September 9th - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of the Pastor....

In the first reading today the prophet Isaiah tells people who are weary of life's challenges, burdens and struggles: "Be strong, fear not!" To be faithful to God. He reminds them that God has promised to be with them and that God will come to save and vindicate them. The prophet goes on to give examples of the new life God gives to his people. He gives sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf. He cures the lame. He puts a song on the tongue of the mute.

Jesus in the Gospel fulfills the prophecy

The miracles of Jesus were outward manifestations of the in-breaking of the kingdom of God. Jesus came to remove all obstacles that prevent the kingdom of God from coming to us and those elements which hinder or block us from being in communion with each other. Being unable to hear or speak clearly could certainly remove a person from being present to or for others.

Jesus gives new lease of life to the man who is deaf and has a speech impediment. Touching the man’s ears and tongue and interceding to the Father, Jesus gives this man new life. Jesus heals him. The man begins to hear “his voice” and speak ‘orthos’ which is rendered as “plainly” and “rightly”.

Each year when we celebrate Holy Week and Easter, we celebrate this new life that is given to us in and through the suffering, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Every Sunday, we commemorate this event in the hope of being more and more integrated and assimilated into this very mystery of eternal life.

He opens our ears to “hear his voice” as he says “Be strong and fear not,” and releases our tongues to speak ‘plainly and rightly’ to sing his praises.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Online Giving is available for you to make contributions to the parish. This option makes use of current technologies and security standards and allows you the option of setting up recurring contributions. It also enables our parish to take advantage of new tools to become more efficient.

Online Giving Benefits: The process is
- Secure and confidential: No need to share payment information with the parish office.
- Efficient: Set up direct withdrawals from your checking or savings account.
- Simple: Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
- Convenient: No need to write a check or have cash available.

Online Giving is intended to be a convenient tool for you to use, and we strongly support both Online Giving and offering envelopes for contributions to the parish. “Online Giving is the electronic way to participate in the weekly offertory and in special collections.”

You may start giving online today! So please:
1. Visit our parish website at www.saintjohnveilanglist.org and click on the online giving link.
2. Create your own account.
3. Schedule your gift, at your convenience.

Please prayerfully consider giving online. If you have any questions, you may contact the parish office. Michael Bennett, Christine Riley, and Juana Aguilera of our Parish Finance Council among many others utilize the “Online Giving” Program and are available and happy to answer any questions regarding the program or assist you in the initial set-up.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone’s Parish Visit

The Pastoral visit of the Archbishop is scheduled for Sunday, October 7, 2018. On his visits to Parishes, he presides at two masses on a given weekend visit. In our Parish he will offer the 9:30 am and 12:30 pm masses. He will meet the people after masses, the Religious Education Staff and the Parish Council in between masses. He has been scheduled to visit St. John’s School on Friday, October 5, where he will meet the students and the faculty of the school.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Is celebrated every year on September 14, and recalls three historical events: the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine; the dedication of churches built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary; and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem by the emperor Heraclius II. But in a deeper sense, the feast also celebrates the Holy Cross as the instrument of our salvation. This instrument of torture, designed to degrade the worst of criminals, became the life-giving tree that reversed Adam's Original Sin when he ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden.