

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Isaiah 35: 4-7a
Ps. 146,
James 2: 1-5
Mark 7: 31-37

Ephphatha

Today's readings ring so loudly with me being a social worker priest. For better or for worse, by God's will, I have been around the poor in spirit, and many have been fiscally poor as well. Yes, God has taken me out of my comfort zone and placed me in some very challenging situations.

I have had to serve in circumstances that were difficult for me. Yet, God has shone through. I have learned much and loved much. Moreover, the loving much has itself brought suffering. I know now, at least in part, the suffering of Christ in his passion. The rejection of his love for us. But also there is the triumph of the cross. The power of love manifested in the Resurrection. All evil is overcome.

Through the prophet Isaiah the Lord says, "Say to those whose hearts are frightened: be strong, fear not!"

God's People have often suffered. Here God offers his vindication, he takes away blame. Even more, God shows compassion for those who have suffered wrong. That is, God bestows recompense. Good things will come to people who have suffered. "The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water." It might be said God will make the ground level.

As the needs of others have been pointed out to me, I heed the words of Saint James; "My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ." Even as the Lord has put me to serving others who struggle to survive, I may be tempted to side with people who have much money and possibly be influenced negatively toward the poor.

While here on earth Jesus Christ gave example of how to live in his image. He healed people. When I observe his healings, all seem to direct individuals to wholeness. They receive the power to do right.

In the Gospel story a man who was unable to hear and speak is brought to Jesus for a cure. Interestingly Jesus did not say to the man, "now be able to hear". Rather, Jesus said "Ephphatha!" it means "be open".

Sound can reach ears and the whole bodily system for registering sound is activated. Yet, to be open seems

to mean more than that. It connotes a willingness to understand a calling and willingness to act on the calling (vocation). For example, when I discerned God's call to me to be a priest it took a little time to act on the call.

Being brought up in a functional home, my parents having a loving marriage, it was natural to me to plan on marriage and having a family myself. But God called me to the formal ministry of the Priesthood.

The celibate priesthood was not a natural way of life to me. However, by God's grace I accepted the call and responded. All that I experienced growing up in my parents' home was valuable throughout my priesthood. God wanted me to be open to using that gift he had given me for purposes beyond my own natural desires. After nearly 40 years of ordained ministry, I can see how much my experience is used in the priesthood.

While I was not and am not naturally inclined to a celibate life, I was open to the Lord's call and guidance. God swayed me. Many of the things of marriage have been a part of the priesthood and my ministry. For example, I raised children.

Who knows how the deaf man in the gospel story ended up? What good came out of his life?

So, for your meditation this week consider the following. What may come from your life if you are 'open' to God's Call? *Ephphatha*.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
Is50:4c-9a; Jas2:14-18; Mk8:27-35
Join in Scripture Sharing every Thursday evening, 7pm to 8pm.

Stewardship

Attendance last week:	To be
Tithes Collected:	included in
Online Giving:	next weeks;
Total:	bulletin.

Thank you!

This week's second collection is for Catholic University of America.

LITURGY FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: (OUR GOD IS HERE/Muglia

And we cry: Holy! Holy! Holy are you! We cry: "Holy! Holy! Holy and true!" Amen, we do believe our God is here. Our God is here.

1. Here in this time, here in this place, here we are standing face to face. Here in our hearts, here

in our lives, our God is here. Here for the broken, here for the strong, here in this temple we belong. Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here.

2. Here in the Word, God is revealed, here where the wounded can be healed. Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here. Here we become what we receive, here in this Eucharistic feast. We are his body, living as one; our God is here.

Psalm 146: Praise the Lord, my soul! /D. Pérez-Cuan)

OFFERTORY HYMN: (OPEN MY EYES/Mannibussan)

1. Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face. Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.
2. Open my ears Lord. Help me to hear your voice. Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.
3. Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you. Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.
4. And the first shall be last, and our eyes are opened, and we'll hear like never before. And we'll speak in new ways, and we'll see God's face in places we've never known.

COMMUNION HYMN: (AS CHRIST IS FOR US/Whitaker)

1. In the bread we share with the hungry, in the help we give to the poor, in the kindness we show to the stranger we find Christ the open door.
2. **So we rise with him each morning, and we work, as work we must, to be Christ for others as Christ is for us, to be Christ for others as Christ is for us.**
3. May the bread we share give us courage to restore the earth in this time. For the sake of our children's descendants let us honor God's ancient design.
4. May the bread we share keep us mindful and the fruit of the vine make us one. Let the whole human family together heed the cry of our island home.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: (A RIGHTFL PLACE/Angrisano)

Let us live our lives so that all might see that our hearts are restless fill they rest in thee. Let us build your kingdom in truth and grace so that all might know they have a rightful place.

1. Beauty ever ancient and new, breaking through our deafness so we hear you. Shattering the darkness of night, a new dawn is rising to bring your light to all the world.
2. To gather in your presence we came to be one in spirit, in truth and name; strengthened by the

body of Christ, taking up the call now to share your light will all the world.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, John LaNeve, Judith Kolo, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 4

4:00 p.m. Anthony Steven Cirelli by Joyce
Beatriz Mazuera by Selma Cordona

Sunday, September 5

9:00 a.m. † Herve Arsenault by Jean Pierre
Kolodziejki

10:45 a.m. † Earlein Stokes by Francine
† Rudolf Sertic by Zalac Family
† Rosanne Polyachyk by Johnny
Pons

Monday, September 6

8:00 a.m. NO MASS/OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 7

8:00 a.m. † Erin Riley Kanable by Joyce

Wednesday, September 8

8:00 a.m. † Jack Symonette by Terry

Thursday, September 9

8:00 a.m. † Josip Zalac by Zalac Family

Friday, September 10

8:00 a.m. † Souls In Purgatory by Richard &
Margaret Schmelz

Saturday, September 11

4:00 p.m. † Michael J. Cawley, FDNY by Parish
† Ray Archbold by Joanie

Sunday, September 12

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. Fr. Don Tranel by Daniel Murphy
† Earlein Stokes by Roberto