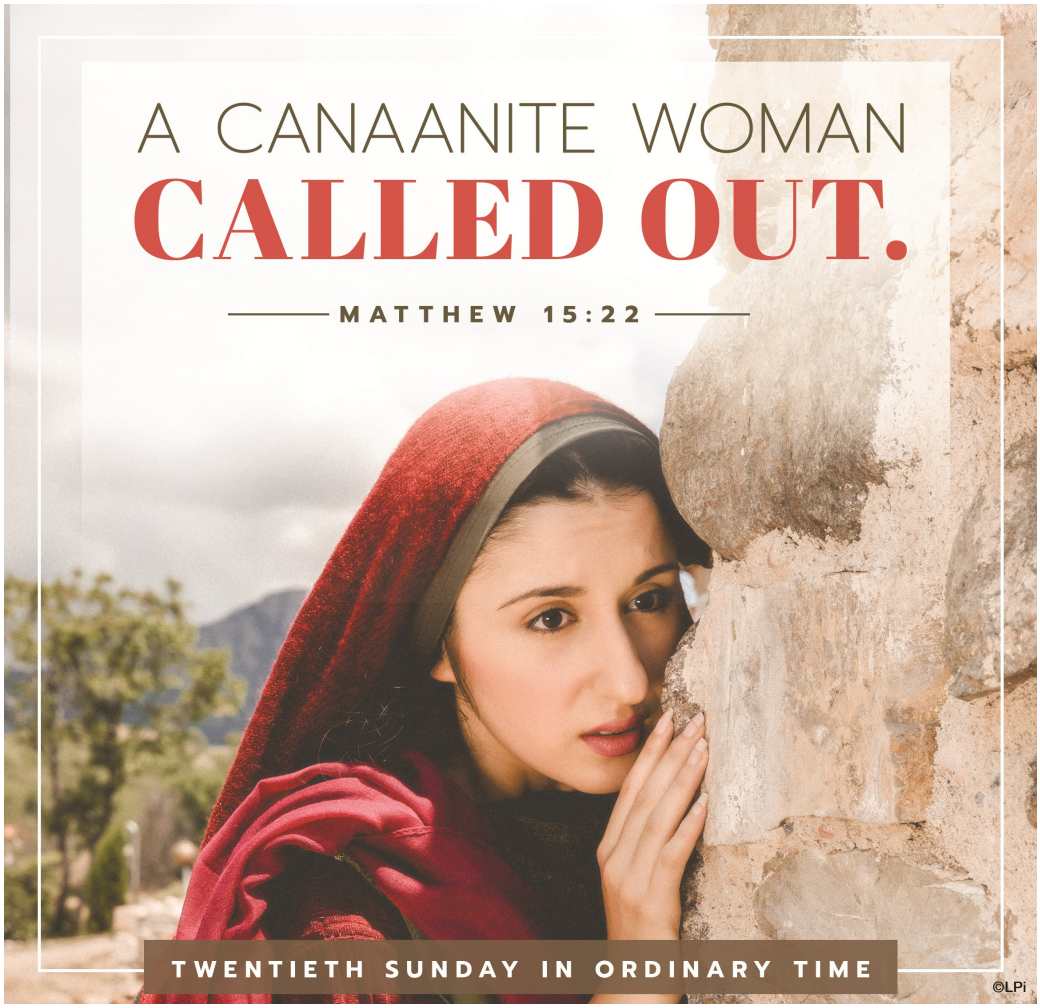
THE Epiphany OF OUR Lord

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 16, 2026

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass
Monday & Thursday:
8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:
No Mass

Weekend Mass
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday:
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Confession:
Saturday: 3:00 p.m.
Or by appointment

All Sacraments:
Please call the office

A Pennsylvania Charitable

OUR LOCATION

Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church
44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062

724-684-7661

724-397-7035 —Emergency Pastoral Care

www.eolparish.com

Office Hours
Mon.–Thurs.: 8:30 am, - 3:00 p.m. Fri.: 8:30 a.m.– 12 Noon

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Anthony Onoko
aonoko@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Michael Thomas
mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bulletin Sec.: Tara Manderino
tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Regional Director of Faith Formation & Discipleship:
Adelle Slebodnik, aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Maintenance: Patrick Frederick

Reflections

This Sunday's readings remind us that the mercy of God is wider than we often imagine, but it must be received with faith. Isaiah looks forward to the day when God's house will be "a house of prayer for all peoples." St. Paul likewise reminds us that God's gifts and call are irrevocable and that His desire is to show mercy.

That promise comes alive in the Canaanite woman. She approaches Jesus carrying not her own suffering alone, but the suffering of her daughter. Even when Christ seems silent, she does not turn away. She continues: "Lord, help me." St. Jerome praises precisely her faith, patience, and humility, while St. John Chrysostom sees in her persistence the power of earnest prayer.

Her example is especially important when we pray for people we love. Many of us carry concerns for children, grandchildren, relatives, or friends who are struggling, suffering, or far from the Faith. We may pray for years and wonder whether God hears us. The Gospel says: do not give up.

Today's Collect asks God to fill our hearts with the warmth of His love so that we may love Him "in all things and above all things." That love keeps us praying, trusting, and hoping—even when the answer seems delayed. Like the Canaanite woman, may we keep coming to Christ with humble confidence: "Lord, help me."

From Fr. Anthony Onoko:

These Little Ones / St. Clare

Tuesday, 11th August, 2026, Week 19, Yr II

Ez 2:8-34; Ps 119; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12—14

In the Gospel of today, we see the disciples of Jesus struggling with the question: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

In the minds of the disciples, they probably imagined that greatness in the kingdom would follow the familiar patterns of greatness in society. Perhaps they even thought that Jesus had already decided who among them was the greatest and they simply wanted Him to announce the name.

The response of Jesus must have thoroughly shocked them. He did not mention Peter, James or John. Instead, Jesus called a little child, set the child in their midst and said: "Unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

We need to understand how radical this gesture was. Children were certainly loved within Jewish families, but in the social structure of the ancient world they possessed little status, power or independence. They depended almost entirely upon adults. Yet Jesus takes someone without social rank and places that person in the centre as His lesson on greatness.

More than that, Jesus warns: "See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven."

What is Jesus telling us today?

I. THESE LITTLE ONES ARE PRECIOUS TO GOD

Children are very dear to the Lord, and God cares deeply about how we treat them and what we do to them. One of the greatest services we can render to the kingdom of God is to help a child to know the Lord and to grow in a relationship with Him.

Parents, grandparents, godparents, catechists, teachers, priests and everyone entrusted with the care of children therefore have a sacred responsibility. Every time we teach a child to pray, bring a child to Mass, explain the Scriptures to them, encourage them in goodness or show them by our lives what it means to love God, we are doing something precious in the sight of heaven.

On the other hand, Jesus' words contain a serious warning. We must never despise the little ones, corrupt their innocence, lead them away from God, endanger them, neglect their spiritual formation or give them examples that contradict the faith we profess. The way we treat the little ones matters to God.

II. BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN

Jesus does not simply tell us to care for children; He tells us to become like them.

He is obviously not asking us to become childish. There is a difference between being childish and being childlike. Childishness can mean immaturity, selfishness and irresponsibility. Childlikeness, in the sense intended by Jesus, points especially to humility, dependence, trust and openness.

And this connects beautifully with the First Reading. The Lord commands the Prophet Ezekiel in a vision to eat the scroll that is given to him. Ezekiel says: "I ate it, and it tasted sweet as honey."

What does it mean to eat the Word of God?

It means that God's Word must become more than something we merely hear. We must receive it, internalise it, digest it and allow it to become part of us. Before Ezekiel could speak God's Word to others, he first had to eat it himself.

This is where we need the disposition of a child.

Sometimes we approach God's Word already determined about what we will accept and what we will reject. We want the Word to confirm our opinions rather than challenge them. But the Lord asks us to approach His Word with humility and openness.

A child is capable of being taught, a child asks questions, a child receives, a child trusts. Likewise, the disciple must remain teachable before God.

When we approach the Lord with this childlike openness and simplicity, His Word begins to transform us. We do not simply know Scripture; Scripture begins to shape the way we think, speak, choose, forgive, love and live. And having been transformed by the Word, we are on the path of greatness that Jesus talked about.

ST. CLARE

Today the Church places before us a beautiful example of such childlike openness in St. Clare of Assisi.

Clare was born in Assisi in 1193 or 1194 into a noble family. As a young woman, she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach, and something happened within her heart. She was touched not only by his words but also by the radical simplicity of his life and his commitment to following Christ.

Like Ezekiel receiving the scroll, Clare received the call of God into her heart.

Despite the opposition of her family, she left behind the security and privileges of her background and embraced a life of poverty and total dedication to Christ. With the guidance of St. Francis, she eventually became the foundress of the community that would become known as the Poor Clares.

Her greatness did not come from wealth, social position or family status. She became great precisely by becoming little before God.

She lived a life of prayer, poverty, humility, charity and extraordinary trust in divine providence. Her influence was so profound that members of her own family, including her mother Ortolana and her sisters, eventually joined the religious life.

Tradition also remembers Clare's extraordinary faith during times of danger at San Damiano. When hostile forces threatened the monastery and Assisi, Clare turned not to weapons or political influence but to the Lord, placing her confidence in Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament and entrusting the community to Him.

Here was a woman who appeared powerless according to the standards of the world, yet whose strength came from complete childlike dependence upon God.

She died on 11 August 1253 at the age of 59. Her last words were "Blessed are you, O God for having created me."

Lord Jesus, help me to come to you with a childlike openness, to receive and allow your Word to permeate my life like the Prophet Ezekiel, so that it may water and nurture to growth, the seed of greatness in me, just as it brought it to growth in the life of St. Clare.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Saturday, August 15 — Vigil
8:00 AM Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
4:00 PM † Bill Hopkins by Wife, Andrea

Sunday, August 16 — 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM Pro Populo
10:30 AM † Nira Persico by Patricia Jackson

Monday, August 17
8:00 AM † Romeo Bucci by Jeannette Bury

Tuesday, August 18
8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, August 19
9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist

Thursday, August 20
8:00 AM † Rose, Patsy and Pino Cianflone by Marge Talarico

Friday, August 21
8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Saturday, August 22 — Vigil
4:00 PM † Arthur & Lena Marino by Suzanne Surdyn & Randy Marino

Sunday, August 23 — 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM † Virginia Quattro by Family
10:30 AM Pro Populo

Parish Office:

44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD, MONESSEN, PA 15062
Parish Office (24/7): 724-684-7661
Church Hall: 724-684-5512
Religious Education: 724-929-9300
Emergency Pastoral Care: 724-397-7035
www.eolparish.com
youtube.com/EpiphanyofOurLordCatholicChurch
Facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord

OFFICE HOURS :
Monday –Thursday: 8:30 a.m. –12; 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Ministry Schedule — August 22 & 23, 2026

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
9:30 p.m.	D. Harkins	M. Dzurik R. Lucas W. White	Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	F. Petrosky	J. Todd L. DeFelices A. Pastella	D. DeCarlo
10:30 a.m.	G. Pesi	K. Byron K. Imbrescia E. Yatchyshyn	T. Gigliotti

Money Counters
Monday, August 17 – Team #4 – A. Daniele

Stewardship

Weekly Collection August 9

Votive Candles:	80	Children & Adult:	3,574
Utility & Energy:	155	Online :	920
Accent::	8	**Total Collection:**	**$4,797**
Assumption:	60		

Give online

Consider online giving. It is quick and easy to set up. You can do it one time, or however often you wish. It can be stopped at any time. Sign up through the app or the website: www.eolparish.com

DLA

Since we have reached our Diocesan goal, everything now contributed to DLA **will come back to the parish!** We are $3, 329 toward our parish goal.

Catholic Education Collection

There will be a second collection the weekend of August 29 and 30 to support Catholic Education. Fifty percent of this collection goes to support The Catholic University of America and fifty percent is used to aid the Catholic schools here in our own Diocese. The Catholic University in Washington, DC is unique among the Catholic institutions of higher education because it is the national university for the Catholic Church in the United States. It is the only higher education institution founded by the American bishops and chartered by the Vatican.

Within the Diocese, we have ten grade schools and two high schools that offer a wholistic education that combines Christ's teachings with academic excellence and service to others. The parents of students in our 12 schools sacrifice to send to their children to a Catholic school because they recognize how important academics and Catholic values are to their child's lifelong success. Our Catholic schools are an asset to our communities, and they prepare future leaders for the Church and the nation.

If you change your address or phone number, be sure to let us know. You can call the office, drop the info in the collection basket or email Tara at tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Name: _____

New Address: _____

Phone: _____

Faith Formation for our families with youth from infant through 12th Grade has been finalized. There will be mulitple options to help meet the needs of our families. Families are asked to sign-up for our new communication method: **Flocknote.** Families that sign up will be sent our format for the coming year and registration information.

Mid Mon Valley Formation Communication

TEXT MMVFORM TO 84576

OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:

mmvformation.flocknote.com

Parish App

Don't have the app yet? Search for **WeConnect Parish App** in the Apple Store or Google Play or use the appropriate QR code .

Apple

Android

Readings for the Week

Readings for the week of August 16

Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
Monday: Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 6 and 8/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

Communion to the Homebound

If you are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call the office and let us know.

Anima Christi

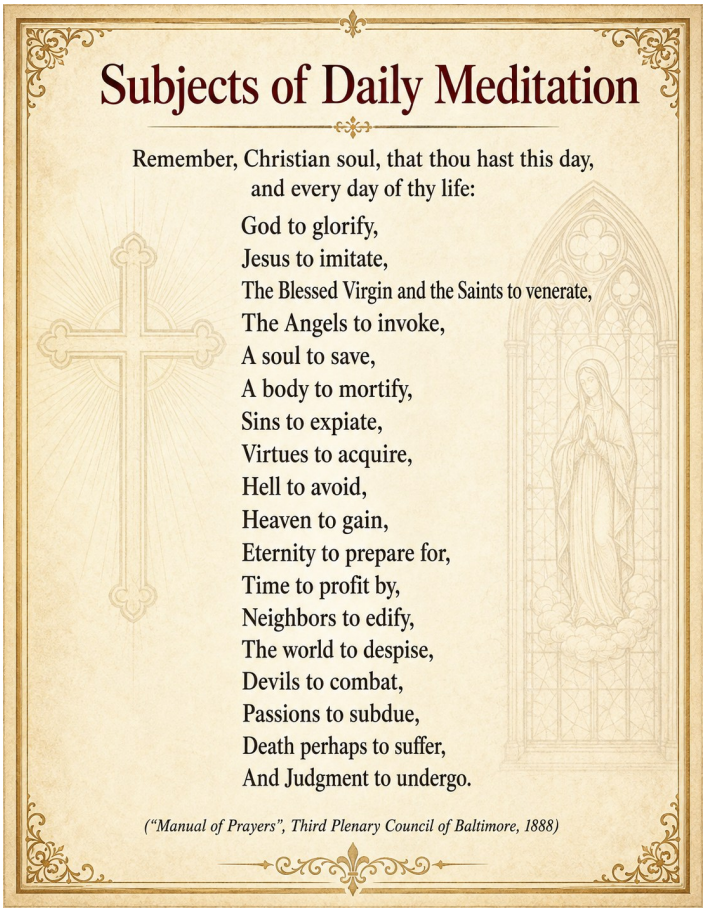
Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, embolden me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Never permit me to be parted from you.
From the evil Enemy defend me.
At the hour of my death call me
and bid me come to you,
that with your Saints I may praise you
for age upon age.
Amen.

If you are assisting with OCIA, you are invited to a day of formation, encouragement and fellowship . To register, scan the QR code below or visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/OCIAtraining. For info, email FFD@DioceeofGreensburg.org

With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the family of William J. Kotlar. May God grant him eternal rest, and comfort to his family. We commend his soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

Faith

In response to ***how does Fr. Mike frame his homily***, he asked that this be shared as it is the prayer/meditation that he uses.



Virtues Explained

Wisdom, *Explained!*

It may seem unfair, at first, to say that wisdom is a virtue — after all, doesn't everyone know one or two people who seem incapable of wisdom?

Well, that depends on what we actually mean when we talk about "wisdom." Wisdom is not mere scholarliness. It is more than being smart. They say that wisdom comes with experience, and it does — but only if you accept it.

Wisdom, St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, is a gift of the Holy Spirit born of charity and originating in the human will. But it is also connected to the intellect, because the intellect is where we discern between right and wrong based on all we have been taught and all we have experienced (*Sum.* II-II, 45, Art. 2).

Therefore, we must ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, and we must make ourselves ready to receive it — remembering always that we cannot recognize it alone.

Let's Bowl

If you're looking for a place to gather and have fun, think about joining the Epiphany Church Bowling League. We bowl on Monday nights. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Evie Yatchyshyn at 412-496-7802

Golf Outing

Saint Bruno Parish will hold its RAS Golf Outing **Saturday, Sept. 26,** at Glengarry Golf Links, Latrobe. The format will be Scramble Best Ball. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. The $120 entry fee includes 18 holes of golf with cart, a snack at the turn, a steak dinner, beverages and prizes. For information, email kedmunds216@yahoo.com or call 412-613-2348.

We would love to have you join our parish. You are most welcome here. Drop this form in the collection basket, or call the office at 724-684-7661.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

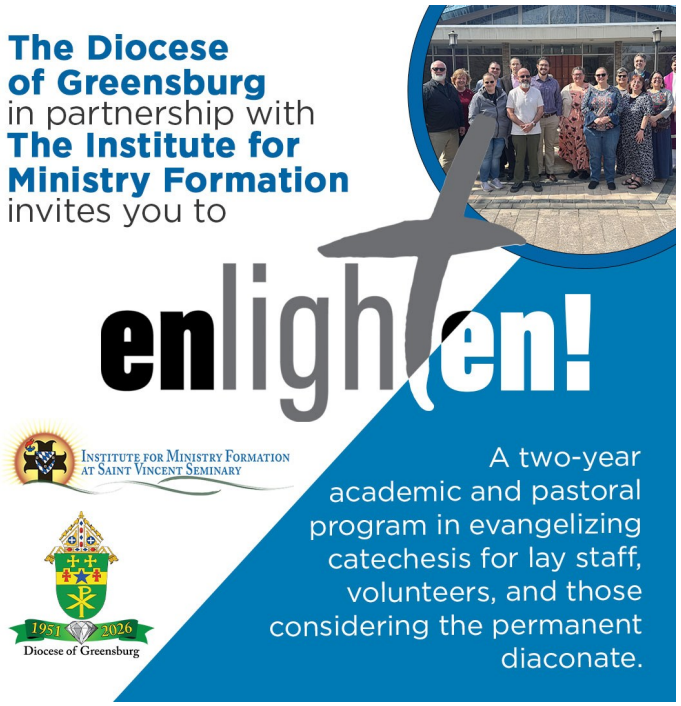
Columbus Day Dinner

Knights' Council #954 will hold their Annual Columbus Day Banquet at our Council Hall on Grand Blvd., on **Saturday, October 10. This event is open to all.** The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. with Appetizers/Cocktails ; the main course served at 6:00 p.m. Cost of the event is $30.00 per person. **Reservations are required.** As always, widows of deceased Knights are invited to attend free of charge.

For reservations please contact John Petritis, Banquet Chairperson at 724-994-6594 or 724-684-7323

FCSLA Awards

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Monessen Branches recently awarded scholarships to the following: **Anthony Satare, Jr.** entering Washington & Jefferson College and **Caleesi K. Thompson** entering second grade at St. Sebastian School. For information on becoming a member call Dorothy Urbanowicx at 724-684-8243.



Enlighten! is a two-year academic and pastoral program in evangelizing catechesis for lay staff, volunteers and those discerning the permanent diaconate. Participants will engage in flexible online coursework, monthly in-person formation and leadership development while earning certification in catechesis. Deadline to register is **Saturday, Aug. 15.** For more information, email FFD@DioceseofGreensburg.org. Infois also available at IMF.SaintVincentSeminary.edu/Greensburg.

Festival

It's hard to believe that another festival has come and gone. In spite of the threatening storms, we got by with only a bit of rain which didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits. **Thank you to all of you who participated** in some way. We will have a festival report in a few weeks. Pictures will soon be up on the website. Candid shots of people posing with Lincoln are on the website under the festival tab.

Pierogis and More!

Next weekend, **August 22 and 23**, from 4 p.m.— 5:30 p.m., and after Masses on Sunday we will have the following frozen items for sale. Quantities are limited.

Pierogis — $20/ bag of 2 dozen
Meatballs — $6/ bag of 6
Halupki — $20/ bag of 5
Haluski — $5 / qt. bag

Purse Bash

Catholic Charities Designer Purse Bash

Tickets will go on sale Saturday, **Aug. 15**, for Catholic Charities' 10th Annual Designer Purse Bash & Crystal Bake Sale, set for **Sunday, Nov. 1**, at the Barn at Ligonier Valley. Doors open at noon. **Tickets are $35** and can be purchased at **www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org** or by stopping in the office during business hours, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. The event sells out annually, so it is recommended that tickets are purchased early. For information, call 724-837-1840.

God in Ordinary Moments

Chess, Not Checkers

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

There's a saying that good leaders have to play chess, not checkers.

It will surprise no one who knows me well that I am terrible at chess. It's not so much a lack of skill (although that's part of it) as a lack of effort. I find chess exhausting. To succeed at this complex game of strategy, you have to see not just the board in front of you, but the person in front of you — and more than that, you have to consider not just what is, but what could be.

I prefer checkers.

When I read a Gospel passage like today's, I think of what Jesus would be like as a chess player. It's so easy to see this account of the Canaanite woman and her tenacity and take it at face value, as a reminder to pray without ceasing, to never stop asking God for what we need. And certainly, it is that.

But it's not only that.

We see a woman begging God for help, and we see God refuse — at first. We see her persist, and we see him capitulate. At least, that's what it looks like to us.

What does it look like to Jesus?

Jesus sees this woman's face and hears her words, just as his disciples do — but he also sees her heart. He sees her whole life. He sees every moment that leads up to this one. He sees her belief, but he also sees her unbelief. He sees her wounds. He sees her daughter.

He sees the game board not just for what it is, but for what it could be. ©LPi

Thank you to our 2026 Festival Sponsors!

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