

## REFLECTION



I recently had lunch with a friend who uses hearing aids. We were in a restaurant, and with all the other voices around us, it was very hard for her to hear the waiter describe the specials of the day. It was only when he came around to her side of the table and leaned close to her that she could hear what he was saying. My friend told me that for a person who uses a hearing aid the hardest situation is to be in a crowd where the din is amplified, which makes it impossible to distinguish any particular voice. Even those without a hearing impairment have difficulty hearing in a noisy crowd.

In today's Gospel, people bring to Jesus a man with a hearing and speech impairment and beg Jesus to lay his hand on him. The first thing Jesus does is to take the man away from the crowd. When the man's hearing is restored, the first voice he will hear is that of Jesus, inviting him to greater openness. Like the waiter with my friend, Jesus draws close to the man. Using the same techniques as other healers, Jesus then touches the man's ears and tongue and pronounces a word that Mark preserves in Aramaic: "Ephphatha!" "Be opened!" We follow the pattern today with our sacraments, using not only words, but physical touch and the tangible signs of oil, water, bread and wine, which have the power to transform. Jesus uses spittle on the man's tongue. In antiquity, spitting was thought to ward off evil spirits. But Jesus' power is not magical. Rather, he looks up to heaven to acknowledge the divine origin of his power and directs the onlookers to God as well. Through Jesus' power the man's ears are opened and his speech becomes clear. What the man says in response, Mark does not tell us.

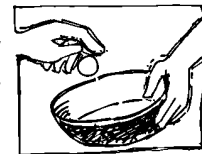
The crowd meanwhile becomes even more vociferous, proclaiming with astonishment the marvels that Jesus is doing. Jesus orders them to be silent, but they do not heed him. It is a bit ironic that, as Jesus enables a man with garbled speech to speak plainly, he enjoins silence on the babbling crowd. The crowd is focused on the flashy signs of the inbreaking of God's reign, such as Isaiah foretells in the first reading for this Sunday. But the crowd misses the deeper meaning—what the signs signify. Jesus is not a showy miracle worker. Unless one becomes open to a deeper encounter with Jesus as the crucified and risen one, and to being transformed into his image, one cannot fully proclaim the mystery of the good news he brings.

The physical ability to hear is not necessary for such an encounter with Christ; nor is the physical ability to speak necessary to proclaim the word of God. It is openness of mind, heart, and spirit to the breath of God within and without, and the willingness to respond wholeheartedly that are essential. In the second reading, it is clear that openness to God also results in our openness to others, especially those who are poor. James insists that all should be given the same welcome. There should be no partiality (prosopolempsia, literally, "lifting up of the face"), because when we display favoritism it is generally toward the rich. When God, however, "shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11), it concerns God's graciousness that extends to all—Jew and Greek alike. When it comes to those who are poor, all through the Scriptures, God is shown to be like a mother who loves all her children equally but shows partiality to the one who is most needy.

—America Magazine, September 2009

## SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, there will be a second collection—the Diocesan Collection for Priests Retirement. This is an opportunity for parishioners to thank our priests for their long and loving service to the diocese. Please consider making a donation. Special envelopes are available in the Narthex.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**FOOD COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**— The month food collection for St. Mary's Food Locker will take place next weekend, September 12-13. Please remember those less fortunate in our community.

**Eucharistic Minister Training** - Anyone interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister should attend the training session on September 12, 2009 at 10:00 am in the Church. If you have questions, please contact the Parish Office at 447-2354.



**The St. Joseph Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner has been canceled due to a low level of participation.** Thanks to all who supported the tournament this year. You will receive a letter and refund if you purchased tickets. Plans for next year's tournament and dinner are already underway. With your continued support and improvement in the current economic conditions, we are looking forward to a successful tournament in 2010.

**SJC (Spiritual Junior Catholics) Youth Group** starts up on September 20 from 1-3 in the Church Meeting Room. If you are 7th grade through college age come stop by and learn what upcoming events and activities we have in store. Bring a friend or two. Contact Josephine Mislant at 447-2354, ext 833 with any questions.



St. Joseph Parish Development Fund 2009

Now that the school year has begun, it is time to bring to conclusion the active phase of outreach for our Parish Development Fund. If you have not yet made your pledge, or offered any donation, now is the time to show your support.

Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners, we have reached the financial goal set by the Parish Development Committee. To date we have received in pledges and donations the sum of \$414,612.00. Congratulations to all you generous parishioners. Currently, we are in communication with the Sacramento Diocesan Building Committee to plan our next steps in realizing our parish vision and projects.

—Fr. Daniel Looney

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COUPLES FOR CHRIST** - The Couples for Christ is sponsoring a Christian Life Program for everyone—married couples, single parents, and single adults, separated, widowed & divorced. Please attend the ORIENTATION SESSION at the St. Joseph Parish Center on Sunday, September 13, 2009 at 1:30 PM. For more information, please call Dennis or Edith Tremethick at 455-8202.

**Notre Dame Night at Murillos** - Please join us at Murillos on Tuesday, September 8, 2009. A percentage of each dinner will go toward sending Notre Dame 6th Graders to Science Camp. Mention Notre Dame to your cashier. I hope you can join us for this parish/school event. Please call 447-1460 with any questions.

**Parking Lot Safety** - Please use caution while walking in the parking lot. Because of a recent accident in which an elderly lady received an injury, we caution anyone from walking through the planter/dividers in the parking lot. [this is marked with red paint—do not cross.]

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**Becoming a Catholic** - Are you interested in exploring the Catholic faith or do you know someone who has an interest? Please join us for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) inquiry sessions. There will be three sessions on Wednesday evenings 9/2, 9/9, and 9/16 in the Parish Center Meeting Room at 7:00 PM.



**Sponsors** - Do you have a desire to assist a catechumen or candidate walk through the RCIA process? If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and have Wednesday evenings free, please contact the Parish Office at 447-2354.



**The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 7th for Labor Day.**

## FAITH FORMATION

**Have you Heard the News?** St. Joseph Faith Formation has expanded to a full program in order to accommodate all grade levels. **PLEASE NOTE: Children who wish to receive First Communion or Confirmation next school year at St. Joseph are required to attend two years of religious education. If your child is in 1st grade or 6th grade, please register your child today for 1st Year Communion or 1st Year Confirmation.** The cost for all classes is \$50 per child or \$125 for 3 or more children. Registration fees are due at the time of registration. A copy of your child's baptism certificate is required for all classes. Please register early, classes fill up quickly. We have limited space in each class. **Hurry - registration ends September 15th!**

- **Faith Formation (4-5 year olds & Kindergarten)** - Children attend classes during the 10:00 AM Mass in the Parish Center Meeting Room. Children must turn 4 by Dec. 1 and must be able to independently use the restroom.
- **First Holy Communion (2 yr program - 1st & 2nd grades)** - Children attend classes on scheduled Wednesdays throughout the school year to prepare for the sacrament of First Holy Communion.
- **Faith Formation (3rd grade)** - Children who have received First Holy Communion and are entering the 3rd grade will attend classes on scheduled Wednesdays throughout the school year.
- **Faith Formation (4th/5th grade)** - Children who have received First Holy Communion and are entering the 4th or 5th grades will attend classes on scheduled Thursdays throughout the school year.
- **Confirmation (2 yr program - 6th and 7th grades)** - Children attend classes on scheduled Tuesdays throughout the school year to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- **OCIC (non-baptized children 7 and older or older baptized children who have not received other sacraments)** - Children meet on Thursdays throughout the school year to prepare to receive the sacraments.

Faith Formation begins Sunday, Sept. 20th (Catechetical Sunday). Parent/child meetings will follow the week of 9/21-9/25 to inform parents of requirements for each program, calendar and Q&A. Please note **Parent Participation is required for all programs.** Forms, fees, baptism certificates are due at the time of registration. Call the Parish Office at 447-2354 with any questions. Information is also available at [www.StJoseph-Vacaville.org](http://www.StJoseph-Vacaville.org) under the Faith Formation tab.

**Note: Notre Dame Registration forms have been distributed to 2nd and 7th grade at school.**

**Attention All Catechists, Teacher's Aides & Volunteers:** A required Catechist and Teacher's Aide training will be held on Thursday, September 10th from 5:00-6:30 PM in the Church Meeting Room. A representative from the publishing company will be here to discuss our new books and curriculum. Fingerprinting will be available immediately following the training from 6:00-7:00 PM for all adults who will be assisting in the classrooms and working regularly with the children. Remember, you must be fingerprinted if you intend to volunteer. If you have any questions, please call Josephine at 447-2354, ext 833.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Col 1:24-2:3; Ps 62:6-7,9; Lk 6:6-11  
 Tues. Mic 5:1-4; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16,18-23  
 Wed. Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3,10-13; Lk 6:20-26  
 Thurs. Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1-6; Lk 6:27-38  
 Fri. 1 Tm 1:1-2,12-14; Ps 16:1-2,5,7-8,11; Lk 6:39-42  
 Sat. 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1-7; Lk 6:43-49  
 Sun. Is 50:5-9; Ps 116:1-6,8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7:00 AM----- Deceased members of the Gore Family  
 Tues. 7:00 AM ----- Int. of Jesus Rodriguez  
 Wed. 8:15 AM----- Int. of Ferraro Family  
 Thurs. 7:00 AM ----- Bernard Gale, R.I.P.  
 Fri. 7:00 AM ----- Int. of Ruben & Renato  
 Sat. 8:15 AM ----- Thomas Kenny, R.I.P.  
 Sat. 5:00 PM ----- Iwao Fuchigami, R.I.P.  
 Sun. 7:00 AM ----- Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 8:30 AM ----- Sick Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 10:00 AM----- World Peace  
 Sun. 12:00 PM----- Vocations to the Priesthood