiel 34.1-11 | Psalm 23 | Matthew 20.1-16a

**Thursday, August 20:** Ezekiel 36.23-28 | Psalm 51 | Matthew 22.1-14

**Friday, August 21:** Ezekiel 37.1-14 | Psalm 107 | Matthew 22.34-40

**Saturday, August 22:** Ezekiel 43.1-7a | Psalm 85 | Matthew 23.1-12

**Sunday, August 23:** Isaiah 22.15, 19-23 | Psalm 138 | Romans 11.33-36 | Matthew 16.13-20



# ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH

*St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church is an inviting family community united in Christ.*

**Pastor: Rev. Lukas Drapal**

**Email: fr.lukas.d@gmail.com**

**Secretary: Jennifer Ferro | Book Keeper: Linda Lacher**

**Pastoral Council Chair: Brian Viczko | Finance Council Chair: Mary Pavich**

**CWL President: Joanne Dumaine | K of C Grand Knight: Tony Ibrahim**

**Couples for Christ: Cen and Tess Felisilda**

## Parish Mission

**Family:** To encourage participation of children and families in the Church Community by offering family focused events.

**Faith Building:** To promote and host Church education, Bible Studies, and Parish Missions.

**Liturgy:** To formalize our Liturgy and elicit committed parishioners to participate in all aspects of the Liturgy.

**Environment:** To promote clean and well-maintained premises and decorate to highlight the Liturgical Seasons.

**Social:** To have a Social Committee to plan and hold Parish activities.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
August 16, 2020**

The silent adoration of the infant Jesus by the Magi is one of the purest prayers in the New Testament. These men put aside everything in their lives to travel across the desert to kneel down and pay homage to Jesus. They bring him precious gifts and ask nothing for themselves. In contrast stands the disruptive Canaanite woman in today's Gospel who comes to Jesus

shouting and demanding that he cast out the demon which oppresses her daughter. Jesus says nothing. "He did not answer her at all." The woman's tune changes upon hearing Jesus say that he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. She kneels before him and says a prayer of abandonment: "Lord, help me." Now she no longer demands favours from a wonder-worker Jesus, but places herself at his feet. It is a moment of vulnerability and conversion. What does this mean for us? Like the foreign woman and the foreign wise men, we can come to Jesus, not to make him hop to our agenda, but rather to bow before him. We are puny; Jesus is awesome. Praise and worship are the stance of faith. Our right relationship with Jesus is to pay homage and to humbly beg, "Jesus, help me." *Glen Argan, Edmonton, AB*

LWC Vol. 26 No. 8 Pg. 95

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