

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sept 5, 2021

ST. MARY PARISH

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue. Sept 7 - 7:00 p.m. Mary, Arthur & John McDonald Req'd by The Family
Wed. Sept 8 - 9:00 a.m. Braedon Coburn by Adell Mueller
Thur. Sept 9 - 9:00 a.m. Sean MacMillan Req'd by Joe & Katheryn Meyer
Fri. Sept 10 - 9:00 a.m. Mildred Page Req'd by Raymond, Carol & Patrick
Horrigan, Helen & Larry Johns
Sat. Sept 11 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish
Sun. Sept 12 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Sept 11 - 4:00 p.m. Pauline Mills
Sun. Sept 12 - 9:00 a.m. Emma Westendorp

CONFESSION only by appointment, call Fr. Mike at: 519-323-1054 ext. 7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Sat. Sept 11 - 5:30 p.m. Members of the Pronk Family Req'd by Corrie Pronk

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sun. Sept 12- 11:00 a.m. Rita Hawkins Req'd by Margaret Hawkins

Walk with your feet on earth, but your heart in heaven.
– St. John Bosco

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Mon. – Rev. H. Starczala Tue. – Rev. F. J. Ahouansou
Wed. – Sister of our Lady of Immaculate(S.O.L.I.)
...Thurs. - Rev. I. Duffy
Fri. – Rev. Msgr. Dennis Noon Sat. – Rev. V.P. Boyd, S.J.

Vocation

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, contact **Fr. Michael King**, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 or email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

Whenever you begin any good work, you should first of all make a most pressing appeal to Christ our Lord to bring it to perfection.
–St. Benedict

Nativity of the blessed Virgin Mary

Wed Sept 8



**Happy are you,
holy virgin Mary,
deserving of all praise;
from you rose the sun of
justice,
Christ the Lord.**

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading: *Isaiah 35:4-7a*
Isaiah prophesies about God's vindication.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 146:7,8-9,9-10*
A song of praise to God

Second Reading: *James 2:1-5*
James teaches that there is to be no partiality within the Christian community.

Gospel Reading
Mark 7:31-37: Jesus restores a man's hearing and speech.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who

was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophenician woman who asks him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding to dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and he heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' own mission affirms the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret." <https://www.loyolapress.com>

Sacrament of Reconciliation and The Anointing of the Sick

are available by appointment. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is best celebrated at the onset of a serious illness and with family present. Please contact Fr. Mike at the Parish Office if you or a family member has need of these sacraments.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

We pray for all our sick parishioners.

DURING THE SUMMER, POPE FRANCIS APPOINTED Waterloo University Physics and Astronomy Professor *Dr. Donna Strickland*, winner of the 2018 Nobel Prize for Physics, as a member of the *Pontifical Academy of Science*. And the Holy Father appointed *Dr. Anne Jamieson*, Executive Director of the Institute for Catholic Education, to the Vatican's *International Council for Catechesis*. We are proud of these two brilliant leaders who live and serve among us!



THE FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES

From Ancient times (Plato, Aristotle) and in various cultures (Hindu, Confucian, Jewish, Islamic) four virtues have traditionally been recognized as the indispensable foundation of all the others, as the "hinges" (cardines, in Latin, thus "cardinal") on which all others turn.

"Four virtues play a pivotal role and accordingly are called 'cardinal'; all the others are grouped around them. They are: prudence" (or wisdom), "justice" (or fairness), "fortitude" (or courage), "and temperance" (or self-control) (CCC 1805). They are mentioned in Scripture by name (Wis 8:7) and "are praised under other names in many passages of Scripture: (CCC 1805).

#1/ Prudence

Prudence "is not to be confused with timidity or fear" (CCC 1806). Perhaps "practical moral wisdom" is a clearer term for this virtue today.

Prudence is the "virtue that disposes practical reason" (the mind thinking about what should be done) "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it.... With the help of this virtue we apply moral principles to particular cases" (CCC 1806). – to be continued.

~~taken from: "Catholic Christianity" by Peter J. Kreeft

Always keep lifting your foot to climb the ladder of holiness, and do not imagine that you cannot mount even the first step. All God asks of you is good will. –St. Therese of Lisieu