# 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"He has done all things well.

He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Mk 7:37





# GOOD SHEPHERD Catholic Community

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

# GSCC AT A GLANCE

### WELCOME!

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE WITH US!
IF YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO GET
INVOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITY AND
ARE LOOKING TO CONNECT WITH US,
PLEASE VISIT GSCC.NET/START-HERE TO
EXPLORE MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH
FAMILY AND REGISTER TO BECOME A
MEMBER.



WELCOME | ENCOUNTER | GROW | SERVE | SHARE

NOURISHED AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD, WE WELCOME ALL TO BECOME DISCIPLES WHO KNOW, LOVE, AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR.

See where you are in your journey with Christ by scanning this code.



### **FOLLOW US!**





### **CONTACT US!**

### **PARISH OFFICE**

1000 Tinker Road, Colleyville, TX 76034 Main: 817-421-1387 | Fax: 817-421-4709

Website: www.gscc.net

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Fri: 8:00am - 2:00pm Sat: 8:00am - 5:00pm Sun: 8:00am - 5:00pm

### STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Michael Ciski, TOR

Parochial Vicar: Fr. John Mark Klaus, TOR Parochial Vicar: Fr. Zachary Burns, TOR

For a complete list of staff and contacts, please

visit gscc.net/staff

### **FEED OUR FRIARS**

Providing a healthy meal for our friars is simple and easy. Visit **gscc.net/fof** to learn more.

### JOIN US!

### MASS

Sat: 5:00pm | Sun: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, & 4:00pm

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 8:30am

Tues: 7:00am | Thurs: 7:00pm

### RECONCILIATION

Mon: 9:00am | Thurs: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Sat: 3:30 - 4:30pm

By appointment: 817-421-1387

### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00am - 8:30pm

Friday & Saturday: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Sunday: 5:30pm - 8:30pm

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#1514-1515) teaches that this sacrament is not only for those at the point of death, but for anyone seriously ill or facing serious surgery. In fact, it is preferred that parishioners entering the hospital for surgery should ask the priest for this sacrament before being admitted. Parishioners should never wait until the last minute to call. We encourage parishioners facing surgery to let the parish priest know of their condition before entering the hospital so that they can be anointed before admission.

### **SUNDAY'S READINGS**

### First Reading

Isaiah prophesies about God's vindication. (Isaiah 35:4-7a)

### Psalm

A song of praise to God (Psalm 146:7,8-9,9-10)

### Second Reading

James teaches that there is to be no partiality within the Christian community. (James 2:1-5)

### Gospel

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

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### W E E K L Y R E A D I N G S

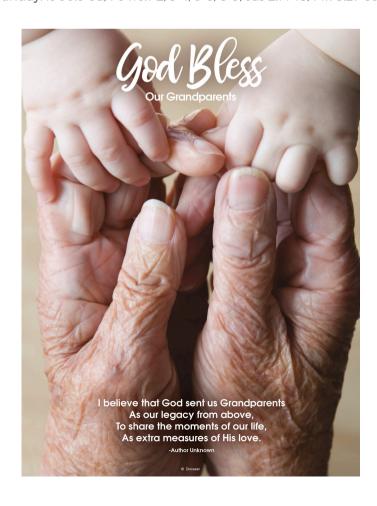
Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12; Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Lk 6:12-19 Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17; Lk 6:20-26 Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24; Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42 Saturday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn

3:13-17

Sunday: Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35





# EXPLORING THE WORD

NATIVITY OF MARY: OPEN TO GOD'S GRACE

Sometimes, God's sense of humor is hard for me to ignore. When I opened my Bible to begin penning this reflection in a quiet adoration chapel, it took all my strength to muffle the involuntary giggle that arose. Why would I find the Gospel heading, "Jesus Cures the Deaf Man" humorous? I was struck by the fascinating "godincidence," as I am the mother of a child who is deaf.

There has been many a Good Friday, as we venerated the Cross, that my family and I have wondered if my daughter would return to the pew miraculously able to hear. Please don't get me wrong, we love her just as she is, and she is the first to tell you this is how God created her and that she loves being deaf! It is not that we want to change her, but being able to hear would make some things much more accessible. Learning about her Catholic faith would be one world we'd love more open to her, and that is precisely the blessing behind the deaf man's miracle.

Today's story of healing goes far beyond providing this man the ability to enjoy listening to singing birds or smooth jazz! No, the greatest gift here is Jesus giving this man the ability to hear the Word of God. He now had the chance to grow in his knowledge of the Messiah, to discover the blessing of living a life yoked to the man who had just healed him, and more importantly, who longed to heal his soul. This life of faith is what Jesus wants for all of us, for our eyes and ears to be open to hearing the Good News and to focus our hearts toward heaven. There are enormous blessings available to everyone who is open to the grace of God, which brings me to why I chose to write for this day in the first place.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. While we don't know the exact date of Mary's birthday, the Church recognizes that her life is definitely worth celebrating! No one's ears are open wider than Mary's! This woman pondered God's Word in her heart, which allowed her the courage to answer "yes" when the Angel Gabriel asked her if she would allow the Holy Spirit to overshadow her and bring the Savior of the World. That was the power of grace overflowing and active in her life!

A little aside: this day was chosen to celebrate Mary's birthday because the early Eastern Church began its Church year in September. This date also helped determine the Church's celebration of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. Mary's birth is truly a joyous moment and is considered "the dawn of our salvation." (see Marialis Cultus by Pope Paul VI). Though it may not be her real birthday, I don't think anyone would take issue with you if you celebrated this momentous day with a cake!

By Allison Gingras



CHEERFULNESS, A SOURCE OF CONSTANT A PROTECTION AGAINST SADNESS. FOUNDATION FOR HAPPINESS,

⋖

Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry,

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM



OUR LADY OF SORROWS

# Fully alivery Day

### **Epiclesis**

At one point during a typical Eucharistic Prayer, the priest extends his hands over the bread and wine and prays that the Holy Spirit will change them into the Body and Blood of Christ. We call this prayer by its traditional Greek title, epiclesis.

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, the Roman Catholic Mass did not include a clear epiclesis. It was prominent in all the Eucharistic Prayers of the Eastern Rites of the Church, so one of the changes to the Mass after the council was to include an epiclesis in all the new Eucharistic Prayers currently in use. By calling on the Holy Spirit, the Roman Catholic Church now makes plain what it has always believed, that the bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Christ due to the action of the Spirit.

The new Eucharistic Prayers have another petition concerning the Spirit in their second half. That petition asks the Holy Spirit, who comes upon those who share this Communion, to bind them in unity. The first epiclesis prays for the transformation of the bread and wine; the second petition prays for the transformation of us.

Pope Paul VI said the changes to the Eucharistic Prayer were the chief innovation in the liturgical form. Although the Roman Rite had used only one prayer for many centuries, the Eastern Rites used a variety of them during the same period. By expanding the number of Eucharistic Prayers and including an epiclesis in them, the council improved the ability of Catholics to enjoy the unity we share with other churches and the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Mass © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.



Hey Family, Let's Talk About This!

When does the Priest extend his hands in this way during Mass?

Why is he doing this?

How is our rite related to the Eastern Rite, post-Vatican II?



Answering God's Call

"He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

If you feel Christ encouraging you to be a transformative instrument as a priest or relig<mark>ious broth</mark>er or sister, talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office

### **Prayer for Vocations**

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. You know each of us and call us by name. Help us to respond generously to your voice by opening our hearts to discern your holy will. We pray especially for those whom you are calling to serve the church as priests, deacons, sisters, and brothers. Give courage and guidance to all, so that we may respond to your call and serve you devoutly.

Contact the Vocation Office at (817) 421-1387 or email: jklaus@gscc.net

# Shepherd's Corner I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me

I'd like to begin with an apology to those who think I'm starting to sound like a broken record. Although, I don't know if that analogy holds up any longer with most people streaming music instead of using record players... then again, are record players even relatable anymore? But I digress. I truly believe that we need to monitor ourselves to make sure we have a sense of gratitude for what God did for us - in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus - as well as what He continues to do for us in our present day.

While it is true that we have a lot of things to be concerned about - global warming, wars, political issues, the economy, individual injustices which confront us, etc. - sometimes it seems like all the evil is what we focus on. Instead, perhaps we could focus on the first reading we had today from the prophet Isaiah. Although he is writing to the people in the 8th century BC, Isaiah's words are much needed for us today: "Thus says the LORD: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!"

Many times, our language or social media posts reflect the frustrations and fear we feel. When we put that fear out into the public, we are not bringing the hope of Christ to others. Remember, God says we are the light of the world. Do we shed light or darkness to others? While I'm not advocating to be a Pollyanna looking through rose-colored glasses (again, another reference that has gone by the wayside), we are to live with the assurance that God is with us in all things.

Reading some of the commentaries on Isaiah, he is writing to people who were fearful. They saw chaos all around them and started to align with other nations, thinking that this would make their lives easier. They saw only their difficulties and forgot how faithful God was to them throughout their history. Isaiah calls them to recall God's love and trust in His providence for them. His message is of hope and redemption for them if they only turn their hearts back to God. Can we do the same?

Now I know for some, even at times myself, the prophets of the Old Testament are difficult to relate to. So let me offer something I often say to people who wrestle with only seeing the difficulties they face. I ask them to visualize Michelangelo's statue, the *Pieta*. I ask them to think of Mary holding the lifeless body of her Son in her lap and remember how much she trusted in God no matter what the circumstances looked like. She witnessed the crucifixion and then had to wait. Three days of waiting - that's an eternity for a grieving mother. What was going through her mind during all this? But by trusting in God's faithfulness she was rewarded by witnessing the resurrection of Jesus and the sending of His Spirit.

May we, like Mary, focus on the promises of God and live by faith and not by sight.

Peace and Blessings, Fr. Mike Ciski, T.O.R.



### THIS WEEK

AT A GLANCE

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- Archangel Moms Morning Meeting | 9:30am | Frassati Room
- Women's Group Meeting | 6:30pm | St. Maria Goretti
- Knights of Columbus | 6:15pm | Parish Hall
- RCIA | 7:00pm | Upper Room

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- Faith & Focus | 5:30am | Parish Hall
- Lazarus Ministry Meeting | 9:30am | St. Augustine
- Men's Tuesday Morning Scripture Study | 9:15am | St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Evening Walking with Purpose | 7:00pm | Upper Room
- Sodality of St. Monica | 6:30pm | Daily Chapel

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

• Wednesday Morning Scripture Study | 10:00am | St. Maria Goretti

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- Thursday Morning Scripture Study | 10:00am | Upper Room
- St. Michael Training | 6:30pm | GSCC Outreach Center
- Vocations Rosary | 6:30pm | Church
- GriefShare | 7:00pm | St. Maria Goretti
- Archangel Moms Evening Meeting | 7:30pm | St. John Bosco

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

• Baby Looms | 9:30am | GSCC Outreach Center

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- Men's Rosary & Discipleship | 7:00am | Daily Chapel
- New Member Welcome | After 5:00pm Mass | Narthex

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- New Member Welcome | After all Masses | Narthex
- Blessing of Catechists | 11:00am Mass | Church



### STAY UP TO DATE

Are you receiving our weekly e-newsletter? To receive updates on important info and events, visit **gscc.net** and scroll to the footer on any page to sign up!



# SEP 15

# CATECHETICAL SUNDAY: BLESSING OF CATECHISTS

Sunday, September 15

### 11:00am Mass | Church

In 1935, the Vatican published "On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education," a document that asks every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honor those who serve their community as catechists. In the United States, the Bishops have designated the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday.

Catechesis is a distinct and special ministry in the Church, which is why our parish will honor and bless our catechists at the 11:00am Mass on Sunday, September 15.



### OKTOBERFEST SPONSORS NEEDED!

Our goal is a GREAT and AFFORDABLE event for the families of Good Shepherd Catholic Community. In order to accomplish this goal, we are seeking sponsors for a variety of activities. Sponsors' names will be proudly displayed on a large banner at each sponsored event or activity. Sponsors will also receive 4 free coasters.

We are planning a much bigger event this year. Activities will include a hayride, performances on stage, face-painting, free-throw contest, cornhole, horseshoes, giant Jenga, giant Connect 4, inflatables for kids and preteens, kids' games, volleyball, whiffle ball, and Trunk or Treat.

We ask that you pray on this and that you take this opportunity to join in volunteering and celebrating with us as a community. You can select and purchase your sponsorship level at **gscc.net/oktoberfestsponsor**.

We will also be offering vendor opportunities at this year's Oktoberfest. If you are interested in renting a vendor table, please visit **gscc.net/oktoberfest** and someone will be in contact with you with more information.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this opportunity to support the GSCC family.

Save the Date!
Oktoberfest is Saturday,
October 26



### WE MEKEND CO WEN'S C

Saturday, September 14 & Sunday, September 15 After all Masses | Narthex

Are you new to Good Shepherd? Please stop by our New Member Welcome table immediately after Mass on Saturday, September 14 & Sunday, September 15. Our Welcome Team will greet you and present you with your New Member Welcome Gift. We hope to see you there!



### MEN'S CLUB MEETING

Monday, September 16 6:30pm | Parish Hall

Please join us on Monday, September 16, for our monthly Men's Club Meeting. We will gather at 6:30pm for conversation and beverages. A ham dinner with all the fixings will be served at 7:00pm (\$5 donation appreciated). The meeting begins at 7:20pm with club announcements and a keynote speaker. We will then close the meeting around 8:30pm. All men of the parish are encouraged to come!

Volunteers are needed. Please visit **bit.ly/MC\_Mtg\_Volunteers** to register for your position.



For all events and ministries currently meeting and coming up, please visit gscc.net/ministries or gscc.net/calendar

# 

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ETERNAL REWARD

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## Introductory Note



Let us look to the example of the Good Samaritan. Jesus' parable summons us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our respective nations and of the entire world, builders of a new social bond. This summons is ever new, yet it is grounded in a fundamental law of our being: we are called to direct society to the pursuit of the common good and, with this purpose in mind, to persevere in consolidating its political and social order, its fabric of relations, its human goals.

(Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, no. 66)

s Catholics and Americans, we are blessed to be able to participate in our nation's political and public life. Our freedoms respect the dignity of individuals and their consciences and allow us to come together for the common good. Election seasons, therefore, should contain a sense of gratitude and hope. Our love for this country, our patriotism, properly impels us to vote.

But increasingly, it seems, election seasons are a time of anxiety and spiritual trial. Political rhetoric is increasingly angry, seeking to motivate primarily through division and hatred. Fear can be an effective tool for raising money. The most heated arguments online often get the most clicks. Demonizing the other can win votes.

We propose once more the moral framework of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship precisely as pastors, inspired by the Good Samaritan, with the hope of binding these wounds and healing these bitter divisions. This document is not based on personalities or partisanship, the latest news cycle, or what's trending on social media. Instead, it reflects the perennial role of the Church in public life in proclaiming timeless principles: the infinite

worth and dignity of every human life, the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity. Not sure what these mean? We invite you to read a copy of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship and learn more.

Allowing your conscience to be stretched and formed by these reflections can give you peace! They point to Jesus' challenge to show mercy to those in need, just as the Good Samaritan. As Pope Francis writes, "Here, all our distinctions, labels and masks fall away: it is the moment of truth. Will we bend down to touch and heal the wounds of others?" (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 70). Let this be in our hearts when we talk about politics and make political choices.

Some might be tempted to say: yes, of course, we will be the ones who help by promoting good and opposing evil. But when confronted with so much good at risk and so much evil, it is a great challenge to avoid fear and anger. The threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent priority because it directly attacks our most vulnerable and voiceless brothers and sisters and destroys more than a million lives per year in our country alone. Other grave threats to the life and dignity of the human person include euthanasia, gun violence, terrorism, the death penalty, and human trafficking. There is also the redefinition of marriage and gender, threats to religious freedom at home and abroad, lack of justice for the poor, the suffering of migrants and refugees, wars and famines around the world, racism, the need for greater access to healthcare and education, care for our common home, and more. All threaten the dignity of the human person.

So *precisely how* we promote good and oppose evil is an essential part of answering the Lord's call, of being a disciple. As St. Paul reminds us:

Never let evil talk pass your lips; say only the good things men need to hear, things that will really help them. Do nothing that will sadden the Holy Spirit with whom you were sealed against the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, all passion and anger, harsh words, slander, and malice of every kind. In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate, and mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ (Eph. 4:29-32).

Thus, Pope Francis exhorts us to "genuine dialogue and openness to others," by which we may "be frank and open about our beliefs, while continuing to discuss, to seek points of contact, and above all, to work and struggle together" (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 203). This applies to the faithful both as voters and as candidates—we must consider not only candidates' positions on these issues, but their character and integrity as well.

How can we meet this challenge? Again, St. Paul gives us a way: Put on "the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16). Take time away from social media and spend time with Holy Scripture and the Blessed Sacrament. Turn off the TV and the podcast, and listen in silence. Volunteer at a soup kitchen, a homeless shelter, a crisis pregnancy center. Serve the poor, the needy, the outcast. Pray often, letting faith inform your political participation.

Participation in political life also requires judgments about concrete circumstances. While the bishops help form the laity in accordance with basic principles, they do not tell the laity to vote for particular candidates. On these often complex matters, it is the laity's responsibility to form their consciences and grow in the virtue of prudence to approach the many and varied issues of the day with the mind of Christ. Conscience is "a judgment of reason" by which one determines whether an action is right or wrong (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1778). It does not allow us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere "feeling." Conscience—properly formed according to God's revelation and the teaching of the Church—is a means by which one listens to God and discerns how to act in accordance with the truth. The truth is something we receive, not something we make. We can only judge using the conscience we have, but our judgments do not make things true.

It is our responsibility to learn more of Catholic teaching and tradition, to participate in Church life, to learn from trustworthy sources about the issues facing our communities, and to do our best

to make wise judgments about candidates and government actions.

We must also seek wisdom, as Holy Scripture instructs:

Wisdom from above is first of all innocent. It is also peaceable, lenient, docile, rich in sympathy and the kindly deeds that are its fruits, impartial and sincere. The harvest of justice is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace (Jas. 3:17-18).

The teachings of the Church, moreover, offer a vision of hope, where justice and mercy abound, because God is the infinite source of all goodness and love. With this wisdom and hope, we can find a way to bend down as the Good Samaritan did, through the fear and divisions, to touch and heal the wounds.

May God bless you as you consider and pray over these challenging decisions. May God bless our nation with true wisdom, peace, and mutual forgiveness, that we may decide together, through our democratic processes, to uphold the dignity of life and the common good.

This bulletin insert along with five others was approved by the body of U.S. bishops in November 2023. Find this and more complementary resources at www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

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1 Gaudium et Spes (The Church in the Modern World), no. 16. See also, Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1785.

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Learn more about all of our ministries at gscc.net/ministries

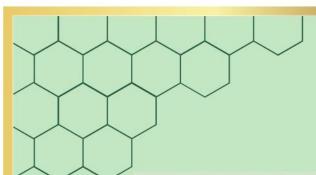
Second Tuesday of the Month | 6:30pm

Women's Rosary & Readings

Mission-Outreach Ministry

First Wednesday of the Month | 9:30am

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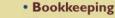
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