

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF TYLER

Celebration of the Mass (Aug 15 to Aug 21)

Saturday
Holy Day 9:00 am
Vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
Monday 9:00 am
Communion Service
Tuesday 9:00 am
Wednesday 9:00 am
Thursday 9:00 am
Friday 9:00 am

Adoration

Tuesday
9:45 am - 12:30 pm
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Reconciliation

Tuesday 9:45 - 12:30 pm
Saturday 4:30 - 4:45 pm
(or by appt.)
Sunday Upon request
Weekdays Upon request

Sacrament of the Sick

Offered at First Friday
Mass upon request.

Marriage or Baptism

Contact the parish office
six (6) months prior to the
anticipated date.

1612 S FM 2869

HOLLY LAKE RANCH, TX 75765

Parish Priest:	Fr. Francis O'Dowd PP; VF	903-769-3235	holy.spirit2@yahoo.com
Deacon:	Dcn. John Erdag	949-285-5695	jerdag@hotmail.com
Bulletin:	Kim Sine	903-769-3235	holy.spirit2@yahoo.com
Data Clerk:	Kathy Mahaffey	903-769-3235	holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 16, 2026

TODAY'S READINGS

1ST READING
IS 56 : 1 , 6 - 7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
67 : 2 - 3 , 5 - 6 , 8

2ND READING:
ROM 11 : 13 - 15 , 29 - 32

GOSPEL:
MATT 15 : 21 - 28

...a Canaanite woman called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!" Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Send her away..." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." She said, "Please, Lord, for even dogs eat the scraps...of their masters."

Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."
— Matthew 15



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Pope Leo's August Intention

For evangelization in the city. Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering create paths to build community.

Church Organizations

Financial Council	Charlie Clymer
Pastoral Council	John Rigney
Knights of Columbus	LC Dodson
4th Degree Knights	Gary Laudt
Legion of Mary	Marge Clymer
	Jane Bidlack
Music Ministry	Nitja McGrane
Food Pantry	Bob Mailliard
Rosary Makers/Prayer Blankets	Carol Szczepanski
Cenacles of Life	Vicki Hauck
Funeral Preparations	Deacon John Erdag

Mass Intentions

Sat	8/15 am	Maura Bourke Family
	pm	Rosemary Binon (Rebecca Wood)
Sun	8/16	The People of Holy Spirit Parish
		The Hauck Family (Kim Sine)
Tue	8/18	+Donna Moore (MM Clymer)
Wed	8/19	+Melinda Miller (Luke & Betty Miller)
		Gregory Bowers (Luke & Betty Miller)
Thur	8/20	Bishop John Gomez (Knights of Columbus)
Fri	8/21	+Adolfina Albuquerque (M/M Evans)



Pray For Our Sick

Rocio & Michael Bailey; Dianne & Gary Laudt; Mendi Lancaster; Fran Fleming; Mark Edwards; Shepard Gartin; Joe Fazzio; Charles McCloskey; Deanie DeLee; Sharon Ryan; Marge & Charlie Clymer; Mary Langoff; Lillian Speights; Rebecca Niebrugge; Claire Sullivan; Kirk Wilder; David Barber; Elaine Arellano; Marissa Cowles; Judy Terry; Randy Munoz; Jess & Eva Corrigan; Elaine March & Rosemary Seltzer; Maureen Tucker; Patrick Wood; Margaret Smith-Cauley; Elmer Mulhollon; Rolan & Pat Schmear; Barbara Schneider; Helen Kaczowka; Emly Walker; Joe Bonneville; Juan & Barbara Delgado; Avery Boultinghouse; Joe & Doris Hoffman; Roy Marchak; David Borel; Verna Sloan; Mike Stephens; Kathy Bowers; Msgr. Ron Diegel; Chris & Dave Paape; Richard Schuetz; Jodie Woods; Jean Hamilton; Kathleen Fleming; Jaye Anderson; Karee Haney; Charlie Parker; Jacob Stephens

Pray For Our Soldiers

Senior Chief Petty Officer, James Nichols (Nephew of Dcn John & Cindy Erdag); Cody Mitchell, LTJG Navy (Son-in-law of Stan & Terrie Evans); Ben Clymer, Sr Airman USAF (Grandson of Charlie & Marge Clymer); Captain Joseph Chandler, US Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan); Lt Gary Buchanan, Lt Will Corrigan (Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan); Paul Morena AMT 2nd Class (Grandson of Kathy Boman)



PARISH SUPPORT

Attendance:	8/8	SAT: 63	8/9	SUN: 72
Collections from 8/8 - 8/9				
Offertory			\$	5,483.93
Candles			\$	9.50
Building & Maintenance Fund			\$	300.00
Holy Spirit Food Pantry			\$	100.00

AUGUST SECOND COLLECTIONS

8/1 & 8/2: Building & Maintenance Fund
8/15 & 8/16: Holy Spirit's Faith Formation

Thank you for your generous contributions.
Please remember Holy Spirit Catholic Church in your Will.

AUGUST UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat 8/15:	9:00 am Mass - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (non-obligatory)
	5:00 pm Mass
Sun 8/16:	8:30 am Mass
	Food Ministry Fill-a-Bag Collection Sunday
Mon 8/17:	9:00 am Communion Service
Tues 8/18:	9:00 am Mass
	9:30 am - 12:30 pm Adoration
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Adoration
Wed 8/19:	9:00 am Mass
	10:30 am Bible Study
	3:00 pm Cenacles of Life
Thurs 8/20:	9:00 am Mass
	1:00 pm Legion of Mary
Fri 8/21:	9:00 am Mass
	9:30 am Rosary Makers
	9:30 am Food Ministry Distribution
	3:00 pm Divine Mercy/Rosary Hour
Sat 8/22:	5:00 pm Mass
Sun 8/23:	8:30 am Mass
Mon 8/24:	9:00 am Communion Service
Tues 8/25:	9:00 am Mass
	9:30 am - 12:30 pm Adoration
	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Adoration
Wed 8/26:	9:00 am Mass
	10:30 am Bible Study
	3:00 pm Cenacles of Life
Thurs 8/27:	9:00 am Mass
	1:00 pm Legion of Mary
Fri 8/28:	9:00 am Mass
	9:30 am Rosary Makers
	9:30 am Food Ministry Distribution

Anyone involved in any Ministry at our Parish, must be compliant on your Ethics and Integrity training with VIRTUS.

To sign up for training, please notify Holy Spirit's contact person:

**Justin Mahaffey 903-714-3649 or email him at:
justin.mahaffey@icloud.com**

Holy Spirit Food Ministry

Monthly Fill-A-Bag to Fight Hunger is this weekend. Please pick up a grocery bag in the narthex after Mass. *Thank You* for your continuing support of this crucial ministry that serves HLR and the surrounding community. Next weekend, please return the bag to the bin or hand it to a Food Ministry member. If you, or you know of a person in need, please give a contact phone number to:

Bob Mailliard (503) 559-6022

SPECIAL MASS OBSERVANCES

Saturday:

THE ASSUMPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Thursday:

St. Bernard, Abbot,
Doctor of the Church

Wednesday:

St. John Eudes, Priest

Friday:

St. Pius X, Pope

Catholic Questions

What Do I Do With My Hands at Mass?

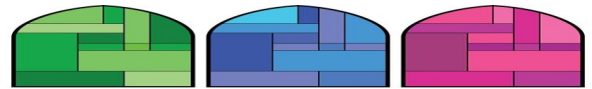
This is a very common question between Catholics that, for such a seemingly minor topic, I can tell you, has caused serious and heated debates. Some people prefer to raise their hands like the priest. Others like to hold hands with each other, kumbaya-style. Then there are those who clasp their hands with fingers interlocked. Still others just hold their hands at their sides.

I can understand the confusion. While the General Instructions of the Roman Missal explains how priests and deacons are to hold their hands at certain times of the Mass, there's no direction for the general assembly. So, people pick the method that best expresses their worship preferences. That's all good and well, but at the end of the day, we should always try to be liturgically proper. That said, the prescribed method of the Church is the classical Catholic hands folded position: palms together, fingers pointed upward, held before the chest.

Why? Well, Pope Benedict in his book "The Spirit of the Liturgy" explains it like this: "A later development was the gesture of praying with hands joined. This comes from the world of feudalism. The recipient of a feudal estate, on taking tenure, placed his joined hands in those of his lord—a wonderful symbolic act. I lay my hands in yours, allow yours to enclose mine. This is an expression of trust as well as of fidelity."

When we pray with our hands joined flat, pointing upward, we are placing our hands in the invisible hands of God. Pope Benedict says: "This, then, is what is meant when we join our hands to pray: we are placing our hands in his, and with our hands we place in his hands our personal destiny. Trusting in his fidelity, we pledge our fidelity to him."

Raised hands, holding hands, or clenched hands at Mass all insinuate the person dedicating themselves to God. That's a wonderful sentiment, but that's not the purpose of the Mass. The Mass is intended for God to bestow His grace upon us. It's more proper for us to show our trust in that grace. Joining our hands together, flat, with fingers extended so that He can envelop our hands in His gives us a way at Mass to show our trust in the Lord who cares for us.



Announcements

- ◆ ***Cenacles of Life*** prayer group has resumed after a short summer break. We meet on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 pm. We pray two Rosaries to our Blessed Mother for an end to abortion/euthanasia. Come join us!
- ◆ Come pray with us this Friday, August 21st at 3 pm. We pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary for our Parish intentions.
- ◆ St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Emory is hosting the fourth annual Men's Retreat entitled *The Battle Within* on Saturday, August 22nd (8:30 am—3:30 pm). Call or text 214-288-8164 to register. Fee: \$10.
- ◆ Bishop Kelly will offer a ***Homeschool Blessing Mass*** on August 28th at 11:00 am at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Flint. A light reception will follow in the parish hall. Please register at: www.catholicfamilyadventureclub.com
- ◆ There are many openings for Mass intentions throughout the month of September. Contact the church office (903-769-3235).



Praying during the *Hour of Great Mercy* is a solid, traditional, Catholic response to the chaos and evil that permeates our world. Come join us every third Friday of the month at 3 pm in Holy Spirit Catholic Church.



Knights' Korner



Divine Mercy and Rosary:

Join your Brothers for the Divine Mercy and Rosary, **Friday, August 21** at 3 pm in the Church. We pray for the Parish's intentions, highlighting our First Responders, Parishioners, and Knights. It's a plea emphasizing our dependence on our Lord and Blessed Mother in responding to the chaos and evil that permeates our world. The Rosary prayed before the Blessed Sacrament during the *Hour of Great Mercy* is a solid, traditional, Catholic response. Join us!

SAVE THE DATE:

Our Field Agent, Nick York, has scheduled a Knights of Columbus Financial product information session for **Saturday, September 26**, here at St. Jude Hall. We will be hosting the session with facilities and refreshments and will invite surrounding Diocesan Councils. This is a great opportunity to hear of the various financial products (not just insurance, the backbone of our fraternity). We're inviting all members, new and longtime, to take advantage of this opportunity to fully participate in Father McGivney's vision of a prayerful, prepared Catholic gentleman. More details to follow.

Joining the Knights of Columbus:

Scan this QR code with your smart phone. It will bring up the Knights of Columbus website for joining. We're **Council #15174**. We are waiting for you!



Us and Them

“I will bring them into my holy mount, and will make them joyful in my house of prayer” – Isaiah 56:7

By Deacon John

The message of our readings today is clear that Jesus died for all peoples of all times. Salvation is offered to everybody. Our first reading from Isaiah states that “my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people”. The antiphon of the Responsorial prayer is “O God, let all the nations praise you”. In our second reading, St Paul tells the Gentiles in Rome, “For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all.” And in our Gospel, Jesus heals the Gentile woman’s daughter.

But even though we recognize the love of God for all people, there also appears to be a distinct level of separatism in the readings. Each one seems to bring an undercurrent of judgement and prejudice. Isaiah calls the non-Jews “foreigners”. St Paul admits that his ministry to the Gentiles is to “make my race jealous and thus save some of them.” We see Jesus Himself appearing to be cold and indifferent to a woman in need because she was not Jewish. He tells her that He was sent “only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”. He even calls her a dog!

This apparent “us versus them” attitude is not the Christianity that we are taught. Catholic means universal, which includes everyone, doesn’t it? We’re called to love everyone. But when we really think about it, we find that even today we do the same thing. On one hand, we are excited to help bring others to the Church. To bring the joy of the Lord to others. Yet on the other hand, we harshly judge those who aren’t like us or who don’t agree with us.

But our readings show a firm distinction regarding this separatism. And it applies to us, too.

Isaiah pointed out the importance to those foreigners that it was the ones who joined themselves to the Lord and held to His covenants that would be made joyful in the house of prayer. St Paul was grateful that the Gentiles were shown mercy from their disobedience by turning to God. Jesus was purposely stern with the woman to help her realize how strong her faith was in Him through her persistence and humility. The big point here is not that these people are non-Jews, but that these non-Jewish people displayed faith and obedience to God. This is what brought them into God’s grace. It had nothing to do with them being “different”.

And so it is the same today. We as Catholics are called to love everyone. To find Christ’s hope for everyone. To be open to everyone who wants to hold to God’s covenant. We go out among today’s Gentiles inviting everyone to embrace God’s truths. Yet there remains the “us and them” for those who do not accept the invitation. Not a hateful animosity, but still a separation.

We must recognize that there is an “us versus them” factor when it comes to standing firm for Catholic doctrines. The moral and ethical values given to us by God whose infinite wisdom far exceeds man’s. Sure, there are times when we must meet them where they’re at to help bring them to Christ, but Christ and His teachings are the intended destination.

These truths cannot be compromised for any reason. We must continue to march for life in all stages. To shout out against movements that promote and even embrace sexual and gender confusion practices that run contrary to nature (all the while, welcoming those who are struggling in such areas and who wish to be faithful to Church teachings). To protest against all pro-abortion laws and policies, yet still keeping compassion for all victims of abortion, including and especially the mothers. To fight for a strong quality of life for every single person and to prevent sub-human living and working conditions. To safeguard our children from the horrors of sex slavery and other deplorable trafficking actions. To protect our teens and young adults from the darkness of drug addiction. And we can never allow the influence of contemporary society to change God’s truths. Even if some of those people must remain “them”.

What the readings do not say, but certainly imply, is the conclusion. Once all those Gentiles were received into God’s salvation through their faith and commitment to the Lord, the separatism disappears. They were no longer “them” but now became “us”. We are an extremely diverse Church, full of multiple races and cultures and unique individual personalities. Yet we all are joined together in commonality for one purpose; to love and follow and serve our Lord Jesus who died for all. We welcome anyone who comes to Him. We’re overjoyed when today’s Gentiles find Him.

Today’s readings are very clear that everyone can be accepted into Christ’s kingdom. But that is only done by joining ourselves to the Lord and holding to His covenants. We pray for everyone, especially the “thems” of today, to embrace Him.

***If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Catholic faith,
we invite you to attend an Informational Meeting to learn about our OCIA program***



Monday, October 12, 2026

6:00pm

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Parish Hall

***Please rsvp to: Deacon John Erdag
jerdag@hotmail.com (949) 285-5695***