



23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "*Ephphatha!*"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:33b-34

**ST. MARY CHURCH
DeKALB, ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

IMPORTANT REMINDER

**Monday, September 6
LABOR DAY**

The Parish Office will be closed.
Mass will be at 5:00 PM.

Office

302 Fisk Avenue • DeKalb, IL 60115

Phone: 815.758.5432

Fax: 815.758.2487 / Website: stmarydekalb.org

Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday: 9:00 AM - Noon & 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Friday: Closed

Liturgies

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM in English

Sunday Masses: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM in English

Weekday Masses: Mon.-Tues. 5:00 PM in English

Wed.-Fri. 7:00 AM in English

Spanish Mass: Tuesday 6:30 PM & Sunday 4:00 PM

First Friday 7:00 PM

Vietnamese Mass: 2nd Sunday 1:30 PM

Vigil/Holy Day Masses: Call Parish Office

Area Care Facilities: Contact facility before visiting

Confession Schedule

2nd Tuesday of the month: 5:30 PM



Wednesday: 7:30 AM

Friday: 6:30 AM

Saturday: 4:30 PM

Other times available by request.

Pastoral StaffPastor: Rev. Dean Russell, 815.758.5432, ext./ 104
drussell@rockforddiocese.org

Principal: Ashley Davis, 815.756.7905

Cemetery: 815.758-5432

Director of Music: Joe Harmon, ext. 106

Choir Director: Caleb Gray

Director of Religious Education: Annalisa McMaster, ext.
101**Support Staff**

Business Manager: Jim Glemkowski, ext. 102

Financial Assistant: Jill Voight, ext. 105

Parish Secretary: Linda Jackiw, ext.103

Ministry Secretary: Mona O'Bryan, ext. 107

Receptionist: ext. 100

Contact Information

Parish Office: 302 Fisk Avenue - 815.758.5432

Faith Formation / Rel. Ed. / Youth Ministry: 815.758.5432

School: 210 Gurler Road - 815.756.7905

E-mail: mail@stmarydekalb.org

Website: stmarydekalb.org

Hispanic Ministry

Rev. Eliserio Palencia, 815.758.1377

Hispanic Secretary: Susana Garcia, ext. 108

Vietnamese Ministry

Rev. Anthony Vu Khac Long, 815.312.9661

Bulletin Deadline

Monday - 8:00 AM (FOR CONSIDERATION)

Excerpt from the Apostolic Letter **Patris Corde of the Holy Father Francis.****Pope Francis describes St. Joseph as a father in the shadows.**

The Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński, in his book *The Shadow of the Father*,^[24] tells the story of Saint Joseph's life in the form of a novel. He uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph. In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. We can think of Moses' words to Israel: "In the wilderness... you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as one carries a child, all the way that you travelled" (*Deut 1:31*). In a similar way, Joseph acted as a father for his whole life.^[25]

Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person.

Children today often seem orphans, lacking fathers. The Church too needs fathers. Saint Paul's words to the Corinthians remain timely: "Though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers" (*1 Cor 4:15*). Every priest or bishop should be able to add, with the Apostle: "I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" (*ibid.*). Paul likewise calls the Galatians: "My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you!" (*4:19*).

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs. It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction. Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfilment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration.

When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes "useless", when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care. In the end, this is what Jesus would have us understand when he says: "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (*Mt 23:9*).

In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (*Mt 5:45*). And a shadow that follows his Son.

[24] Original edition: *Cień Ojca*, Warsaw, 1977.

[25] Cf. SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos*, 7-8: AAS 82 (1990), 12-16.

10TH WEEK OF FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Our Weekly Offering Week Ending 08/29/21

- Sunday Offertory
- Religious Education Support
- Guardian Angel
- School
- Capital Improvements
- Cemetery

NOT AVAILABLE

Thank You for Your Contributions!



2021 Lancer Raffle Ticket Winners

- 08/30 - Julia Martinez - \$20.00
- 08/31 - Jane Patterson - \$20.00
- 09/01 - J D Lamb - \$20.00
- 09/02 - Kerisa Evenson - \$20.00
- 09/03 - Nancy Burmeister - \$20.00
- 09/04 - Ben Large - \$20.00
- 09/05 - Bruce Naumann - \$30.00



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST MARY SCHOOL



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Rockford/Madison/Milwaukee Ministry

Let Jesus the healer, heal any disappointments in your marriage. Strengthen our relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next in person Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on Sept. 17-19 in Geneva IL or Oct. 15-17 in Madison, WI; a virtual weekend on Nov. 13-14 or Dec. 4-5. There are virtual experiences on Sept. 13 thru Oct. 12 (Monday & Wednesday).

For more info go to: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653.

Para un fin de semana en espanol por favor llamen a Candelario y Emilia al 815-375-4250.

Advertiser of the Week

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Thank you for your continued support of St. Mary Church through your advertisement in our bulletin.

Readings for the Week of September 5, 2021

- Sunday:** Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/ Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37
- Monday:** Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/ Lk 6:6-11
- Tuesday:** Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk 6:12-19
- Wednesday:** Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/ Ps 13:6ab, 6c [Is 61:10]/Mt 1:1-16,18-23 or 1:18-23
- Thursday:** Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/ Lk 6:27-38
- Friday:** 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5]/Lk 6:39-42
- Saturday:** 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [2]/Lk 6:43-49
- Next Sunday:** Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-3



The first day for our Religious Education Program is Sunday, September 12th. New time - 9:45 am - 10:55 am. If you haven't registered please go to www.stmarydekalb.org for form.



Come join St. Mary's Youth Choir

If you love to sing and want to worship God in a gleeful way, please join us! All students 2nd grade and up are welcome. We will begin virtually and will practice/meet online on certain Thursdays from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Our first meeting is Thursday, September 16th at 5:30 pm. Please email youthchoir@stmarydekalb.org for the link to join.

Stewardship

The good steward must not show favoritism. The rich may have many material gifts to share, but St. James reminds us in the second reading that God has chosen the world's poor to be rich in faith and inheritors of God's kingdom.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WEDNESDAYS 7:30 AM - THURSDAYS 6:30 AM



Questions?, please call Lori Kedzie 815-751-9644

On the 2nd Tuesday of each month Exposition & Confessions between the 5:00 pm English & 6:30 pm Spanish Masses.

ADORERS NEEDED

- Wednesdays
- 11 am - noon
- 2 - 3 pm

If interested, please call or text Lori Kedzie 815-751-9644

OLLIE'S FROZEN CUSTARD FUNDRAISER
 Come join us for our St. Mary Home and School
 Dine out Fundraiser Night.



Wednesday, September 8th
 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 2290 Oakland Dr, Sycamore, IL

10% of all sales will be donated to St. Mary School

THE POWER OF PRAYER

We pray for St. Mary parishioners, relatives, and friends who are suffering from illness, also for those who are homebound, hospitalized, or confined to a care facility,

- Giana Anderson, Matt Anderson, Jackie Balon, Lori Baert, Margaret Bakken, Pat Beck, Adlyn Blakey, Christine Burtzos, Mary Clarbourn, Margaret Cobb, Debbie Coffland, Ben Coniglio, Mary & Chuck Crumbacher, Cathy Curylo, Donna Dalwam, Horst Erker, Bobbie Fitch, Beth Fixmer, Missy Flores, Jim Franklin, Justin French, Frankie Goshko II, Rita Hammett, Eric Hanson, Andrea Hauge, Kathleen Hiatt, Ruth Higgins, Ana Jackiw, Col. Thomas Z. James, William Joiner, Julie Jones, Joan Judkins, Patsy Kelahan, Alan Kissane, Rev. Richard Kramer, Nadia Lachowski, Ginger Lange, Brayden MacNeille, Timothy McMillan, Mary Lou Murphy, Louis Mustari, Joseph Richnavsky, Mary O'Brien, Adalyn Pohaski, Orlando Moises Pulido, Carol Reed, Joel Rivera, Jeff Salazar, Marlene Salazar, Richard Salazar, Mary Ann Sisler, Alice Smith, Steve Stach, Leah Theisen, Ray Theisen, Jerry Vasko, Abel Viland, Robert White, Don & Teri Wille Family, David Young

To have a name added to or removed from the prayer list, please call the parish office at 815.758.5432.



Friends of the Poor® Walk
 Society of St Vincent de Paul
 St Mary/Christ the Teacher

Please join us for this Friends of the Poor Walk through DeKalb's historic district and downtown.

Our 1.25-mile route will begin and end at the St. Mary Church parking lot, follow sidewalks along Fourth St., Lincoln Hwy. and First St., and not require crossing any busy streets. Registration fees are \$25 for each adult (18 & older) and \$10 for each child (17 to 12). Children under 12 are free. Registrants will receive a commemorative walk tee shirt on the day of the event if they register by August 31, 2021.

Saturday, September 18, 2021

Check in 8:30am; Walk starts 9:30am

St Mary Church, 302 Fisk Ave., DeKalb, IL 60115

TO REGISTER or DONATE go to:

www.fopwalk.org/event/2657

- Click on "REGISTER TO WALK"
- Please Select St Mary/Christ the Teacher – DeKalb as "Beneficiary"
- Once you complete the registration, you will get a link to your own personal fund-raising page that can be copied and pasted into an e-mail or on social media!

Questions? Please contact Bob Brown, local coordinator at 815-758-8889 or bobbrown7@frontier.com



100% of the funds raised stay in the community to help those living in poverty.

In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus "makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!" In living the gospel, we must open our ears to hear and recognize all the everyday opportunities for making God's presence known especially to those who are poor and suffering. On September 9, the Church also celebrates the feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Fredric heard the call of Jesus to love and serve those who are suffering.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can "make God's presence known" to those who are suffering and poor?



SAVE THE DATE. More information to follow.

- Ozanam Orientation Sept. 11 – Holy Family, Rockford and St. Mary, Huntley.
- Sept. 26, 11:00 am Vincentian Mass at St. Mary, DeKalb.
- Fall Festival Oct. 2, 9:00 am Mass celebrated by Bishop Malloy at Christ the Teacher, DeKalb.



Magnificat



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The Magnificat is an easy to read daily Mass companion for use in church, or at home and is ideal for personal and family prayer. At over 400 pages each month, it features the complete readings for each Sunday, weekday and feast day Mass and daily reflections on the Gospel from the church's greatest minds past and present. Each day also includes beautiful prayers for both morning and evening, taken from the Liturgy of Hours. A subscription to the Magnificat offers 13 issues a year (1 per month and a special issue for Holy Week). You'll discover that its timeless content, daily relevance and sheer beauty make it a real treasure for every Catholic home. Magnificat subscribers also have free access to online and iPhone editions. **Orders are now being taken.** Because we order multiple copies, the one year subscription rate will be determined by the number of issues ordered. If you are interested in ordering, please contact Linda J. at the parish office at 815-758-5432. Orders will be taken until **September 23rd**. The subscriptions will start with the November issue.

"The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection.."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
 "Another Look at Abortion"
respectlife.org/another-look-at-abortion



We are looking forward to our 8th Annual Lancer Dash to safely gather again to raise money for students at St. Mary School DeKalb. Registration is open! Visit www.lancerdash.com for more information and to sign up!



The Lancer Dash is a family-friendly event, fun for all ages! The Dash consists of a 5K, 2K, and a Fun Run for kids 7 and under. This year's event will take place at St. Mary School on Saturday, September 11, 2021. We get over 200 attendees from our community and all proceeds benefit our school.

We are currently seeking sponsors for our event as well. Please contact us for questions or more information at technology@stmaryschooldekalb.com.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
 is now the
St. Vincent de Paul Supply Closet

What does that mean? Since closing in 2020 we have donated all our spoilable foods to other pantries before they expired. In discussing how and when we should re-open, the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society saw that there are many food pantries in place (with even our schools providing breakfast and lunch to students throughout the year). We thought we could be more effective if we offered other items that could not be easily obtained. We would like to give out items that are **non-food items**. These would include items such as laundry soap, personal/bath supplies, paper products, diapers, and household cleaning supplies. By providing our neighbors in need with personal and household products, we hope to lighten their loads so they can spend their money on other daily essentials. We would like to work toward providing a service that many of us take for granted like: parents should have detergent to wash their children's clothes, or have their own toothpaste to brush their teeth, or have household cleaners/supplies to keep their living environment clean and healthy. We are currently working to clean and reorganize the pantry into that closet to make this new idea happen. We ask for your prayers and we will keep you updated as to when we begin and how that will look. Thank you for all your support over the years.

God bless you...
SVDP Supply Closet Team
 Kathy Dixit, Terry Berg, Jean Kastory

For the latest, up-to-date information about our parish, please "Like" our facebook page!
 You can find it at www.facebook.com/StMarydeKalbII/
 or check out our website: <http://stmarydekalb.org>

This week's schedule...*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Hispanic AA Group (PCN)
 2:45 PM - 5:00 PM Vietnamese Ministry Social Time (C)
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Hispanic Reconciliation (CH)
 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Legion of Mary (SJOS)
Masses in English 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM (CH)
Mass in Vietnamese 1:30 PM (CH)
Mass in Spanish 4:00 PM (CH)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 (LABOR DAY)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

5:00 PM Mass in English (CH)
 7:00 - 7:30 PM Kairos Youth Group (CHP)
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Kairos Youth Group (YC)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

1:00 PM - 6:30 PM St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry (C)
5:00 PM Mass in English (CH)
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Reconciliation in Spanish (CH)
6:30 PM Mass in Spanish (CH)
 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM Catholic Daughters Meeting (C)
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Teen Tuesday (YC)
 7:35 PM - 9:00 PM Hispanic Prayer Group (CH)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

7:00 AM Mass in English (CH)
7:30 AM Reconciliation in English (CH)
 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Men's Group (E)
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Hispanic AA Group (PCN)

24 Hour Adoration (CH) Wednesday
7:30 AM until Thursday 6:50 AM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

7:00 AM Mass in English (CH)
 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study (SJOS)
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Quinceanera - Rodriguez (CH)
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Liturgical Choir Rehearsal (CH)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:30 AM Reconciliation in English (CH)
7:00 AM Mass in English (CH)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Hispanic Baptisms (CH)
 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM Hispanic Ultreya - Cursillo (C)
4:30 PM Reconciliation in English (CH)
 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Religious Ed Parent meeting (C/G)
Mass in English 5:00 PM (CH)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Hispanic AA Group (PCN)
 9:45 AM - 10:55 AM Religious Ed Classes (MC)
 2:45 PM - 5:00 PM Vietnamese Ministry Social Time (C)
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Hispanic Reconciliation (CH)
 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Legion of Mary (SJOS)
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Hispanic Religious Ed Classes (MC)
Masses in English 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM (CH)
Mass in Vietnamese 1:30 PM (CH)
Mass in Spanish 4:00 PM (CH)

***subject to change (additions & corrections)**

Locations: (B) Bethany Room, (C) Cafeteria, (CHP) Chapel, (CH) Church, (E) Emmaus Room, (G) Gym, (LRC) Library Resource Center, (MARI) Marian Room, (MC) Ministry Center, (OC) Off Campus, (PCN) Parish Center North, (PWR) Parish Work Room, (PR) Presentation Room, (SAR) St. Anne Room, (SJM) St. James Room (Private), (SJ) St. John Room, (SJOA) St. Joachim Room, (SJOS) St. Joseph Room, (SL) St. Luke Room, (SM) St. Mark Room, (SMR) St. Matthew Room, (YC) Youth Center

Mass Intentions for the Week

- Monday, September 6 (Labor Day)**
5:00 PM Gray Family
- Tuesday, September 7 (Weekday)**
5:00 PM † Joan Smith
6:30 PM † Poor Souls (Spanish Mass)
- Wednesday, September 8 (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**
7:00 AM † Mike Jackiw
- Thursday, September 9 (St. Peter Claver)**
7:00 AM † Cornelius Frederick
- Friday, September 10 (Weekday)**
7:00 AM † Donna Schoo
- Saturday, September 11 (Weekday)**
5:00 PM † Ferrell Dunham
- Sunday, September 12 (24th Sunday In Ordinary Time)**
9:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary
11:00 AM Cory & Jessica Filkins
† Matthew Halverson
4:00 PM † Poor Souls (Spanish Mass)



Summer outing date - Mark your calendar.

Tuesday, September 7-Teen Tuesday @ St. Mary
(7-8:30 pm)
Contact Annalisa McMaster for more information:
annalisam@stmarydekab.org

The Ministry of Care Needs You!!!

This ministry involves bringing Holy Communion to homebound, facility bound, or hospitalized people. It is a life-changing experience, to be a part of these lives. The privilege of serving them is rewarding. And never say, "Oh, I couldn't do that!" Don't underestimate God's gifts! We need a person to offer communion at Barb City Manor the 4th Wednesday of each month. This service takes about 1 hour or so. Although the usual time of visit at Barb City Manor is 2:00PM, the time of day can be flexible according to the minister's personal schedule. If you are interested in serving, or you have questions and concerns, PLEASE call Doug Schumaker at 815-901-4032 for information. Training and mentoring provided. Please continue to pray for our parishioners who cannot join us at mass, and for their families and care providers.

Join us in the mission of passing the faith to our youth!

A Catechist is someone who is called to teach and share the faith by word and example. At St. Mary, it is important to find individuals who would like to journey with the students and their families as we all grow into a deeper relationship with the Lord and seek to become His disciples. St. Mary Religious Ed program is in need of volunteers for the next school year to help as catechist and classroom aides. To learn more about the requirements, time commitment and skills needed please use link below. Please let us know if you feel called to this ministry or if you have any questions. Contact Annalisa at annalisam@stmarydekab.org or <https://bit.ly/3ykE9Yv> or 815-758-5432 x101

September 9, 2021

Memorial of St. Peter Claver, Priest National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities

The feast of St. Peter Claver is an opportunity to highlight the connection between racism and various attacks against human life. As St. John Paul II reminded us, "*Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation: it is an indivisible good.*"¹

The U.S. Catholic bishops suggest that parishes "could use the National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities to use encounters that foster community, dialogue, and reconciliation. These encounters will help open our mind and hearts more fully and continue the healing needed in our communities and our nation."²

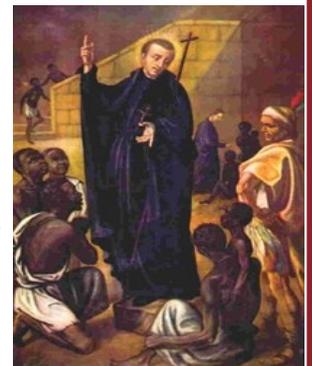
¹Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), no. 87

²USCCB, *Open Wide Our Hearts: the Enduring Call to Love*, 25.

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St. Peter Claver Feast Day - September 9

He was born at Verdu, Catalonia, Spain, on June 26, 1580, of impoverished parents. He studied at the Jesuit College of Barcelona, entered the Jesuit novitiate at Tarragona in 1602, and took his final vows on August 8, 1604. While studying philosophy at Majorca, the young religious was influenced by St. Alphonsus Rodriguez to go to the



Indies and save "millions of those perishing souls." In 1610, he landed at Cartagena (modern Columbia), the principal slave market of the New World, where a thousand slaves were brought every month. He worked with Fr. Alfonso de Sandoval, a great missionary among Black slaves, and declared himself "the slave of the Blacks forever." After his ordination in 1616, he dedicated himself to the service of the Black slaves - a work that was to last for thirty-three years. He labored unceasingly for the salvation of the slaves and the abolition of the slave trade, and the love he lavished on them was something that transcended the natural order. Boarding the slave ships as they entered the harbor, he would hurry to the revolting inferno of the hold, and offer whatever poor refreshments he could afford; he would care for the sick and dying, and instruct the slaves through Black catechists, before administering the sacraments. He brought food, clothing and encouragement to these poor people in their inhuman confinement and squalid conditions. He never turned away from their suffering or the revolting conditions of their captivity. Through his efforts three thousand souls entered the Church. Furthermore, he did not lose sight of his converts when they left the ships, but followed them to the plantations to which they were sent, encouraged them to live as Christians, and prevailed on their masters to treat them humanely. He died on September 8, 1654 in Cartagena, and the entire city, along with its slave population, mourned his passing. He was canonized in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII. He is the patron of Black missions.

Maria Piza-Graham
815-757-3529
 maria@mariselladelk.com
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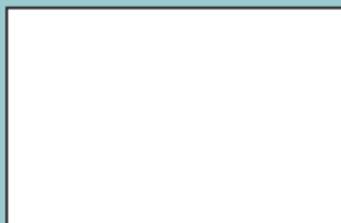
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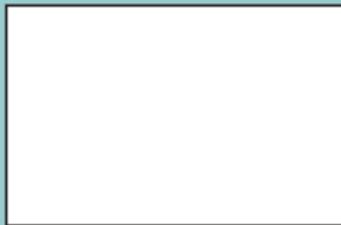


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