

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

*Did not God choose those who are poor  
in the world to be rich in faith and heirs  
to the kingdom?*

— James 2:5

### THE MESSIAH FORETOLD

Today's story of the cure of a deaf man with a speech impediment is a good example of how much is contained in a simple miracle story. The Greek word *mogilalos* appears only here in all of the New Testament. It is a technical term referring to someone with a stammer. It is also used only once in the entire Jewish scriptures, in the passage that we read today as our first reading from Isaiah. Clearly, by his choice of this precise word Mark wants us to recognize that what Jesus is doing is the fulfillment of what Isaiah had predicted centuries earlier. In fact, Mark wants us to recognize that Jesus is the Messiah foretold by Isaiah and the other Jewish prophets of old. The word *ephphatha*, "be opened," used to describe the restoration of the man's speech, is another example of a subtle allusion to an earlier prophecy. This time the prophecy in question is from Ezekiel, when he foretells that in the messianic age, "your mouth shall be opened to speak" (24:26). The sophistication of Mark's narrative is further revealed when we realize that there are multiple levels within a single reference. Mark not only draws our attention back to Israel's prophetic past, he also points to the initiatory practice of his contemporaries by his mention of such things as spittle, touching of ears, and the use of the word *ephphatha*, all of which were practices incorporated into the early Church's baptismal ritual.

### TODAY'S READINGS

**FIRST READING** — Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God (*Isaiah 35:4-7a*).

**PSALM** — Praise the Lord, my soul!  
(Psalm 146).

**SECOND READING** — Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ (*James 2:1-5*).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### TODAY'S GOSPEL

— *Jesus makes the deaf hear and the mute speak  
(Mark 7:31-37).*



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Col 1:24 — 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11, or, for Labor Day, any readings from the Mass "For the Blessing of Human Labor," nos.907-911
- Tuesday:** Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19
- Wednesday:** Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6  
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]
- Thursday:** Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38
- Friday:** 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11;  
Lk 6:39-42
- Saturday:** 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49
- Sunday:** Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18;  
Mk 8:27-35

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

- Sunday:** Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** **Labor Day;**  
Rosh Hashanah  
Jewish New Year 5782) begins at sunset
- Wednesday:** The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Thursday:** St. Peter Claver
- Saturday:** Patriot Day;  
Blessed Virgin Mary



Must wear mask at all times – to attend.

### SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. (Live)

10:00 a.m. (Live & Recorded)

### WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. MASS (Live)

6:00 p.m. PRAYER MEETING

### FEAST OF FAITH

#### Remembering

When Jesus broke the bread on the night before he died, he told his disciples, "do this in memory of me" (Luke 22:19). Christians have been faithful to that solemn nor is it merely historical, recalling events and facts of long ago. In the liturgy, remembering is action. "Do this," Jesus said. In the Eucharist, we remember by doing. And as we remember, the sacrifice of Jesus is renewed, truly made present, no longer then, but now. After the consecration, each of the Eucharistic Prayers includes a section called the anamnesis, a Greek word that means "remembering." In this part of the prayer, "the Church, fulfilling the command that she received from Christ the Lord through the Apostles, keeps the memorial of Christ, recalling especially his blessed Passion, glorious Resurrection, and Ascension into heaven" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 79e). We pause and call to mind the whole paschal mystery, Christ's dying and rising. "We celebrate the memory of his death and resurrection" (Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II). Obeying Christ's command, we remember. –Corinna Laughlin, Copyright© J.S. Paluch Co.

### CONDOLENCE

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Alyce Edwards, and Peter Edwards, whose brother, **Mr. Timothy Edwards**, passed on to be with our Lord on Sunday, August 29, 2021.

Services for Mr. Edwards:

TUESDAY September 7th:

VISITATION: L. A. Jones Chapel

WEDNESDAY: 11:00 a.m.

FUNERAL MASS: September 8, at St. Monica

### OUR SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

*Please notify Father Leonard when you or a family member has become homebound or placed in a hospital. Call the Church Office, 816-471-3696.*

Edith Bolder, Home, Jeanette Hamilton, Home, Rosa Birch, Home, Sandra Cloyd, Home, Delores Bazy, Home, Vera brown, Home, Kevin Brown, Home, Ray Myers, Home, John Johnson, Home, vanucille Bartlett, Home, Mary Ann Grayson, Home, Donald and Mable Parson, Home, *Sergio Mendoza*, Home, Michael Lucas, Home, Herman Lovett, Paris Harrington, Home, Earl Greene, Home, Ovell and Francis Thomas, Home, Dorothy Mustin, Home, Earnestine Nard, Home, Barbara Parks, Rehab., James Davison, Home, Flora Waddell, Home, Elaine Lomax, Home, Dr. James Birch, , Rehab, Donna Dupree. Providence Hospital

### LOVE, LOSS, AND ENDURANCE

**9/11** Twentieth Anniversary Prayer Service  
With Bill Tammeus, at ST. FRANCES XAVIER CHURCH,  
*Kansas City's Jesuit Parish*

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 -7:00 p.m.**

Join us for a time of prayer, reflection, remembrance  
and commitment to action.

### CONDOLENCE

*Memorial Service for Donna Russell (mother of Keva Alexander) will be on held September 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Monica.*

### CONDOLENCE

Funeral Services for Veronica Matthews, sister of Latrice Johnson, will be held in St. Louis MO, on Saturday, September 11, 2021.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families,  
during this time of mourning.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Hello St. Monica family & Friends,

Thanks to many of you who were able to join us in person but also virtually as we celebrated the feast of our parish last Sunday. Some of you have commented to me that it was a grace filled celebration and blessing to them. Thanks to many of you who organized and put a lot of work behind the scenes. God bless.

This weekend we are **celebrating Labor Day**. It's a holiday that reminds us the greatest gift that God gave to humanity. The gift of work and to be co-creators with Him. For work is not only meant to pay our bills and meet our physical needs but spiritually its supposed to bring us joy, fulfillment , satisfaction and a change into our world. In other words we are called to be stewards of God's creation through our work. Stewardship begins with the humble recognition that all I have: my life, my time, my talent, my treasure and my work is a gift from God. This is important because it's so easy to slip into a consumeristic mentality and start to ask, "What am I going to get out of this? Or what's the return on my investment?" We don't give because we expect something back, rather we give as an expression of our gratitude and our desire to use our gifts and work to glorify God, to help others and to further the mission of the church.

One way of furthering the mission of our parish is by participating in our **Forward in Faith** campaign, which I launched in fall of 2019. It has been a great success in raising a substantial amount of money to meet our parish debt arrears. So far we have raised over \$80,000. Thanks to all of you who have sacrificed, given and even supported this campaign. May God bless you.

As you can imagine there is still more work to be done in order to meet our \$150,000 threshold. Stewardship is organizing an auction this coming November and I am asking to support this auction as you did last year. More details will be communicated in these coming weeks in terms of how you can donate auction items or even how you can participate to make this parish fundraiser a success.

May God bless the work of your hands!

*Fr. Leonard*