

September 4, 2022: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means “Be opened!”). At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened, and he began to speak plainly.” Mark 7:32

Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today’s reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus’ healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God’s grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Jesus takes no less than seven steps to perform the miracle in today’s gospel. Since He could have simply said, “Be healed,” and the man would have been healed, it is important to note all that Jesus does. The touching of the ears and the tongue communicate to the man, who cannot hear, what Jesus is doing. Even the seemingly odd gesture of spitting communicates this, as saliva was viewed as medicinal in the ancient world. All of this physicality should remind us of the sacraments, which are outward, tangible signs that point to an inward reality.

For example, the water in baptism communicates to us visibly, through our five senses, the invisible cleansing of sin that results. Also, the bread and wine in the Eucharist that we experience with our senses communicates to us the invisible reality of the presence of the body and blood of Jesus. God works through the material world to connect us with the spiritual realm. He takes what is familiar and accessible to us in order to give us His grace and love, just like He did to the deaf man here. The healing of the deaf man also fulfills the prophesy of Isaiah in today’s first reading, indicating that Jesus brings new life to the dry and desolate land of our hearts. He is God who “comes to save you.” He heals our souls, opening our spiritual senses so we can know, love, and serve Him.

Mark shows that Jesus’ own mission affirms the early Church’s mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark’s Gospel and is sometimes called the “messianic secret.

Loyolapress.com

September 4, 2022
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ

Parish Information

Pastor: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Administrator: Joseph Stany Moothedan

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Friday: 8:30 am- 12:30 pm

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8
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www.sacredheartrcparish.ca
Diocesan website: rcchurch.com



Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am

Mass During Week:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7 pm.
Friday at 10 am.

Lohnes Complex

First Fridays - 2 pm at the Lohnes Complex, ***closed to public.***

Bible Study:

Cancelled for summer.

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Post-poned until further notice.

Reconciliation:

By request.

Marriages:

Six months’ notice required. A year’s notice is recommended.

Baptisms:

Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

Family Connections:

At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.

St. Vincent de Paul:

To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS
August 20th - August 21st, 2022

Regular Sunday	\$1512.00
Building Fund	20 .00
Word Among us	5.00
St. Vincent de Paul	20.00
Insurance	5.00
Building Fund (Roof)	800.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue. 7 pm	Late Mary Gallant
Wed. 7 pm	Deceased members of the Robertson family
Thu. 7 pm	Special Intention- Dedication of Cathedral
Fri. 10:00 am	Late Robyn Griffin
Sat. 4:30 pm	Late Bridget & Jordan Blackwood
Sun. 11 am	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

September 10	
John Carroll	Don Gallant Joan Penney
September 11	
Victoria Murphy	Eileen Moore Marie Pennell
Communion to the Sick – John Carroll	

LABOUR DAY: Labour Day weekend marks the end of the summer vacation period and the resumption of activities in home, parish, and school. Our Parishes take this weekend as an opportunity to encourage active and renewed participation in our parish community.

MASS REQUESTS: Our current list is almost exhausted. This is a good time to request Masses and have them said in a timely manner.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The last meeting of the current parish council takes place on Monday September 12th at 6pm at the church meeting room. Please make every effort to attend.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: Soon our children will be returning to school. This is a time of great excitement, with numerous trips to the store to stock up on school supplies, clothes, and other essentials. We would like to be part of your family's return-to-school plans, dedicating the **Sunday, September 11th morning Mass** to the families of our parish. We ask all students to bring their backpacks (old or new, empty, or full, it doesn't matter) so that the priest can bless them and bless the children as well. Please mark your calendar

LADIES AND MENS GROUP SPECIAL

COMBINED MEETING – roof fund: There will be a special meeting held on Thursday, Sept 8th at 6pm in the church meeting room. All members of both groups are encouraged to attend.

ROOF CAMPAIGN: In deciding to proceed with the steel roof, the parish finance committee also decided that we need to encourage a special fundraising effort to cover its cost. We know times are tough, and there is not much room for extra giving, however this is a project for the long-term sustainability of your parish church. We need you to make a special effort and dig deep to help us replenish our parish account after paying for our new roof. It is hoped that this campaign along with special fund raising will raise most of the estimated cost of \$75,000.⁰⁰.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST: For the small businesses - We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving communities.

PARISH COUNCIL: Thank you to those who serve on our parish Council. Every year three council members finish their terms in September. We will need new members to have a full slate. If you know someone who would be a good member, please speak with them and put their name forward for election. Mike Leonard, Victoria Murphy, and Brian Sparkes are the three people that finish their term this September. Thank you very much to all who served on the parish council.

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning. Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

MASS INTENTION FORMS: Now available at the church are mass intention forms and envelopes for your convenience.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL: Friday September 9th is the 66th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception. Our Cathedral was dedicated and opened in 1956. As a structure it dominates the scenery of Corner Brook and is a testament to the faith of the parish community that built such a church. Please take a moment on Friday to pray for our Cathedral, our cathedral parish and the whole diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador.

This date is also the 167th anniversary of the dedication of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist in St. John's.



HUMOUR:

"What do a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common?" "

"They're both Paris-sites."

"Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself?"

"It was two tired."

"Where do you learn to make a banana split?"

"Sundae school."