



# St. Mary's Catholic Church



## 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. 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 7:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Fr. Felix Nayak- Pastor

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

**9/6: Malta - 8:30 A.M.: NO MASS**

**9/7: Malta - 5:30 PM: NO MASS**

**9/8: Malta - 8:30 AM: NO MASS**

**9/9: Malta - Hi-Line Retirement Center 10:00 AM: NO MASS**

**9/10: Malta - 8:30 AM: NO MASS**

**9/11: Malta - 4:00 PM:** Repose of Lousia & Bill LaFond <sup>r/b</sup> Darlene & Bruce Cummings

**9/12: Malta - 10:30 AM:** For all Parishioners;

**Dodson—12:30 PM:** Repose of Wink Cole <sup>r/b</sup> His loving family

**Saco - 8:30 AM:** The Grant Family <sup>r/b</sup> Lana Fortin

## Confession Schedule

Fr. Felix will be in the Confessional at St. Mary's Church **Friday's 9:00-10:00, Saturday from 11:00 A.M.—Noon;** and by appointment.

## Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

**Every Friday from 9 to 10 AM** after Daily Mass.



**Contact Fr. Felix for Home Visits, Distribution of the Sacraments, Home Blessings and Counseling of any type.**



Knights of Columbus  
Council 2124

Meets **First Tuesday** of the month

Parish Council of Catholic  
Women

Meets **Second Sunday** of the month

## Daily Scripture Readings

**9/5: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;** Isaiah 35:4-7; Psalms 146:7-10; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

**9/6: Labor Day;** Colossians 1:24—2:3; Psalms 62:6-7, 9; Luke 6:6-11

**9/7: Tuesday in the 23rd week of Ordinary Time;** Colossians 2:6-15; Psalms 145:1-2, 8-11; Luke 6:12-19

**9/8: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary;** Micah 5:1-4 or Romans 8:28-30; Psalms 13:6; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

**9/9: St. Peter Claver, Priest;** Colossians 3:12-17; Psalms 150:1-6; Luke 6:27-38

**9/10: Friday in the 23rd week of Ordinary Time;** 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Psalms 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8, 11; Luke 6:39-42

**9/11: BVM; Patriot Day;** 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Psalms 113:1-7; Luke 6:43-49

**9/12: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time' Grandparents' Day;** Isaiah 50:5-9; Psalms 116:1-9; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

**Saturday Evening - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday—Dodson—12:30 a.m.**

**Malta - 10:30 a.m.**

**Saco—8:30 a.m.**



## New to the Parish?

Welcome! We're glad you will be joining us. If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket. You may bring it by the parish office or send it to us.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also use this form for a change of address. Thanks!

## Sacraments

**Confessions:** See page 2 of this week's bulletin for schedule or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Normally celebrated at weekend Masses. Parental sessions are required.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please contact Fr. Felix as soon as possible for anointing.

**Marriages:** Six month couple preparation period required. Please meet with Fr. Felix before scheduling marriage date.

## Please Pray For

Kari Hould, Lewellyn McNamara, Gary Lundman, Greg & Katie Skiff, Lana Fortin, Eric Engebretson, Linda Brown, and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of Marty Campbell, Alice Hanson, Wink Cole, Barb Darrah, the Poor Souls in Purgatory, and for comfort and peace for their families.

Anyone who needs to have prayers said for someone can call Jean Niebur at 654-2822 and Dianne Salsbery 654-4675. Names will be listed in the bulletin for one month unless specified.

# Everyday Stewardship

## Choosing Deafness

If you're a parent, you know that hearing evaluations are usually done at a child's annual physical exam starting around age four. The little person gets hoisted up onto the exam table, fitted with a pair of special headphones, and then they need raise their hand when they hear a sound.

I bet all of us parents who have sat through one of these tests with a preschooler — especially a particularly strong-willed one — have experienced a moment where we ask ourselves: I wonder if there's something wrong with her hearing. Is that why she doesn't listen to me? 'Come here, put on your shoes, pick up your toys, finish your carrots, don't touch that' — she isn't being naughty, she just can't hear it!

And then that moment, for those of us whose kids passed the hearing test with flying colors, comes crashing down into a realization that, yep, they can hear just fine. They're just choosing deafness.

But how can we really get mad when we remember that we do the same thing to God day in and day out? I often wonder if God, sitting in His Heaven, tires of calling to us in the same way young parents tire of calling out unheeded directions to their small children. Help that person. Hear My voice. Open your heart. Give of yourself here. Talk to Me.

What is the call He wishes you to hear today? Can you hear it? Are you listening?

*"We learn of God's love through the Scriptures, the testimony of God himself, where we read that 'whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me' (Mt 25:40). The scriptures therefore instruct all, including families, to practice charity because Christ is present in every person, especially the poor and needy.? Pope Francis*

## Pope Francis' Intention

### The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

## Fr. Felix

### XXIII Sunday (B) Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

Today's liturgy invites us to become humble healing instruments of Jesus' hands by giving voice to the voiceless, the needy, and the marginalized in our society. Today, however, many of us have lost the ability to recognize the Voice of God calling us for action in our modern society. A Church that is to bear witness to the example of Jesus' love must not neglect "those who are bowed down." Through its healing presence the Church must give voice to the voiceless.

In today's first reading, prophet Isaiah predicts of the immediate return and restoration of Israel after decades of exile in Babylon. Their arrival will cause great friction with the other tribes already there, especially the Edomites. Hence, prophet Isaiah reminds Israelites that when God leads his people home, He will work miracles on behalf of those who need it most: blind, deaf, lame, and mute persons. The prophecy gives the Israelites the assurance that God will continue to save them from their enemies, will open their eyes to the reality of what He is providing for them, and will open their ears to what He has to tell them through His priests and prophets. The first reading reminds us that God's eyes are constantly focused on the helpless. God especially cares for "the frightened, the blind, the deaf, the lame, the mute," and He encourages the powerless to "be strong and fearless."

In the second reading St. James points out to the members of the Church that they should treat others, whether they are rich or poor, with equal honor and courtesy. Here he is reacting to real hurts inflicted by the rich to

the poor by their lavish life. St. James says, the poor man is poor in the eyes of the world but rich in Faith because he recognizes his dependence on God for everything and acknowledges that dependence in the way he lives and acts. Therefore St. James insists that Christians "should show no partiality." That's what makes us to show respect to everyone despite social or economic status, and make us to live as children of God witnessing to Jesus who died to save us all.

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus, by healing a deaf man with a speech impediment, fulfills Isaiah's Messianic prophecy, "The eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped." The ailments listed by Isaiah are symbolic of our interior illnesses: blindness to the needs of our neighbor, unwillingness to hear God's voice and the inability to speak words of praise, apology, forgiveness, and gratitude. Through this miracle story, Mark also reminds us that no one can be a follower of the Lord without reaching out to the helpless.

1) We need to help Jesus to heal the deaf and the mute today. 2) We need to allow Jesus to heal our spiritual deafness and muteness. 3) Let us bring Jesus' holy word to a generation ruined by the materialistic cultural aggression of our times, Amen.

## The Domestic Church

### Charity

1. How do we live out charity in our family towards others?
2. Why does charity enrich family life and expand its fruitfulness: Do we think people can actually encounter Christ by helping those who are in need? Why or why not?
3. How can our family learn to know God better through love in our own family and love toward those we don't know?

### Family Project

Volunteer as a family with your parish, local Knights of Columbus council or other local Catholic ministry. Consider volunteering at a nearby soup kitchen or similar local charity.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fr. Felix will be gone this week. No weekday Masses. He will be back for next weekend's Masses
- If you or anyone you know are interested in RCIA classes contact Michael Ereaux. Contact information can be found in the bulletin.
- Tom Golik has a letter in the Catholic Foundation insert. Please take the time to read it.
- Religious Education begins September 15th at 6:30 PM for all age groups. Please register your youth early so the appropriate number of education material can be ordered. Registration forms and class schedules can be found in the back of the church.
- The Knights of Columbus have a display of booklets on Building the Domestic Church. They can be found on the landing going downstairs. There is a great selection of booklets. Check it out.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# Gospel Meditation

## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the time we are born into this world until we die, our human radar picks up signals about how to respond to life. What we picked up on when we were very young carries an even greater power. The messages we receive and process tell us what we are “supposed” to do with our feelings, how to understand and cope with disappointment, anxiety, failure, death, illness, and what to expect out of life. As life unfolds for us, these radar messages kick in and resonate in us at very deep levels. Sometimes what we have learned is helpful and sometimes it is not. The stories we have been told, especially when we are young, about how life is best lived and how to negotiate its pain carry a heavy weight.

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. It also can be quite unpredictable and, at times, unfair. We face our vulnerability and brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. It doesn’t take much for life to quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar and true is gone and something we relied upon, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, can be taken away. It is hard to confront our limitations and sit with our incompleteness. Often, life hurts us so much that we find ourselves sitting in a pool of sadness, not sure what we are supposed to do. It is particularly hard when the signals we have inherited tell us that we need to be successful in what we

do, and we have to avoid life’s unfairness. We can feel like a failure, wondering what precisely we did to deserve this fate, or ruminating about what we did not do correctly. But it’s really not about us. We are part of a bigger picture and a much more fascinating story!

If we cease doing battle with life’s incompleteness and see ourselves, as God does, on a journey toward wholeness and completeness we can better accept our disappointments and stand firm. The prophets told us, and Jesus reassured us: Be strong! Fear not! Sometimes we have to update our stories and replace them with newer, more accurate ones. When we make God’s story our own and tune our radar into His voice, what we hear is all about restoration, healing, and rejuvenation! This is true even when we think we have hit rock bottom and can go no further. There is always hope. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich: God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. Now, listen to God when He says, “be opened!” Be healed and allow your stories to change.

*“Until you can hear Jesus in the silence of your own heart, you will not be able to hear him saying ‘I thirst’ in the hearts of the poor...Not only that he loves you, even more—he longs for you. He misses you when you don’t come close. He thirsts for you, even when you don’t feel worthy.*    St. Teresa of Calcutta

## Mass Intentions

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of having Masses celebrated for those we offer up in prayer. The Mass is the ultimate form of prayer, and each Mass is celebrated for an intention. We ask \$10.00 per mass intention.

Please consider having Masses celebrated for family and friends on special occasions

and anniversaries, as well as those who are in need of prayers. Masses are also encouraged in memory of those loved ones who have died, especially on the anniversaries of their deaths. Please contact Fr. Felix for more information.

# THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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## Sacrificial Giving for 8-22

|         | <b>8-29</b> | <b>Direct Deposit</b> |
|---------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Malta:  | \$1,129.50  | \$25.00               |
| Dodson: | \$705.00    | \$0.00                |
| Saco:   | \$155.00    | \$50.00               |

## Finance Council

Charlie Mears 654-7006, cmears@itstriangle.com

Regina Webb 319-491-7607, auntregina@gmail.com

Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh\_99@hotmail.com

Mike Ereaux 658-2613 (H), 654-7803 (C), mfe7195@itstriangle.com

Scott King 654-7302, sbking1959@gmailcom

Lana Fortin 654-4811, lanafortin03@gmail.com

Please send bulletin announcements to **office@SaintMarysMalta.org** by Thursday evening. Thanks!

## Word of Life from the USCCB

“The Church has consistently taught Activities  
that every human life is precious and  
worthy of protection.” “Another Look at Abortion”  
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life respectlife.org/another-look-at-abortion

### Weekly Reflection from Priests for Life

#### From the Catechism

C2270 Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person -- among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you” (Jer 1:5; cf Job 10:8-12; Ps 22:10-11). “My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth” (Ps. 139:15).

2271 Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or as a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law: “You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish” (Didache 2, 2).

### Parish Council

Alora Snider— 399-1675, alora\_lynn\_09@hotmail.com (Malta)

Shawn Bleth— 654-7303, shawn.bleth@gmail.com (Malta)

Nancy Ereaux—658-2613 (H),

Cliff Merriman— 654-4391, merrimancrifford@gmail.com (K of C)

Wilma Mavencamp—654-1346, maven100@itstriangle.com (PCCW)

Tom DePuydt—674-7060, 4bard@itstriangle.com (Saco)

Leona Kienenberger—383-4459, leona\_kienenberger@yahoo.com (Dodson)

## **September the month of Our Lady of Sorrows**

**The entire month of September is dedicated by the Church to the honor of Our Lady of Sorrows.**

**The devotion to Our Lady's sorrows remembers the Blessed Virgin Mary's spiritual martyrdom in with her perfect union with the Passion of Christ as she stood at the foot of the Cross.**

**This was her part in salvation history, and thus she is a spiritual Mother of all Christians.**

### **Powerful Prayers Against Evil and Change the World!**

The Rosary of the Seven Sorrows consists of 7 groups of 7 beads, with 3 additional beads and a Crucifix. Say each of the sorrow below followed by 7 Hail Mary's. The 7 groups of 7 Hail Mary's are recited in remembrance of the 7 Sorrows of Mary:

1. The prophecy of Simeon.
2. The flight into Egypt.
3. The loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple.
4. Mary meets Jesus carrying His cross.
5. The Crucifixion
6. Mary received the Body of Jesus from the cross
7. The Body of Jesus is placed in a tomb.

3 Hail Mary's are added in remembrance of the tears Mary shed because of the suffering of her Divine Son. These are said to obtain true sorrow for our sins.

The concluding prayer follows:

V/. Pray for us, O most sorrowful Virgin.

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, we now implore, both for the present and for the hour of our death, the intercession of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Thy Mother, whose holy soul was pierced at the time of Thy passion by a sword of grief. Grant us this favor, O Saviour of the world, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

A vibrant Labor Day celebration graphic. In the upper right, a large American flag waves diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. The background is filled with a massive, multi-colored fireworks display in shades of green, blue, and yellow, radiating outwards. The foreground features a dark blue banner at the bottom with the words "HAPPY Labor Day" in white and red script and serif fonts.

**HAPPY**  
*Labor Day*