



CONTACT

605.787.5168 - OLBH.ORG
olbh@olbh.org
12365 Sturgis Road
Piedmont, SD 57769
Office Open M-F
8:30-2:30 PM

LITURGY & PARYER

Sunday Liturgy:

Saturday, 5 PM

Sunday, 8 & 11 AM

Daily Liturgy:

Tuesday-Friday, 8 AM

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday, 8:30-7:30 PM

Reconciliation:

Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 PM

Saturday, 3:30-4:30 PM

First Fridays, 8:30-9:30 AM

First Friday Devotion:

Following Daily Mass on
First Fridays

CLERGY

Pastor:

Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek

awyrostek@diorc.org

Deacons:

Walt Wilson, Retired

John Osnes josnes@diorc.org

Greg Sass gsass@diorc.org

STAFF

Parish Administrative Assistant & SEC

Katie Harwood

katie.harwood@olbh.org

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Rhonda Gehlsen

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Maintenance Coordinator

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Bookkeeper

Lorinda Collings

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Our Lady of the Black Hills exists
to proclaim the joy of the Gospel
to all creation and to transform
lives with the Father's mercy.

"Thus says the LORD: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication, with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared..." (Isaiah 35:4-5)

As we celebrate the Feast of our parish, The Nativity of the Blessed Mary, we are invited to reflect on our birth into new life. It is the life of Grace we live in as we remember our Baptism. In Confirmation we pray for courage and the Holy Spirit, in Eucharist, we receive the necessary nourishment. Our faith offers us so much, that sometimes it might be overwhelming, but Jesus reminds us of the importance of the 10 Commandments, as our moral guidance, the Church celebrates with us the 7 Sacraments, the saints provide us with practical approach to the above. Isiah, the Prophet, tells us that if we find ourselves frightened, overwhelmed, maybe even lost, that we need to remember where we have come from and who is at the foundation of our faith and Church. After all, Jesus died for His beloved Bride, the Church. He died for me and you, so be not afraid, celebrate and remember that our local Family is part of Divine Plan of Salvation.

Fr. Andrzej

History of Our Lady of the Black Hills

Year Description

1904 Earliest written record of Catholic services held in Piedmont Valley at the schoolhouse in French District.

1916 Construction of St. Mary's Catholic Church begin in the fall. Captain C. V. Gardner donated five lots on the southwest corner of Park and Second Streets in Piedmont for the church building and rectory. P. T. Casserly, a farmer from Elkton S.D. donated an entire year's income of \$500 towards the building of the church – in memory of his wife, who had died in childbirth. Volunteers help in the construction. Father Fitzgerald celebrated the first Mass.

1959 Under the direction of Father Dominic Lavan, a Benedictine monk, the little white church, and rectory were completely remodeled with volunteer help.

1979 A new church, Our Lady of the Black Hills, was built on land located halfway between Piedmont and Black Hawk, part of which was a gift from Richard and Heloisa Burns in memory of Richard's mother. The \$300,000 church, rectory and social center complex as built with a savings of \$140,000 due to the work of dedicated volunteers. The first Mass was celebrated by Fr. Nebilo on October 10.

1983 New classrooms were added by excavating the area under the rectory. All the labor and materials were donated by parishioners – at a total savings of \$16,000.

1985 Our Lady of the Black Hills parish was completely out of debt.

1996 Our Lady of the Black Hills started expansion on the existing building, adding more classrooms, office space and enlarging the church area. Under the direction of Fr. Peter Kovarik, volunteer laborers again saved the church several hundred thousand dollars in building costs. The first Mass was celebrated in the new church on the weekend before Christmas, 1996.

2005 In 2005, the interior of the church was updated. A new altar, ambo and baptismal font were made from Crazy Horse granite and brass. The former cry room at the front of the church was converted into a Blessed Sacrament chapel. A new cross for over the altar was painted by Terry Nelson. A new confessional and statue rooms were built. The former confessional/storage area was torn down and converted into a choir area. With the passing of time, we are looking into proper upkeep of the Church, with hope of the good future.

Becoming Catholic

The Rite of Christian Initiation classes to learn more about the Catholic church, join the Church, or be Confirmed in the Church begin on Sunday, October 3rd. Classes take place on Sundays from noon until 2 PM. The class utilizes the Symbolon series which can be viewed on [olbh.org](https://www.olbh.org/becoming-catholic). For more information visit <https://www.olbh.org/becoming-catholic>.

The Turning Point – Adult Faith Formation

Sundays at 9 AM beginning September 19th in Bethlehem Cave. The Turning Point is a nine-session Bible study experience that's perfect for people who want to get to know Jesus in the Scriptures but don't know where to start. This study will introduce you to the people and stories in the Gospel of John that you won't find anywhere else in the Bible. The people in these stories were transformed by their encounters with Jesus. By attending you will encounter Jesus in a personal way and develop a deeper relationship with him that will transform your everyday life. Contact Amy for more information, 787-5168.

HOW WERE YOU PERSONALLY IMPACTED BY DISCOVERING CHRIST?

"I am being drawn more closely to Jesus and feel I am working toward a personal relationship with Jesus." - An OLBH parishioner

Sign up today

At Prayer with Mary – Adult Faith Formation

A small group study on scripture, Catholic teaching, personal testimony, Marian prayer, and the rosary. Renew your appreciation of Mary's place in today's world, where she points the way to Christ. Seven sessions led by Jean Hohm on the life and mystery of Mary will take place on Tuesdays from 6-7:30 PM in St. Joseph's Hall beginning on September 21. Call Amy at 787-5168 for information.

Women's Bible Study

Shawna Hanson will return to lead us in studying the Scriptures for the upcoming weekend beginning Thursday, September 16, at 8:45 AM. Childcare is provided free of charge. All are welcome!

Faith Formation Registration

Faith Formation registration is open! Visit <https://www.olbh.org/student-faith-formation> to register today. Please be sure to call or email to confirm Rhonda has received your registration, 787-5168 or rhonda.gehlsen@olbh.org.

RENEW INTERNATIONAL'S
THEOLOGY ON TAP

MEET AT
NEIGHBORS
GRUB PUB
7280 FREEDOM LANE, SUMMERSET

7:15-9:15 PM | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

SUFFERING IS FINITE, LOVE IS INFINITE
BY AMY HAAKENSEN

AN INVITATION TO YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20S AND 30S TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE.

CALL AMY IN THE OFFICE OF OUR LADY OF THE BLACK HILLS AT 787-5168.
Individuals may purchase drinks separately.
The kitchen is closed on Mondays.

Coffee & Rolls Coordinator Needed

We need a coffee and rolls coordinator to serve coffee and light snacks following the 8 AM Mass prior to Sunday morning faith formation. This entails making coffee and juice, laying out snacks, purchasing snacks, serving, and cleaning up. Please call the office for more details, 605-787-5168.

Thank you for your donation.

Please prayerfully consider automatic contributions via electronic withdrawal, check service, or at www.olbh.org/donate. Please prayerfully consider including the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation and Our Lady of the Black Hills in your estate planning.

"All good giving and every perfect gift is from above" (Jas 1:17)			
August 28-29, 2021			
	Automatic	Basket	Total
Adopt a Seminarian	54	-	54
Sunday Collection	2,620	10,401	13,021
Rectory	31	-	31
Bottles of Hope	-	-	-
Building Fund	-	20	20
Bottle of Hope			
Mass Intention		-	10
Total Contribution	2,705	10,421	13,125.36

Weekly Schedule

Monday, September 6

7:30 AM Early Bird Bible Study

No 8 AM Mass

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 7

8 AM Mass for the repose of Raymond Sass

6:15 PM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

6 PM Confirmation Parent Meeting

Wednesday, September 8

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8 AM Mass for Father Jim Lennon

8:30-7:30 PM Adoration

9-12 Noon Food Pantry Open

5:30 PM Mass at Main Street Square in Rapid City with Fr. Brian Christensen

Thursday, September 9

Saint Peter Claver, Priest

8 AM Mass for the Hohm Family

9 AM Just Men Bible Study and Witness

9 AM Women's Bible Study

5:45 PM Leadership Night

6:45 PM Pastoral Council Meeting

Friday, September 10

No 8 AM Mass at OLBH

8:30 AM Mass at St. Elizabeth Seton School for All Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, September 11

BVM on Saturday

9-12 Noon Food Pantry Open

3:30-4:30 PM Confessions

5 PM Mass –Live stream link on Facebook and OLBH.org for Diocesan Masses for Life

6 PM PARISH FEAST DAY DINNER, GAMES, & STREET DANCE

Sunday, September 12

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8 AM Mass for the community of Our Lady of the Black Hills and for our sister parishes

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

11 AM Mass for the repose of TC Waits

Intentions of the Holy Father for September:

Pope's Intention: An environmentally sustainable lifestyle. We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

Prayer Chain Requests

To request an intention for the prayer chain, please contact Sue Colgan at 431-0310 or at ssacolgan@gmail.com.

Eucharistic Adoration

For information on Adoration or to sign up to Adore or to fill in as a substitute, please contact Dave Allardyce at 791-2303.

Prayers for Life and Health Concerns

These individuals are in special need of your prayers. To have someone placed on the prayer list, contact Katie in the office.

- **Edwin and Omel Weaver** (parents of Bob Weaver)
- **Blanche Rieth • Jean Schacher • Bernard Wiehl**
 - **Mary Ann Pulaski • Maynard Traversie**
- **Lowell Amiotte • Randy Oberle • Tracy Rudnick**
 - **Joan Wrobel** (aunt of Rachael Held)
- **Doug Wermers • John Mizenko** (brother of Jeff)
- **Vickie Crowley • Patti Cariveau • Marjorie Lee**
- **Rachael Held • Adam Hohm • Linda Weishaar**
- **Marek Kopec • Brett Whealy • Jennifer Kinney**
 - **Robert Forest** (father of Cathy Long)
 - **Tony Corbine • Wayne Gamroth**
- **Tim Curns • Kerry Yantes • Rayola Anderson**
 - **Dean Antonsen • Moneik Stephens**
 - **Christy Marie** (sister of Linda Schacher)
 - **Alicia Castor** (niece of Kathleen and Lowell Amiotte) • **Billy Hudson • Dorothy Olson**
 - **Aurora Velasco** (mother of Brenda Mizenko)
 - **Vonnie O'Dea** (mother of Holly Phillips)
 - **Carol Michaelson** (mother of Linda Schacher)
 - **Joyce DePaulo • Katie Niederwerder**
- **John Mizenko Sr.** (father of Jeff) • **Norbert Liebig**
 - **Ruth O'Neil** (mother of Lisa Katzenstein)
- **Jasper Wermers** (grandson of Peggy and Doug)
- **Tim Keller** (son-in-law of Cap and Arlene Holzer)
- **Craig Lindemann** (Uncle of Maggie Whiteside)
 - **The Nalley Family • Jean Scheope**

† Necrology †

To remember in prayer for the repose of their souls. Those whose deaths are recorded in the parish; and the bishops, priests, and deacons that served the Diocese of Rapid City.

- September 7** Rev. James Sweeney (1952)
September 9 Deacon Tom Lane (2016)
September 10 Nettie T. Peed (1997)
 Pauline Guffey (2020)
September 11 Rev. John W. Hanton (1936)
 Eugene "Gene" Kraft (2009)
September 12 Rev. Robert D. Baden (2018)

Welcome Visitors!

We hope you have enjoyed sharing in the celebration of the Mass with us. Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, coming to visit, or returning after a long break, you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again! We have many opportunities for all ages and stages of faith. Please pick up a welcome packet from the counter in the gathering space. If you are passing through, we hope you will call our parish your "home away from home" and visit again soon!

Ministry Schedule To become a liturgical minister or for more information contact Katie in the office.

Mass Times	Saturday, 9/11 5 PM	Sunday 9/12 8 AM	Sunday 9/12 11 AM
Presider	Fr. Andrzej	Fr. Andrzej	Fr. Andrzej
Altar Server	Todd Curtis - Lead Stella Curtis Kyah Pesek	Caleb Weishaar - Lead Freddy Weishaar	Andrew Denekamp - Lead Matthew Denekamp
Eucharistic Minister - Body	Duane Riedlinger	Jeremy Thompson	Stacy Tate
Hospitality	Pam Freeman Ken Freeman	Barb Coyle Mike Coyle	Aaron Denekamp Cathleen Denekamp
Lector	Steve Colgan - 1st Reader Sue Colgan - 2nd Reader	Bernadette Usera - 1st Reader John Usera - 2nd Reader	Tony Berendse - 1st Reader (sub req.) Meryl Gaeta - 2nd Reader
Sacristan	Kathy Van Asma	Gary Erickson Barbara Erickson	Richard Long

Daily Readings

- Monday:** Col 1:24-2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 13:6ab, 6c; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Thursday: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5 and 6-7; Lk 6:43-49
Sunday: Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

The weekly readings can be found anytime online on the USCCB website or by clicking: [Weekly Readings](#)

Traveling Chalice

The Traveling Chalice program is resuming, beginning in September. The Traveling Chalice program is to encourage everyone to pray and promote vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, Married and Religious Life. The consecrated Chalice is used as a focal reminder of Christ's body and blood as central to our faith and the role of our priests at Mass. The chalice aids us in focusing our prayer time for this special intention and need in the Diocese of Rapid City. To find out more information and to schedule a week for your family to host the traveling chalice in your home, please call Amy in the office at 787-5168.

Well Read Mom

You are invited to join our Well-read MoM sMall group! Well-Read Mom (WRM) is a way for women to reclaim time to read the best. The goal is to provide a way for women to read high-quality literature together and grow in friendship in the process. WRM groups read one book per month and then meet to discuss. Our year together includes great books, spiritual classics (during Advent and Lent), worthy reads, poetry and selected essays from the Catholic and Western traditions. Book selections for each year correspond to the themes of a woman's life. This year we are excited to dive into the theme of "the family" with the help of some excellent authors such as Lucy Maud Montgomery, and Mother Veronica Namoyo Le Goulard, among others. To register today, view this year's booklist, and find out more, visit wellreadmom.com. There is an informational meeting at Maggie Whiteside's home on **Tuesday September 7th at 7:30pm.**

8th Annual Western SD Bishop's Golf Classic –**WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION**

September 27, 2021. We invite you to join Bishop Peter Muhich for the 8th Annual Western SD Bishop's Golf Classic. The tournament will be held at Arrowhead with registration at 11 a.m., and a noon shotgun start. For registration or sponsorship contact the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation (605) 721-6843 or online at www.wsdcf.org.

Employment Opportunity

Do you have a passion for planning events, overseeing meal planning for 5 to 500 individuals, and organizing parish receptions? For encountering Jesus by serving others through service to the Mother Church of the Diocese of Rapid City? Would you like to work with an enthusiastic and hardworking staff? Then the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has a job opportunity for you... the Events & Food Service Coordinator position is full time and includes benefits and competitive wages. Please contact Beth Strain at the rectory office (605) 342-0507 or beth@cathedralolph.org for a complete job description and application.

Cursillo Retreats

Cursillo is Spanish for a "Short Course in Christianity", and it is a pilgrimage of faith. This encounter is three full days that immerse participants in God's love and joy, and it produces an effective support system for Christians on their journey to maintain a life of grace and be prepared to share the Good News with a hurting world.

Men's Weekend – Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 21-24, 2021, Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City.

Women's Weekend – Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 28-31, 2021, Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. For more information contact: Kathy Ackerman 406-939-2686 or email dchealthycomm@yahoo.com.

Human Trafficking

Think about it...some children are not in school because they are being trafficked. Once they are found, to become survivors and thrivers, they need proper housing — very much lacking in the U.S. Contact: U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking at sistersagainstrafficking.org, or 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131.

Annual Day of Renewal and Prayer for Spiritual Mothers with the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Sunday, Sept. 12, 11-5 PM at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. The Office of Vocations would like to invite the women of our diocese to prayerfully consider becoming a Spiritual Mother for our priests, seminarians, and discerners. As a Spiritual Mother, we make a commitment to prayer and offerings for the priests of our diocese, as well as prayers for an increase of vocations in our diocese. This year, the Day of Renewal and Prayer includes a talk from the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Please join us for lunch, Holy Hour and Mass. Please register by September 3 at: terrasancta.org/spiritualmotherhood. Your registration assists us in being good stewards of our resources. If you would like to commit to prayer as a Spiritual Mother but cannot attend this event, please contact Tanya Cooper: tcooper@diorc.org; 605-343-3541 x 2212.

Mass at Main Street Square

Join Blessed Sacrament and Cathedral for outdoor **Mass at Main Street Square in Rapid City** on Wednesday, **September 8, at 5:30 PM**. At 4:30 PM a social and live music will begin. Mass is at 5:30 PM. At 6 PM there is a sack lunch supper and then at 7 PM we will surround the Monument in prayer for the Black Hills Celebration Prayer Event. All are welcome!

MAIN STREET SQUARE

**DOWNTOWN
FALL KICK-OFF**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

MUSIC • MASS

FUN • FOOD • PRAYER

4:30 PM LIVE MUSIC AND SOCIAL

5:30 PM MASS ON THE SQUARE

6:00 PM PICNIC-STYLE SUPPER

7- 8 PM SURROUND THE CIVIC CENTER

Black Hills Celebration Prayer Event

**Join us for as we kick-off our year of
Generations of Faith with our sights on
evangelization! Come for the fun and
invite others to join. All are welcome!**

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

September 2021

Our Lady of the Black Hills

Fr. Andrzej Wyrstek, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Make time

Life can be so busy that it becomes impossible to find time to pray.

Instead we have to make time to pray. If we make time for God, he will help us find the time we need for everything else.

Face forward

Continually reliving the past prevents us from looking ahead with hope. Follow St. Paul's example: *"Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14).

Our Lady of Sorrows

On September 15th we commemorate Our Lady of Sorrows. The title refers to Simeon's prediction that Mary would experience sorrows as if *"... you yourself a sword will pierce"* (Luke 2:35). Her greatest sorrow may have been watching her son die on the Cross. If we ever want someone who understands our difficulties, we

have only to look to Mary.



"Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

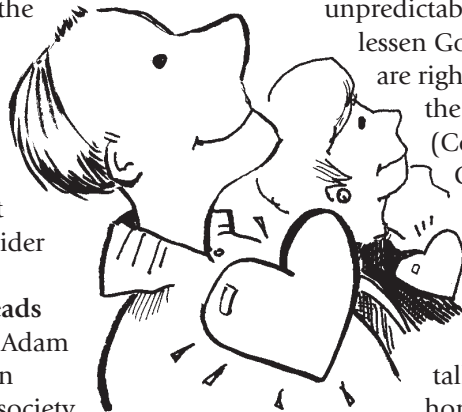
Popular culture would have us believe that happiness comes from having the perfect spouse, the perfect home, the perfect job, and the perfect body. Without all that, happiness isn't possible. Consider this:

God's way leads to perfection. Adam and Eve were in Paradise until society convinced them that by eating a piece of fruit, they could become perfect and be even happier. Had they listened to God instead, their lives would have stayed perfect.

Only God loves perfectly. Sometimes we fear that showing our failings to

others will lessen their regard. The more perfect we appear, the more we will be loved and respected. Human love is unpredictable, but we can never lose or lessen God's love. He loves us as we are right now. In fact, Jesus created the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to remind us of God's unconditional love.

God's idea of perfect is possible. Jesus said, *"... be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48), but he wasn't talking about muscles or homes. Perfection in Jesus' eyes means loving God with all our hearts, praying for our enemies, and taking care of the poor. To Jesus, love, obedience and service is the true measure of perfection and he wants us to let go of anything that gets in the way. That's the only "perfect" that is possible.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

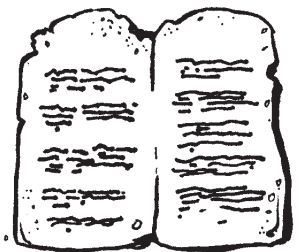
Why do Catholics follow the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments were given by God to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai after they left Egypt. They are considered divine law because God himself revealed them to help his people live holy lives. They formed the basis of Jewish life, so Jesus followed them, too.

The Commandments are standards of holiness for Christians, too. Obey them

and eternal happiness is ours. Disobey them and we suffer the consequences. Jesus

summarized the spirit of the Commandments in Matthew 22:36-40.

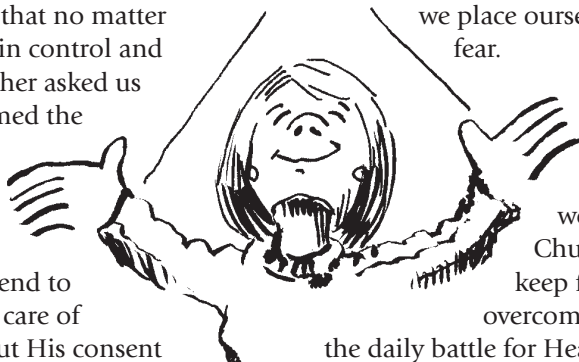


Be not afraid

The phrase “be not afraid,” made famous by Pope St. John Paul II, helps us to remember that no matter what happens in the world, God is in control and we are in good hands. The Holy Father asked us to put our trust in Jesus who redeemed the world.

Refuse to worry. Jesus reminded us that tomorrow isn’t guaranteed to anyone (Luke 12:20). What brings us peace is to tend to today’s challenges and let God take care of tomorrow. Nothing happens without His consent

and He won’t permit anything that is bad for us. When we place ourselves in His care, we have nothing to fear.

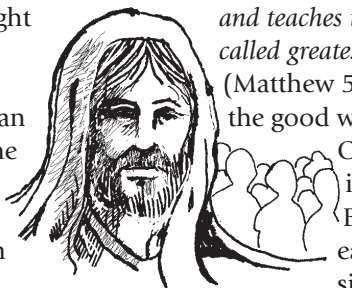


Keep your eyes on Him. Don’t let the world blind you to God’s presence in your life. We may not feel powerful at times, but when we stay close to Jesus through His Church, we receive the grace we need to keep fighting temptations to sin. God has overcome the world. With His help, we will win the daily battle for Heaven.

from Scripture

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48, The discipline of discipleship

In this Gospel passage, the disciples hear of an unknown man healing in Jesus’ name. In their jealousy, it seemed the disciples were more concerned about losing the spotlight than in healing. Jesus added perspective. He pointed out that the man had the same goal as the disciples – to build up God’s Kingdom. He was a teammate, not an enemy.



Discipleship means making a change of heart and mind. Jesus was very clear: if we choose to follow him, we can’t foster private sins, too. If,

through those sins, we lead others into sin, our responsibility is doubled.

These are grim words, but the opposite is great news: “Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19). God rewards us for the good we do to and for others.

Our example is powerfully influential. Being a faithful disciple isn’t easy. Rooting out personal sin and setting a good example is difficult, but we’re not alone or without grace to do the job. No matter what we sacrifice, the reward is infinitely better.

Q & A

Why do I have to go to Mass when I don’t enjoy it?

A Catholic adult who lives an average lifespan can attend as many as 4,084 Sunday Masses. No ritual or event can sustain good vibrations 4,048 times. The truth is that the Mass is not meant to always make us feel good. It isn’t actually about us – it’s about God.

Mass is public worship. At every Mass, we worship God as a natural response to His overwhelming magnificence. This is not because God needs our praise, but because we need to praise Him. We recognize and honor all that is good about Him.

Mass is a sacrifice. When the gifts are brought to the altar, each of us offers our lives along with the bread and wine. We can do nothing of our own accord, so Christ accepts our offerings – our sacrifice – and joins it to His ongoing work of salvation.

Mass is a meal. Through the Eucharist, Jesus makes His home within us. We deepen our union with Jesus each time we receive His Word and His Body and Blood during Mass.

Feasts & Celebrations

September 8 – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1st century). Tradition says Mary was born in Jerusalem after her mother, Anna, and her father, Joachim, had been married more than twenty years without children. Mary’s birth brought her parents joy, and we are joyful too – because Mary brings salvation to all of us with the birth of Jesus.

September 23 – St. Padre Pio (1968). Born to farmers in southern Italy, Padre Pio was an inspiring confessor and counselor. He received the five wounds of Our Lord’s Passion (stigmata) eight

years after he became a Capuchin Friar. Despite intense personal and physical suffering, he remained dedicated to prayer.

September 28 – Saint Wenceslaus (929). As the king of Bohemia, Wenceslaus worked closely with the Church to end the persecution of the Christians in his country. He encouraged German missionaries, built churches, and cared for the sick, and poor. Political conflict led to his assassination by his brother. The “Good King” was immediately recognized as a martyr.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

• PARISH FEAST DAY 2021 • SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2021

SATURDAY: 5 PM MASS | 6 PM DINNER & STREET DANCE

SUNDAY: 8 AM MASS | 9:15 AM EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION | 11 AM MASS



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OLBH.ORG/PARISH-FEAST-DAY

Saturday, 9/11

5 PM Mass

6 PM Dinner – bring a side dish or dessert to share; the Knights of Columbus will provide the main dish

STREET DANCE! Beanbags, volleyball, 4 square

Sunday, 9/12

8 AM Mass

Following 8 AM Mass a Eucharistic Procession around the grounds of Our Lady of the Black Hills will be held.

11 AM Mass

MEET THE SISTERS

The Sisters of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be attending the 5 PM Mass and joining us for dinner to celebrate our parish feast day.

Please help us welcome the new Sisters.

Sister Christine, Chancellor of the Diocese of Rapid City

Sister Rachel, Director of Pastoral Ministries and Faith Formation

Sister Maria Belen, Head of Campus Ministry at St. Thomas More Middle School

Sister Brooke, Head of Campus Ministry at St. Thomas More High School



JESUS CURING A DEAF MAN

Sept. 5, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 35:4-7a | Jas 2:1-5 | Mk 7:31-37

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Our oldest son is deaf. I vividly remember watching him notice sounds for the first time in the days after his cochlear implant was activated: the “caw” of a crow, a doorbell, the low rumble of the furnace kicking in. Our job as parents was to provide a running commentary to help him understand the meaning of each sound that so many of us take for granted: “See the birds? That is a crow!” “Your dad is home.” “The heat is coming on.” I’m reminded of those early days when I read Mark’s account of Jesus restoring hearing to the deaf man. While most of us can hear, so often we take the sounds all around us for granted or relegate them to background noise – including the Scripture we hear at Mass each week. As Bishop Robert Barron writes, “This deaf man stands for all of us who do not hear the word of God, who have grown oblivious to it.” As we listen to today’s readings, we can ask Jesus to open our ears and our hearts to the word of God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Mark spares no detail in describing Jesus’ encounter with the deaf man who had a speech impediment. Jesus places a finger in his ear and spits, touching his tongue, then utters the word “*Ephphatha!*” (“Be opened”) Immediately, the man can hear and speak clearly. When listening to this reading, I often focus on the man’s hearing. But Jesus also cured the man’s speech impediment, which I think indicates we’re not supposed to just hear God’s word, we are to speak to it, and speak of it. Once we allow Jesus to open our ears and hearts to the Good News, sharing it will begin to come naturally. There may still be times when our Catholic tongues feel tied, but “Be strong, fear not!” Jesus will give us the words.

ACTIONS Next time you take a drive, listen to the day’s Scripture readings. Ask Jesus to open your ears and hearts to his words and show you how best to share them with others. And most teachers would agree: The more senses we engage, the more we take in. If you have trouble following the readings at Mass, open your missalette and read along silently.

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