



1st Reading: [Is 35:4-7a](#)
Responsorial: [Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10](#)
2nd Reading: [Jas 2:1-5](#)
Gospel: [Mk 7:31-37](#)



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: "Ephphatha!"

"Be opened!" are the words Jesus uses as he heals the deaf and mute man. These words are not just used to open ears and eyes, but to also open hearts to make room for Christ... to be open to the Holy Spirit. Healing is not just physical, but spiritual as well. In the ancient days, physical limitations also meant social limitations. These limitations put labels on those with disabilities or illness as "untouchables" and as such, they were the unloved. In his ministry, Jesus demonstrated God' love by touching the untouchables and opening their hearts to a divine love that society had denied.

Mark's gospel supplies the foundational account for the Ephphetha Rite which may be seen during the Easter Vigil as part of the initiation ceremony of adults who are entering the faith through the RCIA process. In this rite, the presider touches the ears and the mouth of the elect and prays that they be open to hear and proclaim the word of God in faith. This takes place before the elect is baptized. In a child's baptism, this rite actually takes place after the child is baptized. After being baptized with water, a child is anointed with chrism, clothed in a white garment, and receives the Light of Christ. The option to use the Ephphetha Rite is then performed, touching the ears and mouth of the child saying, "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

This week reminds us to reflect on how well we are attentive to the words of Jesus and how we proclaim our faith in the world. Let us make this one word be our prayer this week - Ephphatha! - Be opened!

In what ways is Jesus calling you to be more open to his wisdom and word?

Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!
+Pope Francis

[You Tube Ordinary Time 23B](#)

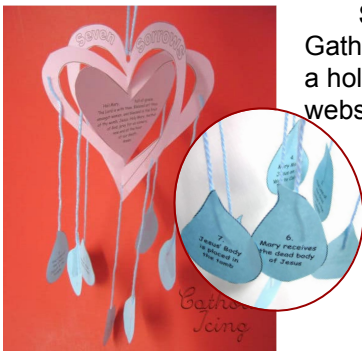
Where in the world... FLY around the diocese to find the Traveling Icon and learn more about our diocese!
A GOOGLE EARTH ACTIVITY
September 3 - September 11

Seven Sorrows of Mary Mobile Craft

Gather some construction paper, yarn, scissors and a hole punch use the free download found on the website page to create this easy craft to display in your home during the month of September.

Visit catholicicing.com - Seven Sorrows of Mary Or go directly to the free download here catholicicing.com

Happy Birthday to Mother Mary!



Sept 9 Saint Peter Claver
Patron Saint of African Diaspora, African Missions, Colombia and Interracial Justice
franciscanmedia.org

Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for September



For an environmentally sustainable lifestyle... We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (September 1)

Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

- USCCB.org - *Season of Creation Sept 1 - Oct 4* (Family Faith Builder)
- Catholicmom.com - *Meditating on the Seven Sorrows of Mary* (Teens & Adults Faith Builder)
- Thecompassnews.org - *More than Physical Healing: Ephphetha* (Adult Faith Builder)
- catholicicing.com - *How to celebrate the Nativity of Mary, Sept. 8* - Lots of fun ideas! (Family Faith Builder)
- Loyolapress.com - *Sunday Connections* (All ages)

