SUNDAY MASSES & CONFESSIONS: See inside

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGE: For these Sacraments please notify the church office as soon as possible so that we may advise you of the requirements. Thank you.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please fill out registration card and return to ushers or the church office.

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Tel. 482-6883 or 481-7172

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES STORE: Tel. 437-9876
The Gift Shop is located in the front of the church

RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE: Tel. 482-6883

YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE: Tel. 481-5144

PARISH OFFICE: Tel. 481-7171 or 481-7172
Fax: 481-8007, www.resurrectionch.org

August 20, 2017
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CALLED TO ACT IN GOD’S NAME

“Let all the nations praise you!” (Psalm 67:4) today’s psalm response exclaims. In the psalms and other Hebrew scriptures, this kind of invocation is actually an invitation to God to act, to intervene in human lives in a manner that will cause everyone—not just the Chosen People—to give praise. Stated a bit more strongly, it is something of a “put up or shut up” challenge to God, the sort of strong statement the psalmists of Israel, trusting in their intimate and loving relationship with God, were not afraid to make.

The Gospel has its own exclamation, announcing the appearance of the Canaanite woman with “Behold!” (Matthew 15:22) “Behold!” is a scriptural flag that tells us that God is about to act or announce something through an individual or a situation. In the case of Jesus, God was going to act through this woman, whom nobody among Jesus’ followers would have believed to be an agent of the divine will. Like the psalmists, we might passively inform or perhaps even actively challenge God to do something so that everyone will come to belief, but God will always turn the tables on us. It becomes our calling, our duty (as it was for Jesus) to behold the situations and persons of our daily lives so that God can act through us, so the Kingdom can be announced through our living.

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Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.  

~ Isaiah 56:1

Today's Readings -  
**The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**, Cycle A  
Sunday, August 20, 2017

**First Reading**  
Isaiah 56:1,6-7  
The Lord reveals his salvation to all.

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8  
All the nations will praise God.

**Second Reading**  
Romans 11:13-15,29-32  
God's favor to Israel is irrevocable.

**Gospel Reading**  
Matthew 15:21-28  
Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.

WHY PRAY?  
The “foreigners” as Isaiah calls them, the “Gentiles” as Paul calls them, or the “Canaanites” as Matthew calls them are called to worship the one true God in prayer. As we listen to today’s readings, perhaps we are tempted to ask: Why pray? The question is rhetorical; it is tantamount to asking why should friends talk to one another or people in love kiss one another. Prayer is a way of relating to God, a way of talking to God. The apostles had the opportunity to talk to Jesus in the flesh. We have the opportunity to talk to Jesus Christ in prayer. Our relationship with him must be enthusiastic; it cannot be faint-hearted. John Donne, a fifteenth-century poet, knew what the qualities of good prayer were. Donne asks God to treat him differently from most Christians. The poet does not want God to merely “knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend,” but also to “break, blow, burn, and make me new” (Holy Sonnets, XIV).

It takes a dynamic faith on our part to come to God in prayer. As Jesus once said, “Knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). It may take pounding the door down, but if we are as persistent as the woman in today’s Gospel, the results will follow.

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THE POWER OF PRAYER
Much prayer, much power!
Little prayer, little power!
No prayer, no power!
—Anonymous

A GOOD PRAYER
A good prayer, though often used, is still fresh and fair in the eyes and ears of heaven.
—Thomas Fuller
RESURRECTION CALENDAR
ALL events take place in the Parish Center unless otherwise stated.

Adoration, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Bereavement & Beyond Ministry, Mondays, 10:00 a.m. For more information call Alouise 481-8168
Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Men’s Club, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00p.m., Sept. - May
Men’s Gospel Forum, Fridays 8:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, church
Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, chapel
RCIA, Sundays, after the 9:00a.m. Mass, for info, 482-6883
Rel. Ed., September - May
Resurrection for Life, for info, call Judy at 287-1237
Resurrection Prayerline Ministry, call Deanna Latell 481-1170.
Rosary, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30p.m., chapel
Rosary Makers, 3rd Thursdays Oct. thru May, 9-11 a.m.
St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 pm. For SVDP assistance call 239-600-6749, or email, svdp@resurrectionch.org
Teams of Our Lady, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
Women’s Guild, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30a.m. Sept. - May

ARE YOU NEW TO RESURRECTION PARISH?
We would like to welcome you to our parish family. In order to better serve you, please fill out a registration card which is located at the entrances of the church and leave it with an usher or put it in the collection plate. You may also register by stopping by the church office. A reminder that one needs to be a registered member of a parish in order to be a Baptismal or Confirmation sponsor.

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST PARISHIONERS:
M/M Jon Gustafson, M/M Joseph Steenbeke, Jacqueline Dorval, Marilyn Harlan, Leydis Freeman & Family, Carole Grill, M/M Robert Santos, M/M Liam Farrell & Family.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
Volunteers are needed in the Gift Shop for all shifts. Please call 239-481-7171 and leave a message for Gaye for more details.

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MINISTRY OF THE SICK
IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:
When admitted to the hospital please register as Catholic and notify the parish office immediately, 481-7171. Resurrection priests visit the hospitals daily.
To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission.
The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:
*Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by St. John XXIII Parish, 561-2245
* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
* Lee Memorial and Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

RAINY SEASON has arrived! St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting umbrellas for the poor and the homeless. Please drop off at the Parish Center. No need for new.

St. Vincent DePaul is in need of peanut butter, jelly, mayo, toilet paper, and cereal. Thank you for your generosity!
PLEASE JOIN US EACH 1ST FRIDAY FOR ADORATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 8:00 MASS

A Meditation from the Diary of St. Faustina, entry 1485:

Jesus: I am your strength, I will help you in the struggle.
Soul: Lord, I recognize your holiness, and I fear you.
Jesus: My child, do you fear the God of Mercy? My holiness does not prevent Me from being merciful. Behold, for you I have established a throne of mercy on earth - the tabernacle - and from this throne I desire to enter into your heart. I am not surrounded by a retinue or guards. You can come to me at any moment, at any time; I want to speak to you and desire to grant you grace.

A society is best judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members.
~ Anonymous

We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life - the unborn - without diminishing the value of all human life.
~ Ronald Regan, former U.S. President

This week’s Sanctuary Candle:
for Joseph Jacobik, Jr.
by Daughter, Tina

Altar Flowers This Week:

In Loving Memory of:
John & Marie Rotte
by Friends at Resurrection Parish

In Honor of:
Larry & Val Puccia’s 45th Wedding Anniversary
by Val Puccia

Please join us here at Resurrection Parish for a special Mass for “A Greater Respect For Life” August 25, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

The August Novena Mass celebrates the 5th month of the baby in the womb. This month marks the half-way point to birth, and the baby is very active. Sleep habits develop and his mother can feel him move and stretch, particularly when she is resting. He is big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside uterine wall and dent it. Up to now, although he swam with ease in his watery world, he was too small for her to detect because the inside wall of the uterus has little feeling. Babies born at this age have survived.
Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Openness  Today's readings remind us that all of us are "strangers" who owe our "choseness" to God's openness and all-inclusive love. By definition, then, we have no business dabbling in any form of exclusiveness. As Isaiah puts it, God's "house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Jesus doesn't offer her any response. However, the woman does get a rise out of Jesus' disciples. They don't feel pity for her, only embarrassment because of her. Their response is to entreat Jesus to get rid of her. Jesus proceeds to do just that. He tells the woman that his mission is to the lost sheep of Israel alone. The woman, however, is persistent. Jesus becomes more blunt, even insulting. She brushes off the insult and says that she'll take what she can get. Jesus can't refuse such faith. He gives her everything. He heals her daughter.

Since Jesus repeatedly denies the Canaanite woman and even goes so far as to call her the "D" word (dog), it's tempting to read sarcasm, even venom, in Jesus' words. To do so, however, would be to fail to recognize an ancient mode of Semitic dialogue and wit that matches wise aphorism with wise aphorism or riddle with riddle. Jesus tosses off a maxim to the woman and she turns it around on him to her own advantage. Jesus is impressed. He acknowledges her wisdom and praises her faith.

Matthew uses this event to explain how Jesus' mission of salvation is not a parochial one. Rather, the evangelist wants to make it abundantly clear that Jesus' mission is one that extends beyond the house of Israel to the ends of the earth and to all its people. Matthew wants us to understand that membership in the chosen people is neither enough nor essential. What is enough, what is essential is active faith.

Reflection  The Canaanite woman is one gutsy gal. Unnamed, outcast, a foreigner, a woman, she stands for us as a model for faith and faith-filled prayer. Her prayer comes from a deep recognition of who she is and upon whom it is she is calling. Her prayer is "grounded" in humility (from humus, "of the earth/dust"). Her intercession is made not on her own behalf, but on behalf of her sick and tortured child. Her prayer is simple, to the point, and breaks no misinterpretation: "Lord, help me!" No matter that she is one of Israel's outcasts, she calls upon Jesus to "observe what is right, do what is just" (Isaiah 56:1). The woman's faith is strong. That makes her prayer persistent. Neither she nor it will be rebuffed. She calls to mind the words of Saint Paul, "There does not exist among you Jew or Greek, slave or freeman, male or female. All are in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Here, in the middle of Matthew's Gospel, the Canaanite woman serves as our representative, one of the many ordinary, outcast, and outcast people, on behalf of whom, at the end of the Gospel, Jesus commands, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19).
**REGISTER NOW FOR FAITH FORMATION!**

**WHO:** Grades K-5  
**WHEN:** Beginning September 10th following the 10:00a.m. Mass  
**FEES:** $70/$15 per additional child  
*Second year sacramental prep: $25  
*Sacramental Prep is a two year program. Students must enroll in first grade to receive First Holy Communion in the second grade.

**REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON LINE AND IN THE PARISH HALL MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.**

**Questions? Please contact the Faith Formation office:** 600-6745 or deanna@resurrectionch.org

**“Let the little children come to me…”**  
*Matthew 19:14*

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**YOUTH MINISTRY REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE FALL!**

Register fees:*  
$55 thru Aug. 31  
$65 thereafter

**Junior Yth. ~ 6—8th grade**  
**Senior Yth. ~ 9—12th grade**

**Family/Youth Mass 5:00pm**  
Followed by  
Youth Gatherings  
6:00 - 7:30pm  
Call RYM or email with any questions:  
Vikki@resurrectionch.org or  
481-5144

*Add’l fee for Confirmation Prep. ~ 2yr. Program begins in 9th gr.

Registration forms can be printed out from our website:  
www.resurrectionch.org  
Or stop in at the Parish Center!

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**Coffee and Donuts begin September 10 after the 10:00 Mass! Please join us in the Parish Center for coffee, donuts and fellowship!!**
Florida Catholic Chamber of Commerce - NEXT MEETING: August 22, 2017
Please join the next Catholic Chamber networking/lunch meeting on August 22, 2017 from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM.
Where: Brookdale Senior Living, 8351 College Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33919
We invite all Catholic businesses and ministries. Free to attend. No membership required. Being a member is a great way to witness our beautiful Catholic faith.

"Witnessing Faith with Bishop Dewane" - Join Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, for his monthly radio program on Relevant Radio. "Witnessing Faith with Bishop Dewane" can be heard the last Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m. on 1660 AM in Naples and 1410 AM and 106.7 FM in Fort Myers. Listen anywhere online at RelevantRadio.com.

Safe Environment Training - As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and trained in Safe Environment. The next training sessions will be on August 24th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm and August 26th from 9:30 - 11:30 am at Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall. Call 239-481-7172 to register if you plan to attend.

**Please Help Feed the Hungry!**

Your food donations will help St. Vincent DePaul, Catholic Charities, South Ft. Myers Food Pantry. Drop food in boxes at vestibules in the church or Parish Center. The following is most needed: Canned fruit and vegetables (corn/peas/carrot/green beans). Canned meat (tuna/chicken/ sausages/ham/Spam). Spaghetti noodles and sauce, Macaroni and Cheese, Maseca flour (small bags), Canned diced tomatoes, Tomato sauce, Cereal, Canned soups (prefer chicken), and Dry beans (pinto/red/kidney).

Thank you and God Bless!
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