

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Aug 16, 2026

SOMETIMES we might be tempted to think that our prayer is ineffective. We entrust a specific intention to God, and it seems that nothing changes. We try to be good Christians, yet our lives are filled with difficulties. We ask our Lord not to abandon us, and instead, our discouragement grows. In those moments, it may seem that our pleas go unanswered.

The Canaanite woman in the Gospel must have felt something similar. When she heard that Jesus was going to the region of Tyre and Sidon, she approached Him and cried out, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon (Mt 15:22). We can understand this mother's suffering; she longed to do anything to help her daughter, but all her efforts had been in vain. Perhaps she had heard of Jesus' miracles and therefore approached Him hoping He could do something for her daughter. The Gospel, however, records our Lord's surprising reaction: "He did not answer her a word" (Mt 15:23).

"If you truly desire something," Leo XIV said, "do everything possible to obtain it, even when others rebuke you, humiliate you, and tell you to give up. If you truly desire it, keep crying out!"¹ Faced with Jesus' silence, the woman did not lose heart; on the contrary, she persisted even more strongly, to the point that the disciples begged the Master to listen to her because she kept following them. This constancy in prayer, even when it seems to bear no fruit, is an attitude that many saints have practiced and advised. "Persevere in prayer," Saint Josemaría wrote. "Persevere, even if your efforts seem fruitless. Prayer is always fruitful."² We have the assurance that "there is no cry that God does not hear, even when we are not aware we are addressing him."³ The scene with the Canaanite woman reminds us that our Lord knows what is in our heart and wants to increase our faith in the midst of the specific circumstances we are going through. Faced with similar requests, Jesus acts and responds in different ways. Therefore, let us not hesitate to turn to Him, as this woman teaches us today. Although her daughter has not yet been healed, her persistence has already borne the fruit Christ seeks in her: a faith that does not waver, neither in the face of her daughter's suffering nor in the face of Jesus' silence.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Today's Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.



Holy Father's Intention for August: For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Aug 16, 2026

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

THAT WOMAN had to overcome many barriers to approach Jesus. As a foreigner, she didn’t belong to the people of Israel, and it wasn’t customary for Jews to interact with people like her. Our Lord's initial silence could easily have discouraged her and led her to think that He didn’t want to or couldn’t help her. But nevertheless, she knelt before Him and cried out, “Lord, help me!” (Mt 15:25). The more extreme the situation, the more simple and direct our prayer should be. That woman didn’t mince words, nor did she use eloquent pronouncements or solemn titles. Her unadorned request made it clear how urgently she needed his help.

If Jesus had previously responded with silence, now He utters words that might seem harsh to us: “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs” (Mt 15:26), referring to the fact that He “was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Mt 15:24). For that woman did not belong to the people who had first received God’s promises. But Jesus’ reply did not extinguish her trust. The woman doesn’t argue, she doesn’t walk away offended, she doesn’t claim a right. With his words, Jesus is inviting her to increase her faith and trust even more. And she finds within the very image used by Jesus a reason to continue hoping: “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table” (Mt 15:27). Faced with this bold and humble attitude, our Lord doesn’t restrain his praise and joyfully acknowledges: “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire” (Mt 15:28).

Christ’s silence and apparent harshness toward the Canaanite woman reveal two qualities of faith-filled prayer. “The first thing needed in prayer is perseverance; the second, humility. Have a holy stubbornness, be trusting. Remember that when we ask the Lord for something important, he may want to be asked for many years. Keep on! But keep on with ever increasing trust.”⁴ The Canaanite woman perseveres in her petition, but she doesn’t turn her plea into a demand. She knows that everything Jesus grants her will always be a gift. That is why her prayer moves our Lord’s heart: because it combines trusting persistence with the humility of one who knows how needy she is.



Parish Council:

Mr. Lawrence Dao
314.679.0313

Finance Council:

Mrs. Thuong Hoai Nguyen
314.691.6508

Children Religious Education:

Sr. Mary Hanh Nguyen, LHC
314.736.9337

Liturgy Committee:

Mr. Hung Bui: 314.783.7266

Offering for Aug 9, 2026

Total Sum. Collection \$2,790.00

World Market\$ 400.00

Baptism Fee\$ 60.00

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

“O woman, great is your faith!” It takes faith to hear God’s call in our lives. And His call takes us on unexpected paths of deeper trust and love. Is God calling you to life as sister, brother, deacon or priest?

Vocation Office at
(603) 663-0196 or email:
cmartel@rcbm.org

Resurrection Our Lord Church

3900 Meramec St. St. Louis, MO 63116
Tel: 314-832-7023; Fax: 832-7024
Email: GxChuaPhucSinh@gmail.com

Emergency Only: Fr. Francis 202-368-6828;
Fr. Peter 773-888-3088
Fr. Francis X. Binh Thanh Nguyen SVD, Pastor
Fr. Peter Son Le, SVD, Parochial Vicar

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Aug 16, 2026

Baptism:

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Marriage:

Arrangements must be made one week in advance.

Sunday from 8:30 am to 9:00 am or by appointment.

Arrangements must be made at least 6 months prior to plan date of wedding.

Mass Schedule & Mass Intentions

Sun 8/16:

Mon 8/17:

Tues 8/18:

Wed 8/19:

Thus 8/20:

Fri 8/21:

Sat 8/22:

* Louis Canh by Holly Le

* Unborn babies by 1 person

* Joseph, Ann, John and intention by 1 person

* Thanksgiving by Bui Han family

* Peter, Ann, Theresa & all souls by Han Bui

* 2 Maria by Huong Vu

* Andrew Huxley by Hanh– Nga Nguyen

* Peace for family & intention by 1 person

* Peter and intention by Phuong Cao

* Ann, Peter, Dominic, John, 2 Joseph & Phanxico by 1 person

* Dominic and Maria by Ca Do