



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

ST. MARK PARISH



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The 2021 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) is in progress. I thank you for your sacrificial contribution to this annual Archdiocesan campaign. Any amount is greatly appreciated and it brings us closer to our goal of \$31,546. As of August 24, we have reached about 64% of our assessed target. This is a huge financial challenge for our parish, as we consider the current economic situation, and the fact that the majority of our parishioners are living on a fixed income. We hope that each household will be willing and able to assist our parish family with this worthy and important appeal – as we support a multitude of services and ministries.

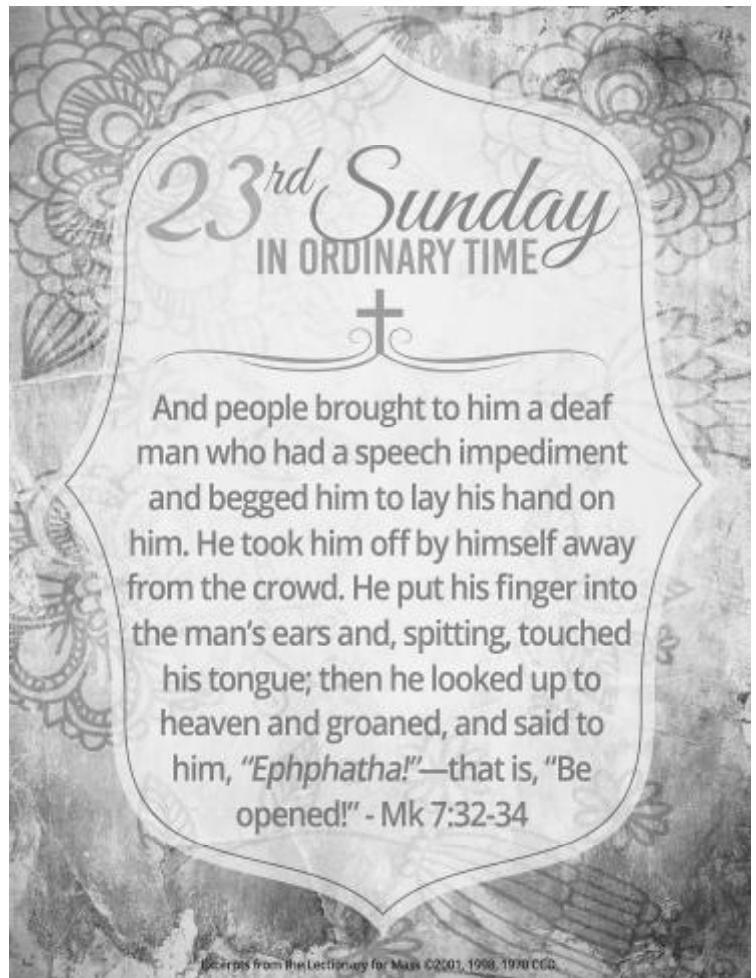
Our registered parishioners should have received "CSA packets" directly from the accounting company which is handling and processing the CSA campaign for the Archdiocese. If you have not received any materials, please call our parish office for information. This year's theme, **Fuel the Mission**, is inspired by the words of St. Paul: "Whatever you do, do from the heart" (Colossians 3:23). In the spirit of individual and communal mission to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ, I ask you for your generous contribution.

In Christ's abundant Life,
Fr. Stanley

MISSION STATEMENT

As the Eucharistic family of St. Mark Parish, we are called to welcome, love and serve. We continue the mission of Jesus Christ: "to transform our lives and believe in the Good News."

(Mark 1:15)



SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

GOSPEL MEDITATION

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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LIVE THE LITURGY

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. We face brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. For no apparent reason, life can quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar is gone and something we relied upon is taken away. We are left sitting with our incompleteness and swimming in the pools of our sadness. Be strong! Fear not! These admonitions flow from the mouths of prophets and are echoed by Jesus. It is difficult to trust that restoration, healing, and rejuvenation will one day come, and remain steadfast in our faith. But we are here because of a God who loves us, not as the result of a random occurrence. When we reach for that truth about who we are and who God is, life changes for us. We are healed from our old distorted way of seeing things. Our eyes, heart, and soul are opened to the beauty and magnificence of life. The pulse of our loving Creator is felt in all things and we can’t wait for God to come and touch us again. God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. He has done all things well.

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Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina (Latin for “Divine Reading”) is a traditional practice of spiritual reading of the Holy Bible. It provides a great way to enter into the heart of biblical wisdom for individuals, families, and prayer groups. Although any Scripture passage can be used, it is especially beneficial to choose a selection from Sunday readings to prepare ourselves for the Holy Mass. Any quiet place can become a “prayer room.” *Lectio Divina* is not an academic analysis of the Sacred text, or a “Bible study” intended for gaining information. Rather, this “ancient” spiritual practice enables an individual seeking enlightenment and Biblical truth to experience a transforming relationship with the living Word of God. Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, we recognize and meditate upon the unfolding way of salvation, and enter into a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Lectio Divina consists of four phases:

Read (Lectio)

After a brief prayer to the Holy Spirit, read the passage slowly and prayerfully several times. Place yourself in the scene and listen attentively with your inner-being. A word or phrase will stand out and draw your attention – repeat it with trust, openness, and receptivity. Let it speak to your mind and heart. When distractions or painful memories arise, do not fight them forcefully – but give them all to the healing grace of God.

Reflect (Meditatio)

When a word or phrase touches you, take time to reflect and ponder it – allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal and convey spiritual truth. Notice how the word is giving you insight or challenges you. Perhaps it is calling you to some action or giving you the grace of comfort, peace, joy, courage, and hope. Do not “over-analyze” the spiritual message given to you in the present moment – but remain watchful and open to the unfolding of divine wisdom.

Pray (Oratio)

As you reflect, a prayer will arise within you. Enter into the dialogue with God by attentive listening, or by using words, thoughts or images which have been generated by the Sacred text. Interact with the Lord as you would with someone who cares about you, accepts you, and loves you. Share with the loving God your inmost needs, desires, and feelings. Communicate in the spirit of gratefulness, repentance, praise, and intercession. Let your mind and heart speak to God as the Spirit moves you.

Rest (Contemplatio)

Now try to let go of ideas, subjects, and dialogue. Allow the spiritual message and your attentiveness to move from the mind and the heart - to the soul. Silently rest in God’s loving, healing, and regenerating presence. In this human-divine encounter contemplate the enlivening presence of our heavenly Father; enter into the redeeming grace of Christ, and breathe the new life of the Holy Spirit. This mutual indwelling gradually awakens us to our true-self, reveals the real face of God, and has a profoundly transforming effect on the way we are, live, and act. “In God we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

In Christ’s abundant Life,
Fr. Stanley

NEWS & EVENTS

THE WORD

Readings for the week of September 5, 2021

- Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37
- Monday: Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:6-11
- Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11/Lk 6:12-19
- Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a /Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
- Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 6:27-38
- Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/Lk 6:39-42
- Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/Lk 6:43-49
- Next Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35



Saturday, September 4

- 4:00 pm Frances Szpont
Peter & Maria Skikun
Steve Patrishkoff

Sunday, September 5

- 8:30 am Robert Grigg
Lorraine Dombecki
Jerome Tobin
Anthony Kasprzak
Jackie Loch

- 11:00 am Patricia & Ray Kusza
Nole & Patrick Wernette
Kristine Haws
Earl & Marilyn Parrish

Saturday, September 11

- 4:00 pm Herbert Dempz
Isabelle McLaughlin
Nancy Rezich
Whitney Gossett

Sunday, September 12

- 8:30 am Leon & Dolores
Kozemchak
Victor Palushaj
Jackie Loch

- 11:00 am Linda Galindo
Danuta Pustelnik
Jason Pustelnik
Earl & Marilyn Parrish

Wednesday, September 8

- 9:30 am The People of St. Mark

ST. MARK OUTREACH



The Pantry Needs:

Cereal
Peanut Butter

Thank you so much for
food and monetary
donations.



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the importance of being strong of heart when it comes the ways of God. Why do you think this is such an important virtue?

Second Reading:

James encouraged believers to view the rich and poor from God's perspective. Why do you think people struggle with this divine point of view?

Gospel:

In today's reading, we hear how Jesus healed the deaf man with a speech impediment at the request of the "people" close to this man. Who do you know in your life who needs healing from Jesus?

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PRAYER & WORSHIP

PRAYER INTENTIONS



Julia Dehring

Eleanor Dehring

Richard Harrison

Mary Hernandez

Theresa Lawrence

Tim Reiter

Only immediate family members may request a 'prayers for the sick' listing. Call the Parish Center: 586-759-3020. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks.

POPE TWEETS

"What is the secret of a blessed life, a happy life? Recognizing Jesus as the living God. For it is not important to know that Jesus was great in history. What matters is the place I give him in my life."

- Pope Francis

@Pontifex Twitter (August 30, 2021)

PRAYERS FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE IN OUR ARMED FORCES.



WE PRAY FOR ALL OF OUR MILITARY, & PARTICULARLY:

Sr. CPO Michael Brightman

Lt. Commander Adam Craig

LCPL Sarah J Page

Sgt. Steven Parisi

Major Michael F. Weigle

Family members who wish to have their loved ones prayed for may do so by submitting names to the parish office.

Prayer Resources

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come. Before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us.

Amen.



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Parish Fax: 586-759-3024

E-mail: parishcenter@stmarkparishwarren.org

WEBSITES

Parish: www.stmarkparishwarren.com

Central Macomb Vicariate: www.cmvic.net

Archdiocese of Detroit: www.aod.org

STAFF LISTING

PASTORAL TEAM

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Deacon George Posavetz, (Deacon Emeritus)

Gwen Aikens, Outreach Coordinator

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Amanda Brewer, Religious Formation / Bulletin Editor

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Steve Martin, Maintenance Supervisor

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Mary Jo Ruebelman,

Office Manager / Worship Coordinator

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chris Bailey

Cynthia Filipovich

Diane Hamilton

Tom Harm

Phyllis Wisniewski (Christian Formation)

Karen Kowalski (Stewardship)

Michael Powell (Worship)



STEWARDSHIP



OUR FINANCIAL SACRIFICE TO ST. MARK PARISH

We thank you for your generosity.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

Parents are asked to contact the Parish Center Office to arrange for Baptism instruction and a date for the Baptism.

MARRIAGES

Couples wishing to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony at St. Mark Parish are asked to allow at least six months to complete arrangements.

RECONCILIATION

Private Confessions: Saturday 3:00 PM.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

LAST Sunday of every month after all Masses.

View this bulletin online at www.parishesonline.com

Photographs are taken at all public parish events for use on the St. Mark Parish website. For questions or concerns, please contact the Parish Center Office.



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