



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Harlowton, Montana

Missions:

Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut
Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2026

Pope Francis wrote that "in the hour of trial faith brings light." The terrible trial of a demonically tormented child could have wrecked the Canaanite woman's spirit, weighing her down with despondency and defeat. But faith lifts her from hopelessness and carries her to the "holy mountain" that is Christ. The promise proclaimed by Saint Paul - that God desires to have mercy on all - moves the woman beyond fatalism and doubt. Even Christ's silence does not dissuade her. Instead it serves to steel her belief and renew her efforts to beg for what God is eager to give her.

I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 ¹Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶"And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant - ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Psalms 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 R/ O God, let all the nations praise you!

¹May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah* ²that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving power among all nations. ⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for thou dost judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah* ⁵Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! ⁷God has blessed us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

The gifts and the call of God for Israel are irrevocable.

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 ¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ²⁹For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people. **Alleluia, Alleluia**
O woman, great is your faith!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28 ²¹And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Mark Your Calendars:

Our next parish potluck will be on Sunday, August 23, 2026 following Mass.

There is a need for RE teachers. Please contact Father Joe if interested.

5:00 pm Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT
(4:30 in winter months) (confessions from 4-4:45pm)

Daily Mass on Mondays at noon at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT with Adoration
– 12:45-3:30pm & confessions- 12:45-1:45pm)

*****Confessions before Sunday Mass beginning at 4:00 pm or by appointment. Please join us to pray the rosary for our nation and community 1/2 hour before Sunday Mass.**

Sunday Mass at 9:00am at Holy Cross, Townsend. (confessions from 8-8:45am) & at 1pm at St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs (confessions from 12-12:45pm)

*****Eucharistic Adoration on Mondays – join us anytime between 12:45–3:30 pm.**

Please join us for our monthly parish potlucks on the 4th Sunday after Mass - 8/23/26; 9/27/26; 10/25/26

Please pray for our seminarians:

Riley Helgoe	Jake Smith	Anthony Olmes
Jamie Severson	Carter Anderson	Shae Bills
Matt Keck	James Semling	Carson Gorton
Liam Aippersbach	Ryan Frampton	Mason Yochum
Congratulations to Fr. Kaleb Mitchell & Fr. Dillon Armstrong on their ordination to the priesthood! Please keep them in your prayers		

A Foreigner's Faith: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Listen Here: [A Foreigner's Faith: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - St. Paul Center](#)

Readings: Isaiah 56:1, 6–7; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Romans 11:13–15, 29–32; Matthew 15:21–28

Most of us are the foreigners, the non-Israelites, about whom today's First Reading prophesies.

Coming to worship the God of Israel, we stand in the line of faith epitomized by the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. Calling to Jesus as Lord and Son of David, this foreigner shows her great faith in God's covenant with Israel.

Jesus tests her faith three times. He refuses to answer her cry. Then, He tells her His mission is only to Israelites. Finally, He uses "dog," an epithet used to disparage non-Israelites (see Matthew 7:6). Yet she persists, believing that He alone offers salvation.

In this family drama, we see fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and the promise we sing of in today's Psalm. In Jesus, God makes known among all the nations His way and His salvation (see John 14:6).

At the start of salvation history, God called Abraham (see Genesis 12:2). He chose his offspring, Israel, from all the nations on the face of the earth to build His covenant kingdom (see Deuteronomy 7:6–8; Isaiah 41:8).

In God's plan, Abraham was to be the father of many nations (see Romans 4:16–17). Israel was to be the firstborn of a worldwide family of God, made up of all who believe what the Canaanite professes; that Jesus is Lord (see Exodus 4:22–23; Romans 5:13–24).

Jesus came first to restore the kingdom to Israel (see Acts 1:6; 13:46). But His ultimate mission was the reconciliation of the world, as Paul declares in today's Epistle.

In the Mass we join all peoples in doing Him homage. As Isaiah foretold, we come to His holy mountain, the heavenly Jerusalem, to offer sacrifice at His altar (see Hebrews 12:22–24, 28). With the Canaanite, we take our place at the Master's table to be fed as His children. ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 246 August Magnificat

(Each local community should compose its own Universal Prayer but may find inspiration in the texts proposed here.)

Whenever we seek the Lord, he answers and delivers us from our fears. Trusting in the Father's love, we now pray:

That the Church continue to be the voice of truth, mercy, and the love of Jesus, and that all be encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.

That those who hold public office may imitate the goodness of the Lord who secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed.

For an increase of vocations to the priesthood and to consecrated life.

For the elderly: that God will help them in their needs and be always close to them in his love.

That our parish may grow in holiness through the graces of the Eucharist.

For the grace this week to persevere in prayer and faith, knowing that the Lord hears us and loves us.

Loving Father, you watch over each one of us in our troubles. Help us to understand what is your will, to trust you, and to stay close to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions *page 248-249 August Magnificat*

Let us pray in and with Christ:

R/ Father, may all be one!

Where differences divide: R/

Where competition leads to hostility and violence: R/

Where judgment has replaced understanding: R/

Personal intentions **Our Father....**

O God, most holy Three-in-One, you have made us in your image. May we grow into the unity that mirrors your inner life of love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY The Great Faith of the Gentiles *pages 253-254 August Magnificat*

The faith of the gentile nations was swift in its speed, eager in its rejoicing, wise in its search, resolute in its finding, faithful in its adoration, generous in its gift of itself.... Think of the faith of the centurion, at which Scripture tells us that Jesus marveled. In fact, he went so far as to say that he had not found faith as great in Israel....

Then we have the Canaanite woman who interceded for her daughter, and when she was refused, persisted, and by the great noise she made, battered at the silence of Jesus. When he turned away from her, she followed him without apology; she humbly adored him when he rejected her; she listened patiently to his reproaches, and so, in the end, she brought forth honey from the rock, and oil from the flinty stone (Dt 32:13). In the person of this woman, the church of the gentiles deserved to hear the Lord Jesus say: O woman, great is your faith!...

There was the centurion, too, when Jesus was suffering and the faith of the disciples was exceedingly disturbed. He reached the full stature of a strong faith, and the crucified Jesus, whom others saw and fell away scandalized, drew him forward in praise....

The gentiles...snatched [Jesus] in with outstretched hands, laid hold of him and took him to their embrace.... Like the dawn, they saw with joy that the Sun of justice had arisen, because the radiance of a new grace was enlightening them.... The conversion of the gentiles, so unexpected and so spontaneous, from its very beginning gave...[Jesus] himself great occasion to rejoice and celebrate. ~ John of Ford John of Ford († 1214) was the abbot of a Cistercian monastery in southwest England.

Intercessions *page 256-257 August Magnificat*

As one household, beloved by God, we pray:

R/ Lord, have mercy.

Where peoples of different races and nations suffer together the ravages of war, poverty, and disease:

– let even enemies join hands in helping one another in their need. R/

Where believers differ in their faith:

– let them unite in doing the works of love. R/

Where the poor, the sick, and the suffering cry out in pain:

– let your people respond with charity in your name. R/

Personal intentions **Our Father....**

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage our hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word. Amen. (cf. 2 Thes 2:16-17)

Marian Antiphon