

St. Peter, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes

(902) 535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

August 20, 2023

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

But the woman came and did him 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 her daughter was healed from that hour (Matt 15:25-28).

The Memorial of [St. Bernard of Clairvaux](#), which is ordinarily celebrated today, is superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

Commentary on the Sunday Mass Readings for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A:

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 56:1, 6-7*. The theme of the prophet here is the call of the Gentiles to the service of the true God on the great day which is to come. The temple of that future messianic age will be a "house of prayer" for all peoples.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 11:13-15, 29-32*. In this reading Paul admits clearly that in the Christian Church is the fulfillment of all the hopes and promises made to Israel, yet this fulfillment of Judaism is composed of Gentiles as well as Israelites. Paul here calls himself the apostle to the Gentiles but still prays that the Israelite rejection of Jesus may one day be reversed. (Excerpted from *A Celebrants Guide to the New Sacramentary—A Cycle* by Kevin W. Irwin)

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 15:21-28*. There is a lesson, a very necessary one, for all of us in this episode of Christ's public life. It is the necessity of perseverance in our prayers of petition. Prayer is an essential part of our Christian life, and the essential part of prayer is that of adoration and thanksgiving, but prayer of petition has a big part in our daily prayers. We have so many spiritual and temporal needs, needs which we cannot provide by ourselves. Christ himself has told us to ask Him for these needs: "ask and you shall receive."

Do we ask with the fervor and perseverance which prove that we have "great faith"? That faith is the proof which Christ needs before He grants our requests. The Canaanite woman of whom we have just heard is for us an example of that deep-seated faith and trust in Christ's power and Christ's goodness. Even though He ignored her she continued to beseech Him, and when He answered with what seemed a direct refusal, her faith and trust did not waver. She answered His reason for refusal with another statement which showed that the granting of her petition would not in any way interfere with or impede His primary task, His mission to

His father's chosen people. This was the proof of great faith which He required. He granted her request.

We must imitate and learn from this pagan mother. Her love for her child made her ready to undergo every hardship or suffering for the restoration to health of her loved one. When we turn to Christ in our needs is our faith in Him as sincere and unwavering as was this woman's? No doubt it often is, and yet we do not get the desired answer. As Christians we know that our particular request may not always be for our good, or for the final good of the person for whom we are praying. In that case, the good God will not grant what would be to our eternal disadvantage. But if our prayer is sincere and persevering, we shall always get an answer, and one which is better than what we asked for.

How often do we wonder at or perhaps doubt God's mercy when we see, for example, the young father of a family being taken from his loved and helpless ones, notwithstanding the prayers and tears of his wife and children. Where is God's mercy here? Where is His answer to these sincere prayers? But who are we to question God's mercy? The answer is there and often clear enough: that death brings out in his relatives and neighbors virtues which they would otherwise never have had occasion to practice—virtues that will earn for them eternal life.

It is only when we get to heaven - and getting to heaven is our purpose in life - that we shall see how our prayers, sincere and persevering, were answered by God.
—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

Please call the office:

902-535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei

Instructors for Baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB (902) 535-2699

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

Receipts:

St. John the Baptist

August 12, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 641.00
Cemetery Donation	200.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 841.00</u>

St. Peter's

August 12, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 610.00
Candles	11.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 621.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels

August 13, 2023

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 854.00
Candles	19.25
Total	\$ 873.25

Schedule of Masses

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

SP 9:00 AM

Friday, August 25, 2023

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Manny Mombourquette*

Saturday, August 26, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Kenny Cosman, Jr.*

SP 5:30 PM

Sunday, August 27, 2023

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Lawrence, Clara, Ralph & James Bona*

COMMUNITY NEWS

HGA: The church is open every Sunday from 1-3 pm for quiet visits throughout 2023. This opportunity is part of our 200th Anniversary of our parish. From Matthew Kelly's BEAUTIFUL EUCHARIST: "All the answers are in the Tabernacle. Jesus has all the answers and He patiently waits for us in the Tabernacle, day and night, to share those answers with us. Next time you are grappling with a decision, stop by your church and ask Jesus for His advice. There is something powerful about just sitting in His Presence."

The faith community of Holy Guardian Angels Parish invite neighboring parishioners to join our special celebration on Sunday, September 3rd as we commemorate 200 years of Ancestry Faith and Family. A special mass of Thanksgiving will take place @ 3:00 P.M. with Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick as main celebrant , joined by our pastor, former clergy and invited guests. All are welcome.

HGA Parishioners: There will be a cleaning of the church on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023 starting at 9:00 AM. This is in preparation of our 200th anniversary celebration. All who can come and help are asked to please do so. Thank you

L'Ardoise Legion Barbeque

Sunday, August 20th/23

\$25 per person

12 oz strip loin steak, baked potato, coleslaw, sweets

Take out 2-3 pm

Eat in 4-6 pm while being entertained by Leona Burkey

To book: Contact: Theresa 902-587-2511 or Gail. 902-951-0330 or call the Legion 902-587-2263 Fri & Set evenings

SJB: 14th ANNUAL "LUCK OF THE DRAW BOAT RUN" to be held SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd with a rain/wind date - September 3rd. Registration beginning at 10 a.m. at River Bourgeois Floating Docks, 166 Northside Road, \$20 per ticket plus 50/50 Draw. Tickets open to all, no boat required. Hamburgers, hotdogs & pop/water available. Prizes handed out at 3:30 p.m. 1st Prize \$300, 2nd Prize \$200, 3rd Prize \$100 along with other prizes to be drawn. For more information contact Peter Baccardax at 535-3182.

The weekly Masses at SP and SJB will be held in the church until further notice.

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College is a faithfully Catholic liberal arts college in Barry's Bay, Ontario, offering a three-year Bachelor of Catholic Studies degree. Small class sizes and a strong academic program set students up for success in the classroom and in all future pursuits. Faculty take their Catholic faith seriously and profess an oath of fidelity to the Magisterium of the Church. A vibrant campus life, men's and women's residence houses, and ample spiritual opportunities create a Catholic culture that forms the whole person. Students build life-long friendships, and often discern their vocations. The tuition is affordable, and financial aid is available. There are still spots available for 2023-2024! Please visit www.seatofwisdom.ca.

Excerpted From the Catholic Register Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Wiktorcia Ulma is pictured in an undated photo with three of her children and the children of relatives outside the Ulma home in Markowa, a village in southeastern Poland. Wikotria, her husband, Józef, and their six children were executed March 24, 1944, by Nazis who discovered that the family had been sheltering eight Jews who had escaped internment by German occupying forces. Two of the Ulma girls, Stasia and Basia, are pictured in the middle near their mother, who is holding son Wlodzimierz. *OSV News photo/ courtesy National Remembrance Institute*



Martyred family's 'unprecedented' beatification prompts theological reflection, pro-life prayers

BY MARIA WIERING, OSV NEWS

- August 8, 2023

When the Ulma family is beatified Sept. 10 as martyrs who gave their lives to protect Jews during the Holocaust, it may be the first time the Catholic Church has beatified an entire, specific family together, as well as the first beatification of an unborn child.

Because of those circumstances, the Polish bishops have described this beatification as an "unprecedented" event, which experts say, has both pastoral and theological implications. "The beatification of an unborn child provides the church with a powerful witness to the full personhood and dignity of every child, born or unborn," R. Jared Staudt, an instructor for the lay division of St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, told OSV News.

In 1944, after discovering the eight Jewish people the Ulmas were hiding on their farm near Markowa, Poland, Nazi police executed them, followed by 44-year-old Józef and 32-year-old Wiktoria, who was advanced in her pregnancy, and their six other children -- Stanislaw, 8; Barbara, 7; Wladyslaw, 6; Franciszek, 4; Antoni, 3; and Maria, 2 -- as a warning to other families who might try to shelter Jews.

In 1995, Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, recognized Jozef and Wiktoria Ulma as Righteous Among the Nations, an honor for "non-Jews who took great risks to save Jews during the Holocaust."

Pope Francis signed the decree recognizing the Ulma family's martyrdom Dec. 17, 2022, his 86th birthday, paving the way for the Ulmas' beatification. For beatification, the church conducts a thorough investigation of the person's life and writings to determine whether he or she lived a life of heroic virtue, offered his or her life for another, or was killed for the sake of Jesus Christ.

According to Vatican News, "The children shared in the operative faith of their parents, while the unborn child in Wiktoria's womb received a baptism of blood." Villagers who buried the bodies report that Wiktoria had begun to give birth during the massacre.

While many cases of beatification require the confirmation of a miracle attributed to that person's intercession, that is not the case for martyrs, such as the Ulma family. In those cases, the title "blessed" is immediately bestowed.

For canonization and the designation "saint," however, all "blesseds" need a church-recognized miracle attributed to their intercession that occurred after their beatification.

The Ulma family's faith and Christian witness -- symbolized by Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan found underlined in their family Bible -- has attracted attention as potential patrons for pro-family and pro-life related causes.

The Ulmas appear to be the first specified family to be beatified together, although other groups of martyrs, such as the Japanese Martyrs, included families. Grenchik said that, with the Ulmas, having a family of saints -- including an unborn child -- to intercede for the church will likely appeal to Catholics whose intentions involve family life, including parents who have miscarried or lost a child, as well as the pro-life movement. "This is another reaffirmation that the child in the womb is just as important as every other child and member of the family," he said.

The suggestion that the Ulmas' unborn child underwent a "baptism of blood" draws parallels to the Holy Innocents, the baby boys Herod the Great ordered murdered after the Wise Men did not return to tell him the identity of the Christ Child. While their actual number is disputed, they are considered to be martyrs for Jesus Christ and are commemorated by the Roman liturgical calendar on Dec. 28. "Although unbaptized, (they) were martyred for the sake of Christ, without any specific intention of offering their lives," said Staudt, who also serves as content director for Exodus 90, and who has written about the significance of infant baptism. "The church has always taught that baptism is necessary for salvation, but also that the reality of baptism, as the forgiveness of original sin and the imparting of sanctifying grace, can be imparted by God outside of the sacrament."

Theologians have long wrestled with the question of what happens to children who die without baptism, and therefore in the state of original sin, but who have not committed sins of their own doing. Some speculated that without the sanctifying grace of baptism, children who die in this state go to limbo, a place of the dead where they would neither suffer nor see God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states of babies who die without baptism that "the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them." Because it is presumed the Ulmas' unborn child received sanctifying grace through martyrdom, his or her beatification doesn't actually challenge the concept of limbo, said Alan Fimister, assistant professor of theology at Holy Apostles College and Seminary based in Cromwell, Connecticut, who, as director of the Dialogos Institute, convened a 2017 colloquium exploring limbo.

Meanwhile, Fimister noted, unlike canonizations, beatifications are not considered infallible. If the Ulma child is canonized in the future, that would be a clear affirmation that post-Pentecost baptism by blood has occurred, and it's not just a theoretical possibility. Both Fimister and Staudt cautioned that just because God may choose to act outside of the church's sacraments doesn't diminish the essential nature of baptism.

"I have found that many Catholics do not take the reality of original sin seriously today and even delay the baptism of their children for long periods," Staudt said. "Original sin means that we are not born with sanctifying grace and need to receive it as a gift from God. The unborn child of the Ulma family received the graces of baptism through martyrdom." He said this should not be taken as a reason to delay giving children "the great gift of baptism."