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ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L.



September 8, 2024

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Masses in Masontown

Monday, Wednesday, Friday .. 8:00 am
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday..... 8:00 am & 11:30 am

Confessions: Saturday 5:00-5:30 pm

Adoration: First & Third
Fridays - 4:30 to 6:00 pm

Masses in Footedale

Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 am
Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday..... 9:30 am

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm

Adoration: Second & Fourth
Wednesdays - 12:30 to 2:00 pm

Office Hours: Monday through
Friday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Bulletin Articles: The deadline
for placing articles in the bulletin
is Monday at Noon.

New Parishioners, Welcome!
Please register as soon as possible.



"BE OPENED!" - MK 7:34

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Twenty third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



Mk 7:31-37

I watched a video clip on YouTube about a 2 year old young boy who had a hearing impairment discovered by his parents a few months after his birth. Being deaf also affects his speech improvement. Seeing the predicament of their boy, the parents bought him a specialized hearing aid for kids. The video shows the time when he was fitted with the hearing aid and for the first time, he heard the sound of his mother's voice. His reaction to the sound of his mother calling his name was so epic. The smile on his face was so beautiful to behold. While he was smiling, the tears welled-up on his eyes and the innocent face of the little boy lit up with much joy. I can't forget the mixed emotions displayed on the face of that little boy. Smiling and at the same time crying in a joyful fashion. After viewing that video, I was so touched that I thanked God for the gift of technology that makes life better for people who really need it.

God created all of us with five senses (sight, taste, hearing, smell and touch). It is also widely accepted that there is a sixth sense where people can see beyond the normal things perceived by the five senses. It is called extrasensory perception. God has equipped us with these faculties to help us navigate life with ease and ultimately assists us in discerning the fundamental truths about our creator and being able to connect ourselves to the reality of his creation. Thus, affirming the relationship and connection between us and God. We heard in the Gospel this Sunday that our Lord Jesus healed a man with an impaired hearing. Just like the boy in that youtube video, this man has also a speech impediment caused by being deaf. In the story, our Lord Jesus cured the man and restored his hearing along with his speech impediment. He used the word "Ephphatha" which means "Be opened" to effect the miraculous healing of the deaf man.

Delving on the significance of the word "Ephphatha", I do believe that it is not only for the opening or curing of impaired hearing but also opening the new horizon of that deaf man's life. Putting it plainly, the restoration and normality of his life. All of us are being reminded of this Gospel that we must be more appreciative of the faculties given to us by God and use it accordingly not only for the benefit of ourselves but precisely for situations that we can be of help to others. Be grateful then if you have all the five senses and pray for those who are suffering from impaired faculties. Be always ready to assist those who need our help.

EPHPHATHA! Be open to live our lives to the fullest with much love and care for one another.

BE OPENED (Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman)

There are several moments throughout the calendar year when we are tricked into thinking we can reinvent ourselves. One of them is New Year's Day. The barista at my coffee shop told me that they sell more decaf coffee in January than in the entirety of the remaining year, because everyone is swearing off caffeine. By February, she said, the trend subsides: folks have realized they're not actually superheroes just because the last digit of the year has increased by one.

The beginning of a new school year is another of those moments. Every pencil is freshly sharpened, and every lesson plan is painstakingly plotted. Our heads are full of what we plan to do this year, how we plan to do it, who we plan to become, but by May, the wind is out of our sails. We've learned the concepts, we've used up the pencils, yes - but we've remembered that underneath it all we're basically the same people, with the same shortcomings and the same obstacles as we always were. The only difference in September was we had new planners.

The truth is that we cannot reinvent ourselves. We can't change ourselves at all, not on New Year's Day or the first day of school or on our 40th birthday or after quitting a bad habit. We are what we are: blind in some ways, deaf in others, crippled in still more, moving through life with uncertainty, stumbling in the dark.

People don't change. Not without miracles ... but being a Christian means believing in miracles and being ready for them at any moment - in January or in September, in the middle of a hopeless week or at the end of a bad day, when you feel strong and when you don't, when you want to be better and when you feel too tired to try.

No, we can't change ourselves, but we can *be* changed. There is one who can change us if we will let him. He is waiting - now, tomorrow, yesterday, next week. The time is always right for a miracle.

*"He put his finger into the man's ears ... and said to him, 'Ephphatha!' - that is, 'Be opened!'
- And immediately the man's ears were opened ... " Mark 7:34-35*

**Be strong, fear not! Here is your God,
He comes with vindication. - Isaiah 35:4**

In today's Gospel, Jesus heals a man afflicted with deafness and a speech impediment. What an utterly human Jesus in His interaction with the deaf man! He speaks. He touches, He spits, He prays, He sighs. That encounter with a person in need is both a cure and a revelation. Jesus' healing actions are the same human actions that we use in our celebration of the anointing of the sick. When we gather to pray for healing, we are participating in the mission of Christ. Even everyday acts such as a handshake of support, a touch of inclusion, and listening can bring healing to others. Following the example of Jesus, our celebrations of healing are signs that God is in our midst, that the Kingdom is at hand and that its fullness will one day be known.



“Be opened!” said Christ two thousand years ago, as He placed his finger in the ear of the deaf man. “Be opened!” He says to us today, laying His hand upon our hearts. May we always accept Christ's invitation to become a new creation.

Ever thought about becoming Catholic?

Since the Church's earliest days, there has always been a strong concern for those wanting to convert to Christianity. Conversion is a turning around of one's life. It is an abrupt life stop. We stop, take stock, change directions, and proceed. It is a process which takes time, formation and ... above all, acceptance of God's grace.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which one becomes a member of our Catholic faith. The process not only teaches the Doctrine of the Church, but also explores its practices. The first step is the Period of Inquiry which is a time for searching, questioning, discussing, and reflecting.

This Rite is designed for those who have never been baptized, those who have no church to call their own, Catholics who have been baptized but have not received Confirmation or Eucharist, those who would like to come into full communion with the church, Catholics who have strayed from their faith and would like to be reconnected.

Inquiry Sessions begin this week. If you or someone you know is interested, please join us at 5:15 pm this Thursday, September 12, at the Saint Benedict Learning Center in Masontown.

Parish Sympathy is expressed to Pam & Tom Herbst on the recent passing of her mother, *Charlotte Moon* and to Mark & Jessica Adams on the passing of his father, *Anthony Adams*. May God grant them eternal life and comfort their families. May they rest in peace.



Faith Formation Begins September 22

Faith Formation begins with four-year olds (Pre-K) and continues through the eighth grade Confirmation Class.

The **Sacrament of First Eucharist** is received in the second grade; however, students must have completed one year of preparation (Faith Formation or Catholic School) prior to being admitted to the First Eucharist Class.

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** is received in the eighth grade; however, students must have completed the Seventh Grade Confirmation Preparation Class (Faith Formation or Catholic School) prior to being admitted to the Confirmation Class.

If this requirement is not met, the student will be placed in the first grade or seventh grade preparatory class before being admitted to the corresponding Sacramental Class.

Classes take place each Sunday from 10:30 to 11:45 am at the Footedale Worship Site

New this year is the ability to attend **any Faith Formation program within our region** if this time does not work. Grades K-5: Tuesdays 6:15/7:30 pm at St. Mary Nativity Parish Center; Grades K-8: Sunday mornings 10/11:30 am at SS Cyril & Methodius Annunciation Center. Indicate on the registration form the site that your child will be attending; return the form to the Parish Office.

We welcome **Regional Faith Formation Director, Theresa Mazur**. Theresa will be available at the Parish Office in Masontown Wednesday mornings 9:30 am to 12 pm.

Our Faith Formation Program seeks individuals interested in being **substitute or classroom assistants**. Questions?

Contact kstavish@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a program for children age 3-6 that revolves around the Parable of the Good Shepherd. The child enters the mystery of the Eucharist by first learning the names of the articles used on the altar then the gestures (preparing the chalice, etc.) Through this experience, the Mass emerges. Our Region is interested in offering this program and needs catechists to be trained for this program. If interested, please contact Theresa at TMazur@dioceseofgreensburg.org

There is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren.

— POPE FRANCIS —



Happy Grandparents' Day! ♥

BINGO & CASH BASH - Sunday, September 15,

at the social hall in Footedale. Doors open at Noon; regular games 2pm; 20 games at \$100; letter T at \$250; outside edge at \$750; 12 Cash Bash drawings at \$200 each; grand prize \$1200 plus \$300 if present.

Only 333 tickets sold. Donation of \$40 includes 2 packages (extra packages \$5 each); free food and refreshments. No admittance without a ticket.

Tickets will be available at the Parish Office Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Proceeds benefit Saint Francis of Assisi Parish.

CHOIR REHEARSAL resumes at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, **September 18**, in Masontown. Rehearsals will alternate on Wednesday or Thursday evenings between worship sites.

Upcoming events for the choir include:

All Souls Day Mass with Bishop Kulick in Footedale; Funeral Home Christmas Memorial Service December 1 in Masontown, and Lessons and Carols December 22 in Footedale, as well as the Christmas Masses.

The main requirement for joining the choir is a pleasant singing voice to blend with the group and the desire to praise God in song. Even if you've never participated in a singing group in church, school or the community, please prayerfully consider whether the Holy Spirit may be calling you to join this Ministry.

For more information, please contact Eric at eblanda@dioceseofgreensburg.org

The Practice of Stewardship

The good steward must not show favoritism. The rich may have many material gifts to share, but Saint James reminds us in the second reading that God has chosen the world's poor to be rich in faith and inheritors of God's kingdom.

Stewardship of Treasure

The offertory amounts will be carried in next week's bulletin due to an early publication deadline.



The Masontown Community Kitchen will be open on Tuesday, **September 10**, 4:00/5:30 pm. Please come and share the food and Christian fellowship at First Presbyterian Church in Masontown. Meals are free but donations are gladly accepted and used for future dinners. The staff is in urgent need of new bakers and cooks. For more information or to volunteer, please call 724-583-9514.

35th Annual Rosary Walk - Sunday, September 15 beginning in the Garden of Prayer at St. George Church, Uniontown, at 2:00 pm. The intention of this walk will be "In Glory and Honor of Mary, the Mother of God."

Ethnic Food Festival hosted by Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church at the McClellandtown Fire Hall from Noon to 5pm on Sunday, **September 15**, featuring Cabbage Rolls, Pierogi, Haluski, Kielbasi, Chicken, Homemade Soups, Homemade Baked Goods and more. There will be Basket Raffles throughout the day and entertainment by DJ Dusty Joe. Dine in or take out.

Communion to the Homebound is provided on a regular basis. Call the Parish Office to be added to our list.

Sacrament of Baptism: By appointment.

Prior to your baby's Baptism, you must be a registered, practicing member of this parish.

Sacrament of Marriage: Requires parish membership by at least one of the parties for six months prior to making arrangements for marriage.

Prayer Chain: To request prayer, please call Patty 724-245-9746 or Valeria 724-583-9460

Protecting God's Children: If you have a suspicion about sexual or other abuse of a minor child by anyone, contact PA Childline immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser functions in any parish, school, or diocesan position, either paid or volunteer, also contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct at 724-837-0901, Ext #1221, after making the Childline report.

MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

Saturday, September 7 - Vigil: 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 pm-F Victor "Terry" Pollick (Children)
6:00 pm-M Griffith/Adams Family (Family)

Sunday, September 8 -- 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Deceased Mazurik Family (Rick/Nancy)
9:30 am-F Louis & Angela Pikulski (Walter Smith)
11:30 am-M Pro Populo

Monday, September 9 -- Saint Peter Claver

8:00 am-M Dorothy Rohol (Jack & Mary Rhodes)

Tuesday, September 10 -- Weekday

8:00 am-F Henry J. & Bridget Bozak (Sons/Dtrs)

Wednesday, September 11 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Pauline Ozanich (John/Sue Maykuth)
12:30-2:00 pm-F Adoration / Confession

Thursday, September 12 -- Most Holy Name of Mary

8:00 am-F Bernadette Adams (M/M Jim McManus)

Friday, September 13 -- Saint John Chrysostom

8:00 am-M Mary Kay Richnafsky (John/JoAnn Pecske)

Saturday, September 14 - Vigil: 24th Sunday Ordinary Time

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
4:00 pm-F Judith A. Scola (Joanne/Mary Jo Bashour)
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
6:00 pm-M Jama Revak (George Parish)

Sunday, September 15 -- 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Betty Berish (Dave & Vicki Berish)
9:30 am-F Rev. Peter Peretti (SFOA Christian Mothers)
11:30 am-M Pro Populo

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1-13; Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-27; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: Nm 21:4-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 50:4-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35



Prayer for Grandparents

Dear God, What a grace to live in a world of all ages and stages. Bless our grandparents, today and always. Thank You for their experiences, wisdom, and insight. Thank You for the gifts they bring to the Church. Thank You for the lessons they teach the next generations. Amen.



Take a look around you as you make yourself at home in God's home. As you entered, did you welcome others as perhaps you yourself were welcomed? Did you see anyone you did not recognize? Did you give them the once over and make a judgment, perhaps in the back of your mind?

In today's second reading, James instructs the Christian community to show no partiality in their assembly. He warns them that those they may tend to avoid or ignore may be exactly those whom God chooses for the kingdom. In that spirit, let us always warmly welcome all who join us to worship the Lord.

Question of the Week:

When have I failed to be open to Jesus' message? Opening myself to His challenging message, how will I proclaim it by my words and actions?

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, September 11, in Footedale

12:30-1:30 pm: Adoration & Confession
1:30-1:45 pm: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
1:45-2:00 pm: Benediction

Memorial Candles burn this week in loving memory of or for the special intention of:

† **Sanctuary** - Dorothy Rohol
requested by her family

† **Blessed Mother** - Donna Parish
requested by Anita

† **Saint Joseph** - All Grandparents

† **Saint Anthony** - Ronald McCann
Birthday remembrance
requested by Rosalie

† **Sacred Heart** - Henry J. & Bridget Bozak
requested by their sons & daughters



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