

## Reflections on Scripture

Today's gospel reading is full of one-liners that pack a punch. Some of them are found on the lips of that Canaanite woman, a Gentile woman; and some are placed on the lips of Jesus. It must be fairly said that the one-liners found on the lips of Jesus are really rather sharp and cutting: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" - that is, only for Jews. Gentiles like yourself need not apply! When the Gentile woman persisted in asking help for her sick daughter, Jesus got sharper in his reply: "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." How would you feel if someone said those words to you?

Well, the woman was not to be put off, even by a tart remark like that. And she more than matched the reply of Jesus: "Please, Lord, for even dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Jesus could never refuse a request like that. It was so filled with faith that he could only respond with a miracle. The woman's daughter got better from that instant.

We might ask why this possibly embarrassing story was remembered by the early Christians and eventually written down in Matthew's gospel. The one-liners of Jesus as recorded in this story are not very flattering. Why would anyone want to remember these rather harsh words when there were so many more kind words of love and compassion to remember?

The answer may lie in the simple fact that Jesus was a Jew and the woman was a Gentile. Culturally they were supposed to have little in common, and they probably wouldn't have even given each other the time of day. But the early Christians came to love and treasure this story because it reminded them of an important truth: Jesus came into our world to save both the Jews *and* the Gentiles.

That is what St. Paul is so excited about in the second reading of today's Mass. Writing to the Romans, Paul celebrates "the mercy shown to you." Truly God wanted to have mercy on all people in the Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was born a Jew, but he was born to be the Savior of Jews and Gentiles alike. Thus the Canaanite woman in the gospel did well to call Jesus the "Son of David." This title is found in the prayerful one-line that the early Christians, whether Jews or Gentiles, must have loved to remember and maybe repeat often: "Have pity on me Lord, Son of David!"

The pleas for pity, for mercy from the God of mercy, is our cry, too. We come before our God in our joys and sorrows, our successes and failures, to seek the everlasting mercy of our God. God has shown us infinite love in the person of the beloved Son, the Lord whom all nations praise. We join that bold Canaanite woman in calling upon the Lord Jesus to help us in our need. We join her in growing in faith as we see the signs of the Lord's saving work in our midst.



## Stewardship Report:



### Revenue

<b>August 11:</b>	<b>8,688.20</b>
<b>Faith Direct:</b>	<b>1,600.00</b>
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>10,288.20</b>
<b>Last Year:</b>	<b>14,906.00</b>
<b>Poor Box:</b>	<b>54.00</b>
<b>Every Penny Counts Box:</b>	<b>68.49</b>

Number of Adult Envelopes: 240  
Number of Children's Envelopes: 9  
Number of Faith Direct donors: 35  
Number of Registered Households: 630

## **Why Every Penny Counts!**

Dear Father Jeff and Fellow Parishioners:

Thank you for the tuition assistance scholarship for our four children to St. Matthias Apostle School! We are fortunate that our parish has many parishioners whose contributions not only help subsidize costs to keep our school tuition reasonable while still allowing good teachers' salaries, but who also have gone further through additional contributions to the "every penny counts" box at the rear of the church. Money collected from this box helps fund the Father E. Albert Hughe's Scholarship program, the source of this award. In particular, it is a heart warming gesture of support for parish families like ours with school age children wanting to receive a Catholic education!

Unfortunately, there are no "buy one, get one free" programs for tuition for children at private and parochial schools. The annual tuition for our four children at St. Matthias is equivalent to about a \$350,000 mortgage, given the tax deductions! Unlike the variety of scholarships and financial aid available for Catholic high schools and colleges, a parent is pretty much on their own paying for a Catholic elementary school education. So, this award is very special and deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,  
*Jan & Laura Kalshoven*

## Votive Lights

**Sunday, August 17th through Saturday, August 23rd:**

### Shrine of the Sacred Heart

**For the Special Intentions of:**  
Fran Zatorski; The Guevara Family  
**For the Happy Repose of:**  
Brianna Hope



### Shrine of the Madonna & Child:

**For the Special Intentions of:**  
Helen Zatorski; Deacon Larry Murphy;  
Bernadette Murphy



Youth News:

**Belated THANK YOU!** In one of our most recent bulletin notices we ran a thank-you to all those that gave most generously and selflessly of their time, talent and treasures, in the making of our “College Baskets!” Because of “Nurse” Moore’s new duties, some people’s names were inadvertently not included. I would like to say thank you to Mrs. Sarah Green and Miss Julie Ibebuchi. Your generosity and kindness did not go unnoticed. In case I have left any one else off please, “Charge the HEAD and not the “HEART!”

**To the graduating teens:** As you can see sometimes, even Mrs. Moore forgets! I would like to use this opportunity to remind you of your responsibility in giving thanks. If you are not thankful for the small things in life how can you be expected to receive larger gifts of love?

Faith Formation:

**Faith Formation Registration:** This is a reminder that **ALL STUDENTS must be registered** before they can be placed in a class. Registration forms are in the back of the church or may be picked up at the rectory offices during working hours. If you are new to the parish make sure to fill out a Parish Registration Form as well.

**Calling All Catechists!:** Yes, we are still enjoying summer however we need to start making preparations for the fall. I will encourage you to take a few moments maybe once a week to look over your notes from last year and start making plans for the fall.

You should have received a letter from me regarding our **Training Session on Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 10:00am.** Do contact me if you did not receive your copy. Please mark your calendar for this event.

We are still in need of a few dedicated and committed people to hand on the Catholic Faith to our young parishioners. Have you considered being a Catechist? Join us on Saturday, September 6 in the School Library to find out. Or better yet give me a call at 301-459-4814 x 205 to discuss this further. **The Archdiocese requires that TWO ADULTS be in each class.** Right now we have one adult per class so we do need help. You do not have to teach right away, you can actually be an observer for several months till you feel comfortable teaching. If we want our children to be fully equipped with the Word of God as they make major decisions in the future then *it is our collective responsibility* to at least ensure that they know the Catholic Faith.

**Baptism:** The next Baptism preparatory class will be held on Wednesday, September 3, at 7:00 pm in the School library. Parents must be registered parishioners and must also register with the Office for Faith Formation before the class. If in doubt call the office at 301-459-4814 x 205.

**RCIA –WELCOME BACK HOME!:** Are you or someone else you know interested in being Catholic or simply learning more about the Catholic faith? The Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is tailored to address such needs. This year we will be holding classes on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:15pm in the School Faculty Lounge. We will have our first session on



Mass Intentions for the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

**Monday, August 18**

8:30 am Melvin Ortiz

**Tuesday, August 19**

8:30 am Nicholas A. Carbott

**Wednesday, August 20**

8:30 am Lupe Echavarria

**Thursday, August 21**

8:30 am Margaret E. Donohue

**Friday, August 22**

8:30 am Augustine Obobaifo

**Saturday, Aug 23: Vigil– Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions**

5:00 pm Michael Nardozi

**Sunday, Aug 17: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 am Veronica “Verna” Verna

9:30 am Samantha Barahona

11:30am Veronica “Verna” Verna

**Please Pray for: †The Sick and Homebound In Our Parish:**

Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Audrey Brown; Linda Bryans; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Eleanor DeMarco; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Jose Guevara; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Anne Mbimi Ifouini; Charles Jones; Paula Kelly; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessler; Nancy Maimone; Joe Makowski; Albertine Mandzo; Luke Martellotti; Bob Martin; Willie (Bill) Moore; Bernadette Murphy; Larry Murphy; Rosemarie Nardozi; David Obi; Peter O’Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; Dawn Pearson; Evelyn Pierce; John Rampone; Jose Ocasio Rodriguez; Joe Sico; Marian C. Wahle; Judy Widdis; Jean Zanin; Ryan Zawada **†For Our Military Serving in**

**Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; Ryan A. Morgan **† Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, call Tara Guevara at 301-459-4814 or email [tguevara@stmatthias.org](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org).**

Other Items of Note:

**Ladies of Charity Food Pantry:** We are **desperately** in need of the following non-perishable food items: Pasta, family sized rice, cereal, peanut butter, canned items such as soups, vegetables, meats, tuna, **fruit and more fruit** are needed. When purchasing food items for the pantry, please be sure to check the expiration dates and consider purchasing healthier options such as **low sodium, low fat and whole grain products.** Items may be dropped off at any time at the rectory, during normal business hours, or at the back of the church after Mass.



St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

**For the August 11th Drawing:**

**Winner:** Irene Quarshie  
of Minneapolis, MN

**Seller:** Pierrette Steele  
of Greenbelt, MD