



Our Parish COMMUNITY

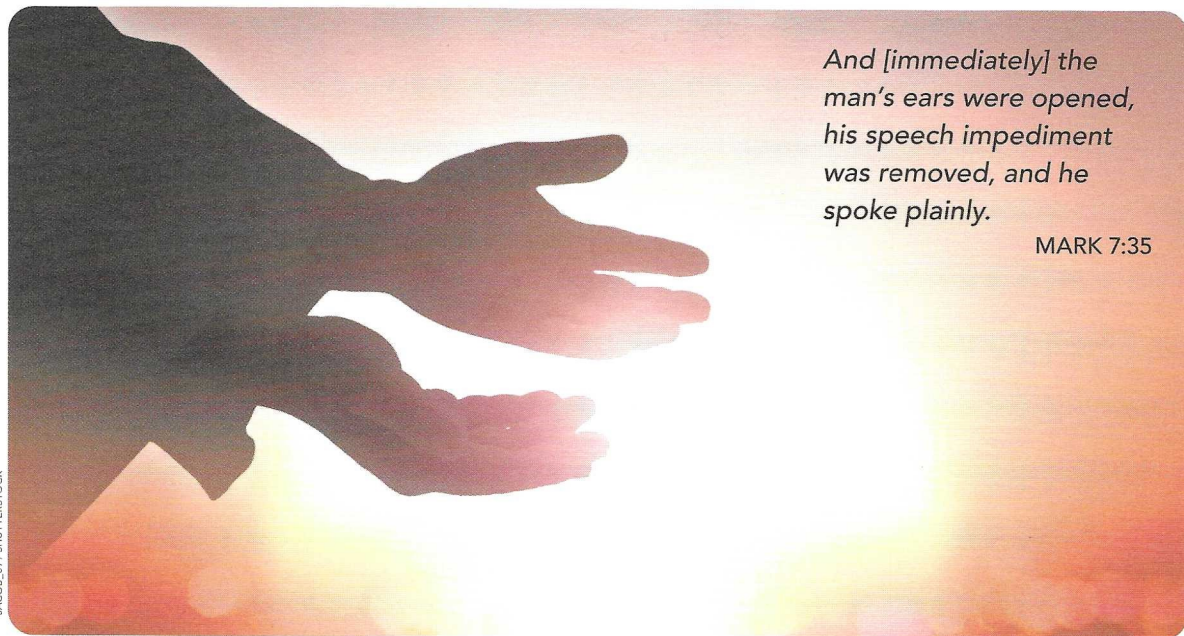
September 5, 2021

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

Dep 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?*