

## Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

Diocesan Theme: **Christ is Everything for Us!** “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life”.  
(John 6.68).

Parish Mission Statement: **Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples!** Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal parish through the liturgy, faith formation and sacramental life, provides opportunities for members to develop their faith and service to others.

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### **Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30pm** Birthday intentions of Maria Victoria Vinueza by her family

#### **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:00am** Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

**10:45am** Repose of the soul of Callum Cumming by Bernice Lamarche

#### **Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> –**

**7:00pm** Birthday intentions of Hannah Fernandes by the James family

#### **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am**

#### **Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am** Birthday Intentions of Heather Sisk by Jay Dupuis

#### **Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – St. John Chrysostom**

**9:00am** Repose of the souls of Gisèle Langevin by Mary Jane and Matthew Leman

#### **Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**4:30pm** Repose of the souls of Gisèle Langevin by Sylvie Dupuis

#### **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:00am** Repose of the souls of Mary and Bob Urlocker by the Urlocker-Lalonde family

**10:45am** Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

### **Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

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 7:33–35](#)

One interesting point in this story is that the people who brought this deaf and mute man to Jesus begged Him to "lay his hand on him" to heal him. But what did Jesus do? Instead, He took the man away from the crowd, put His divine finger into the man's ears, touched the man's tongue with His sacred saliva and the man was cured. At first, the act of putting your finger into someone else's ear and touching their tongue with your saliva may seem repulsive. Normally it would be. To understand these two actions, we must understand the symbolism.

The image of a finger is used several times in the Scriptures to refer to God's power. In the Book of Exodus after the plague of the gnats, Pharaoh's magicians said that this was done "by the finger of God" ([Exodus 8:19](#)). On the mountain when Moses received the Ten Commandments we know that it was also God's finger that wrote them ([Exodus 31:18](#)). In the book of Daniel, a finger appeared and wrote a prophetic message on a wall ([Daniel 5:5](#)). In the New Testament, Jesus cast out a demon "by the finger of God" ([Luke 11:20](#)) and in today's Gospel He healed this man's hearing with His finger. The "finger of God" is understood as the power of God and an action of the Holy Spirit. Thus, by using His sacred finger to heal, Jesus was symbolically revealing that He fully exercised the power of God and acted in perfect union with the Holy Spirit and the Father.

The image of saliva is also interesting. Perhaps you have noticed that when an animal has a wound it often licks that wound. This is an instinct but also one that makes sense. Saliva has a certain medicinal power of healing. It contains antibacterial agents. *Therefore, since normal saliva can help heal a wound, Jesus's saliva can heal supernaturally. Recall, also, that Jesus healed a blind man by spitting on the ground and then smearing the mud on his eyes ([John 9:6](#)). Did Jesus need to use His finger and His saliva to heal this man? Certainly not. He could have done it with a mere thought. But He chose to use His body as an instrument of His healing power. Doing so reveals to us that Jesus' humanity became the source of unity between God and man. Even His finger and His saliva unite us with God. Everything about the Son of God in His human form dispensed grace, healing and mercy. Even that which may, at first, seem most repulsive.*

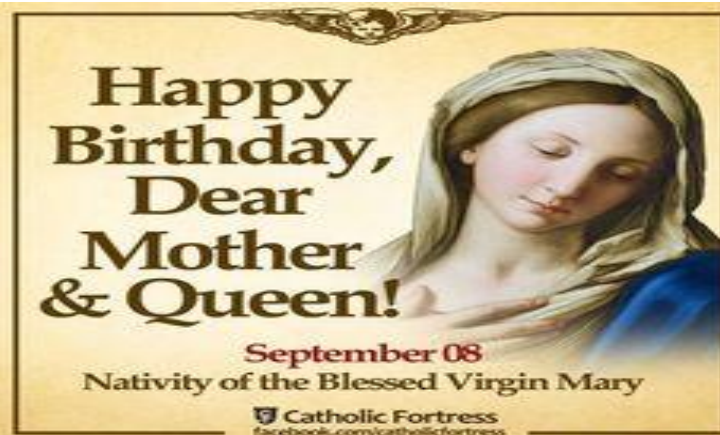
*Though there is much we can take from this passage, one thing that should not be missed is that if Jesus chose to use His finger and even His saliva to dispense His power, He also desires to continue using the members of His Body to distribute His grace. By Baptism, you are a member of Christ's Body, the Church. You are His hands and feet, His eyes and voice, His heart and finger, and even His saliva. That last thought is very humbling. But if Jesus can use His saliva for healing, He can use you. If we can humbly understand that, then we will be better disposed to become an instrument of His divine mercy to those who need it. God can use us NOT because we are worthy of being used. Rather, He can use us because He has chosen to do so, even in our most humble state.*

*Reflect, today, upon the image of Jesus healing this deaf and mute man. If you ever feel as though God cannot use you, call to mind how our Lord worked this miracle. If God can use His finger and His saliva, He certainly can use you, no matter how unworthy or sinful you may be. This miracle shows us that God can use all things for His glory for the simple reason that He is God. Humble yourself and offer yourself to God to use you as He wills. Doing so will allow God to manifest His almighty power through you.*

*My healing Lord, when You took on human form, You united divinity with humanity. Through Your sacred humanity, You poured forth Your grace and mercy and continue to do so today. Please use me, dear Lord, as an instrument of Your grace. May I always humbly see myself as Your unworthy instrument, whom You choose to use despite my unworthiness. Jesus, I trust in You.*

### **Intentions of the Holy Father for September FOR THE CRY OF THE EARTH**

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and victims of natural disasters and climactic change and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.



September 8, 2024

Are you new to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish?  
**WELCOME!** If you have not yet registered, please complete a registration form found in the foyer or in the office.

You may bring the completed form to the office or drop in the collection basket.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *This Week at Our Lady's*

**Monday, September 9**

7:00 pm – Order of Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

**Wednesday, September 11**

10:00 am – Our Lady's Littles Group

6:00 pm – Baptism Parents Meeting

**Thursday, September 12**

10:00 am – Legion of Mary

7:00 pm – CWL Meeting

**Friday, September 13**

7:00 pm – Youth Group Meeting

**Sunday, September 15**

12:30 pm – Baptism

### **We are excited to introduce Our Lady's Littles!**

Our Lady's Littles is a playgroup for babies and children where they can play and make friends. It is a time for mothers to share experiences, enjoy each other's company, and connect with other like-minded mothers in the same stage of life. Join us every Wednesday from 10:00 am -12:00 pm. Our first day will be Wednesday, September 11th at 10:00 am. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Megan Louise at [meganandyohan@gmail.com](mailto:meganandyohan@gmail.com). We look forward to welcoming you and your little ones!

**Seniors' Mass.** Join us on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> for the Seniors' Mass at 9 am, followed by refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall.

**Starting in October, our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)** program will be offered in the church hall. Levels 1 through 3, for children aged 3 to 12 years old, will be running. Please pick up a registration form in the church foyer for more information.



**GONE TO THE FATHER**

**EUNICE MARGARET MRAZEK-CHARTRAND**

## STRENGTH

The strength of belonging to a sisterhood of thousands of women is powerful and our impact makes a difference in our parishes, communities, country and beyond. The Catholic Women's League is the largest women's organization in Canada. Imagine the many gifts and talents shared for the good of others. There is strength in numbers. Come join us!

### OCIA

As Catholics, we have a precious treasure that we not only possess but can also help others share with us. That treasure is our faith, and we may have friends or relatives who are thinking about becoming Catholic or may need a suggestion or question from us to consider joining the Catholic Church. Once they have decided to explore the faith, we have a program called OCIA, which stands for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, to teach them about and guide them on their journey. Whether the person is baptized, not baptized, or even a Catholic who has not been confirmed, this program provides instruction on the basics of the faith. OCIA not only teaches on the intellectual level; it also helps the person develop their faith on the spiritual level. The program will be starting on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. If you know someone who could be a candidate for becoming Catholic, please invite them to contact the parish office at 613-445-3054 or email [admin@olmm.ca](mailto:admin@olmm.ca) for more details.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 12401 CORNER

Council 12401 will be holding its next general meeting in the parish hall on Thursday, September 26. Fellowship begins at 7:00 pm with the meeting starting at 7:30 pm.

For those men in the parish who are above 18 and interested in joining the Knights of Columbus please call Michael Adams at 905-609-0034 or go to [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)