

August 20, 2023

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Have Faith in God's Abundant Mercy

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.

*Reflection from <https://www.loyolapress.com/>

Youth Faith Formation Class

Registration is this Sunday,

August 20th

After 8:30 a.m. Mass

In the Library

"Mary, give me your Heart: so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate; your Heart so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love Him as you love Him and serve Him in the distressing guise of the poor."
--Blessed Mother Teresa

Thank you! Thank you!
for your generosity and support of the
Parishioners Helping Parishioners
Accessibility Project

Through your generosity, funds have been raised for the Men's Group to build ramps and railing to provide improved access for parishioners in need of these necessary home accessibilities.

For more information on this project or to volunteer, contact Seth Yoder, 918-869-9129

The "Eastern Oklahoma Catholic Podcast"
is now available via the Holy Cross Website
(holycross-wagoner.org)

The Eastern Oklahoma Catholic Podcast is home to "Tulsa Time with Bishop Konderla," where you can find all things Catholic in the diocese, along with other content, such as homilies, lectures, keynote speakers, parish missions, and so much more going on in the diocese. You can find this podcast on the Holy Cross website or you can stream, listen, and subscribe on your favorite podcast app.



The Month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (and not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love (especially for her divine Son), virtue, and inner life.

*O Mary immaculate,
inflame our hearts with
one ray of the burning
love of thy pure heart!*

Mark Your Calendar

As part of this year's Parish Eucharistic Revival Program

First Wednesday Every Month @ Holy Cross,
beginning **Sept 6th**

"Night of Encounter and Mercy"
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Short Presentation followed by Adoration
Confessions available

The Holy Cross Catholic Charities

Mobile Food Pantry

Thursday, Aug 24th, 10 a.m.—Noon

Food Boxes Available & Distributed While Supplies Last
using a drive-through format

We can use your talents — yet again!
M&M is planning the Christmas Bazaar again this
November and hope you are keeping them in mind
when making your home-made items and plan to
donate items for the event!

Aug 19 (Vigil)	Aug 20		Aug 26 (Vigil)	Aug 27
Sherry Ruyle Skip Gordon	Rosalina Empuerto Raul Empuerto	USHERS/GIFT BEARERS	Judy Helms Richard Helms	Bill Scrimsher Mike Cucchiara
Matthew Higginbottom	Carlos, Liam, & Aceah	ALTAR SERVERS	Larry Chekofsky Matthew Higginbottom	Carlos, Liam, & Makenna
Dorene M./Mike M.	Elaine H./Mike H.	EUCCHARISTIC	Kay R./Mary F.	Chris H./Mike H.
Paul Rodriguez	Emily Ledgerwood	READERS	Charlie Moe	Eric Jordan

2 New Online Forms Available!
Forms can now be accessed on the
Holy Cross Website

holycross-wagoner.org

1) New Parishioner Registration

For new members of our faith community, please register yourself/family by completing a Parishioner Registration form. The printed forms are located in the vestibule and are also **now available on the church website to be completed and submitted online on the website.**

We welcome and appreciate your Holy Cross registration and it assists us with getting to know you, communication and Holy Cross ministry efforts.

Also, for both new and established parishioners

2) Ministry/Volunteer Opportunities

Please complete the Ministry Opportunities Survey Form to find ministry and service opportunities that suit your God-given talents. Everyone is encouraged to complete this form as a new parishioner or any parishioner that would like to update their interests and ministry involvement. This form is also located in the vestibule and **now available as an online form to be completed and submitted on the church website.**

We are excited to have you join us in finding ways to build God's Kingdom!

"Every man shall give as he is able according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee." Deuteronomy 16:17

Happy Birthday!

Sherri Moe 8/2 Rachel Rodriguez 8/20
 Elsa Kuehn 8/7 Mary Vreeland 8/22
 Sam Sanco 8/9 Kinley Herndon 8/26
 Rosemary Bravner 8/11 Liz Guadagno 8/28
 Mark Mason 8/13 Raphael Schmidgall 8/31
 Mike McMahan 8/16
 Peter Buscemi 8/19
 Cate Duffy 8/20
 Pat Jones 8/20



Weekend Collections Aug 12-13

General Collections **\$2,046.00**
 Capital Improvement **150.00**
TOTAL \$2,196.00

With prayer, we seek God's power to heal the scourge of abortion in our city and world.

Daily Mass Readings—Aug 20-26*

Sunday	Is 56:1, 6-7/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
Monday	Jgs 2:11-19/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday	Jgs 6:11-24a/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday	Jgs 9:6-15/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday	Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51
Friday	Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Mt 23:1-12

*Daily Readings (and link to full biblical text) also available on Holy Cross Website:

www.holycross-wagoner.org

To place information in the bulletin or on the church website, contact Karol Watson, karol_watson@yahoo.com or 918-640-5819

For issues/help with Flocknotes, contact Kay Rodriguez, msrod@sbcglobal.net or 405-659-0507

FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

Jean Podeyn, sister of Jackie Spieker
 Judy Wright, parishioner
 Becky Harding, parishioner
 Meredith Zehr, parishioner
 Hope Watson, parishioner
 Lucille Dickinson, parishioner



WE PRAY TO THE LORD

Holy Cross Mission Statement/Prayer

Almighty God, the mission of Holy Cross Parish is to bring the love of Jesus Christ to our community and the world. As your disciples, help us to touch the hearts of everyone in a way that enhances human spirituality and will bring all people into the fullness of your Kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen!

	<u>Altar Linens</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
<i>Aug</i>	Sherry Ruyle	Kathy Hickman
<i>Sept</i>	Mary Feichtinger	Sherri Moe

**Stay Connected — Stay Informed
 with your Catholic Faith & your Holy Cross Family**

*Daily Readings, Daily Prayer of the Day, Bulletins,
 Catholic & Holy Cross News/Events*

**www.holycross-wagoner.org,
 Holy Cross Catholic Church - Wagoner OK (FB) &
 https://holycrosscatholicchurch5.flocknote.com/
 dashboard**

**Finding solutions for
 your financial need.**



Seth A Yoder
 Financial Advisor
 114 East Cherokee
 Wagoner, OK 74467
 918-485-0992

Edward Jones
 Member Since 1977
 edwardjones.com

Holy Cross Catholic Church



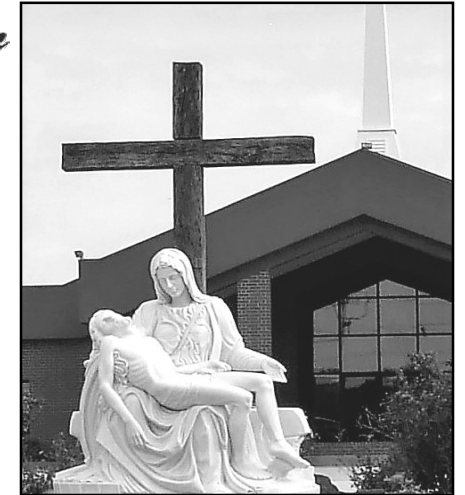
**Holiness - Disciples - Community
 Wagoner, Oklahoma**

P.O. Box 710 / 708 SW 15TH ST.
 539-209-9988

Email: holycrosswagoner@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.holycross-wagoner.org>

Facebook: Holy Cross Catholic Church—Wagoner, OK



**August 20, 2023
 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Pastor Very Rev. Leo Ahanotu
 holycrosswagoner@gmail.com
 539-209-9988

Visiting Priests Fr. Gabriel Garcia &
 Fr. Alessandro Calderoni

Deacons Dcn James Ruyle (Retired)
 jandsruyle@gmail.com
 918-485-8228

Secretary Earlyne Hutchens
 earlynehutchens@gmail.com
 918-894-0474

Religious Education Mary Feichtinger
 maryfeichtinger@yahoo.com
 303-519-0605
 Kay Rodriguez (Youth Group)
 msrod@sbcglobal.net
 405-659-0507

Parish Council Karol Watson
 karol_watson@yahoo.com
 918-640-5819

M&M Society Sherri Moe
 smworks@hotmail.com
 918-521-9127

Men's Group Seth Yoder
 seth.yoder@edwardjones.com
 918-869-9129

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday — 8:30 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays (Latin) — 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday & Friday — 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday — 8:30 a.m.

First Sat. of Each Month — 8:30 a.m.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Fridays following 5:00 p.m. Mass

CONFESSIONS

30 minutes before weekend Masses

Or by appointment/request

THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

**Breaking Bread Book
 Pages 191-192**

**Vatican II Hymnal
 Pages 615-616**

