

# Dear Padre,

**Martyrs and people who commit suicide willingly sacrifice their lives, so how are they different? If I deliberately put myself in a position to be killed—even for a worthy cause—isn't that a form of suicide?**

**L**ife is a gift from God. While both martyrdom and suicide contradict the natural human disposition to preserve and perpetuate life, the former is a totally self-giving act; the latter, a self-inflicted one.

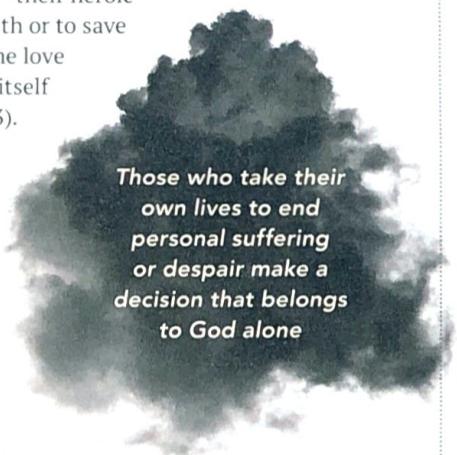
The early Church believed that martyrs went directly to heaven because their sacrifice of life was the ultimate Christlike expression. Their courageous endurance of indignities and tortures—their heroic willingness to die in defense of the faith or to save another's life—demonstrates a supreme love of God and neighbor over love for life itself (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2473).

Those who take their own lives to end personal suffering or despair make a decision that belongs to God alone. It's an action that can revolve totally around the "self," often with little thought given to its consequences. It's a sin against hope (CCC 2091) that reveals a lack of faith and trust in God. Conversely, martyrdom is a profound expression of faith, trust, and hope in God. Nevertheless, our compassionate God fully knows the intensity of suffering that triggers suicide and "can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance" (CCC 2283).

*Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*

**Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



*Those who take their own lives to end personal suffering or despair make a decision that belongs to God alone*



## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Remember that story about the poor widow lady...Her husband had committed suicide; he jumped from the bridge into the river. And she wept. She said, "I am a sinner, a poor woman. But my poor husband! He is in hell."...And the Curé of Ars said, "But wait a moment, ma'am, because between the bridge and the river, there is the mercy of God."*

HOMILY, MARCH 18, 2019

## Calendar

**Monday**  
SEPTEMBER 6  
Weekday  
Col 1:24—2:3  
Lk 6:6—11

**Tuesday**  
SEPTEMBER 7  
Weekday  
Col 2:6—15  
Lk 6:12—19

**Wednesday**  
SEPTEMBER 8  
*The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
Mi 5:1—4a or  
Rom 8:28—30  
Mt 1:1—16, 18—23, or  
1:18—23

**Thursday**  
SEPTEMBER 9  
*St. Peter Claver, Priest*  
Col 3:12—17  
Lk 6:27—38

**Friday**  
SEPTEMBER 10  
Weekday  
1 Tm 1:1—2, 12—14  
Lk 6:39—42

**Saturday**  
SEPTEMBER 11  
Weekday  
1 Tm 1:15—17  
Lk 6:43—49

**Sunday**  
SEPTEMBER 12  
*Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Is 50:4c—9a  
Jas 2:14—18  
Mk 8:27—35

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

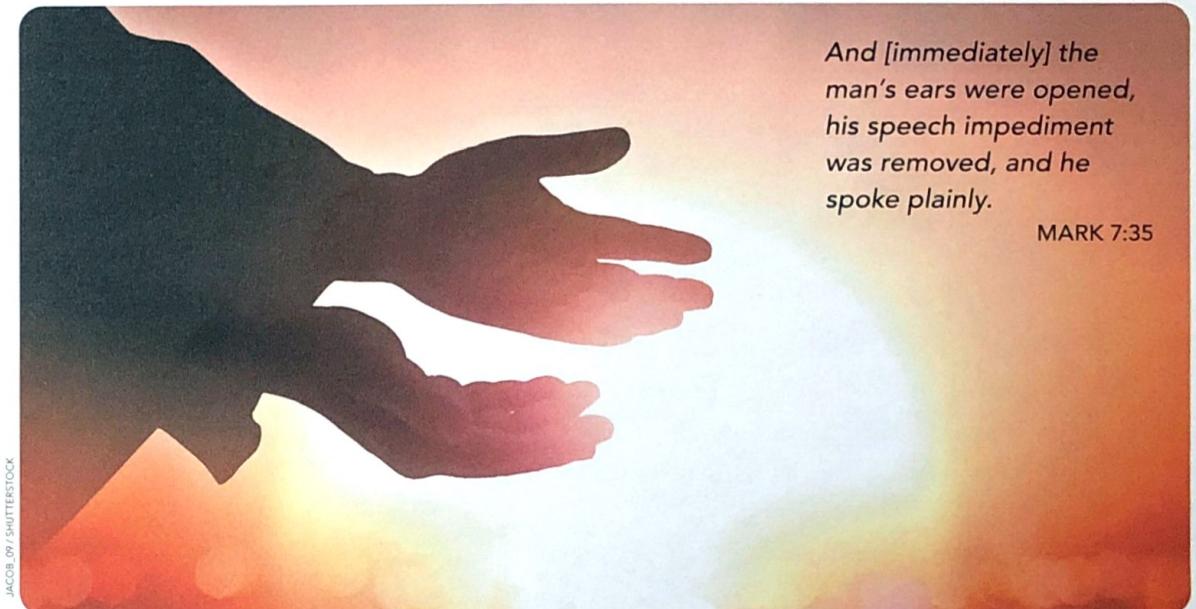
September 5, 2021

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Is 35:4—7a

Jas 2:1—5

Mk 7:31—37



*And [immediately] the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.*

MARK 7:35

## He Has Done All Things Well

**D**eep in the heart of each of us is a desire for a perfect world—a world of peace and harmony, where life flourishes and people care for one another. From beginning to end, our religious tradition promises that such a world is just ahead of us. Today's readings assure us that physical obstacles will not prevent its accomplishment, because the graciousness of God is stronger than any other power.

Today's reading from Isaiah instructs us: "Be strong, do not fear!" (35:4). It encourages us to believe in this promise of ultimate fulfillment and to trust that God will see it through. Our focus changes slightly in the Gospel passage. What was a promise of the future for Isaiah bursts forth as a reality in the Gospel, where the healing of broken bodies and troubled lives is realized by the warm words and gentle touch of Jesus.

Do such miracles really happen? Or are these fanciful stories that provide hope for people with little scientific understanding? Are miracles real? Of course they are. However, their true meaning might be much more profound than we realize. A miracle is a manifestation of divine power far beyond human control or comprehension. It is an experience of being made whole again, an occurrence in which peace and harmony are reestablished. Sometimes a miracle is spectacular; at other times it is far too deep to be seen. But always it is God working in our lives to create us anew.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Where does your life need healing? What are you doing about it?*
- ★ *How might you be a source of healing in the lives of others?*



Rectory & Parish Office  
 600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 983  
 Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405  
 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 Email: [saintanthonylakin@gmail.com](mailto:saintanthonylakin@gmail.com)  
 Website: [saintanthonylakin.org](http://saintanthonylakin.org)

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Monday, Sept. 6</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Eileen Hoff+</b>
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 7</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>All Souls</b>
<b>Thursday, Sept. 9</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Harold Smith+</b>
<b>Friday, Sept. 10</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Private Intention</b>
<b>Saturday, Sept. 11</b>	<b>4:00p.m.</b>	<b>George Hogan+</b>
<b>Sunday, Sept. 12</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Private Intention (K.B.)</b>

Sept. 4	4:00 p.m.	Gwen Waechter
Sept. 5	9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps
Sept. 11	4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
Sept. 12,	9:00 a.m.	K of C
Sept. 18,	4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
Sept. 19,	9:00 a.m.	Mike Broeckelman
Sept. 25,	4:00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
Sept. 26,	9:00 a.m.	Fred Jones

*Thank you so much for your ministry!*

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

**23 ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME— SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

**Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people. (Mt 4:23)**

This Sunday’s Gospel passage is a familiar one. Jesus heals the deaf man. We’ve heard it many times before. There is a certain “wow” factor that goes along with this story. Jesus sticks his finger in the man’s ear, spits on his tongue, and makes some sort of groaning sound toward heaven saying, “Ephphatha! --- that is, “Be opened!”

You might think that this Gospel passage is the only time you have ever heard this word before --- but it is used at every infant baptism --- as the priest or deacon touches the baby’s ears and mouth asking God to open his or her ears to hear God’s Word, and open his or her mouth to proclaim it. You see, as with nearly everything we read in Scripture --- the stories about the Lord Jesus aren’t simply a remembrance of something he said or did long ago. They are evidence and signs of God’s continued action in this time and place. And so when God says, “Ephphatha!” to the man who is deaf and mute, he’s saying that same thing to you and to me.

What do we need to be open to? New ways of seeing the world and every person in it? New ways of thinking? Giving more? Loving more? Being more?

I guess it all comes down to whether or not we feel the need to change. If not, then “Ephphatha!” is simply an empty word. But if so --- if we truly desire to allow God to change us --- then that strange word means so much more --- it means the difference between a life we choose for ourselves and a life chosen for us by God. Which will it be?

Fr. Peter Tran

**COLLECTION** for August 29, 2021: Envelopes: \$970. 00; Loose: \$192.00; Online Giving: \$367.25 Total \$1529.25; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under -241.92.

*Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*

**HAPPY LABOR DAY EVERYONE!** “Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person, Work, to use an image, ‘anoints’ us with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works, who always acts...” (Pope Francis, Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and World Labor Day)

**2021 CCD ENROLLMENT** We’re excited to inform you that CCD enrollment for this year will be on **SEPTEMBER 8 AT 6:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.** Please make an effort to come to enroll your children for classes. Also, Registration Forms are available on the St. Anthony website, [www.saintanthonylakin.com](http://www.saintanthonylakin.com) Click CCD Religious Education Registration in the Front page. A required parent meeting is scheduled on 09/15 at 6:30 p.m. CCD classes will start on 09/22. Confirmation class starts on 09/19.

**OUR PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION IS STILL IN NEED OF A VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS FOR THE 5th –6th, 7-8 th GRADE and Kindergarten.** If you are interested in sharing the word of God with the youth of our parish, please call Lisa Gannett (355-6611) or Karen Burden (355-6388).

**RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN OF ADULTS) PROCESS IN THE PARISH**

- Have you been worshiping with us, but never officially taken the step to become Catholic? Have you been away from the Church, and have now returned, but want to know more? Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)?

Have you joined us from a different background and would like to find out more about the Catholic Church? If you (“or someone you know”) answers YES to any of these questions, you are invited to find out more through process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). It is a journey that begins with your questions. There is no obligation to join us as you discover more about your Catholic faith. The decision is ultimately yours to discern if this is to be your spiritual home. The invitation is always open. Please call us (620-355-6405) when you are ready! On behalf of the Catholic faith community of the St. Anthony, we look forward to welcoming you.

**VOCATION VIEW** The encounter with Jesus never leaves one unaffected, but our ears must be opened to receive His word. (Mark 7:31-37)

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT** The good steward must not show favoritism. The rich may have many material gifts to share, but St. James reminds us in the second reading that God has chosen the world’s poor to be rich in faith and inheritors of God’s kingdom.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** God of compassion, your Son expelled evil and suffering and brought about your reign. He calls us to abandon our self-interest and to expand our hearts so that we are filled with love for everyone, especially those we most want to overlook. Although we worship Jesus as Lord, sometimes we close our ears to his word. Work miracles in us, so that we will listen closely to your Son and act boldly for the well-being of all. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

**UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Mark 7:31-37)**

**It’s coming true** The first reading from Isaiah for this Sunday is part of a prophecy that God will free his people and restore them to the land he promised them. Isaiah spoke these words when the Israelites were being conquered by the Assyrian Empire. Isaiah said, “then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared...” When Jesus heals the deaf man, people wonder if Isaiah’s prophecy is coming true. On two different occasions later in this Gospel Jesus will heal a blind man (8:22f, 10:42f), showing yet again that he fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy.

**Loudly and clearly** The deaf man is changed physically. The crowd is changed spiritually. Just as the man is now able to hear and speak clearly, so the crowds that have listened to Jesus now proclaim his deeds. Jesus tells the people not to speak about what happened. One explanation for this is Jesus simply wants a break from all the attention, but it’s more likely that he doesn’t want to be misunderstood. Although Jesus fulfills the prophecy that God’s kingdom is coming, he does so in a way that will shock and horrify people: he will be crucified. The crowds think they hear and see Jesus loudly and clearly, but there’s much more that they have to learn about who he is and what he offers.

**Healing techniques** Jesus begins the healing in a manner that is typical of that era. • People believed that saliva had healing properties • Putting one’s fingers into a deaf person’s ears symbolized the deafness that the healer was trying to cure, just as touching the tongue was a sign of freeing the person to speak clearly • Looking up to heaven was a gesture of appeal for divine aid However, Jesus also acts differently from a typical healer. He speaks one word of command: be opened. Other healers were likely to rattle off a stream of words as a sort of magical incantation. Why Jesus groaned, however, is unclear. It might have been part of the ancient healing formula or an expression of anger at the man’s disability. ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

**UNDERSTANDING THE SECOND READING** (James 2: 1-5)

**Partiality for the poor** James wants the Christian community to treat people according to the values of the gospel and not according to the values of their culture. The followers of Christ, therefore, shouldn’t privilege the rich over the poor. Favoring the rich over the poor is the very opposite of what the gospel requires. • God’s preference for the poor is a major theme of the Old Testament – and has become an essential part of the Catholic tradition • Those who are materially poor are better positioned to trust in God because they have little or no money to depend on instead (v.5) • Jesus’ incarnation, ministry, and death revealed God’s readiness to identify with those in need

**Currying favor** By rings and fine clothes James might be referring to members of the Roman aristocracy. If Christians were favoring such powerful people, it meant they were trying to enrich themselves and protect their own interests. Such concern for worldly matters is contrary to the gospel. ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

## THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**Counselling the doubtful** Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and turn to him along our way. Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may eventually become wise" ([Prov 19:20](#)) The Cross of Christ "the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength" ([1 Cor 1:25](#)) Has someone asked you for advice? Orient your response to Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others may see God's love revealed in your actions. Accompany a friend who is struggling with believing to join a parish group for service or faith formation, share a book you found useful in dealing with your friend's faith concern, and worship at Sunday Mass

**Instructing the ignorant** Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith. Go on a service trip or short term mission trip. No time? Donate to support someone on their service trip. Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish. Invite someone to go to mass with you this weekend. Know your faith! Read through the [USCCA](#) to find out more about the Catholic faith and how to live it

**Admonishing the sinner** Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ. In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times. Don't judge, but guide others towards the path of salvation (see [Mt 7:1-2](#)) When you correct someone, don't be arrogant. We are all in need of God's loving correction. We should journey together to a deeper understanding of our shared faith "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye" ([Mt 7:5](#))

**Comforting the sorrowful** Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference. Lend a listening ear to those going through a tough time. Make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time. Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering. A few moments of your day may make a lifetime of difference to someone who is going through a difficult time.

**Forgiving injuries** Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God. Let go of grudges. Saying sorry is something we learn as kids, but how often do we really mean it? Forgiveness transforms hearts and lives. Participate in the [Sacrament of Penance](#). Pray the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#)

**Bearing wrongs patiently** Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit. Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation, take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience.

**Praying for the living and the dead.** Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care. Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a tough time. Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who has passed away. Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who you are keeping in your prayers. Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about. Through prayer, entrust your cares and concerns for those around you to God. ([United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(usccb.org\)](#))

## VALUE THEM BOTH

Power Point Presentation

Knights of Columbus State Chaplain Bernard Gorges

**Sunday – September 19<sup>th</sup> – 10:15 am (Immediately after the 9:00 Mass) – St. Anthony's Parish Center**

Learn the details of the **VALUE THEM BOTH** Amendment that will be on the August 2, 2022 ballot.

The **VALUE THEM BOTH** Amendment to the Kansas Constitution will ensure that abortions up to the moment of birth – including the extreme procedures such as live dismemberment and taxpayer funded abortion – cannot happen in Kansas

A court ruling has put all existing laws and commonsense regulations on the abortion industry at risk. **VALUE THEM BOTH** will protect our existing laws in Kansas.

## TWENTY –THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Shopping made simple

What do you give to the saint who has everything? Mother Teresa of Calcutta was among the spiritually richest people on the planet throughout her productive life caring for the poor. The date of her death, September 5, was quickly recognized in Hungary as an occasion to be perpetually honored. In 2012, the United Nations declared this date as an International Day of Charity in her memory. As Mother Teresa demonstrated, simple acts of charity reach across divisions and make communities more resilient. Contribute to the healing of society today by charitable giving, locally or globally. (Prepare the Word)

## VIGÉSIMO TERCER DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

### Comprar de forma simple

¿Qué se le regala a la santa que lo tiene todo? La Madre Teresa de Calcuta fue una de las personas más ricas espiritualmente del planeta a lo largo de su fructífera vida cuidando de los pobres. La fecha de su muerte, el 5 de septiembre, fue rápidamente reconocida en Hungría como una ocasión para ser honrada a perpetuidad. En 2012, las Naciones Unidas declararon esta fecha como Día Internacional de la Caridad en su memoria. Como demostró la Madre Teresa, los simples actos de caridad trascienden las divisiones y hacen que las comunidades sean más resilientes. Contribuye hoy a la sanación de la sociedad haciendo donaciones caritativas, a nivel local o mundial.