



CHURCH OF THE

# Good Shepherd

One Flock, One Family, Living and Sharing the Love of Christ

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AUGUST 16, 2020

*O woman,  
great is  
your faith!*

MATTHEW 15:28



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TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Parish Office is operating virtually during the pandemic. We will answer your phone calls and emails as soon as we possibly can. Our telephone system is now up and running! Thank you for your patience.

## NEW MASS SCHEDULE

### Monday- Friday

7:30am in the Garden- No livestream

### Saturday

8:00am in the Garden- No livestream

5:30pm Vigil – Livestream Only

### Sunday

8:00am (in the garden)- livestream

10:00am (in the garden)- livestream

12pm (Spanish) - Livestream Only

### Communion

Drive through communion after each Mass in front of the church.

### Adoration

Fridays 8am- 9am in the garden

### Confession

Fridays 8am-9am in the garden

Saturdays 4:00pm – 5:00pm

or by appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK HOTLINE 510-259-8706 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE LINE 925-432-6404—Ext. 25



*“A river cuts through the rock, not because of its power but because of its persistence.”*

The gospel of this 20th Sunday presents us a persistent Cananite woman who, in spite of rejection and insult, never gave up on asking for help. This Gospel passage has become one of the most puzzling stories in the New Testament. Bible scholars have been debating on the meaning of this conversation. Why would Jesus seem to be so rude to such a poor and needy woman? The Cananite woman called out to Jesus: *“Lord, Son of David, my daughter is tormented by a demon.”* But Jesus’ response was silence. How could Jesus, the God of love and compassion, stay silent to such a sincere request? But the woman didn’t give up. She kept calling for help.

And then Jesus spoke, but his words sounded more terrible than the silence. He said: *“I am sent to the lost sheep of Israel only.”* How heartbreaking it is for the woman to hear such a response. It was not just an indifference, but a rejection, not because of something she did, but who she was, a pagan. But surprisingly the rejection could not stop her. She became more submissive and persistent in her pleading.

Jesus’ response this time was even more offensive: *“It is not right to take the food for the children and throw it to the dog.”* Jesus has gone from silence, to indirect rebuke, and now to the direct insult. He called her a dog. Calling somebody a dog in Jesus’ time was extremely offensive and insulting. How much this woman was able to take! But she was not put off. Out of her mouth came one of the greatest responses of all time. We should learn from this wise lady: *“Lord, even the dog eats the scraps that fall from the table of their master.”*

This Cananite never disagreed with Jesus. She was humble enough to admit she was a dog. At this point Jesus praised her faith and granted her request. As I say, it is a puzzling story. But what do we make of it: three rejections, and finally a consent. We know that Jesus didn’t mean to reject and insult the woman that way. The fact that Jesus withdrew to the region of Sidon and Tyre, a pagan territory, proved his purpose of coming for all, not just the Israelites. The reason Jesus seemed to be mean to the woman was to test her faith. He was preparing her to receive the gift that he wants to give.

Someone once asked St. Augustine, *“Why does God often delay in answering our prayers?”* Augustine responded: *“God does so to allow your heart to expand so as to receive the gift that God wants to give.”* It is a cool answer. Isn’t it? Supposedly, you ask God for something special, and if it is given to you right away, you may not be in a position to fully appreciate it. But when you are made to wait, and wait, and wait, through silence, through rejections, then finally receive it, you will love and appreciate that gift until death.

So this woman whom Jesus obviously loves, was being tried and tested, but she persevered and never gave up. Jesus praised her: *Oh you woman of great faith!* Are we being tried and tested the same way by the same Christ? What is our response? Are we resentful? Are we walking away? May our response be the same as that of the woman, persistent in prayers, perseverent in faith that we may be rewarded in the end. Blessings, Fr. Thi Hoang



## Shepherd's Closet Procedure During Covid-19

Due to the Covid-19 virus, Shepherd's Closet will continue to be closed until further notice. We will only be available in emergency situations. If you need help, you can call Ann and Bill Abitz at (925) 432-3995. Leave your name, phone number and a short message, and we will get back to you as soon as we can.



## Shepherd's Closet Supporters

We, at Shepherd's Closet, sincerely appreciate your many donations of food, clothes, diapers, etc. Because we will remain closed until the pandemic is over, we ask you not to bring any donations to the church. Our trailers are full, and there is no place for any more items (big or small). If you want to continue helping us during this crisis, we will still accept monetary donations. If you can, please mark your donation, "Shepherd's Closet," on the memo line of your check. This donation should not take the place of your regular donation, but be an addition to it. Thank you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Monday to Friday Masses** are held in the Garden at 7:30am. **No livestream.**

**Saturday:** 8am in the garden– No livestream

5:30pm Vigil - Livestream Only

**Sunday:** 8am in garden and livestream

10am in the garden and livestream

**12pm Spanish – Livestream Only**

You still need to sign up to go to 8am and 10am Masses in the garden on our website at [www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org](http://www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org). There are now 200 seats available for each of these two masses.

The Parish Office continues to operate remotely.

The Parish phone system is now up and running! Give us a call if you need anything. We are here to serve you. Just leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible as we are now receiving phone messages directly to our emails.

Drive through communion after the Mass in front of the church for those who attend the Mass online.

Baptisms/ Weddings/Quinceaneras/Funerals are still ON schedule. They will be held in the garden with 100 person limit.

**SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER**

With mass attendance down due to the Coronavirus, we ask that you consider signing up for Electronic Fund Transfer so that we can keep the parish up and running during this difficult time. EFT is a safe, convenient way to give to the parish even when you are unable to attend mass or you are away on vacation. Simply fill out the bottom portion of this page and return it to the parish office at 3200 Harbor St., Pittsburg, CA 94565 or a form can be mailed or emailed to you. You can also visit our web site at [www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org](http://www.goodshepherdpittsburg.org) and conveniently donate through the DONATION NOW BUTTON. If neither of these manners of giving suit you, you can mail in your contributions any time you will not be present at mass or place them through the mail slot in the parish office door. Thank you for helping keep our parish afloat during this very difficult time.

**Electronic Funds Transfer  
The Easy Way to Tithe!**

Church of the Good Shepherd offers a FREE tithing option more convenient for many of our members  
–Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Program.  
The program has been a great success since we started it several years ago.

**You Tithe No More Than You Normally Do.  
You Control How You Tithe.  
You Choose A Tithe Frequency: Weekly, Semi-Monthly, Or Monthly.  
You Choose When You Want Your Account Debited.**

**ENROLLMENT IN ELECTRONIC DONATION TRANSFER FOR SUNDAY GIVING**

Please enter the amount you wish to give and how often:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly (Transferred every Monday)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Semimonthly (Transferred on 1st & 15th)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly (Transferred on 1st or 15th—indicate preference)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to give this amount electronically weekly for 2nd collections using the same account information.

**CREDIT CARD OPTION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKING ACCOUNT OPTION**

Simply attach voided check

I authorize Good Shepherd Church to process entries from my credit card or checking account as noted above. This authority shall remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization.

**FROM THE CHAPEL**

*The Chapel has been temporarily closed due to coronavirus restrictions.*

*We will keep you updated in the bulletin of a re-opening date.*

**For Questions: Call Bill Abitz at 925-872-5852**

## Anuncios

Las misas en inglés de lunes a viernes serán en el Jardín a las 7:30am. No habrá transmisión virtual en vivo.

Las misas de fin de semana serán así:

Sábados en inglés: 8am en el jardín y 5:30pm la Vigila,  
Transmisión virtual en vivo

Domingos en inglés: 8 y 10 am en el jardín con transmisión virtual en vivo

Usted todavía necesita registrarse para ir a las misas de las 8am y 10am en el jardín en nuestro sitio web.

En español: La Misa de las 3pm se mueve temporalmente a las 12m con transmisión virtual en vivo. Comenzando con el próximo domingo 26 de julio hasta nueva orden.

Compartiremos la Sagrada Comunión después de la Misa en el frente del templo en sus carros.

Todas las misas de la Primera Comunión y confesiones previstas para julio se posponen hasta nuevo aviso.

Los bautismos, matrimonios y quinceañeras se seguirán haciendo en el jardín en los horarios programados.

La oficina parroquial está cerrada hasta nuevo aviso. Nuestro personal está trabajando desde casa a través de correos electrónicos.

Los teléfonos de la parroquia tienen problemas. Estamos actualizando un nuevo sistema. Le agradecemos su paciencia. Mientras tanto, estamos operando la oficina a través de sitio web y correo electrónico. Esperamos que estén funcionando para el 27 de julio por la tarde.



*“Un rio atraviesa la roca, no por su poder sino por su persistencia.”*

El Evangelio de este Vigésimo Domingo nos presenta a una mujer cananea persistente que, a pesar del rechazo y el insulto, nunca deja de pedir ayuda. Este pasaje del Evangelio se ha convertido en una de las historias más desconcertantes del Nuevo Testamento. Los eruditos de la Biblia han estado debatiendo sobre el significado de esta conversación. Porque que Jesús parece ser tan grosero con una mujer tan pobre y necesitada? La mujer cananea le dijo a Jesús: Señor, Hijo de David, mi hija está atormentada por un demonio. Pero la respuesta de Jesús fue un silencio. Como pudo Jesús, el Dios de amor y compasión, quedarse callado ante tan sincera petición? Pero la mujer no se rindió. Ella siguió pidiendo ayuda.

Y entonces Jesús habló, pero sus palabras sonaron más terribles que su silencio. Él dijo: he sido enviado a las ovejas perdidas de Israel. Que desgarrador es para la mujer escuchar tal respuesta. No fue solo una indiferencia, sino un rechazo, no por algo que ella hizo, sino por quien era, una pagana. Pero sorprendentemente el rechazo no pudo detenerla. Se volvió más sumisa y persistente en sus suplicas.

La respuesta de Jesús esta vez fue aún más ofensiva: *“No está bien tomar la comida para los niños y tirarla al perro”*. Jesús ha pasado del silencio a la reprimenda indirecta y ahora al insulto directo. La llamo perro. Llamar perro a alguien en la época de Jesús era extremadamente ofensivo e insultante. Cuanto pudo soportar esta mujer. Pero ella no se desanimó. De su boca salió una de las mejores respuestas de todos los tiempos. Debemos aprender de esta sabia dama: *Senor, hasta el perro se come las sobras que caen de la mesa de su amo.*

Este cananea nunca estuvo en desacuerdo con Jesús. Ella fue lo suficientemente humilde para admitir que era un perro. En este punto, Jesús alabó su fe y le concedió su pedido. Como digo, es una historia desconcertante. Pero que hacemos con ello: tres rechazos y finalmente un consentimiento. Sabemos que Jesús no quiso rechazar e insultar a la mujer de esa manera. El hecho de que Jesús se retiró a la región de Sidón y Tiro, un territorio pagano, demostró su propósito de venir para todos, no solo para los israelitas. La razón por la que Jesús parecía ser malo con la mujer era para probar su fe. La estaba preparando para recibir el regalo que quiere darle.

Alguien le preguntó una vez a San Agustín, porque Dios a menudo se demora en responder nuestras oraciones? Agustín respondió: *Dios lo hace para permitir que tu corazón se expanda para recibir el regalo que Dios quiere darte.* Es una respuesta genial. No es así? Supongamos que le pide a Dios algo especial y, si se lo da de inmediato, es posible que no está en condiciones de apreciarlo por completo. Pero cuando te hacen esperar, y esperar y esperar, a través del silencio, a través del rechazo, entonces finalmente lo recibes, amaras y apreciarías ese regalo hasta la muerte.

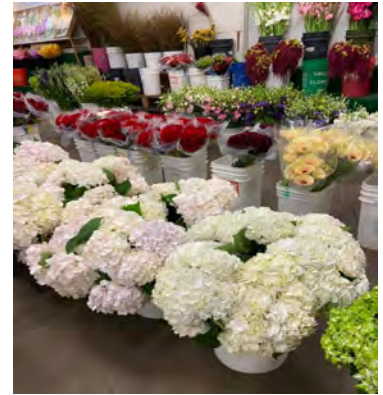
Así que esta mujer a quien Jesús obviamente ama, estaba siendo probada, pero persevera y nunca se rindió. Jesús la alabó: *Oh, mujer de gran fe!* Estamos siendo juzgados y probados de la misma manera por el mismo Cristo? Cual es nuestra respuesta? Estamos resentidos? Nos estamos alejando? Que nuestra respuesta sea la misma que la de la mujer, perseverante en la oración, perseverante en la fe para que al final seamos recompensados.

Bendiciones

P. Thi Hoang

**A HEARTFELT THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED PREPARE FOR THE DEACONATE ORDINATION THAT TOOK PLACE IN OUR SPIRITUAL GARDEN THIS WEEKEND!**

**The Parishioners who volunteered, the Ushers, the Pastoral Council, the Sacristans, EVERYONE! We couldn't have done it without you.**



**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONATED TO BUY MORE TENTS FOR THE SPIRITUAL GARDEN TO CREATE COVERED SPACE AND PROTECTION AS WE CELEBRATE OUTDOOR MASSES:**

- Anonymous Donor \$1,000-2 Tents,**
- Elizabeth Pittman \$500-1 Tent,**
- Ely & Betty Viloría \$500-1 Tent, Divine Mercy Ministry \$500-1 Tent**



**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS PARISHIONER, WHO WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, FOR THEIR DONATIONS OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE TO IMPROVE AND BEAUTIFY THE FRONT OF OUR CHURCH!**



## Mass Intentions

Aug 17-23

# Mass Intentions For The Week



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Mon	7:30 am	Amado Calma † *
Tue	7:30 am	Angelina Zamora † #
Wed	7:30 am	Birthday of Luis P Vito † *
Thu	7:30 am	Jennie Vitalie † #
Fri	7:30 am 7:00 pm	Roice Natividad-Graduation* Mateo Rangel † *
Sat	8:00 am	Robert Carpino & Ron Chambers † *
Sat	5:30 pm	Columba Fernandez † #
Sun	8:00 am	Living & Deceased Members Of the Carpino Family #
	10 am	Reginald Noon & Roger & Adriana Baclig † *
	12 Noon	FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH *

\*=Fr. Thi, #=Fr. Christopher

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Thi Van Hoang, Parochial Administrator**  
925-432-6404 Ext. 11  
frthihoang@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

**Fr. Christopher Villa, Priest in Residence**  
925-752-6357- sem.doctope@gmail.com

**Deacon Gustavo Escruceria**  
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Deacon.gustavo@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

**Grace Yvette Ripoli, Business Manager**  
925-432-6404 Ext. 12  
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**Carmen Esquivel, Parish Secretary**  
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**Aylin Gonzalez**  
**Faith Formation**  
**(Spanish Speaking)**  
925-432-6404 Ext. 20  
aylin@goodshepherdpittsburg.org

**WEEKLY COLLECTION:** Please help contribute to the smooth operation and services of our parish, especially during this most difficult time. You can give your donations to any staff member or place in the mail slot in the ministry building door.

We appreciate your generosity and for making Good Shepherd a part of your family. Fr. Thi

### Prayer for a Pandemic

*May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.*

*As fear grips our country, let us choose love.*

*During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.*

*Amen.*

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

**ISAIAH 22:19-23, ROMANS 11:33-36,  
MATTHEW 16:13-20**

## NEXT SUNDAY'S 2ND COLLECTION

**MISSION COOP**



# EVEN IN THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH IS ALIVE AND BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE!

