

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

MONDAY 9/10

1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Luke 6:6-11

TUESDAY 9/11

1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Luke 6:12-19

WEDNESDAY 9/12

1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Luke 6:20-26

THURSDAY 9/13

1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13
Luke 6:27-38

FRIDAY 9/14

Numbers 21:4-9
Phil 2:6-11, John 3:13-17

SATURDAY 9/15

Hebrews 5:7-9
John 19:25-27

Solemnities, Feasts, & Memorials of the Week

Thursday, John Chrysostom; Friday, Triumph of the Cross; Saturday, Our Lady of Sorrows

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH

St. Joseph Church in Mammoth Lakes has a new
FLORAL COMMITTEE

and it needs your **help and ideas** for decorating our Church,
especially for **Christmas and Easter**.

Please call Natalie at 760-934-6360 for more information.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Church's Code of Canon Law provides for the formation of Parish Pastoral Councils. "In every parish of the diocese, a Pastoral Council shall be established, if the diocesan Bishop, after consulting with the Council of Presbyters (Priests), so decides."

In 2006 our bishop, Stephen Blaire, after due consultation, mandated that all parishes should have a Parish Pastoral Council.

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body, pastoral in nature, because it strives to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit among God's people in the parish. A Parish Pastoral Council gives its help to the pastor in fostering pastoral activity; it investigates, under the authority of the pastor, all those things which pertain to pastoral works to ponder them, and to propose practical conclusions about them.

In response to our bishop's mandate, St. Joseph Parish will begin the process of establishing a Parish Pastoral Council.

It is customary that members of the council be elected by the people. Therefore, the people of St. Joseph Parish are invited to place into nomination those parishioners best suited to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council. Please include the nominee's phone number.

I nominate _____

Telephone Number _____



THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC

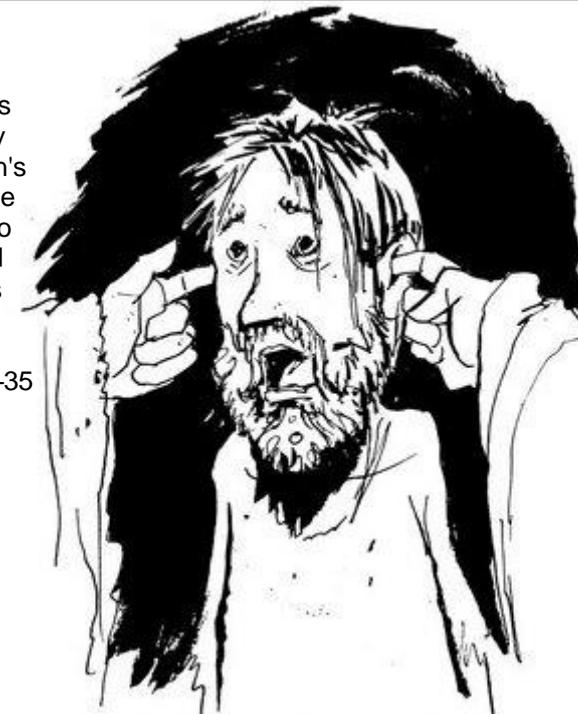
*Before the mountains were born, the earth
and the world brought forth, from eternity
to eternity you are God. Psalm 90:2*

September 9, 2012

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

People brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (that is, "Be opened!") And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

Mark 7:32-35



**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
OF MONO COUNTY
P.O. Box 372
Mammoth Lakes,
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Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE
Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church –
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM
Lee Vining:
Our Savior of the Mountains Mission -
Sunday Mass 10:00 AM
Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission -
Sunday Mass 12:00 Noon

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at St. Joseph Church in Mammoth Lakes from 5:30 to 5:45 on Saturday afternoons, 7:30 to 7:45 on Sunday mornings, y en español a las tardes del domingo de 5:00 a 5:15; and upon request before mass at Our Savior of the Mountains mission in Lee Vining and Infant of Prague mission in Bridgeport. The "Act of Contrition" is available in the confession room.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.

If God were running a business he'd have no lack of customers. God's enterprise? Salvation! God wills to save everyone. It is the imperative of God's infinite love and eternal mercy for all. Everything in creation is ordered toward the fulfillment of the human spirit. But people keep stepping in front of busses and that's where the problem comes in.

From the beginning, or at least the beginning of religion, people have interpreted

the disasters of life as God's punishment for wickedness. While it is undeniable that there is great power to control the lives of people in the warning, "Be good or God will punish you," there is greater power still to transform the same lives in the proclamation, "Fear not, for God comes to save you." Even the wicked are invited into the safety of God's healing love.

If you disobey a commandment—let's make it simple: Thou shalt not stick your finger in a light socket—and you stick your finger in a light socket, you will experience the consequences of your disobedience, but God will give you the wisdom not to do that again, right? Well, that's true for everything. We've got to believe that even the wickedest somewhere, somehow learn some kind of lesson and are invited to take the next step. While the Catholic Church has a list of saints in

heaven—a BIG one—we've never kept a canon of the condemned. There is a cosmic option, of course. But those who are afraid seek salvation and avoid the inescapable lot of the unrepentant sinner.

SECOND READING: James 2:1-5

Have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs? Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?

We make a terrible mistake when we judge others no matter how much we think our judgments are right. After all, there is only one just Judge and the rest of us are not. We can guess, and we often do, but what if we guess wrong? People far more religious and righteous than we are judged and condemned the sinless Son of God. Do we think we'll do better when he comes again in glory?

There are nasty consequences to judging. (See Matthew 7:2) But Jesus, ever the kind Savior that he is, gave us a hedge. He commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, to pray for those who abuse us, and turn the other cheek to those who strike us. (Luke 6:27-29) This is all to impress upon us the importance of maintaining a kingdom attitude and keeping a kingdom eye on the world around us. For if in the kingdom it is the first who are last, the poor who are blessed, the mighty who are cast down from their thrones and the lowly who are lifted up, then it is those whom we judge and condemn who are acquitted and exalted. We who judge end up being judged and none of us can

survive that.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:31-37

He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" And immediately the man's ears were opened. He ordered them not to tell anyone.

Did you ever wonder why all this business with the finger in the ear, the touching the tongue, the spitting, the groaning, and the cryptic incantation didn't make it into one of our religious ceremonies?

Maybe instead of the Sign of Peace we could have everybody in the congregation turn to each other and On second thought, maybe there's a good reason why it didn't fly.

Perhaps the early church considered it—they certainly remembered it—but rejected it on the grounds that it was just too over-the-top pagan. The text locates the event in the Decapolis, a region outside Jewish territory and on the foreign, non-Jewish side of the Jordan. It was there that Jesus encountered the man with Legion and sent them into the swine. (Mark 5:1-20) After an initial rejection (5:17), the previously possessed man did a little preaching (5:20) and the folks obviously warmed up to Jesus, so that when he showed up again, they brought him the deaf man for a cure.

Although Jesus had shown the power to heal with a word, he instead performed the curious ritual. Could it have been for the benefit of his new friends the pagans who perhaps derived more meaning from it? Is that why he didn't want them to tell anybody? Was the whole episode a way of demonstrating how not to judge people who are different?

Verdadera Libertad



Hoy Jesús cura a un hombre sordo y tartamudo. Usen las invocaciones de la tercera forma del acto penitencial en Oración de los Fieles o las invocaciones del Misal Romano para el tiempo ordinario IV. La oración colecta nos prepara para escuchar el mensaje de la liturgia de la palabra, la cual nos presenta al Padre como el que nos da la "verdadera libertad". Hoy sería buen día para celebrar el sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos. Habrá que preparar al pueblo de antemano con una catequesis apropiada.

La obra de Jesús estaba escrita. El profeta Isaías declara una parte de ella en la lectura de hoy. Los bautizados nos hemos unido a la misión de Cristo, y su tarea se convierte en la nuestra: trabajar para darle ánimo a los desventurados y ayudarles a encontrar la presencia de Dios en sus vidas. San Santiago pone ante nosotros un ejemplo para ayudarnos a discernir sobre el verdadero significado de la hospitalidad. Cuando los miembros de la asamblea ponen atención a su alrededor y se saludan entre sí, preparan un ambiente acogedor. Jesús no sólo restaura el oído, la vista, el habla y la habilidad de caminar; también comparte su tiempo con los demás. Con ejemplos de respeto y amor, nos muestra cómo sanar las relaciones humanas.