

**"HE MAKES THE DEAF HEAR"**

by Fr. Jeremy Myers

Mark 7:31-37

St. Mark introduces us to a man who cannot hear. He also has a speech impediment. Friends of the man bring him to Jesus, whom they have heard can do miracles. St. Mark tells us that Jesus, the miracle worker, puts his finger into the man's ears and also touches his tongue. He says one word, "Ephphatha," which is translated as "Be opened." The evangelist says that immediately the man's ears were opened and his speech impediment was removed. There are many people in our world today who also experience personal deprivation or physical ailment. This gospel story would have us ask ourselves how we respond to these people who stand in front of us as the deaf man stood in front of the Lord Jesus. Do we also speak encouraging words to them, as Jesus did to the deaf man? Do our words heal? In the end, this is what discipleship means—to do what the Lord Jesus did. His example in this story is as clear as it is challenging. We are to bring healing to people who are afflicted in some way. I remember hearing a story once about a family that went into a restaurant. The waitress walked up and, seeing the young boy, spoke to him first, "What will it be?" she asked with a smile on her face. The little boy eagerly shouted back, "I'll take a hamburger, French fries, and a shake." His mother immediately interrupted him and said, "Oh, that's not what he wants. He'll take the roast beef, a baked potato, and a glass of milk." Much to the surprise of both the boy and his mother, the waitress completely ignored her and again said to the boy, "And what do you want on that hamburger?" The boy again shouted back, "Ketchup! Lots of ketchup, please!" The waitress then asked him, "And what kind of shake?" "Chocolate!" the boy answered with a smile on his face. The boy then turned to his parents and, with a huge smile on his face, he said, "Isn't she something? She thinks that I'm real!" What a wonderful story to remind us of how important to other people is our treatment of them. That small boy apparently felt that he wasn't "real" to his parents because they didn't listen to him and didn't treat him like a person. But the waitress listened closely and respected him. She made him feel "real." *She thinks that I'm real!* As we consider a similar story told to us by St. Mark in the gospel today, we see that Jesus also made that deaf man feel "real." He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He gave him his undivided attention. He prayed for him. He physically reached out to the man in need. Of course, a miracle occurred. But then, miracles occur everyday whenever we also break away from our selfishness and consider the needs of someone else. We can make other people feel "real" by the gift of our time, or with the gift of our physical presence, or by the gift of our listening to them. Our world is filled with people in need. Unfortunately, so many of them are pushed aside by us or, worse, treated as if they didn't exist. The disciple of Jesus hears the cry for help that comes from the lips of those who suffer and who have needs. The disciple responds with the compassion and the kindness of Jesus, the miracle worker. It is amazing what a simple word of kindness like "Ephphatha" can do. We really should say it more often.



**MASS INTENTIONS**  
September  
10 - 16,  
2018

**Monday, September 10—Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. †Steve Mexia, Sr. by Mary Burns  
Noon †Chris Skotnik by Phil & Donna McKinney  
*1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11*

**Tuesday, September 11—Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. †Bennie Leard by Gisela Leard  
Noon Communion Service  
*1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Luke 6:12-19*

**Wednesday, September 12—The Most Holy Name of Mary**

9:30 a.m. †Alexander Rice by Dennis & Jean Krawietz  
*1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26*

**Thursday, September 13—St. John Chrysostom, Bishop**

8:00 a.m. †Andy Ramin by Jim & Cheryl Ramin  
*1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13; Luke 6:27-38*

**Friday, September 14—The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

8:00 a.m. †John & †Louise Crichton by Barney & Joan Sandmann  
*Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:13-17*

**Saturday, September 15—Ordinary Time**

4:30 p.m. †John & †Margaret Hanczyk by Kathie Maniet  
*Isaiah 50:5-9; Mark 8:27-35*

**Sunday, September 16—Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. Parishioners by Pastor  
10:30 a.m. Intentions of Matt Smith by Mom  
12:30 p.m. Intentions of Rosario & Alma Magana  
*Isaiah 50:5-9; Mark 8:27-35*



**We welcome into our community of faith the following children who were baptized at St. Mary's Church on Saturday morning: Kylie Gayle Aleman, Mary Claire Grace Davis and Sutton Vincent Filander. May they find us a community of welcome and faith.**

**STEWARDSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2018**

NEEDED TO MEET BUDGET	\$14,500.00
RECEIVED	\$14,419.00
DIFFERENCE	—\$ 81.00
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE	—\$ 4,252.43

**Thank you for sharing with others.**

*"Prayer is the cornerstone of stewardship. Only when we spend time with God in prayer are we spiritually prepared to offer ourselves in service to others. Just as we schedule the other important parts of daily life, we need to make a conscious effort to make time for prayer." Author Unknown*

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Please remember in your prayers all the faithful departed, especially Joseph Lejeune, who died last week, and Evelyn Stafford, mother of Debbie Peck, who died recently and was buried in Iowa. May God grant them eternal salvation.

**Blessing to Jaime & Cindia Aguilar whose marriage was blessed Saturday afternoon at St. Mary's Church. May they have many more wonderful years together.**



We want to wish a happy anniversary to all couples celebrating a wedding anniversary this week, especially Rosario & Alma Magana. May God grant them his love and many more happy years together.

High School and Middle School Youth are meeting today, September 9<sup>th</sup>, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Room.



Women's Guild will meet this Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Center. The Executive Board will serve as hostesses.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults began this past Tuesday but it is not too late to join the class. If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or would like to join the Catholic Church, please join us. An evening meal will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation from 7 - 8 p.m. in the Parish Center.



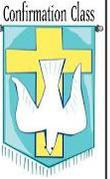
Knights of Columbus, 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, will meet this Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. in the KC Hall.

**"Wisdom is seeing with God's eyes."** Pope Francis Scripture and the Tradition of the Catholic Church provide an abundance of wisdom, though it can often be challenging to apply it to our lives. To help you learn to gather and live with greater wisdom, we will begin an eight-week study, *Wisdom: God's Vision for Life*, this Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please contact Jane Karleskint at [janekarleskint@gmail.com](mailto:janekarleskint@gmail.com) for more information or to register.

St. Mary's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet this Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the KC Hall.

**Thanks to all of you who signed up to work at the Fall Festival. If you have not yet had a chance to sign-up, we will have sign-ups again next weekend. Also, boxes for the Paddle Game are available. Please take a box or two and fill with non-perishable food items, then return the filled boxes to the Parish Center between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.**

2<sup>nd</sup> year Confirmation Students and Parents—Make plans to attend the required meeting next Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Parish Center. The meeting will be in English at 11:30 a.m. and in Spanish at 1:30 p.m. Topics will include requirements and important dates for those students eligible to be confirmed on November 5<sup>th</sup>. It is extremely important that each student, along with one parent or guardian, attends. If that is not possible, please contact Confirmation Coordinator Ginny O'Hanlon at 903-815-5261.



North Texas Giving Day is coming soon. What is North Texas Giving Day? It is an annual online giving extravaganza to help build awareness and support for nonprofits in the North Texas region. St. Mary's Catholic School is excited to be able to join this philanthropic network and will be accepting online donations on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6 a.m. until midnight. Our school has its own distinctive webpage within the North Texas Day of Giving website: <https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/stmaryscatholicsschool>.

We have a goal of \$25,000 which will be used to increase and improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) within our classrooms.

We are still in need of more families to volunteer to provide a meal for those attending RCIA. If you can help prepare a Tuesday evening meal, please contact Kelley Parker at [kelypa45@yahoo.com](mailto:kelypa45@yahoo.com) or 903-815-6814.

St. Mary's School 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are programming on the computer. They are creating pulsing hearts, dancing Yetis, dynamic dresses, and groovy tunes!



 PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN) A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

 PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.