



St. Mary's

CATHOLIC CHURCH

1510 HIGHLAND AVE., RED OAK, IOWA 51566



Sept. 4-5, 2021

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



23RD 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

23^{ER} DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Le llevaron entonces a un hombre sordo y tartamudo, y le suplicaban que le impusiera las manos. El lo apartó a un lado de la gente, le metió los dedos en los oídos y le tocó la lengua con saliva. Después, mirando al cielo, suspiró y le dijo: "¡Ephfata!" (que quiere decir "¡Abrete!"). - Mc 7, 32-34

ST. MARY'S MISSION STATEMENT

"Our vision is to see Christ in others and to treat others as Christ, because this is what we believe." As a Catholic community, we gather and celebrate the presence of Christ in sacrifice and sacrament. "Our mission is to support our community by meeting the spiritual, faith formation and other needs of our parishioners."

Welcome! It is our hope that you feel at home and among friends here. If you are a visitor for the day, we pray God's blessings on your journey. If you are looking for a parish community, we would be delighted to welcome you into our parish family. Please join us at the beginning of each mass before the opening song to pray three "Hail Mary's" and a "Glory Be" to end abortion in our country.

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Lazarus Kirigia, Pastor of Red Oak & Imogene

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St. Mary's Parish Website:

www.stmarysredoak.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Closed

Jean -Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m..

Peyton-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Please call the office or Fr. Lazarus prior to visiting the staff so we may assist you best.

PARISH LEADERSHIP

PARISH TRUSTEES

Tom Stamets 712-789-0591

Connie Sampers 623-2369

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Charla Schmid (*Secretary*) 623-4675

Joe Nealon 623-9642

Matt Ross 623-8956

Jeff Grebin, Chair (*Social Justice*) 621-6954

Nancy Nealon (*Arts & Environment*) 623-9642

Charla Schmid (*Music & Liturgy*) 623-4675

Mike Connolly (*Property & Grounds*) 370-9022

Ken Podliska (*Property & Grounds*) 623-3622

Kerry & Elaine Carlson (*Stewardship*) 623-4122

Pat Jensen (*Health & Wellness*) 712-370-2511

Nancy Nealon: Coordinator, Saturday Mass

Tim Schmid: Coordinator, Sunday AM Mass

David Bueno: Coordinator, Spanish Mass

Kim Roberts: Coordinator, RCIA

Vocations: www.vocationsonline.com

Des Moines Diocese Info: www.dmdiocese.org

Catholic Charities: www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org
515-244-3761



Musings From The Pastor.

I remember someone talking to me about how he views Jesus as his friend, his *best* friend. Great, I thought, he has grasped the fundamental truth of our faith. Still a suspicion rose inside me. To make sure I was not harshly

judging him I asked, "Well, I imagine you spend a lot of time with Jesus?"

"Yes, he is with me every moment." Wishing to get more specific I asked, "How much time do you spend in prayer? Mass, maybe a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, prayer by yourself or with other people?" "Oh, I don't need all those rituals," he clarified. "I just know Jesus always accepts me, no matter what."

As the conversation proceeded, it became clear Jesus did not impinge on his life in any significant way. He mainly served as an image to bolster the man's self-esteem, but in an odd way - by assuring him nothing makes any final difference. And they did not reach the heart of friendship: to spend time, a lot of time, talking and listening to each other.

This Sunday Jesus performs a miracle relating to those human faculties. He separates a deaf mute from the crowd, spits to make a rough and ready ointment, as he touches the mouth and ears.

We consider hearing and speech such good things, we do not appreciate the risk Jesus took. After all, what do people mainly hear? Distortions, even outright lies. We do not long to hear good things about others. Suppose I announce that on Wednesday evening I am going to spend two hours telling about all the good things Fr. X has done. I could probably hold the meeting in a storage closet. But imagine I say there have been rumors about Fr. X weaving out of a tavern with a blond on his arm and on Wednesday evening I am holding a meeting to get to the bottom of the accusations. I better reserve the local high school auditorium.

We do not use our hearing well. The same applies to speech. Even though we are capable of saying good things and making beautiful sounds, nevertheless a few ill-spoken words can destroy a life-long relationship. Jesus knew it was a risk to restore a man's ears and tongue, yet he felt it worth taking. Not because we human beings are so great. No, the dividend on the risky investment is that we might hear even one word from the God-man.

We have such a word in today's Gospel. So precious it has been preserved in the original language of Jesus. *Ephphatha*, that is, "Be opened." (Mk 7:34) We might ask how such a word came down to us. The answer is clear. It was the first sound the deaf man ever heard and he treasured it in his heart. (See Lk 2:51) When the crowd rushed to find out what happened, they must have asked what Jesus told him. The man repeated, "Ephphatha."

Jesus restored hearing and speech to underscore the *sine qua non* of the Christian life - prayer. A journalist once asked Pope John Paul what prayer is. The Holy Father did not give a theological discourse. He replied simply, "conversation with God."

For the pope that is not a pious phrase. Reading *Witness to Hope*, what struck me most forcefully is how much time the Holy Father spent in formal prayer. Besides daily Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours, he makes a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament and says at least one, sometimes several rosaries as well as weekly devotions like the Way of the Cross and confession. Don't tell me you are too busy to pray!

Arguably the pope has more responsibility on his shoulders than any other person on the planet, yet he finds much time to listen to and talk with Jesus. Remind me of these words when I whine about having so many things to do that I just can't get in my prayers. I know if a friend shows up, someone I really want to talk to, I do find the time. And Jesus is my best friend - and yours.

A saint who illustrates the importance of listening to Jesus is Thomas Aquinas. Perhaps the greatest intellect in Christian history, he synthesized Greek philosophy, Arabic science, and Jewish wisdom with twelve centuries of Christian tradition. Toward the end of his life he came out of the chapel badly shaken. He told his brothers to burn his books because they were as straw compared to what Jesus had just revealed to him. Fortunately we still have his writings which in comparison to any modern book are like twice refined gold. But still Thomas' vision teaches a great truth. Like the deaf mute, the greatest treasure is to hear a single word from Jesus. *Ephphatha*, that is, "Be Opened."

Have a Blessed Week; Fr. Lazarus Kirigia.

Happy Labor Day!

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Ongoing commitments to the Annual Diocesan Appeal work in quiet, unheralded ways to sustain the Catholic Church in south-west Iowa. We empower others to encounter Christ; we help parish leaders to shepherd the faithful, support local communities of faith, and help people in need as one diocesan family committed to serve and protect one another and bring each other to Christ.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL 2021

Parish ADA Goal	\$ 26,573.00
Amount Paid	\$ 19,117.00
Outstanding pledges (\$ 808.00)	
Balance	\$ 7,456.00

NEW MINISTRY SCHEDULES EMAILED OUT

Many people have requested that the ministry schedules be emailed out instead of printed out. If you did not get one please call the office. Thank you. Jean

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who help with all of the Ministries. We wouldn't be the Parish we are without you. As we are heading in to another year of unknown, we continue to pray for our Parish family.

ST.MARY'S CHURCH BULLETIN SPONSORS

We continue to thank all of our sponsors for their ad space. As a reminder, we ask that all of our parishioners utilize these advertisers whenever possible.



FAITH FORMATION **2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Thank you to the Confirmation students for the help in the garden and the grounds. We will continue working to furnish produce to the food pantry. If anyone else is interested in helping, please call Alan. This is a great service project for those needing service hours. Many hands make light work.

Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmarysfaith> if you have not done so for any updates or information that may be of interest to you.

We are looking for K-6 Family Formation leaders and helpers. Please call Alan at 712-303-2680 if you will help us!

Please see the schedules in the back of the church for both YDisciple and Faith Formation.

Join us Wednesday, September 8 for the rescheduled Ice Cream Social at 7:00 p.m. The entire family is welcome.

Blessings to All! Alan Vonnahme, St. Mary's Catholic Church
Director of Religious Education; stmarysrodre@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Take some time for you this fall by taking part in spiritual exercises compiled by St. Ignatius Loyola. The 32-week transformative journey begins in September through Emmaus House. Go to theemmaushouse.org/spiritual-exercises for more information.

SEMINARIAN COLLECTION

The diocesan-wide Special Collection for Seminarians will be conducted next weekend, September 11th and 12th. This year we recognize that our Priests are called by God to be Men of Communion. As men of communion, Christ is the sustaining force for these men along with the people to whom they minister. Registered households will be receiving a brochure and return envelope in the mail from Bishop Joensen. Gifts to this collection are used to cover tuition, room and board, and provide a small monthly stipend for pre-theologians and theologians. This year, more than \$200,000 is needed to enable the academic formation of our fifteen seminarians. Heartfelt thanks for your prayers and charitable donation to support the seminarians. See the full letter from Bishop Joensen on the bulletin board.

THANK YOU FOR THE BEAUTIFUL CHURCH GROUNDS



Thank you Mike Connolly, Ken Podliska, Hank Latus, Bob Johnson, Jeff Grebin, John Willms and Tim Schmid for all the



work that you did trimming trees, working on the grounds, and hauling all the stuff away! The yards look absolutely wonderful.

RACIAL JUSTICE

As part of the Diocese of Des Moines' engagement on issues related to racial justice a webpage has been created with multiple resources that can be used by families or on one's own to develop knowledge, aid in conversion of heart, and inspire action to address systemic and interpersonal racisms. Go to our website at dmdiocese.org/racism to learn more.

Readings for the week of September 5, 2021

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37; St. Teresa of Calcutta

Monday: Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/Lk 6:6-11; Blessed Claudio Granzotto

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk 6:12-19; Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c [Is 61:10]/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/Lk 6:27-38; St. Peter Claver

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5]/Lk 6:39-42; St. Thomas of Villanova

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [2]/Lk 6:43-49; St. Cyprian

Next Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Catholic Charities Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program is preparing for the Annual Community Baby Shower! This event is held each year in October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Statistics show that pregnant women are 60x more likely to be abused by their partner. The Community Baby Shower will be a Drive-Thru/Walk-Up event, where families will receive a packet of information from community resources, as well as a box of needed baby items. This is the 7th year that this event will be hosted, and it will take place on October 15, 2021, from 4-6pm. We would like to receive all donations by October 5, 2021.

Catholic Charities is seeking donations of unused newborn items to distribute at this event. Most needed items include newborn and size 1 diapers and onesies, diaper cream, bottles, blankets, pacifiers, baby wash/lotion/towels/wash clothes, healthcare and grooming kits.. Financial donations are also welcomed and appreciated. The list is posted in the back of the church.

For more information or to discuss making a donation to the Community Baby Shower, please contact Linda at (712) 256-2059 ext. 109, P.O. 497, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0497 or by email at lrobicheau@catholiccharitiesdm.org. We appreciate your consideration!



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Saturday-Sept. 11-No Mass

Sunday-Sept. 12

Lector: Connie Sampers

Altar Servers: Jameson & Quinn McDonald

Min. of Communion: Jeff Grebin

Homebound: Mark Johnson

Greeter/Usher: Tim Schmid / Kerry & Elaine Carlson

Musician/Singers: Charla Schmid / Ann Ross & Jim Kearney

Sacristan: Tim Schmid

Money Counters: Kim Cileli / Connie Sampers

We will be having a Bilingual Mass every third Sunday of the month. Thank you to all who participate in our masses.

We are now streaming Mass from St. Mary's on Facebook. You do NOT need to have an account to watch.

CONGRATULATIONS



We welcome Bill and Peyton Honeyman's new baby girl to our family! Elizabeth (Betty) Katherine Honeyman was born 8/25/21!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Dan Bruning

Josh Watson

Homebound Parishioners

Patricia Menendez

Len & Fran Ross

Teresa Navarro Bueno

Easton Koelker

Teresa Williams

Maggie Abbuhl

Lydia Paulsen

Ken Steffen



If you or someone you know would like to be on the prayer list, please call the office so that we may add their name in the bulletin

RESOURCES FOR HISPANIC COMMUNITY

If you have families that have lost their employment and their source of income and they need some assistance, they can call the 211 hotline, text your zip code to 898211, or visit www.211iowa.org

IOWA LEGAL AID'S FARMWORKER POLICY

There is Free Legal Services for Eligible Individuals/Servicios Legales Gratuitos Para Personas Elegibles. Call 1-800-532-1275 if interested.

HISPANIC MINISTRY-IOWA PBS

Get health and safety news in Spanish during the COVID-19 crisis through Iowa PBS. Iowa PBS to offer Spanish language safety information amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

BAPTISM: Please call the office to schedule the Baptism. A class is required for first-time parents.

RCIA: Each Fall the parish forms a group of adults who are interested in becoming Catholic, or in leaning about the faith. Contact the Parish Office or Fr. Lazarus.

CARE OF THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Lazarus to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, or if you would like a visit while in the hospital or Communion brought to your home.

MARRIAGE: Couples planning a wedding at St. Mary's should contact Fr. Lazarus at least 6 months prior to the wedding to begin the preparation process.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday-September 4

- 5:00 p.m. Mass in Red Oak-Diane Bruning+

Sunday-September 5

- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Imogene
- 10:30 a.m. Mass in Red Oak-Ernest Mutschler+
- 1:00 p.m. Spanish Mass-Jose' Santana Garcia

Monday-September 6-Labor Day-Office Closed

- 7:00 p.m. Holy Grounds-Church Hall

Tuesday- September 7

- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Imogene
- Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday-September 8

- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Red Oak

Thursday-September 9

- 6:00 a.m. Adoration Begins
- 5:15 p.m. Rosary
- 6:00 p.m. Mass in Imogene
- 8:00 p.m. Spanish Rosary

Friday-September 10

- 6:00 a.m. Adoration Ends
- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Red Oak-Members of the Parish

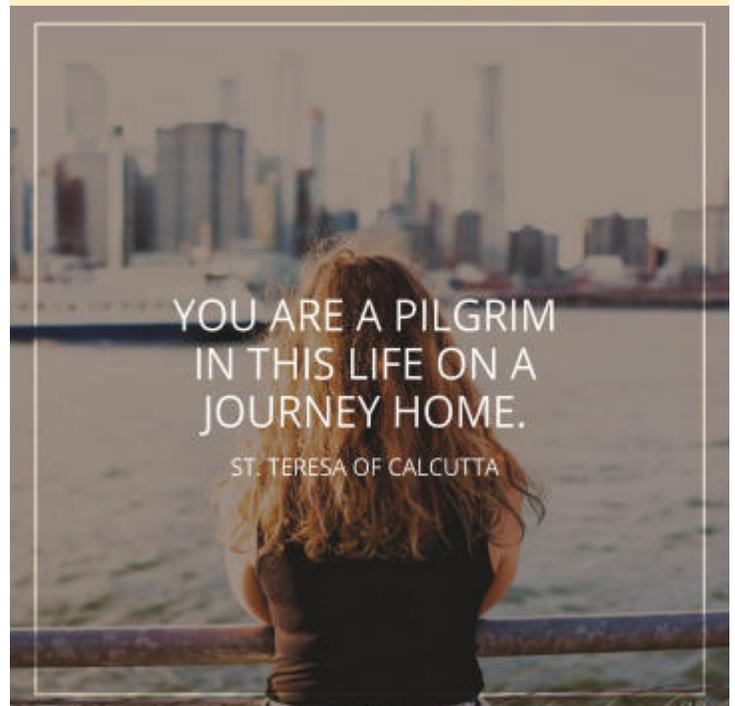
Saturday-September 11

- 5:00 p.m. Mass in Imogene

Sunday-September 12-Seminarian Special Collection

Grandparents Day

- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Imogene
- 10:30 a.m. Mass in Red Oak-Paul Lydon+
- 1:00 p.m. Spanish Mass



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