

September 5, 2021

...then He looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him,
“*Ephphatha!*” — that is, “Be opened!” —
And immediately the man’s ears were opened,
his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

2119 Stillwater Ave E St. Paul, MN 55119 651-738-0677 church@blessedsacramentsp.org
Mass Times: Saturday Anticipatory: 4 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11 :00 am Daily, T-F 8:30am

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Jesus Healed Me! Let Me Tell You All About It!

For over 80 years, Alcoholics Anonymous has helped people overcome addictions to alcohol, drugs, and other destructive behaviors. When people working the program achieve a certain level of serenity and healing, they learn that it is not enough to simply stop drinking or using drugs. If they are to know true and lasting healing, they cannot keep their stories to themselves. They have to reach out to others with the good news that their addictions can be overcome. It is part of the healing process itself to help bring others to experience healing in their own lives.

The same is true with those who are healed by Jesus. They are so overcome with joy after their encounter with him that they have to tell everyone about it. It is interesting that throughout the Gospel of Mark, Jesus commands people not to tell anyone who he is and what he has done for them. It seems strange to us that Jesus would want to hide his identity, but he needed it to be

clear that he was not a political Messiah who would liberate them from Roman rule, but a suffering servant who would free them from the tyranny of sin. Nonetheless, those whom Jesus heals cannot help but go around telling everyone they meet about the powerful prophet who restored them to health. For them, telling the story of Jesus' healing power is part of the healing process itself.

This Sunday's gospel is no different. Jesus opens the ears of a deaf man and heals his speech impediment. Throughout his whole life he was unable to hear the sounds all around him. Now the first voice he hears is that of Jesus commanding his ears to be opened. During his life he probably spoke only when necessary because he was ashamed of his speech impediment. Now, with his tongue loosened, he cannot help but tell everyone about the miracle that God performed in his life. His first clear words were praise of God for the gift of healing he received in Jesus. How could he now be expected to keep silent about the great work God performed in his life?

Jesus continues to be in our midst exercising His healing powers. Though it is rare, it still happens that people are cured of diseases or physical impairments through the power of prayer. Most often, however, the healings we experience through faith are of an emotional or spiritual nature. Because of our own prayers or those of others, we may find ourselves finally able to forgive someone who has hurt us. Or we may find the ability to let go of a burden of anger which we have been carrying for years. Or we may simply be overcome with a sense of God's infinite mercy and believe that our sins have been forgiven. In one way or another, each of us has been touched by Jesus and healed. Now it is up to us to tell others about it so that they too may meet Jesus, the healer. If we want to hold on to the healing we have received, and if we want it to deepen in our lives, we must spread the good news about what Jesus has done for us.

Douglas Sousa



GOSPEL MEDITATION -

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

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 ruminate 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.

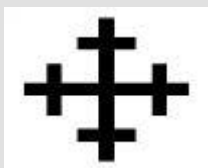
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E Team News

Recently I had the opportunity to experience the power of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. My mother was hospitalized and took a turn for the worse. I had a priest come and give her the last rites and an hour later hospital staff moved her to the intensive care unit. I was able to sit by her bedside after they got her situated. I placed my hand on her arm and prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy out loud. I do not know if she was able to hear me or not but shortly after I finished the chaplet she died peacefully. It was such a powerful blessing to experience God's mercy through the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Kathy Ebert



FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Honoring our Military

We are always looking for more postings to go up on the new Military Honor board that is up on the wall just outside of the coatroom. Please consider bringing in a picture and dropping it off in the office. Joy will work with you on the information she needs for the posting. Special note: Watch for a new collection container for clothing for our Vietnam veterans coming real soon.

Recent Pew work

Thank you goes out to Joe Peisert and Peter McGraw for the time they put in to make some minor adjustments to the first row of pews inside of the church. This will now give us ample room to maneuver a casket when a funeral is being held. Thank you, guys, for all of your time and talent. I am sure others will agree that the pews look amazing and they are now rock solid in how they are secured to the floor! Expect blessings.

EFT Contributions

Don't forget that it is very easy and simple to sign up to have your monthly contribution sent directly to the church's checking account. Please call John Florin or Joy Hoffman and we can set you up for your contribution to come directly from your checking account to the church's account. We look forward to helping you with this. God bless.

\$260 donation for the Altar Server's needs

Thank you for the \$260 donated last weekend. Expect blessings.

SOCIAL CONCERNS FOR SEPTEMBER

Special Emergency Collection

Archbishop Hebda is asking all archdiocesan parishes to join with U.S. Catholics in an emergency collection for those suffering the devastating earthquake in Haiti. On August 14, a massive 7.2 magnitude quake hit Haiti leveling homes and businesses, leaving many without shelter or food. Hospitals and clinics are overwhelmed. Still struggling from the 2010 damaging earthquake, the country was also hit by Tropical Storm Grace adding to the devastation. Help is critical for our Haiti brothers and sisters desperate to survive. Gifts will be forwarded to the USCCB Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund created to support relief efforts through Catholic Relief Services in situations like Haiti.

ADORATION CHAPEL NEWS

Here is one person's experience with their time in the adoration chapel: "My time in adoration has improved my life so much. I am often so busy that I don't take time to hear what God is saying to me. During adoration, I can be quiet and listen for the answers I couldn't hear before. It is my personal time where I can place my worries in God's hands and pray for his help and guidance. I thank God for His unconditional love!"

As we expand the hours our Adoration Chapel is open, we are looking to fill the Wednesday mornings hours of 7 am – 11 am. We also have a need for prayer partner for Fridays at 9 pm. Please call Kathy at 651-247-5185 or the parish office, if you are interested.



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PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677
 Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ext. 11
 John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
 Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
 Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
 Carol McKenna,ext. 15
FAITH FORMATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT 651-738-0677
 Connie Hill, Director ext. 14
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 Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
PRAYER LINE
 Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290
CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

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BAPTISM - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
RECONCILIATION— Saturday 3:00-3:45pm; after 8:30 am Mass on Friday or by appointment on other days
MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
ANointing OF THE SICK - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-F, Please see signage for hours.
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

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Sunday, September 5
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Is 35:4-7a/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37
 8:30am † Leona Coenen
 11am Parish Mass

Monday, September 6
Weekday
 Col 1:24-2:3/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday, September 7
Weekday
 Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19
 † Joan Miske

Wednesday, September 8
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
 † Joan Bierwerth

Thursday, September 9
Saint Peter Claver, Priest
 Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38
 † Bernard Bearth

Friday, September 10
Weekday
 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Lk 6:39-42
 † Al & Joan Bierwerth

Saturday, September 11
Weekday/BVM
 C1 Tm 1:15-17/Lk 6:43-49(Morning Readings)
 4pm † Nancy Cocchiarella

Sunday, September 12
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Is 50:4c-9a/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35
 8:30am Joe & Margaret Bianconi
 11am Parish Mass

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

September 5—September 12

Sun, Sept 5:	9:30-10:45am Coffee & Donuts
Mon, Sept 6:	*Note: Parish Offices closed for Labor Day
Tues, Sept 7:	10:00am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Wed, Sept 8:	Young at Heart after Mass 6:30pm Adoration Chapel Committee Mtg.
Thurs, Sept 9:	6:30pm Men's Club Meeting
Sun, Sept 12:	9:30-10:45am Coffee & Donuts 9:45am Faith Formation Classes

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

August 28/29, 2021

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 3,034.60
Altar Server Needs:	\$ 260.00
Other:	\$ 55.00
Pampa Fund:	\$ 996.00
Homecoming Donations:	\$ 1,030.00
Total :	\$ 5,375.60

FAITH FORMATION

2021-2022 Classes begin September 12

Faith Formation classes will meet from 9:45 to 10:45 am most Sundays (off for holidays and school breaks.) **Classes include CGS, Sacrament Prep, and RCIA.** Please call the office to inquire.

Help our Confirmation students lead a "dynamic Catholic" life!

Our students are ready for you to walk with them on a journey of sacrament preparation using Decision Point by Dynamic Catholic. Classes are Sunday mornings with a few additional times of service and worship throughout the year. No experience is necessary. VIRTUS E3 credentialing is required. All training is provided. You will give a lot and receive far more! If you or someone you know is living a vibrant Catholic life, connect with Connie about this rewarding ministry.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

Contact Connie to pre-register (no cost) and express interest.

CLW begins September 12 and takes place during the 8:30 am Mass. Children (kindergarten through 3rd/4th grade) hear the Sunday scripture proclaimed and explained at an age-appropriate level. Parents are welcome to join their children and assist with this ministry.

All Faith Formation volunteers must be "Essential 3" compliant by completing an online VIRTUS training, a background check, and Code of Conduct.

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Pontoon ride and fishing outing for Altar Servers

Save the Date of the afternoon of September 12. Call the office with questions.

Thank you to all who serve our Lord at the Holy Altar!

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD UPDATES

Connect with others in a small group starting September 22 in either the morning or evening. Options are 9-11 am or 6-8 pm. Refreshments served. Make your voice heard at the Synod Small Group meetings on Wednesdays this fall. Plan to discuss the Synod Focus Areas.

- **September 22 and 29: Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus's love and respond to his call**
- **October 6 and 13: Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization**
- **October 20 and 27: Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young**

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH

The best way to know what's going on at your parish is to come to Mass. Listen to announcements, see promotional displays, pray and talk with your fellow parishioners. During the week-days, just give the staff a call and we'll be happy to answer your questions, . Find up-to-date info by visiting our website www.blessedsacramentsp.org. Look for what is new under "SYNOD", "UPCOMING", and "PARISH LIFE".

ATTENTION HOSPITALITY MINISTERS AND HOMECOMING FUN FEST VOLUNTEERS

We will have a special CPR & AED review on Saturday, Sept. 11 @ 10:00 AM in the Robertson RM for all of the above mentioned ministers and volunteers.

We need to make sure we all know what to safely do if a parishioner or visitor begins to experience chest pain, dizziness or difficulty breathing. Please plan to attend.

HOMECOMING FUNFEST

Homecoming Funfest Volunteers and cash donations needed ~ We are in need of many volunteers...it's fun, it's easy and greatly needed to help support our Parish event.

Please consider signing up on the volunteer board that is found in the Gathering Space at church or call the parish

office. We also need your money! There are a number of areas that still need cash donations to help offset the expenses. Please mark your check or envelope with HOMECOMING or FUN FEST. Thank you for your generous time and or donations, with your help this event will be a great success!

Thank you, Homecoming Funfest Committee



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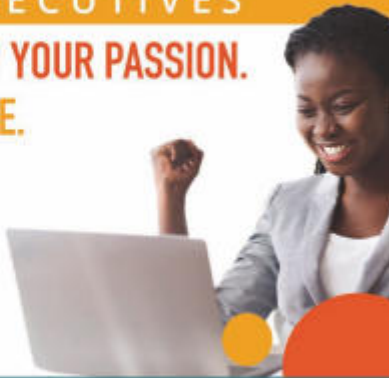
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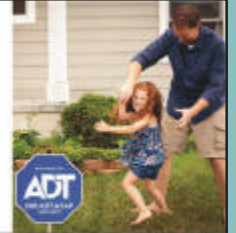


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