

## 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sept 26, 2021

**ST. MARY PARISH** NO MASSES  
**ST. THOMAS, Harriston** NO MASSES  
**ST. PETER'S, Ayton** NO MASSES

Pope Francis' Prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick

*O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.*

*At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.*

*You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.*

*We are certain that you will provide, so that,*

*as you did at Cana of Galilee,*

*joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love,*

*to conform ourselves to the Father's will*

*and to do what Jesus tells us:*

*He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.*

*We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.*

*Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

- Pope Francis



### Announcement

Rev. Michael is sick.  
Please pray for him.

Oh, **St. Joseph**, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of **God**. I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, **St. Joseph**, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through **Jesus Christ**, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

### Sunday's Readings

**First Reading:** *Numbers 11:25-29*  
The Lord bestows his spirit on the seventy elders.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 19:8,10,12-13,14*  
The Law of the Lord brings joy.

**Second Reading:** *James 5:1-6*  
James chastises the rich.

**Gospel Reading:** *Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48*  
Jesus teaches that whoever is not against him is for him.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name.

John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

### Family Connection

The second part of today's Gospel contains a strong message for those who share the responsibility of fostering faith. It is indeed an awesome responsibility. Today's Gospel reminds us that faith is a lifelong journey toward God. We don't always get it all or even get it right. But we pray for the grace to acknowledge and build upon even the smallest signs of faith, in ourselves and in others. There are plenty of obstacles that might prevent the growth of faith. Let us pray that we are not contributing to the obstacles that might hinder another person's faith in Jesus.

As you gather as a family, observe that there are things in our lives that nurture our faith and things that can hinder it. Talk about some of the things that nurture our faith—healthy family relationships, healthy friendships, good literature, and so on. Name some of the things that might be an obstacle to faith—unhealthy relationships, scandals, and so on. Observe that Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel that we are to do everything we can to help one another have faith in Jesus and do all that we can to avoid creating

obstacles that might hinder another person's faith. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48. Conclude by praying together that we will be a family that helps each other grow in faith.  
<https://www.loyolapress.com>

### Joseph, Protector of the Church

Brave Joseph, collaborator in God's project for humanity, your tenderness enfolds the newborn Church. Just as Mary and Jesus recognize in you the protection of the Father, so too does the community of faith place itself under your protection.

Strengthen us with the Spirit that filled the Nazarene home and guide our footsteps on the road to the Kingdom.

Accompany us in carrying out our mission. Help us to be lights in the world so that the family of God may spring forth from humanity transfigured in Christ.

Grant us the strength to imitate God's preference for the poor and weak. Guide us in our pastoral activities that our actions may be modeled on the Good News. Amen.

Thursday Sept 30, 2021 is a national statutory holiday commemorating National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

### COVID Vaccines

The official position of the Catholic Church is that all available COVID vaccines are ethical and all Catholics who are able are encouraged to receive the vaccine. All employees serving in the Diocese of Hamilton are encouraged to be fully vaccinated or to submit to a COVID rapid test every Monday and Thursday in order to carry out their responsibilities. Volunteer liturgical ministers are required to be fully vaccinated. Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, encourages every member of the Catholic Church within our Diocese of Hamilton to be fully vaccinated.

Nowhere other than looking at oneself in the mirror of the Cross can one better understand how much one is worth.  
– St. Anthony of Padua

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

We pray for all our sick parishioners

"Seek the Lord..." Consider service as a priest. If God calling you contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 or email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

### Traditional Catholic Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.