

# Twenty-third Sunday of the Year

*The people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment ... Jesus put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; he then looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha" - that is, "Be opened." Mark 7: 31-37*

## The Sound of a Quarter

Two friends were walking down a crowded city sidewalk in the midst of the busy, noisy rush hour. Amid all the noise one friend suddenly turned to the other and said, "Listen! A cricket!" "Come on!" the second friend shot back. "How can you possibly hear a cricket in the midst of all this noise?" "But I did hear a cricket." She stopped to listen again, then, with her cynical friend in tow, crossed the busy street to a big cement planter. Gently pushing aside the petunias and impatiens, she revealed a little brown cricket. "That's amazing!" said her friend. "How could you possibly have heard it?" "There's no secret!" she explained. "Watch." She then reached into her pocket and pulled out some loose change and dropped a quarter on the sidewalk. Despite the deafening noise around them, everyone within thirty feet turned their head to see where the sound of the money was coming from. The woman turned to her doubting friend and said, "See, it's all a matter of what you're listening for."

*In the midst of all the noise in our lives, we can become "deaf" to the presence of God in our midst. Fear and ignorance often distort our ability to realize the good in the midst of bad, the reasons to hope in the wake of despair, compassion in the ashes of anger and hate. The words Jesus speaks to the deaf man in today's Gospel are spoken to us as well: open our hearts to experience God's compassion in the love of family and friends, to realize God's presence in all times and places, to embrace God's grace despite our difficulty to trust, to hope, to understand. Discipleship is centered in Jesus' spirit of "openness" to the presence of God in times of joy and sorrow, "openness" to becoming for others the realization of his healing and life for those unable to sense it.*

## Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday: Col 1:24-2: 3; Lk 6: 6-11  
Tuesday: Rom 8: 28-30; Mt.1: 1-16, 18-23  
Wednesday: Col 3: 1-11; Lk 6: 20-26  
Thursday: Col 3: 12-17; Lk 6: 27-38  
Friday: 1 Tm 1: 1-2, 12-14; Lk 6: 39-42  
Saturday: 1 Tm 1: 15-17; Lk 6: 43-49  
Sunday: Is 50: 5-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8: 27-35

## Pot of Gold Winners

(\$100) Debbie Perko,  
(\$25) John Rivera, Melanie Heathcoat,  
Ann Wigenhorn, Jeanne McMaster,  
Benita Milton



## Coffee and Donuts

Join the parish family for coffee, donuts, and conversation after all Sunday Masses.



## Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, September 6 - Twenty-Third Sunday

9:00 AM For the People of the Parish

11:00 AM Margaret Amestoy

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day Mass

9:00 AM

Tuesday, September 8 - Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 AM Richard Willse

Wednesday, September 9 - St. Peter Claver

5:15 PM Andrew & Anna Kall

Thursday, September 10 - Weekday

8:00 AM Frank Mraz

Friday, September 11 - Weekday

5:15 PM Marge Pollock

Saturday, September 12 - Most Holy Name of Mary

8:00 AM Bernard Collingwood

5:15 PM John McGinness

Unexpected changes in the schedule may cause Masses to be cancelled and Mass intentions to be moved to the first available date open. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## Senior Clementines & Friends

All older adults are invited to join the Senior Clementines and Friends on Thursday, September 10th from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. The entertainment that day will be R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) players. They will perform several original and whimsical skits that address age related issues that will keep you laughing! There will also be a 50/50 raffle and refreshments. All are welcome. If this will be your first gathering, please call Jean Lombardo at (216) 226-5878.

## “School Daze - School Daze”

It is rare that, at this time of the year, do I hear parents grumbling about the cost of school supplies. In fact, it seems, that as I have observed moms and dads purchasing these necessary supplies, they do so with smiles on their faces. It is a smile of relief that the girls and boys are back in school and we no longer have to find things to keep them busy or entertained.

The students are happy to be reunited with friends that they have not seen over the summer. It is not the joy of educational pursuit that brings them together but the camaraderie of football games, band, cheerleaders, and, I am certain, the intellectual strategy of chess playing.

As a non-school parent, I am called to support the educational support of our students in the public, parochial and private schools through my prayers and financial support. Think twice before turning down support through raffle tickets, candy sales, car washes, etc. These are our kids trying to support themselves and their extra-curricular activities or “pay to play” options. It is my responsibility, as well as our school parents, to support our students and their endeavors.

Good luck to our students in this coming academic year. May your minds blossom as the wisdom of the ages is taught to you. May you know the presence of God in your lives and may you treat your classmates with the same love that God has for you.

*Fr. John*

## New Choir Members

If anyone is interested in joining the 11:00 AM Choir, please contact Music Director, James Flood, at 216-224-8578.

## Divorce Recovery for Catholics

St. Christopher Church is sponsoring a 10 week series of support group meetings beginning Wednesday, September 16th and ending November 18th, designed to assist Catholics who are recently separated or divorced. Sessions are designed to provide a caring, confidential atmosphere to share with others who understand your experience and help you find support and encouragement. Pre-registration is necessary. To obtain a registration form and brochure, call Gayle Cilimburg at St. Christopher Parish at 440-331-4255.

## Pasta Fiesta 2009

The Lakewood Foundation and Lakewood Commission on Aging will be holding their Pasta Fiesta on Thursday, September 17th, at Lakewood Park in the Woman’s Club Pavilion. Dinner seatings will be held at 4 PM, 5:30 PM and 7 PM. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children age 10 and under. Transportation is available for Lakewood seniors. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please call 521-1515.

## Finance Corner:

Collection for weekend of August 30 - \$6,025.08

Envelopes used - 191

Weekly budget to meet August 2009 expenses -

\$5,778.00

Weekly budget to meet September 2009 expenses -

\$9,096.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity for the parish.

## RCIA

If you know of persons who are interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith, please invite them to join us on Wednesday, September 16th. For more information, please contact Len or Kim Elder at 221-4115.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Bible Study

A Catholic Bible Study will again be presented at St. Clement Church on Thursdays from September 17th through November 19th from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. The study is on *The Letter to the Hebrews*. This bible study is for everyone. The teachers are members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Bible College which is part of a lay apostolate of the Catholic Church. For more information, or to register, call Ed or Mary Lamparyk at 216-898-1440.

## Lakewood/St.Rose Respect Life Coalition...

is sponsoring a birthday celebration for Mary, the Mother of God, on Tuesday, September 22nd, at 7:00 PM at St. Clement Church. Join us for prayer, great refreshments and musical entertainment. All are welcome and all is free. For further information, please call Virginia at 226-6663

## Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration Charity Event....

The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration Foundation will be holding their 2009 Charity Event on Sunday, September 20th, with Mass at 10 AM with Bishop Roger Gries, O.S.B. followed by visiting with the Sisters. There will be a silent auction from noon until 1 PM with lunch to follow. For further information and to order tickets, please call Tom Kelley, President, at (216) 214-1679.

## Annual Older Adult Retreat

The 6th Annual Older Adult Retreat sponsored by the six parishes in our cluster will take place on Thursday, October 8th from 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM at St. Clement Church hall. Our celebrant and speaker will be Most Rev. A. James Quinn. The day will include the Liturgy of Eucharist and Anointing. A catered hot lunch will follow. Please return the registration form that is included in this bulletin, along with \$10, to your church office. Registration and payment are due no later than October 1st.