



SAINT MARY MOTHER OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi ✉ The law of prayer is the law of belief is the law of life!

THE CHURCH DEDICATES THE MONTH OF AUGUST TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED MOTHER!

AUGUST 16 ✓ 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: IS. 56:1, 6-7 ✉ PS. 67:2-3,5,6,8 ✉ RM 11:13-15,29-32 ✉ MT. 15:21-28

Reverence and Respect in our Church: Kindly maintain prayerful silence and quiet before, during, and after Holy Mass. Take all cell phone use and all conversations outside to the vestibule or parking lot. Let us keep our hearts and minds focused on our Lord God, *Jesus Christ!*

THE Holy Sacrifice OF THE MASS: In Light of the Second Vatican Council

Speaker: Most Rev Erik Polheim

Saturday, August 22
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Holy Faith Catholic Church, Gainesville

Saturday, September 19
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Orange Park



THE CCD AND OCIA CLASSES ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD) ✉ MANDATORY PARENT MEETING

If your child is enrolled in Religious Education for the upcoming catechetical year, your attendance is strictly required at our upcoming informational meeting in the Learning Center on Sunday, August 23, 2026 immediately after our 10 am Holy Mass.

WHY YOUR ATTENDANCE IS INDISPENSABLE?

Finalize Registration: Attendance is mandatory to complete your child's enrollment.

Get the Details: Receive crucial calendars, program policies, and schedules.

Sacramental Prep: Learn important guidelines for First Communion and Confirmation.

Absences are only permitted under absolute, unavoidable circumstances. If you must request to be excused, you must contact Peg DeCurtins immediately to make alternative arrangements.

SOUP AND SESSION: EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH IN THE LEARNING CENTER @ 6:15 PM

BASIC MINIMUM NEEDED PER WEEK \$ 4,000.00

LAST WEEK OFFERTORY

IN CHURCH \$ 2,424 & ONLINE \$ 195

TOTAL: \$ 2,619 .00



HALL RENOVATION (REQUIRED) \$ 1,500,000

RAISED SO FAR \$ 715,166

IN CHURCH \$ 160 & ONLINE \$ 30

BALANCE TO BE RAISED \$ 784,644

BINGO: 6 PM ☛ IN THE PARISH HALL ☛ FRIDAYS! WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP RUN IT. KINDLY HELP

☛. **HAVE YOU A PRAYER REQUEST?** Contact Ms. Susie Taylor, 9049454327. Your request will be added to the prayer-request-text-line, and our prayer team will pray for your requests!

☛. **PRAY FOR:** Kenneth Baier, Geraldine Lombard, Brendan Bonner, Nancy Carrasquillo, Beth Spreitzer, Trish Thorpe, Asia Paige, Abby Keller, Angelo Tauro, Mary Roberts, Rose Johnson, John Payne, Monte Willey, Julie, Jim & Bonnie Palleschi, Mary Baeb, Theresa Taylor, Kathy Johnson, Joan Fiore, Joanie McCarthy, Stacie Adams, Karen & Richard Dolan, Daniel Harrigan, Allan Lahoski, Ann Smith, Bob Rozumek, Christy Long, Cindy Schillig, Dawn Phillips, Diana Rumpt, Sarah Zarrella, Edward Robinson, Gladys Page, Janis Price, Jeannie Hendrix, Joanne Hodges, John Singleton, Judy Gentile, M. Akridge, Marge Keller, Marianne Glass, Mary Ford, Mary Knoche, Mifuk Huh, Pat Doyle, Paul Boehnke, Sandra Schwarz, Xavier Smith, Schaidy Parme, James Nelson, Mary Pregler, John Norton, Alex Robinson.

☛. **JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM:** CONTACT MS. KAREN DOUGHERTY AT K.DOUGHERTY200@COMCAST.NET

✓. **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Meet on the first Sunday of the month. We encourage all men of the parish to attend. Contact: STEVE HUDSON ON 9049932512 AND SKHUDSON7@GMAIL.COM

✓. **INTERESTED IN PRISON MINISTRY?** PLEASE CONTACT JOHN CHICK AT JCHICK@DOSAFI.COM

CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES (CCD) FOR CHILDREN

CLASSES ARE HELD ON SUNDAYS BEFORE HOLY MASS FROM 8:45 AM TO 9:45 AM IN THE LEARNING CENTER

CONTACT: PEG DECURTINS (PEGDECURTINS@NEFCOM.NET) or MICHAEL MCKENDREE (904) 400-9250

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

CLASSES ARE HELD ON SUNDAYS AFTER HOLY MASS FROM 11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM IN THE LEARNING CENTER

CONTACT: PEG DECURTINS (PEGDECURTINS@NEFCOM.NET)

AD JESUM PER MARIAM : TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

ORATORY: A MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN

WEDNESDAYS 5:15 PM-7.45 PM) HOLY MASS 5.30 PM;

CONSCIENCE-CHARACTER 6.15 PM; FUN ACTIVITY 6.45—7:30 PM; DINNER/REFRESHMENTS 7:35 PM

CONTACT: CATHERINE CHICK (904) 293-3827 (CHICKCA@GMAIL.COM)

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY (WWW.RESPECTLIFE.ORG)

CONTACT: TRUDY HUDSON (904) 614-5125 (TRUDYHUDSON7@GMAIL.COM)

ADORATION ★ CHAPLET ★ ROSARY

4:30 PM SATURDAY & 9:30 AM SUNDAY

4:30 PM MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM TUESDAY & THURSDAY



HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE EUCHARIST

5:00 PM SATURDAY & 10 AM SUNDAY

5:30 PM MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM TUESDAY & THURSDAY

FRIDAYS: ADORATION 9 AM TO 5:25 PM ✞ HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE EUCHARIST 5:30 PM

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION ✞ ADORATION 5:00 TO 5.45 PM & HOLY MASS 6 PM

ANointing OF THE SICK & HOLY COMMUNION: ANYTIME UPON REQUEST

CONFESSiON ✞ 45 MINUTES BEFORE HOLY MASS & BY APPOINTMENT

THE POPE'S AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION: PRAY FOR URBAN EVANGELIZATION

AUG. 15	20 TH SUNDAY	✞. PETER MACKEY SR.
AUG. 16	IN ORDINARY TIME	✞. FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH (<i>PRO POPULO</i>)
AUG. 17	MON. OF 20 TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	✞. JONATHAN ROJAS
AUG. 18	TUE. OF 20 TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	✞. THOMAS MCDONALD
AUG. 19	WED. OF 20 TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME	✞. LISA PALLESCHI
AUG. 20	THU. <i>ST. BERNARD, ABBOT, Memorial</i>	✞. MARY & PAUL CARMICHAEL ✞. ROY POSTEL
AUG. 21	FRI. <i>ST. PIUS X, POPE, Memorial</i>	✞. SUSANA POSTEL (FOR STRENGTH & PEACE)



Thank you very much to Joanne Mackey for flowers this weekend! Donations for flowers are greatly appreciated! Kindly sign up for any available weekend you want in the note book in the hallway, and give \$70-75 (cash), in the envelope provided, to Linda Voeltz shortly before your designated dates. Thank you!!

LECTORS

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL EVERYONE!

ALTAR SERVERS

B. LANCHO, M. STECK & B. PALLESCHI	SAT: AUG. 15	B. LANCHO
T. HUDSON, S. HUDSON & J. MACKEY	SUN: AUG. 16	M. MCKENDREE, A. WHITE & A. CATES
K. & M DOUGHERTY & P. DECURTINS	SAT: AUG. 22	H. WILLIAMS
M. MCKENDREE, J. CHICK SR & J. CHICK JR	SUN: AUG. 23	D. CHICK, A. MCKENDREE & K. HORKAN

The Diocese of St. Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deal with all allegations in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner. TO REPORT ABUSE, call the police or the Department of Children and Families at (800) 962-2873 or call the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (904) 208-6979 or email inquiries@dosafl.com. To report abuse by a bishop, call (800) 276-1562 or visit www.reportbishopabuse.org

FAITH OVER BOUNDARIES: THE CANAANITE WOMAN AND THE FEEDING OF THE 4,000

In Matthew 15, Jesus intentionally crosses into the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon, where a desperate Canaanite woman shows us how to stand with the Lord against the brutal attacks of vile demons and the blind ignorance of humans. Facing a daughter tormented by evil and tracking disciples who ruthlessly demanded to “get rid of her” (*apolyson*) simply because she was yelling at their backs, she refuses to retreat. While the elite Temple authorities back in Jerusalem blindly rejected Jesus, refused His signs, and plotted His death, this pagan outsider sees what they could not: that Jesus is the sovereign “Son of David.” Her plea triggers a profound Hebrew wordplay: as a *Kena’ani* (Canaanite/historical blood-enemy), she is begging for *Chanan* (covenant mercy).

When Jesus tests her with heavy silence and a sharp proverb about throwing the children’s bread to the “dogs,” she does not waste time getting defensive. Rather than using the harsh Greek word for wild street scavengers (*kuon*), Jesus chooses the diminutive *kynarion* (household puppies), shifting the imagery indoors. Spotting this linguistic opening, she brilliantly puts it to use, arguing that even the household puppies *legally or rightfully* eat the scraps (*psychion*) falling from the Master’s table. She knew she didn’t need to disrupt Israel’s chronological priority; she just needed a single crumb of Christ’s limitless power to utterly crush the demonic hold on her home.

This intense encounter serves as the direct prophetic fulfillment of Isaiah 25:6 (the Feast of the Nations) and the immediate prelude to the Feeding of the 4,000, which takes place directly afterward on a mountain in the Gentile territory of the Decapolis, where the crowds marveled and “glorified the God of Israel.” By granting her request and then physically feeding thousands of Gentiles, Jesus completely shatters the narrow boundaries of His exclusive disciples. While the earlier feeding of the 5,000 in Jewish territory utilized 5 loaves and left 12 traditional kosher baskets (*kophinos*) for Israel’s twelve tribes, this Gentile miracle utilizes 7 loaves and leaves 7 massive Greek storage hampers (*spyris*). The number 7 directly symbolizes global completeness and the *Messiah’s total victory* over the 7 historic pagan nations of Canaan.

Through this deliberate sequence, Jesus proves the woman’s desperate intuition entirely correct. We do not need to defend the Lord’s methods; we simply need to cling to Him with unwavering persistence. When the enemy attacks and humanity fails us, standing humbly with Jesus ensures that His overflowing, victorious grace will have the final word.