



The Catholic Center

Serving the Athens and University of Georgia

Communities Since 1952.



ALL ARE WELCOME

Mass Intentions

Saturday
5PM - Eileen Sopera†

Sunday
8AM - Linda Purks †
10:30AM - Tony & Tiny Palkowitsh †
12:30PM - Tom Foley †
5PM - Ryan & Madison Jenks

Monday
5:30PM - Joey Costyn †

Tuesday
5:30PM - Nicole Tutz

Wednesday
5:30PM - Jenny Ford and Philip Digamon †

Thursday
5:30PM - **No Mass**

Friday
8AM - **Communion Service**

Welcome Back Students!

We are excited to welcome new and returning UGA students back to the Catholic Center. UGA Classes begin on Monday. Please keep our wonderful students, faculty and staff in your prayers as they begin the new school year.

Just a reminder that our Back to School Mass schedule has resumed with the addition of the 12:30PM and 5PM Masses on Sunday.



Office

Hours:
Monday – Friday:
10AM-4PM

Fax:
706-543-2541

Address:
1344 South Lumpkin St.
Athens, GA 30605

Connect:
www.ugacatholic.org
CC at UGA
@CatholicDawgs

Phone:
706-543-2293



Liturgical Schedule

Mass:
Saturday: 5PM
Sunday: 8AM, 10:30AM,
12:30PM, and 5PM

Monday - Wednesday:
5:30PM

Friday:
8AM Communion Service

Confession:
Monday- Wednesday:
4:00 - 5:00PM
Saturday:
3:30 - 4:30PM

Adoration:
Monday–Thursday:
9:00–10:00AM
Friday:
8:30 - 9:30AM

Weekly Calendar

Saturday 8/15

11:00AM Funeral/Reception
for Dr. Joseph Whorton
3:30PM Reconciliation
5:00PM Mass
8:00PM Greek Life Mass

Sunday 8/16

8:00AM Mass
9:30AM Baptism Prep Class
10:30AM Mass
12:30PM Mass
5:00PM Mass

Monday 8/17

UGA Classes Begin

10:00AM Men's Bible Study
11:30AM Golf Tournament
Meeting
4:00PM Reconciliation
5:30PM Mass
7:00PM CSA Kick-Off Party

Tuesday 8/18

4:00PM Reconciliation
5:30PM Mass
8:00PM Seeking Water

Wednesday 8/19

4:00PM Reconciliation
5:30PM Mass
6:15PM Grades 1-5 Religious
Education
8:00PM Ignite

Thursday 8/20

NO Mass

6:00PM Field Day

Friday 8/21

8:00AM Communion Service
11:30AM Baptism Prep Class

Saturday 8/22

3:30PM Reconciliation
5:00PM Mass
6:30PM Korean Mass &
Potluck

The Persistence of Faith

Today's Gospel is a tricky Gospel to receive. It is easy for us to hear Matthew's words and misconstrue them, easy to doubt Christ and to question His methods. "Why would Jesus deny this woman at first? Why did he call her a dog?" It is easy for us to just ignore this week's Gospel because we don't fully understand it and move on, but we are not called to just ignore part of the Gospel.

Each and every story written in the Gospels are incredibly intentional, John tells us that quite explicitly in Chapter 20:

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name."

So who are we to skip past one of these passages?

Matthew 15 tells the tale of a woman who needs Christ's healing, not for herself but for her daughter. She is desperate and she needs help. This woman comes to Christ not looking for Him to fix everything wrong in her life but to help her with just one thing. She is asking for a crumb of Christ's grace. She knows that a little crumb is better than nothing.

The Gospel of Mark tells this same story, but Mark adds a detail at the beginning of the story that gives us more context to this woman's story. Mark tells us that this woman has "heard of Him". She had never met Jesus before, had never seen a miracle with her own eyes but she had heard a tale of this Savior who could heal people. This woman came to Jesus because faith and hope had been sparked in her heart. She had tried daily fixes for her daughter but she needed something more, she needed Christ. Jesus was her only hope!

Her journey to get healing for her daughter was not easy, however, her persistence is the true beauty of her faith. This woman is a Canaanite from Tyre and Sidon. Historically she was from a doomed race. Deuteronomy tells the story of the prophet Joshua leading the people of Israel into Canaan, where then they were commanded to totally destroy the Canaanites. Additionally, the regions of Tyre and Sidon was know for vile religious practices. Despite her background, she came to Jesus.

A Gentile mother cried out and begged the Jewish Messiah for help. Jesus ignores her. Even when the disciples saw her they wanted nothing to do with her. They told Jesus to send her away. In the disciples' eyes, she was different and that was enough to justify them not caring about her at all. Then when Jesus does speak to her it appears as though he is calling her a dog, His words seem harsh. This woman has been rejected three times over, and it even seems as though Jesus is rejecting her.

But Jesus is not calling her a dog in the way that we might think. The word that is used is "ta kynaria" which is Greek for little puppies or an animal that is looked on as a part of the family. The woman immediately recognizes his word choice and understands the deeper meaning, crying out once again, "All I am asking for is for a crumb!" She was not asking Christ for everything, just a dog's portion.

Jesus heard her response and saw how strong her faith was. He rewarded her faith by giving her exactly what she asked for; He healed her daughter. Her faith was so strong that she did not ask for proof, but she took Jesus at His word and turned around and went home to her family. What a blessing!

This is the message that Matthew is trying to portray, our faith is not defined by what we receive from God but rather our persistence in our trust in God. His silence is not an indication of God's unwillingness to meet our needs. God is always listening, he is always ready to tend to our needs, we just need to remain faithful. We are called to be like the Canaanite woman, called to stay faithful, to stay persistent.

Staying faithful to God is a difficult challenge at times but it will always be the most rewarding!

August 16, 2026 • Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Announcements

Catholic Inquiry Nights

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or baptized Catholic and desiring to complete your sacraments of Christian initiation? Learn about the process of sacramental preparation, meet other people interested, and ask any questions you have about the Catholic faith. Our next Catholic Inquiry Night will be Monday, August 24th. All are welcome!

RE Starts this week!

Our Religious Education program starts this week!

RE for Grades 1st—5th starts August 19th at 6:15, Pre-K and Kindergarten starts August 23rd at 10:30am, with Confirmation starting later that day (August 23rd) at 2:00pm.

Religious Education Update

The RE Registrations have been coming in fast and furious and we are happy to report that we have well over 110 students registered for the 2026-2027 RE School Year for grades Pre-K through 12th. Confirmation has over 55 candidates from grades 6th through 12th. We also have welcomed 9 new RE families to the Catholic Center!

Jeff Donahue, the new Director of Confirmation, Youth Ministry and Family Faith Formation, has been overjoyed with the turn-out of registrations, support from the staff, families and returning catechists. RE Registrations can be found at www.ugacatholic.org If you have any questions, please contact either Lynn Renna dre@ccatuga.org or Jeff Donahue at jdonahue@ccatuga.org We are off to a great start!

A Note About Online Giving

The Catholic Center is incredibly grateful for your financial stewardship. Did you know that in the last fiscal year, the Center paid approximately \$11,000 in credit card processing fees? While these fees are a common cost of online giving, they reduce the amount of each donation that can be used to support our students and ministry programs. There are two ways you can help ensure 100% of your gift goes to the Center: consider covering the fee by opting to add the transaction fee to your credit card donation or switch to direct bank drafts (ACH), which carry significantly lower processing costs than credit card transactions. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Lichtenwalner at lichtenwalner@ccatuga.org. Thank you for helping your support go even further!

Daily Mass & Confessions

Our Daily Mass schedule this week is as following: Daily Mass Monday –Wednesday, No Mass Thursday, and a Communion Service Friday. Additionally we will be adding two **new** confession times starting this week.

Monday (in the office): 4—5 pm
Tuesday (in the Chapel): 4—5pm
Wednesday (in the Office): 4—5pm
Saturday (in the Office) 3:30—4:30pm

Parking Reminders

We recognize that parking is difficult at the Catholic Center, however we still want to be courteous to our neighbors who allow us to use their space to park our cars.

The Global Engagement Building is free to park throughout the weekend and every weekday after 5pm. This being said your vehicle **must** be parked on the pavement/designated parking spots and should not be parked on the grass or pine straw areas. Thank you for being a good neighbor!

Dooley Classic Raffle Tickets

If you would like to support the CC Dooley Classic, raffle tickets will be on sale the weekends of August 22 & 23 and August 29 & 30 after the Masses. Purchase raffle tickets to win an autographed football by Coach Kirby Smart, Gunner Stockton and Ellis Robinson, a signed basketball by Coach Mike White or Blue Cain, and a signed baseball by Coach Wes Johnson. Raffle tickets are \$10 each.

Volunteer to Cook for Sunday Night Dinners!

We are looking for volunteers to help cook Sunday night dinners for our students! Any assistance would be greatly appreciated by our students who attend 5PM Mass and stay for dinner and fellowship. Follow the link below to sign up to help on Sunday(s) from 3-5pm! <https://tinyurl.com/supper27>

Handmaids of the Sacred Heart

The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart are celebrating their 100 year anniversary of being in the United States. The CC has had the privilege of working with a number of the sisters from the Handmaids, most recently Sr. Uyen-chi, Sr. Margarita, St. Marietta, Sr. Angela and Sr. Catherine. We miss them dearly. To read more about their celebration, follow this link. <https://tinyurl.com/catholic100>

We Lift Up in Prayer			
Charlotte & Joel Alesi Timothy A. Almy Megan Barton Erin Benbry Pam Bickley Dan Bloor Peter Bryan Grace Burger Grace Byrne Joanne Cabrera Jeanette Campbell Lucille Carberry Elizabeth Bertrand Carlson Deana Dietzler Chiusano Lora Bernstein Cooley Kevin Cutler Patti D’Avella Joy Davis Andrea Dibling	Tony DiPietro Barton Elizabeth Dooling Carol Douglas Claire Fetch Rob Flemming Pam Forker Luke Frankson David Giannasi Hersina Gomes Jean Griffith Cheri Griggs John Hamby Mike Hamby Bob Henry Albert Hromalik, Sr. Ryan Hughes Ann Hunt Victor Kalla Claire Kennedy	Sarah Kurtz Dianne Kwashnak Dan Lackey Gene Larkin Lynn Langston Patti Law Tom Long Elena Lyons Rick Madera Gina Maherka Amy McConnell Marlynne McCullough Marie McDonald Kathy McGill John McMillan Tim McNally Scott Melina Bénédicte Milward Dan Perrine	Ed Powell David & Maura Randol Bryan Rieken Sophia Rodriguez Aeriel Ross Amy Scobey Suzette Scobey Deborah Scott Sue Sinksen Derek Smith Eileen Speight Alyssa Thomas Nile Thomson Natalie Vaughn Patsy Vickery Julie Wallace

With deepest sympathy, our community prays for the souls of the faithful departed and for their loved ones, especially Cecile Maher, Sr. Maureen Bradshop, OP and Dr. Joseph Whorton.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for August

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 creative paths to build community.

Financial Giving Updates

Thank you for your generous contributions to our offertory throughout the year. Your support of the Catholic Center and our ministries is heartwarming. Thank you for sharing your time, treasure, and talent.

August 2, 2026	August 9, 2026
\$17,939.31 - Offertory	\$11,509.00 - Offertory
\$6,883.00 - Donation	\$3,041.00 - Donation
\$1,472.97 - Alms	\$1,065.05 - Alms

Clergy & Staff		
Director Fr. Brian McNavish fbrian@ccatuga.org	Youth Ministry & Confirmation Jeff Donahue jdonahue@ccatuga.org	Marketing & Communications Ava Doyle adoyle@ccatuga.org
Director of Operations Dan Cotter dcotter@ccatuga.org	Baptisms & Marriage Virginia Johnson vjohnson@ccatuga.org	Promotions & Special Projects Dorothy Ratcliff dratcliff@ccatuga.org
Director of Liturgy & Music Dan Marcacci dmarcacci@ccatuga.org	OCIA & Adult Confirmation Dayna Fairman dfairman@ccatuga.org	Kitchen Manager Darby Crawford dcrawford@ccatuga.org
Accounting Services Julie Ballman jballman@ccatuga.org	Administrative Team Cherie Frankson cfrankson@ccatuga.org	Facilities Manager Burwell Cox bcox@ccatuga.org
Administrative Team Jenni Toutkoushian jtoutkoushian@ccatuga.org	Administrative Team Kathy Bryan kbryan@ccatuga.org	Custodial Staff Bernice Favors
Elementary Religious Education Lynn Renna lrenna@ccatuga.org	Mission Advancement Rachel Lichtenwalner rlichtenwalner@ccatuga.org	