



# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 15-16, 2026



**Parish Office:** 1244 St. Francis Rd., Santa Rosa, Ca 95409

**Phone:** (707) 539-4495, Office faces Raters Dr.

**Email:** [office@holyspiritSR.org](mailto:office@holyspiritSR.org) | **Website:** [www.holyspirit-sr.org](http://www.holyspirit-sr.org)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## **Pastor**

Father Ron Serban

## **Deacons**

John Storm 707.479.5424

email: [jstorm@srdiocese.org](mailto:jstorm@srdiocese.org)

Bob Holgren

email: [DcnBob@holyspiritSR.org](mailto:DcnBob@holyspiritSR.org)

## **Liturgical Music Director**

Francis Oliveira, [francis@holyspiritSR.org](mailto:francis@holyspiritSR.org)

## **Director of Faith Formation**

Matt Conley, [matt@holyspiritSR.org](mailto:matt@holyspiritSR.org)

707.539.4495 ext.108

## **Office Administrator**

Ruth Canniff, [office@holyspiritsr.org](mailto:office@holyspiritsr.org)

## **Men's Club**

Bob Benjamin, 707.292.1115

## **Women's Club**

Kathleen Freitag, 415.860.2581

## **Prayer Chain**

Diane Bowman. Call the office.

## **Parish Finance Council Chair**

Brian Connolly,

[brian@brianconnolly.net](mailto:brian@brianconnolly.net)

## **Parish Advisory Council Chair**

Loyde Johnson, [loydej@sbcglobal.net](mailto:loydej@sbcglobal.net)

707.921.9292

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

**Weekday Mass:** Mondays through Fridays 9 am

**Saturday Mass of Anticipation:** 5 pm

**Sunday Masses:** 8 am, 10:30 am

**1st Saturday of the Month:** 9 am

**Video Mass:** The Saturday Mass is recorded each week and uploaded to our Youtube channel, ***Holy Spirit—Santa Rosa.***

**SACRAMENTS:** Please call the office 707.539.4495

**Reconciliation:** Call the office for times.

**Marriage:** Call 6 months in advance.

**Baptism:** Call 3 months in advance.

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** In person, online, or by email

**ONLINE DONATING** Go to [www.holyspirit-sr.org](http://www.holyspirit-sr.org)

**HOME COMMUNION** Please contact the office.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Thursdays at 7 pm in Church.

**VOLUNTEERING** Please contact the office.

.....from the Pastor's Desk

## **Food for Dogs?**

Sunday's Gospel can give a headache both to preachers and to people in the pews. Jesus refuses to hear a woman because she is, in his metaphor, one of the "dogs." *OUCH*.

You know the story. The Canaanite woman cries out for help and Jesus at first will not even talk to her. The disciples demand that he send her away because she is a trouble-maker, and he seems to agree with them. "*I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel*," he says.

She is from Canaan, not Israel.

Finally, the poor woman walks right up, does "*homage*" to Jesus and says, "*Lord, help me*." Jesus would never ignore such words, at least so we Christians and Catholics believe. Nor should we ever be deaf to words like this in our own daily lives.

However, he says to her, "*It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs*."

Ouch indeed. This is the line that is so hard for us to understand. So un-Jesus-like.

There are clues. She first called out to him with the words "*Son of David*." This is a term hallowed by use in the ancient Hebrew scriptures, always referring to the Messiah. She is a Canaanite, and they did not believe in any Messiah-to-come, especially not one that would descend from David. Yet this woman, against her whole background, seems to have belief in Jesus as Messiah.

She calls him "*Lord*." In Matthew's Gospel this is an explicit admission that Jesus and God are one. Going just on her language, this is proof that she believed in him as the Savior.

Surely, he sensed this.

But Israelites and Canaanites had long been in strife. How could "*they*" with their strange gods produce a woman who believes in the one God and in Jesus as the Christ? Is it possible that Jesus was drawing her out, teasing her in order to strengthen her belief?

Perhaps he was quoting the word "*dogs*" as a reference to names the two peoples called each other. Something like this: "*My people of Israel believe in the one God and your people do not. How can I give their food to you 'dogs,' as we call you?*"

The woman's quick wit provides a wonderful, humble, bantering response that wins the day. "*Even dogs eat scraps that fall from their master's table*," she says. It is a riposte, a parry, a counter-thrust, and Jesus loves it. She is saying, "*It does not matter what a person's status is as long as they believe. And I do believe*."

I'll bet Jesus smiled a great smile as he told her how great her faith was. Maybe he laughed at her fast repartee. And of course, he gladly gave her what she asked; he cured her daughter.

Doesn't Christ's Holy Spirit smile within you and me when we ask for what we need? When we let nothing stand in the way, like our own origins, our status in life, our sins, and maybe even our rejection by others?

Remember when we approached Communion and held out our hands and said in effect, "*Son of David, have pity on me*." This is a paraphrase of the Canaanite woman. Our response is "*Amen*," which means "*I do believe*," just like the woman.

Let us mean it this Sunday, whether we attend a virtual or a real Mass.

**John Foley, SJ**

## MASS INTENTIONS: Aug. 15—Aug. 23, 2026

|       |       |          |                                                    |
|-------|-------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 08/15 | Sat   | 5:00 pm  | †Pulavar<br>Ariyanayagan                           |
| 08/16 | Sun   | 8:00 am  | For the People                                     |
| 08/16 | Sun   | 10:30 am | † Jenny Lemp                                       |
| 08/17 | Mon   | 9:00 am  | Tanner Lathrop                                     |
| 08/18 | Tue   | 9:00 am  | <i>Dcn. John's 14th<br/>Ordination Anniversary</i> |
| 08/19 | Wed   | 9:00 am  | Souls in Purgatory                                 |
| 08/20 | Thurs | 9:00 am  | † Bernie Dalton                                    |
| 08/21 | Fri   | 9:00 am  | Sr. Josephine Maru                                 |
| 08/22 | Sat   | 5:00 pm  | † Janette Supp                                     |
| 08/23 | Sun   | 8:00 am  | For the People                                     |
| 08/23 | Sun   | 10:30 am | † Jerzy Kozikowski                                 |

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Aug. 22-23, 2026,

| Mass            | Lectors                          | Eucharistic Min.                |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sat.<br>5:00 pm | #1— Holly K.<br>#2— Rosalinda B. | Ann R.<br>Steve R.<br>Kathy S.  |
| Sun.<br>8:00 am | #1— Michael W.<br>#2— Henri K.   | Rita B.<br>Kurt K.<br>Martie S. |
| Sun.<br>10:30am | #1— Mary L.<br>#2— Lynn L.       | Loyde J.<br>Jolon W.<br>Mike W. |

### HOMEBOUND EUCCHARISTIC MIN.—Aug. 19

Route 1 — Arlene S.  
Route 2 — Joanne L.  
Route 3 — Helen S.

## FUNERALS

\*Sheryl Spain ~ Sat., August 29 at 10:30 am

\*Ralph Sobieski ~ Sat., Sept. 12 at 11 am

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK & THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mark Gardner, Jo Eandi, Nicole Murray, Lois Callas, Theresa Stachowiak, Leroy Perry, Margie Edson, Sister Maureen Carroll, Greg Macy, Lynn Connolly, Derek O'Leary, Anthony and Beth Donato, George Fiori, H. Vincent McNally, Sister Noreen Duffy CSJ, Betsy Crook, Danny Ruckman, Cindi Doell, Deb Stucke, Jordyn P. , Richard LaRussa, Tristan Humble, Larry Kubo, Yolanda Farias, Marie Mahoney, Gary Mahoney, Diana Rives, Charles Marchese, Mollie Nichols, Roland Thibault, John Guth, Eliana Pavlicka, Ellie Steffens, John May, Janice Wright, Joe Turdo, Russ Dieter, Francis Dolan, Scott Humble, Jessica Berlo, and the Holy Spirit Phone Tree.

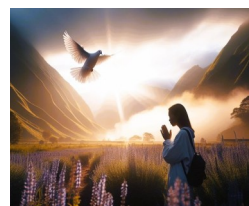
## FOR THE SOULS

Ralph Sobieski, Paola Badano, Leeza Larrance, Paul Higdon, Mark Higdon, John Paul "JP" Lisciandro, Jr, Joey Mesa, Manuel Martinez, Eleanor Travaglini, Josephine Poni, Lynette Mulert, Jenny Lemp, Mike Murray, Diana Magri, LuAnn Capps, Suzanne Borgert, Mary Davis, Teresa Resende, Shari Brown, Don Linch, Jerry Williams, Jim Coddling, Emilio Ricci, Rhio Reigh, Bob Spaulding, Bob Crozier, John Scott, Patricia Crook, Millie Jaskola, Mike Cusack, Erma DeSimone, Julie Caruso, Karen Panoski, Benjamin and Jessica Stone, Horst Tilsch, Louis Capuano, Richard Vitali, Mike Largent, Eileen Poggi, Roger Provey Jr., Dale Hands, Barbara Bardella.

Last Week's General Collection \$ 8,458  
Online General Collection \$ 1,925  
**Machakos Diocese in Kenya \$ 10,328**

# Thank You!

This week's second collection is for the  
**Black & Native American Mission in the USA.**  
Please write separate checks .



Please call the office if you wish to add, remove or keep someone on the prayer list. Each name will remain for 3 months from the time we receive a request unless we hear otherwise.



## **2026-2027 YOUTH FAITH FORMATION**

**REGISTRATION FORMS  
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF  
CHURCH BEGINNING AUGUST 22nd.**

**PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT WILL  
BE SEPTEMBER 23rd.**



***The following registration forms will  
be available next week:***

- ***Year 1 – First Communion / Whole Family Catechesis (K-5)***
- ***Year 2 – First Communion***
- ***Year 1 – Confirmation***
- ***Year 2 – Confirmation***
- ***Youth Group***
- ***OCIA-ADULTS***

## **ARE YOU REGISTERED HERE AT HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH?**

***Are you new or never registered?***

**Registration Forms** can be found in the office or online. Let us know if you want to receive offering envelopes. For more information contact Ruth at 707.539.4495 or email [office@holyspiritSR.org](mailto:office@holyspiritSR.org).

There are forms at the back of church which can be dropped off in our mailbox or in the offering basket.

**Our parish raised \$12042 for  
the CRS Earthquake Relief Effort  
in Venezuela! Thank You!**



## ***Thank You Volunteers!***



**We appreciate your  
hard work and  
dedication to Holy Spirit!  
It takes a small village to  
keep our parish running.  
We could not do it  
without all of you!**

### **LOST AND FOUND**

**LOST:** A BROWN LEATHER MISSAL WITH PERSONAL PHOTO INSIDE.

**LOST:** UNIQUE GOLD EARRING.

**FOUND:** A VICTORIAN FASTENER, A PAIR OF SILVER STUD EARRINGS AND A SINGLE DANGLY EARRING WERE FOUND. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.



## **Justice & Service In Community**

**Third Mondays Monthly  
AUGUST 17 at 7-8pm**

***Cornerstone Room in the Parish House***

### **SUMMER BREAK**

Some of our groups take a break over the summer. This includes the Women's Club, the Men's Club, and Grief Support. Please email the Men's Club if you would like to be added to next season's event emails.

**Men's Club email = [HSMCSR@AOL.COM](mailto:HSMCSR@AOL.COM)**

**ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS:** *Our online giving options have expanded to include Venmo, ApplePay, Paypal, & Stock/Crypto. Visit our website at [www.holyspirit-sr.org](http://www.holyspirit-sr.org).*