

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary time– 05 September 2021

Isaiah 35:4-7a. Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10. James 2:1-5. Mark 7:31-37.

Modern media often tend to saturate our society with images of tragedy, thus reducing our ability to feel compassion. Pity is sometimes the most that we can muster. Today's readings invite two other reactions -- a genuine emotional outburst like Jesus' groaning in the gospel, and a genuine effort to move from pity to compassion. Both reactions call for the strength that turns feeling into action!

Today's reading from Isaiah articulates hope and intervention to the discouraged and bewildered. The author uses Exodus imagery: God's people will go home, and they will experience the miracles of the desert. The all-powerful God of Israel responds to the needs of the people. God singles out four groups -- the blind, the deaf, the lame, and those who cannot speak.

The author who wrote the Epistle of James is well acquainted with the human tendency to prefer the wealthy and neglect the poor. He begins his challenge to this tendency by speaking of their faith "in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ." Basically this is a summary of the Christian creed. Prejudice in favor of the wealthy is a rejection of that Christian belief. The Christian faith focuses on the poor rather than the rich because the poor are objects of God's election and heirs of the kingdom.

For Mark, Jesus as Son of God must reach out to the marginalized -- the poor, women, tax collectors, and lepers. Jesus cures the man whose hearing and speech are impaired. The reaction of the crowd is amazed over what Jesus has done. Jesus' moaning suggests his compassion for the great suffering of this individual. This episode also shows the Church's universal mission to all the nations. -- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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Isaiah 35:4-7a. Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10. James 2:1-5. Mark 7:31-37.

Be Opened! Jesus heals a deaf and mute man today who immediately speaks plainly.

Before the Baptism of adults and after that for babies and children, the Church imitates Jesus with the EphphethaRite [EF-fah-thah]. In opening the ears and mouth, we pray for the grace to hear the word of God and to profess it every day.

1. To what right behavior do I turn a deaf ear, a closed mouth?
2. What needs opening so I may hear the word of God?
3. What needs opening so I may speak truth?

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 12 September 2021

Isaiah 50:4c-9a. Psalm 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9. James 2:14-18. Mark 8:27-35.



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Mission: Live Catholic teachings,

Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte. 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm



Being Able to Hear

In the [Gospel](#) Reading, Jesus does a miracle: a man who was deaf and impaired in speech becomes able to hear and to speak plainly. But the way in which Jesus performs the miracle seems undignified or even silly. Jesus puts his fingers in the man's ears and his spit on the man's tongue. *Before* the man's ears are opened to hear, Jesus looks up to heaven, he groans, and he says "Be opened!"

What happened to the elegant kind of miracle where Jesus just says a word and a person is healed? Why this show, which looks embarrassing for Jesus?

The answer lies in the question. What Jesus does is literally a silent show. It has to be. Jesus is trying to communicate with someone who can't hear. In other cases, before Jesus does a miracle, Jesus talks to the person for whom the miracle will be done. In this case, he does charades.

His charade begins by letting the deaf man know that Jesus is putting a part of himself into the deaf man—his fingers into the deaf man's ears, his spit into the deaf man's mouth. By this means, Jesus invites the deaf man to accept Jesus into himself—literally. And then Jesus looks up to heaven to show the deaf man the source of Jesus' power. It doesn't come from some magic in Jesus' fingers or spittle. It comes from God, whose power is in Jesus, who is in the deaf man, by means of this charade

Even the groaning and the speech of Jesus to the deaf man make sense if we think of them in this way. First, the deaf man sees Jesus open his mouth to make the inarticulate sound of groaning. This deaf man doesn't speak, but even those made mute by deafness can groan. In groaning, Jesus joins the deaf man, who can see Jesus groaning even if he can't hear him. And then the deaf man sees Jesus speaking an articulate word *to him*, to the man who cannot hear. In doing this, Jesus is inviting the deaf man to trust in Jesus, to choose to accept the miracle—to choose to *hear* the word that Jesus speaks to him.

And so Jesus humbles himself to share the limitations of this one deaf man. By undignified dumb show, the love of the Lord heals the deaf man's soul as well as his ears. Let us be humble enough to hear the love of the Lord in this story.-- Eleonore Stump—SLU Sunday site

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Schedule of Masses

Sun	Sep 5	8:00 am	SP	Billie Anderson
Fri	Sep 10	6:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Sep 12	11:00 am	SP	Victoria Koval

Birthdays
Sep 5 Thomas Pruemmer
Mary Treat
Sep 6 Mason Bishop
Sep 9 Steve Hupe

Liturgical Ministers

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Servers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Sep 5 8 am	E Garrett	J Hacker	P Widowski	Vol.	*M McMahan, R Weeks
	<u>Cantor</u>	S Pobst			
Sep 12 8 am	J Nelson	B Bowers	L Miller	Vol.	*S Pobst, Z Garrett
	<u>Cantor</u>	J Starrett			

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Aug 29, 2021

Envelope \$905.00 (20), Loose 85.00 PSR reg. \$80.00

Total \$ \$1070

(collection counters are needed to continue this church ministry – see Laurie Coleman)

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Sep 5	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
	1 st Sunday Social following Mass	
	Stonefort Food Panty Drive begins	
Thu Sep 9	Wellness Committee.....	6:00 pm
Fri Sep 10	Mass.....	6:00 pm
Sun Sep 12	Sunday Mass at SP.....	11:00 am
	Parish Picnic	



1st SUNDAY SOCIAL IS TODAY following Mass. Don’t be a stranger. Come and catch up with your fellow parishioners.

MASS FOR SEPTEMBER 12 is 11:00 am. Followed by Parish Picnic. Fr. Tom will be covering for Fr. Christian who is celebrating his 25th Jubilee at St. Mary’s Harrisburg with friends and families. A sign up sheet for side dishes is posted on the church foyer bulletin board.

FOOD DRIVE FOR STONEFORT FOOD PANTRY STARTS TODAY. A collection box in by the water fountain in the church foyer.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING is Thursday Sept 9 at 6 pm in Parish Hall

CONGRATULATIONS FATHER CHRISTIAN ON YOUR 25TH JUBILEE to be celebrated at St. Mary’s Harrisburg on September 12 at 10:30 am Mass. A reception will follow with lunch being served at noon at St. Mary’s Church Hall. If you wish to attend please RSVP to the parish office at 618-253-7408 or Stmaryhb@frontier.com. Cards and well wishes would also be appreciated and sent via St. Mary’s Harrisburg address.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- September 9 -Wellness Committee Mtg. 6 pm in Parish Hal
- September 12- Mass moved to 11 am and followed by Parish Picnic
- September 12 Fr. Christian’s 25th Jubilee celebration at St. Mary’s Harrisburg
- September 15 Parish Council meeting
- September 19- Catechetical Sunday -Opening PSR
 - Early Bird Drawdown ticket
 - CCW meeting 9 am in parish Hall

WANTED CLEAN CLOTH TOTE BAGS (the kind you pick up at fairs or conferences but don’t use.) These are needed for our October 13 Women’s conference at Camp Ondessonk sponsored by the Belleville Diocese.

“CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME” DIOCESAN CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN is coming on Wednesday, Oct 13, 2021 at Camp Ondessonk. More information on this event and how to register is coming soon.

EAGLE HOUSE RUN FOR HOPE 5K/10K RUN/Walk is coming October 1st. Registration is due September 10. Call Jennifer Money 618 771-7442 or check www.eaglehouseministries.com

VOCATION CORNER– As our country honors Labor this weekend, we can rejoice in our Labor for the Lord. We dedicate ourselves to St. Joseph the worker during this year of St. Joseph. We reflect on how we are working to spread the Word and how we are promoting our Catholic Church. This is the vocation of ALL of us. We have our role in praising our God, in sharing our Faith and working on educating our families in the ways of the Lord. We need to encourage our family members to be attentive to their call – maybe even to the priesthood or religious life.