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**The Diocese of St. Catharines  
 60th Anniversary—1958-2018**  
*“Put out into the deep water and let down your  
 nets.” (Lk 5:4)*  
**Sunday, September 9th , 2018**  
**Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. 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!" — Mk 7:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Sat. Sept 8	9-10am	<b>Reconciliation</b>
	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Sept 9	9:30am	✠ Nicola Colangelo & Nina Di Dionisio (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
	11:00am	✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Shirley Milo & Family)
Mon. Sept 10	9:30am	✠ Carole Price (John & Diane Szydowski)
	7-8pm	<b>Holy Hour &amp; Reconciliation</b>
Tues. Sept 11	9:30am	✠ Kelly Morrellato (Racz Family)
Wed. Sept 12	9:30am	Michael Wilson (Karen Kennedy)
Thurs. Sept 13	9:30am	✠ Dominique Forgeron (Norrie Franko & Nancy Falovo)
Fri. Sept 14	9:30am	✠ Carole Price (Janet Battersby)
Sat. Sept 15	9-10am	<b>Reconciliation</b>
	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Sept 16	9:30am	✠ Kristina & Frank Hozjan (Stefan Hozjan & Family)
	11:00am	✠ Nick Lancione (Sherry Lancione & Family)

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**

**Offertory August 25th & 26th, 2018**

63 Envelopes	\$1, 810.00
Loose Collection	\$ 39.00
Total Offertory	\$1, 849.00
Catholic Missions	\$ 100.00

**Offertory September 1st & 2nd, 2018**

54 Envelopes	\$1, 225.00
Loose Collection	\$ 69.45
Total Offertory	\$1, 294.45
Maintenance	\$ 314.00

**Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*“Jesus ... went by way of Sidon ... into the district of the Decapolis.”* For most of Jesus' ministry, he remains in Galilee and areas with a predominantly Jewish population. Today, however, we see Jesus traveling through a heavily pagan area. This makes the utterance of faith in today's Gospel all the more astounding. *“He has done all things well.”*

In this story, a deaf man is brought to Jesus. This man is not without community! Despite communication difficulties due to a speech impediment, his people bring him before Jesus. Jesus lays hands upon the man and commands his broken body to change. *“Be opened! Immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.”* The community is stunned. They can't stop telling the story. The more Jesus asks them to settle down, the more they proclaim! The Jewish people expected a Messiah with very particular qualifications. The Greeks and pagans anticipated no such saviour. There were no expectations to meet. They had a special capacity to be completely, utterly surprised.

As Catholics, it can be easy to become accustomed to the songs and the prayers, to the routine of religious education drop-offs and Sunday Mass attendance. By now, we may have very particular expectations. When was the last time you allowed yourself to be surprised by God? Sometimes we are all like the deaf man in today's Gospel. God wants to speak to us, but we can't hear clearly. In your prayer this week, go before God honestly. Give yourself permission to drop your expectations and assumptions. Ask Him to renew your faith to show you how, in your life, *“He has done all things well.”*

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**  
 We often associate the word "healing" with something that produces dramatic, physical results: the blind see, the crippled walk, and the deaf hear. Witnessing such miraculous events is few and far between for most. Healing happens more frequently in very ordinary ways using very ordinary means. And we can all be God's instruments for bringing it about. Kindness, love, mercy, and compassion can go a very long way. Treating people with kindness ... being inclusive and welcoming of the poor, the weak, and the powerless ... listening to another's story and pain ... offering compassion and love to those who have wronged us ... avoiding hurtful criticisms and watching our tongues. All can go a long way to changing and healing human hearts. There is power in love and kindness. Does this power not speak of someone greater than ourselves working in and through us?

**As part of our observance of the 60th anniversary of our diocese, a Mass of Penance and Healing** will be celebrated on **Friday, September 14, 2018**, the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Bishop Bergie will pray for all those harmed by the sinful actions of priests and religious in our diocese and, in a spirit of repentance, will seek forgiveness and God's mercy. During our anniversary we need to celebrate the good, and also acknowledge the pain that is part of our history. At this Mass we will pray for God's healing as we focus on the cross which is the greatest sign of God's love.

**Elisha House Baby Bottle Campaign:** A total of \$945.30 was collected in our Parish! Elisha House thanks you for your generous contributions to the work they do in the community. Overall, in the community, Elisha House raised \$35, 116 through this campaign.



**Married Singles Lifestyle** –The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **October 12, 2018**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: [hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca](mailto:hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca) or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

**Diocesan SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY** support group monthly meetings. September topics are *The Journey of Separation and Divorce* (Sept 10); and *Coping With Stresses of Separation and Divorce* (Sept 24). Meetings are the second and fourth Mondays from 7-9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls. For a pamphlet or information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com). No pre-registration required.

**The Catholic Women's League of St. Alexander Parish in Fonthill** is sponsoring a speaker's event on the extraordinary healing power of God for everyone in our parish, men, women and youth. On **Wednesday September 12th**, we will start with a mass at 6:30 p.m. followed by a presentation by Suresh Dominic, the President of Gethsemane Ministries, a lay Catholic movement since 1997. The talk is titled 'God Heals Today' focusing on belief and trust in the healing power of God by standing firm in His word and having an expectant faith. Join us for a night of faith and fulfillment! Light refreshments.

**Join us for Faith on Tap** with His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie on **Friday, September 21st, 2018. Doors open at 6 p.m.** Under the big tent at Branches 43 Maywood Avenue, St. Catharines. **Admission \$10.00 per person. Live Music, Door Prizes, 50/50, Raffle Draw, Cash Bar and BBQ** Ticket price covers admission and entry to door prizes. Debit and credit available on site. Overflow parking at 26 Hiscott St. Tickets are available for purchase at Branches Catholic Books & Gifts or at the door. Limited seating: This will be a sold-out event, so get your tickets early! This is a 19+ event. If you would like to be a sponsor for this event or donate a raffle prize, please contact [shipping@go2branches.com](mailto:shipping@go2branches.com) [gbroaley@branchesoftheword.org](mailto:gbroaley@branchesoftheword.org). **All profits will go towards supporting Regenerate(d) YOUTH! Event Menu Price List** Hot Dog - \$3, Hamburger - \$5, Pop & Water - \$1 Chips - \$1 Beer, Wine, Liquor - \$5

**A Memorial Mass**, presided by Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, will be celebrated for Sister Jacqueline DesRoches at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria on **Wednesday, September 12th at 7 p.m.** Sister Jacqueline died on July 11th in Kingston, Ontario. She spent 18 wonderful years serving the people of St Catharines at Hotel Dieu Hospital and Hotel Dieu Shaver until her retirement in 2014.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive:** Begins the weekend of September 8/9. Baskets are at the back of the church. Donations to Pelham Cares appreciated. **Items Most Urgently Needed:** Canned stew / chili, Canned flakes of chicken & turkey, Hamburger Helper, Manwich Sauce, Drip coffee, Decaffeinated instant & drip coffee, Jam / Jelly, Kleenex, Canned fruit, Pudding mixes / jello, Almond or soy milk - unsweetened, Fabric softener, Disposable razors - women's, Conditioner. Please note that at this time we have an **abundant supply of dried pasta and pasta sauce.**

**Parish Calendar**  
**September**  
**Beginning this month, raffle tickets for the CWL Bazaar will be available to buy or take a book to sell. The prize is \$500. More to follow soon.....**  
**Sept 8/9....** Sundae Sunday following all Masses  
**Sept 12....** Confirmation Class 4-5:30pm  
**Sept 13....** Bingo resumes, 7pm  
**Sept 19.....** Confirmation Class 4-5:30pm  
**Sept 19.....** Opening School Mass 9:30am  
**Sept 24th.....** CWL meeting beginning with Mass at 6pm  
**Sept 26.....** Confirmation Class 4-5:30pm  
**Sept 30....** Special Collection– Bishop's collection for the Needs of the Canadian Church.

**Youth**  
 Serving God By Serving Others

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** "Equipping young Catholics to share the truth through word, deeds, and actions, so that their lives are forever purpose-driven and centred on Christ, inviting others to do the same." Wednesday evenings beginning from 6:30-8:30pm. All Youth in Grades 5-12 are invited to attend.

**Confirmation Classes** have resumed on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm. Attendance is mandatory for all candidates. Here are the responsibilities of each Confirmation Candidate:

**Complete homework assignments.** Each lesson contains a "Taking It Home" section that reinforces what was learned in class and what will be covered in the "Review Game" the following week. Spend some time with your child to review this and share your thoughts together. If you have any questions bring them to class the following week!

**Doing the "Challenge of the Week."** Each week, candidates will complete a personal challenge that will help them apply that week's material to their own lives.

**Mass attendance** ... every Sunday (and on holy days of obligation).

**Class participation.** Candidates must be on time and be attentive at every class, at prayer services and retreats, and at other required formation events.\*

**\*\* Don't forget to bring your Chosen textbook to class! \*\***  
 Genevieve Broadley, St. Ann Youth Minister

**Regenerated 2018:** Are you aware that the gifts you receive at Confirmation from the Holy Spirit are to prepare you for battle? You may ask what kind of battle are we talking about? It's called 'spiritual warfare'...it's real and it's growing! **On Saturday, November 17th** join Branches Catholic Ministries at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario as it hosts **Regenerated 2018.** Keynote speakers such as Johnnette Benkovic, Thomas Sullivan, Dr. Edward Sri and others will address the misconceptions about this Sacrament and its importance to the stability of the family and ultimately society at large. **Regenerated Youth** will run concurrently for ages 12 to 18. For **"early-bird" tickets** or for more information visit [branchesoftheword.org](http://branchesoftheword.org) or call Branches at 905-685-7000. **Registration forms are at the back of the church.**

**Be a Man! This fall, the Holy Name Society of Welland** will present a video series titled "Be a Man". All men are invited to join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of every month at 7:00 pm for 10 sessions, in the hospitality room at St Kevins Church. The first session will be on Tues Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. **Be the Man GOD created you to be.** To understand true manhood, Fr. Larry Richards explains that we must rediscover the spiritual life and learn what it means to be a beloved son of God. For more information or to register, please contact Garret Smits at 905-988-3220 or Rick McAllister at 905-732-0294.



