

AUGUST 17, 2008 – 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Encounter in Phoenicia

Matthew 15:21-28

In the Spring of his third year of ministry, Jesus and his disciples journeyed northwest into new territories. All the day before they had followed the Jordan north from the Sea of Galilee to reach Lake Huleh. The next morning they climbed the lonely hills and entered the region called Phoenicia. The peace of these empty hills restored Jesus after the constant crowds that had hounded him in Galilee.

Once they were through the highest passes, the road was easier, meandering gradually down to meet the brimming Mediterranean Sea. The bustling seaport city of Tyre was now only a day's walk away.

Once an island, Tyre jutted boldly out into the blue waters. Three centuries before, Tyre was joined to the mainland when the armies of Alexander the Great, after a seven-month siege, built a causeway to reach and conquer the island.

Jesus and the disciples took lodging at a house some distance outside Tyre. They hoped to go unnoticed. But a Canaanite woman, who had followed them, came close to the house and began to call out: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" From inside the house Jesus heard her calling, asking him to heal her daughter, who was possessed by a demon.

James urged Jesus: "Send her away." But the woman persisted, shouting all the louder for Jesus to come out and save her daughter.

Finally, Jesus went to the doorway and told the woman: "I have been sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." It didn't matter to her that she was not an Israelite. She threw herself at Jesus' feet and begged him: "Help me!" Jesus responded with a saying: "It isn't right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

She boldly countered with another saying: "That's true, sir, but even the dogs eat the leftovers that fall from their master's table."

Jesus smiled at her clever reply. "You are a woman of great faith," he beamed. "What you want will be done for you."

In that moment her daughter was healed.

That night Jesus went out from the house to walk alone under the starry skies. The soft breeze that came up from the seacoast carried the scent of salt.

The disciples stay-ed at the house and discussed the day's events.

Thaddeus said: "She really was a woman of great faith."

His father James added: "It was like the time the centurion asked Jesus to heal his son."

Peter recalled his own recent, brief walk on the water: "I want to have such strong faith."

"We are with him all the time," Andrew said, "and yet these who are not Jews seem to have a greater faith than we."

Thomas summed it up. "Yes, we praised Jesus in the boat after he walked out to us. She praised Jesus before he healed her daughter."



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We are challenged to examine our own faith as we reflect on this Sunday's Gospel. Do you believe in miracles? A Time Magazine poll reported that 69% of Americans said they believed in miracles. Such response is not surprising because most of us have our own miracle story to tell. Miracles surround us. In the Eucharistic the bread and wine become the Body and Blood. In following Jesus, we become his body. More than we know, we are his disciples, struggling as they did, to keep the faith as we continue our journey of life.

-- Deacon Dick Folger

INFORMATION FOR THE COMING WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

For August 18, 2008 to August 24, 2008

Mon.	8:15 a.m. --	Communion Service
Tue.	8:15 a.m. --	Joe Morales (Health)
Wed.	8:15 a.m. --	Fr. José M. León (Intention)
Thur.	8:15 a.m. --	Maria Luisa Mora (15 years Dec., Anniv./ 100 th birthday)
Fri.	8:15 a.m. --	The Luke Family (Intention)
Sat.	9:00 a.m. --	Benjamin Supelario (Dec.)
	5:00 p.m. --	Virginia (Dec.) & Steve Lopez (Dec)
Sun.	6:45 a.m. --	Gianni Miraglia (Dec.); Ana (Dec.) & Armengol Aguilar (Dec.)
	8:15 a.m. --	David Moreno (Dec.)
	9:45 a.m. --	Vicente (Dec.) & Aurelia Casarez (Dec.)
	11:30 a.m.--	Pearl Valencia (Dec.)

WEEKDAY READINGS

For August 18, 2008 to August 23, 2008

Mon	Ezekiel 24:15-23 / Matthew 19:16-22
Tues.	Ezekiel 28:1-10 / Matthew 19:23-30
Wed.	Ezekiel 34:1-11 / Matthew 20:1-16
Thu.	Ezekiel 36:23-28 / Matthew 23:1-14
Fri.	Ezekiel 37:1-14 / Matthew 22:34-40
Sat.	Ezekiel 43:1-7ab / Matthew 23:1-12

SUNDAY READINGS

August 24, 2008 - 21th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23 / 2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36 / Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

COLLECTIONS

For August 10, 2008

First Collection	\$5,820.50
Our budgeted goal for the First Collection (updated)	9,566.00
Second Collection: Parish Maintenance.....	1,225.00
Children's Envelopes	2.00

Thank you very much! We appreciate your support.

REMEMBER TO KEEP HIM IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- The silent retreat that Fr. José has been on for 35 days has come to an end. He made it! He is now free for other pursuits and to simply relax. He will be away from OLR for three more weeks.
- Please continue praying that Fr. José's time away from the parish will be physically relaxing and refreshing.

ATTENTION CURSILLISTAS! Our next monthly ultreya will be on Saturday, August 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Olive Riley-Steward, 32174 Bernice Way, Hayward. Come join us for an evening of fellowship and prayer. Olive's phone number is 510.471.3332.

NEW ARTICLES

COR THANKS YOU. As you may have heard, the Union City City Council voted last Wednesday evening, August 6, on a parcel tax measure that included a \$500,000 enhancement for youth services, an eight year term, and a 2% cap. COR would like to thank all who turned out for this very important City Council meeting. There were over 100 people at the meeting, and many of OLR's youth and parents spoke in support of the \$500,000 enhancement for youth programs. We could not have done it without the dedication and support of our parishioners.

The parcel tax measure will be on the November ballot. In order to help pass the measure, COR is going to need a lot of volunteers to help us with precinct walking and phone banking. In the next couple of weeks, COR leaders will be outside after all the Masses signing up volunteers. Please call or email Mary Schlarb if you would like to volunteer, 510.366.3757 or mschlarb@msn.com. Watch the bulletin in the upcoming weeks for more details.

**THEY'RE HERE! FINALLY!
AREN'T YOU GLAD?**

It gives us great pleasure to announce to those of you who participated that they have arrived, and that we will start distributing them after Mass next weekend. So if you and your family took part in this project, be sure to see us at the table in front of the church so that you can pick up a copy. This will be handled in much the same way as was the History Book.

OOPS! 'Guess we're so excited that we forgot to mention what has finally arrived. The Centennial Parish Photo Album is here! This is the collection of photos of our parishioners and families that were taken by LifeTouch Studios at a number of photo sessions in the Parish Hall during 2007. Many parishioners have confused this book with the History Book that has already been distributed. This book contains the photographs of over 300 parishioners and families and photos of our parish organizations.

This book is a long time in coming. As was the case with the History Book, we preferred to take our time with it in order to produce a quality product. We worked with LifeTouch in making a number of revisions and corrections to the book over the course of the last year. After each revision, we asked to see the results to make sure that the changes turned out just as we had planned.

EVERY PARISHIONER AND FAMILY THAT HAD A PHOTO SESSION WITH LIFETOUCH WILL RECEIVE A FREE BOOK. The book will be free even if you did not buy any extra portraits from LifeTouch. Simply go to the table in front of the church after Mass next weekend. We will have a list of all families that participated, and will "check them off the list" as we hand out the book.

FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT TAKE PART IN A PHOTO SESSION, there will be a limited number of albums for sale. As of the printing of this Bulletin, we do not know how many books will be available for sale or the price of the books. We will know this information by the weekend, as the Centennial Committee, which has met this Thursday, has determined this at the meeting.

A NOTE FROM JOE MORALES. During my illness I have been unable to attend Mass and have missed seeing all of you. Even though I can't attend Mass my spirits and recovery has been helped by all your calls, visits, well wishes, thoughts, and prayers. I would like to thank you all for your kindness and I hope to be able to return and see you all soon. May God Bless you all.

NEW ARTICLES

(Continued)

THIS IS THE CHURCH, THIS IS THE STEEPLE. LOOK ON THE WALL, AND SEE ALL THE PEOPLE. One of the “by-products” of the photo sessions and the Centennial Photo Album is a collage poster. LifeTouch has made a poster for us which is a photograph of our Church. This photograph is made up of a number of “pixels.” Each of these boxes or pixels is actually one of our parishioners or families that had their portraits taken for the album. Next weekend you will find this poster displayed in the main vestibule in the church. The further you stand away from it, the more the collage looks like our church. When you are close to it, you can identify photographs of our parishioners.

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY TO START NEW UNIT. Join us for the fall sessions of the Little Rock scripture study. The subject of our study will be “Israel’s Story – Part One.” We will explore Israel’s history and theology from the creation story in Genesis to the fall of the Northern Kingdom. The unit will start on Thursday, September 4, 2008 and will run for seven consecutive weeks. Sessions will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Downstairs Conference Room in the Parish Office Building. The fee will be \$12.50 which will cover the cost of the commentary and study guide. For more information, contact Stella or Deacon Gus Roemers at 510.471.5883.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN MEMORY OF MARIA LUISA CORIA. One of the most dedicated parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary Church was Maria Luisa Coria. A lifelong member of the parish, she gave herself completely to the needs of our church. She was always present, so much so that some thought she was a full time employee. She headed the Liturgy Committee for more than 20 years until her death this spring.

Because of her inspirational dedication, many parishioners are endorsing a proposal to honor her with a stained glass window. The Liturgy Committee has proposed that we dedicate the Book of Gospels stained glass window in memory of Luisa. The window will be located in the sacristy in the center of windows for the four evangelists – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This window is most appropriate because Luisa lived the Word of God and spent a lot of time in the sacristy. The cost of the window is \$3,700.00, so this project will need to be a major effort.

Please consider making a donation for this window. Place your contribution in an envelope and mark it "Luisa's Window" and drop it in the collection. If you prefer, donations may also be made at the Parish Office.

CHRIST THE LIGHT CATHEDRAL NEEDS YOU! The new Oakland cathedral has three opportunities for volunteers. Would you like to help?

1. Dedication Event Volunteers

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There are several events being held between September 14 and November 2 that need volunteers to help welcome and direct people to various locations. An application and group interview are required, as well as training sessions. Contact Jane Daniel at jdaniel@ctlcathedral.org for more information.

2. Docents

The cathedral needs people who are willing to lead tours describing the history and detailed information about the cathedral. There is an application, interview and docent training program to complete. A minimum commitment of two years and at least 8 hours a month of service is required. If interested, contact Leo Keegan at docent@ctlcathedral.org for more information.

3. Visitor Information Services

The Cathedral needs people to participate in an information booth type program. There is an application and training is required. A volunteer would need to commit to a two-year commitment and work at least two times a month at either morning or evening shifts. If interested, contact Leo Keegan at docent@ctlcathedral.org for more information.

ARTICLES FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES. We will begin our bible studies on Tuesday September 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs conference room in the office building. Our study will be "Know the Truth." This study will run for 5 weeks, and the cost is \$5.00. For new attendees, you will need a study Bible – the cost is \$5.00 (a one time charge). To register call ALVESA OROZCO at 510.489.1399. Please leave your name and telephone number.

IT'S "OPEN ENROLLMENT" FOR SAFEWAY'S eSCRIP PROGRAM

If you have registered your Safeway Club Card for the eScrip program in the past, **YOU MUST RENEW YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM SO THAT YOUR DONATIONS WILL CONTINUE.** You must renew your enrollment during the open enrollment period which is from now to November 1. It costs you nothing to enroll and participate, but your participation brings OLR hundreds of dollars of extra revenue every month.

TO RENEW, simple return the pre-stamped postcard enclosed in the eScrip magazine which will you soon receive at home in the mail. You may also visit www.escrip.com, click on the box for renewing your Safeway eScrip enrollment at the lower left-hand corner of the screen, and follow the instructions. Our parish eScrip membership number is 136952612. Do not ask Safeway employees at the store to help you with eScrip registration or any eScrip

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questions, as these matters are not handled at the store level and store employees are not familiar with the details of the program.

TO CLEAR UP ANY CONFUSION, HERE ARE A COUPLE OF BITS OF INFORMATION:

TO PARTICIPATE IN E-SCRIP, YOU USE THE SAME SAFEWAY CLUB CARD YOU NOW HAVE. You do not need a new card.

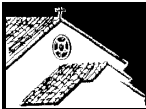
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO: BUY SCRIP FROM US OR USE THE E-SCRIP PROGRAM? Answer: Both. Buying gift cards from the church and spending them at the store always earns us more money than electronic programs. However, it will still help to belong to e-Scrip, as if sometime you go to the store and don't have gift cards with you, the parish will still earn a little something from the transaction.

SIGN-UPS FOR OUR CYO PROGRAM ARE ON NOW. Sign-ups for our CYO Basketball Program for new participants in grades 3 through 8 are currently taking place. The remaining sign-up session for new participants will be **this Wednesday, August 20, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**

Second graders wanting to participate will be placed on a waiting list.

Participants must bring a current utility bill (dated within the last 30 days) as proof of residency, as well as a copy of their birth certificate. The cost of participating is \$110.00 for the first child and \$60.00 for each additional child in the same family. Fee waivers are available for those who qualify.

For more information, call Randy Gonzales at 510.796.3048.



*This Week
At O.L.R.*

Tuesday, August 19

Bible Study, English, Eddie Dobrec Room, 10:00 a.m.

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

School Board Meeting, Office Room 107, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 20

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

CYO Basketball Sign-ups, Parish Hall, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 21

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, August 22

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Dinner for those in need, Eddie Dobrec Room, 6:00 p.m.

Spanish Choir Practice, Church, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 23

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Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 24

Second Collection for our Parish School

**Fundraising gift certificates, religious articles and centennial items sold
after Mass**

Parish Centennial Photo Album distributed after Mass