



SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



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THEN WILL THE EYES OF  
THE BLIND BE OPENED

the ears of the deaf be cleared;  
then will the lame leap like a stag,  
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Isaiah 35:5-6

SEPTEMBER

5  
2021

## Reflection for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

“*Ephphatha!*”— that is, “Be opened!” — And immediately the man’s ears were opened.” Mark 7:34

St. Mark the Evangelist uses the very word spoken by Our Lord when he cured the deaf and mute man in this Sunday’s Gospel story. It is an Aramaic word, the language Jesus used when he spoke to the common people. The word must have made a tremendous impression because the Aramaic word is retained in telling the story of the miracle of this cure. In fact, this miracle is recalled in the rite of baptism when the priest or deacon touches the ears and mouth of the newly baptized child and says, “The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.” Jesus speaks sternly when he says, “This people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears,” Mt. 13:15.

If we want to be true Disciples of Christ, we need to hear with more than just our ears—we also need to hear with our hearts—and that’s not always easy to do. Last week I wrote that we should examine our hearts regularly, even daily. There’s an ‘ear’ in the middle of your heart. We have to use it to listen to our conscience. I want to give you five easy steps to listening with the ears of your heart what your conscience is telling you. Examining ones conscience is necessary if we are to grow in self-knowledge and knowledge of God’s will for us.

**The first step** is simply to count your blessings and give thanks to God for favors received since the last time you examined your conscience. How has God shown His love for you this day? It is important to recognize how God loves you. We often fail to recognize how we are loved and blessed by God. This is important if we are to have a proper knowledge of our sins which in one way or another are the ways we fail to respond to God’s love. **The second step**, then, is to ask for the grace to know my sins. Knowledge of our sins is principally the enlightenment given us by the Holy Spirit. We cannot properly know our sins without grace. God knows us better than we know ourselves. He will bring to light the defects I need to know about now. **The third step** follows easily; to examine my thoughts, words and deeds from the time I got out of bed till the moment this “listening session.” There is usually one sort of sin or defect which is the source of other sins. It is good to focus on one particular defect or sin at a time. **The fourth step** is to ask pardon of the Lord for my sins. You would think this would be easy, but it is also a work of the Holy Spirit to have genuine sorrow for our sins. That is why we should always pray for the grace to be truly sorry for our sins, just as we pray to know them. To know our sins and to be sorry for them is a work of the Holy Spirit. That is why the priest says, when he absolves someone, that the Father of mercies has sent the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins. **The fifth and final step** of the examination of conscience is a prayer to amend the defect of our sins with God’s help. We can only succeed in doing this if we resolve to ground ourselves in God’s love, something we recalled in the first step of our examination. We might conclude with the Our Father or some other favorite prayer of ours.

The examination of conscience, then, is an excellent way to listen to God speaking to our hearts. “My sheep know my voice.” (John 10:27). Hearing the Lord speak to you is such a blessing, so if you haven’t been using the “ear” in your heart to hear from Him, why not start today? “If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts,” Ps. 95

Let us journey together in faith.

~ Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.



Knights of Columbus #14139 Fr. Bach-Bro. Angel de Santa Cruz Church  
MEN’S RETREAT

CALLING ALL FAITH-FILLED MEN AND YOUNG MEN. WE WILL  
BE HOSTING A MEN’S RETREAT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021  
BEGINS AT 9AM FINISHING WITH MASS AT 5:30PM  
THE CAPILLA DE GUADALUPE 409 E. 31st ST, 85713

THE DAY WILL CONSIST OF:

PRAYERS, EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, CONFESSION, ROSARY,  
INSPIRATIONAL TALKS, CONCLUDED WITH HOLY MASS  
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED  
TO HELP ENSURE ENOUGH FOOD PLEASE RSVP YOUR  
HEADCOUNT BY TEXTING (520)789-8203

**Come Celebrate the Patronal Feast of Santa Cruz Parish (Holy Cross)**

Parish Social on Sunday, September 12th, 2021

2pm to 6pm.

DINNER • 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

El Casino Ball Room 437 E. 26th St, Tucson, AZ

This church event is free.

If you are interested in attending this event, please pick up a dinner ticket on any of these days:

Tue. 9/7, Wed. 9/8, or Thur. 9/9

**From 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm inside the church.**



**HOLY HOUR**

Please join us for a Holy Hour in Honor of Saint Joseph with Evening Prayer and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the church.



**Religious Education**

Registration for catechism classes will continue until September 17. Regular classes and First Holy Communion and First Confession classes will begin on Saturday, September 18. All Classes are limited in number of students because of distancing rules. Please contact the Religious Education Office at 882-9687, for information and to set your appointment to register your child. Teen Confirmation class will begin on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and parents need to call the office before you register to get the important information about what you need to register your teen.



Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger  
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish  
1220 South Sixth Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website [santacruzchurchtucson.com](http://santacruzchurchtucson.com) ~

~ Email [santacruzparish@hotmail.com](mailto:santacruzparish@hotmail.com) ~

**Business Hours** Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

**Closed for lunch** 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.  
In Residence: Rev. Jose Luis Ferroni, O.C.D.  
In Residence: Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

*Mass Intentions*

**Saturday, September 4th**

8:00am In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

5:30pm Joe De La Cruz, Jr./R.I.P.

**Sunday, September 5th**

6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners

8:00am Special Int./Amelia Casado

10:00am Rosemary Rosas/R.I.P.

12:00pm Avelardo & Eugenia Morales/R.I.P.

6:00pm Special Int./Janet Clausen

In Honor of Saint Joseph  
Hilario Casado/R.I.P.

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Humberto Garcia/R.I.P.

Sam Longo/R.I.P.

In Honor of Saint Joseph

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Gail Lonergan/Happy Birthday

Joanne Badua/Happy Birthday  
Special Int./Hannah Rose

3rd Domingo de cada Mes

Capilla de Guadalupe

8:00 am

**Misa Carmelitana**

Celebrante Padre Jose Luis Ferroni, O.C.D.



**Parish Collection August 29th, 2021**

**Collection: \$ 4,628.70**

*Thank you and God bless your generosity!  
¡Gracias y que Dios bendiga su generosidad!*

**New Parishioners: Always welcome!**

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

\*Please note that the 12 noon Mass is following full COVID protocols: social distancing, masks required and distancing in pews

**Masses: Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, \*12 noon & 6 pm**

**8 am Spanish at Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street)**

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

**Confession:** Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Baptisms:** Call the parish office for more information / Llame a la oficina parroquial

**Matrimony:** Please call at least six months in advance.

*Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.*

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: (520) 624-2093

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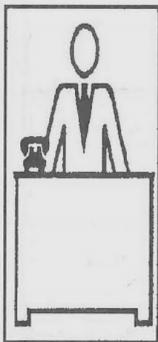
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