

EPHPHATHA = BE OPENED

Jesus in the Gospel heals a man who is deaf and dumb; and this happens in the region of the Decapolis, which was a pagan country. By being pagans, those people were deaf and dumb because they never had heard the word of God and naturally they never had spoken a word to God. So, this miracle of Jesus is directed more to the soul, our souls, than to the body. This healing is very significant, because it speaks directly to us, modern men, who in the middle of so many noises, we are not able to listen or to speak the word of God in our times.

First, he is returning from the pagan cities of Tyre and Sidon (today it would be Lebanon) walking down toward the region Galilee, from which He himself and most of his disciples were from. They are still in the “Decapolis” (ten cities), that is in a pagan territory and someone brings to Jesus a man who is deaf and dumb. Look at the faith of these pagans; probably they had heard of Jesus and so they ask Him to “lay his hands on him”.

The laying on of hands is a very ancient ritual, which is used even today in many sacraments of our faith. In Baptism the priest/deacon lays his hands to bless the baptismal water; in the Eucharist the priest lays his hands on the bread and wine (epiclesis); in the sacrament of reconciliation the priest lays his hands on the penitent at the moment of absolution; in Confirmation the bishop lays his hands on the confirmandi; in Marriage the priest lays his hands on the spouses during the nuptial blessing; in priestly ordination the bishops lay his hands on the ordinandi and on the sacrament of the sick the priest lays his hands on the sick or dying person. Only the priest and the bishop are authorized to lay the hands as an act of consecration.

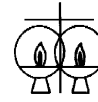
Second, Jesus takes the sick man “aside, in private”. Jesus never looks for fame and glory; no TV, no reporters, but in private. The grace of God always works in the secrecy of our heart.

Third, Jesus does something strange: He touches the ears and the tongue of the person. Very interesting that Jesus uses actions, very material, symbols, very concrete; He is already teaching the church, which confers the sacraments through very simple material signs. All the sacraments are made of “matter” (the material) and form (the words).

Fourth, before the miracle Jesus raises his prayer of thanksgiving to His Father and then he pronounces with a sigh the word, the command: “Ephphatha” that means “Be Opened”.

How much we need to hear this sigh from Jesus today in our life! Let our hearts be opened; let our souls be opened; let our generosity be opened; let our family be opened to joy and reconciliation; let our community be opened to migrants and refugees; let our politicians be opened to the Law of God; let our Church be opened to the Holy Spirit.

Do I need the miracle of Jesus for my life?

**MASS
INTENTIONS****Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021**

8:00am + Sabina Maksimowski
6:00pm + Emilio & Giuseppina Morao
7:00pm *Novena for the Nativity of Our Lady*

Sunday, Sept. 5 **23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30am In thanksgiving for 80th Birthday of
Collin Linley
10:00am MESSA CON PIU INTENZIONI
11:30am MULTIPLE INTENTIONS MASS
1:00pm + Georgina Arayata Arca
In honour to Our Lady of Refuge
4:00pm + Joseph Racioppo
5:00pm *Novena for the Nativity of Our Lady*
6:00pm MISA CON INTENCIONES MULTIPLES

Monday, Sept. 6

8:00am + Lino Gazzola
6:30pm *Novena for the Nativity of Our Lady*
7:00pm + Joachim & Wildred D'Souza

Tuesday, Sept. 7

8:00am Special intentions for Sister Noemia Silva
6:30pm *Novena for the Nativity of Our Lady*
7:00pm + Arthur Walter Dunbar

Wednesday, Sept. 8 **Nativity of the Bl. Virgin Mary**

8:00am + Helena & Antonio Tavares
5:45pm *Novena in honor of Mother of Perpetual Help*
6:30pm *Novena for the Nativity of Our Lady*
7:00pm MULTIPLE INTENTIONS MASS

Thursday, Sept. 9 **St. Peter Claver**

8:00am + Joe Karaz
7:00pm Thanksgiving for 75th Birthday of
Rosalind Linley
8:00pm MISA CON INTENCIONES MULTIPLES

Friday, Sept. 10

8:00am + Melita Pasia
7:00pm + Deceased of Muscat & Portelli Families

Saturday, Sept. 11

8:00am + Samuel, Iris & Elvis Moreira
6:00pm + Candelaria Tolentino, Aurora Borres &
Santiago Enginco Jr.

Sunday, Sept. 12 **24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30am Veronica Gorjao, Camilo Cardozo,
Marcelino, Liby & Joe D'Souza
10:00am MESSA CON PIU INTENZIONI
11:30am MULTIPLE INTENTIONS MASS
1:00pm + Jose Nacienceno
4:00pm Thanksgiving & special intentions for
Olivia Lobo
6:00pm MISA CON INTENCIONES MULTIPLES

AVISOS EN ESPAÑOL

El JUEVES 9 de Septiembre, 2021 (8:00 pm), participaremos en la SANTA MISA en ESPAÑOL.

El Viernes 10 de Septiembre, 2021, participaremos en la ASAMBLEA VIRTUAL DE ORACIÓN Y ALABANZA del grupo de la Renovación Carismática Católica Hispana parroquial, a través de Zoom.

DE LUNES A VIERNES ESTÁ EXPUESTO el SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO EN EL TEMPLO de 8:30 am a 5:30 pm. Dedicemos un tiempo para la ADORACIÓN EUCARÍSTICA INDIVIDUAL. HOY, rezaremos el SANTO ROSARIO (5:30 pm) y luego participaremos en la SANTA MISA EN ESPAÑOL (6:00 pm).

Los siguientes son los enlaces del Internet para participar VIRTUALMENTE en la ADORACIÓN EUCARÍSTICA, el SANTO ROSARIO y la SANTA MISA:

<https://www.facebook.com/parroquiasantacatalina.de.sienna.9>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpfixRYsl7vLmI4hDDWEmNA>

<https://stcatherine.ca/live-mass/>

We will continue the **BIBLE CLASS** every Thursday evening at 7:30pm with “Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible” guided by Fr. Tiziano. You may follow this week (August 26) in person at Zanon Hall, or streaming or by Zoom: 836 4620 6928 (Code: 388125)

The Adult Spiritual Formation will continue every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm with the new program **ON PRAYER** (From the FORMED platform) guided by Fr. Walter. If you come in person you will also receive the copy of the Guide; you may also follow in streaming or in Zoom: 836 4620 6928 (Code: 388125).



Announcements:

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY for the Victims of the Earthquake of Haiti. We have covered their needs.

SCHOOLS OPEN this week. We are offering a **MAKE UP Confirmation and First Holy Communion** for the children that could not receive these sacraments last June.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY – On September 8 we will celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Mother. There will be coffee and cake in the morning after Mass and also in the evening after Mass.

ALTAR SERVERS MONTHLY MEETING – On FRIDAY, September 10 from 6:30pm till 9:00pm all Altar Servers (new and old) are invited for a monthly special evening of prayer, instructions and fun. We invite especially the parents to bring their children for this important meeting.

PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – On Saturday, September 11 from 2:00pm till 6:00pm we will have the first of two general meetings for the whole parish. NEW EVANGELIZATION is the main theme of both encounters. In particular, we will discover the way to “make missionary disciples” for the new evangelization.

International Eucharistic Congress in BUDAPEST from September 5 to September 12, when the Pope will travel to BUDAPEST for the closing Mass. Let us join in prayer.

BAPTISM PREPARATION – NEW PROGRAM - We are planning a new program for Baptism preparation. It is important that parents sign up for the baptism of their children at least 2 months in advance. They will have to participate in person to 2 conferences, during the month prior to the month of the baptism of their children. Please call the office for dates.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PICNIC for Families and Friends – On Saturday, September 18, in the parking lot in the back of the church the families and friends of the Knight of Columbus will spend some time in fellowship and friendship. For info call the parish office.