

THEN WILL THE EYES OF THE BLIND BE OPENED

the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Isaiah 35:5-6

St. John the Evangelist Church 309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503 www.stjohnsaltoona.org

SEPTEMBER
5
2021

Twenty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com; allinall214@gmail.com
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net
Kristina Hoyne - Parish Council President - inaugh@aol.com
Jena Bowman - Business Manager - stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net
Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - dj219@msn.com
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary - stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net
Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - mark.krepich@gmail.com
Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Sept. 11 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham,
Maria Spayd
Sun. Sept. 12 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci,
Ginny Reeder
Sun. Sept. 12 - **11:00 AM** - Bill Foose, Norma Foose

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 11 - 4:00 PM Keaton Swope,
Ryan Donoughe
Sun. Sept. 12 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do,
Nicholas Helsley
Sun. Sept. 12 - **11:00 AM** - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Sept. 11 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth
Sun. Sept. 12 - 8:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark
Sun. Sept. 12 - **11:00 AM** - Dolores Capriotti,
Kenneth Gorman

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Sept. 11 - 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Billy Sweet,
Betsy Lloyd, Judy Sneath
Sun. Sept. 12 - 8:00 AM - Helen Miller, Ed Stoltz,
Charlie Moore, Mary Truesdale
Sun. Sept. 12 - **11:00 AM** - Mary Grace Horton, Peg
Madden, Wendy Campbell, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. Sept. 11 - 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
Sun. Sept. 12 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Sept. 12 - **11:00 AM** - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Sept. 11 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger,
Anna Rasmussen
Sun. Sept. 12 - 8:00 AM - Erika & Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Sept. 12 - **11:00 AM** - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

September Prayer Intention of Pope Francis *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.



A Few Words from the Pastor:

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE - Please make note that beginning next Sunday, September 12, our second mass on Sunday morning is scheduled at 11:00 AM.

LABOR DAY – This day was set aside in 1894 to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States. However, it is also a time for us to reflect upon the sacredness of work in God's plan for us. We know that God works, and is continuing to create and recreate the world at every moment. Human beings are made in the image of God, and God is a worker. We are called to work with God as our model. How are you imitating God in the work that you do? Some examples of how your work imitates God's work: pastors, counselors, and peacemakers; sculptors, actors, painters, and musicians; doctors, nurses, paramedics, psychologists, therapists, and social workers. And for those who are retired, you are with the Lord God who rests from His labors on the seventh day! Mass on Labor Day will be at 9:00 AM.

THE SEASON OF CREATION HAS BEGUN! The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment.

A GUEST NEXT WEEK – As we prepare to begin the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in October, at next Sunday morning Masses I have invited Mary Beth Palko to share with us her experience of this approach to Catechesis. Mary Beth is Director of Faith Formation at St. Thomas More University Parish in Indiana, PA, and is a certified instructor in CGS. Our Catechists Iris Tatar and Mary Truesdale, as well as myself, were trained by Mary Beth this summer, and found her to be an excellent teacher. I am confident that our parish community will find her presentation both informative and inspiring. I especially urge those who have children or grandchildren ages 3 – 6 to attend one of these Masses.

UNDERSTANDING THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - God and the child have a unique relationship with one another, particularly before the age of six. The growth of this relationship should be assisted by the adult, but is directed by the Spirit of God within the child. Children need their own place to foster the growth of that relationship. This spiritual growth is best served through tangible but indirect means. *"If we want to help the child grow near to God, we should, with patience and courage...seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things. This requires study and prayer. The child himself will be our teacher if we know how to observe him."* Sofia Cavalletti

PREPARING OUR ATRIUM - We have begun preparing our atrium at St. John's for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The atrium is a prepared environment for children, and is one of the important elements that helps the relationship between God and the child to flourish. The atrium can be compared to a retreat house facilitating recollection and silence. The atrium is a place for religious life, for community and worship—not a classroom for instruction. The atrium is a place of meaningful work through which the child can have a conversation with God. For the child, too, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worship community. Following our Masses on the morning of the 12th, parishioners are invited to get a look at this important room where our children will pray and learn.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION - Don't forget to bring your non-perishable food items to church with you next weekend. There will also be a collection box for those who prefer to make a monetary donation. This month's collection will go to St. Luke's food bank.

CREATION CORNER During the Season of Creation, September 1 to October 4, our bulletin will include words of Pope Francis from his 2015 encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si.*

Discover God in all things

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things. Saint Bonaventure teaches us that "contemplation deepens the more we feel the working of God's grace within our hearts, and the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves". (223)



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

- Please complete your Faith Formation Registration for the 2021-2022 year so we can complete our planning and ordering for the upcoming year. Forms can be found in the Gathering Space or on the St. John's website.
- **Our Parent Meeting and Meet the Teacher is scheduled for September 12th at 9:30 AM. This meeting is for ALL Faith Formation Parents and Students, including 2nd Grade and 9th - 11th Grade Catholic School parents.** Schedules for the upcoming year will be discussed. At this time, we are planning on returning to in-person classes and will be taking safety precautions to keep our children and teachers safe.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: Next weekend, the diocese will be taking up the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. Your investment will enable the University to continue to support the Church and to advance its work of preparing the next generation of leadership, both religious and lay, of our Church and nation. Thank you for your generosity. Learn more at: collection.catholic.edu.

WILL YOU HELP THE COMMUNITY GROW IN FAITH? The work of effective proclamation allows the lector to participate in the mystery and struggle of the individual faith journeys of fellow believers. What is true of good liturgy is also true of good proclamation: poor liturgy diminishes faith, as does poor proclamation; good liturgy builds up faith, as does good proclamation. A Lector's proclamation is **never** without effect. Lector training dates are September 7, 14, and 21 at 7:30 p.m. Contact Bob Olson at 814-696-0581.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS ARE BACK: The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating Fatima Devotions on Monday, September 13th, in the gardens of Mount Assisi at 6:30 p.m. (In case of inclement weather, they will be held at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel.) We are really looking forward to seeing you. ***Our Adult Choir will be providing the music on Monday, September 13!***

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS® MEETING:

Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 We are meeting on Monday, September 13th, in the St. Rose of Lima Social Hall, at 6:45 PM with the business meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. Enter through the automatic double doors on the 56th Street side of the school building. You can find us online at: www.cda2625.com. Contact us at: <https://www.cda2625.com/contact>— Serving all 11 Altoona parishes and beyond. Catholic Daughters primary focus is Spirituality and Service! **New members are always welcome – Please come and join us!**

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at gyny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

Aiden • Seth Alexander • Amy B. • Scott Brenneman
Dan Burley • Cari Ann • Robert Cole • Michelle Cooney
Mary Lee Madigan-Davis • Betty Dennis
Michael DeStefano • Gary Ellis • Bernadine Farrell
Kathy Feity • Leann Frazier • Matt Gormley
Randy Horton • Alexandra Hudson Tim Jimenez
Amy Langenbacher • Lisa • Sherri Maffettone
Genevieve Mathias • Susie Miller • Karrie McCall
Sylvia Louise Mills • Barbara Moore • Ailani Myers
Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher
Connie R • Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker Vicki Riley
Lauryn Ryan • Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph
Pat Seiler • Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter
Tim Temofonte • Bill Teufel• Kathy Wagner
Lois Werfel • Len Whitten • Daronda Wooldridge

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

Mona Porta - mother of Mary Mendez
Mary Ellen Leidy – mother of Coleen Langguth
Bob Bundy, Sr. - father-in-law of Barbara Bundy
May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

STEWARSHIP CORNER: Our readings today offer us a message of hope. God is with us and wants to heal us.

May this message come ablaze in our hearts so that we might live with unwavering faith! Often times we are blind and deaf to God in our lives. We miss countless opportunities to see God working in our day-to-day moments, through our loved ones, our community, or even strangers. We miss the quiet voice of Jesus in our hearts telling us to choose Him instead of sin, respond in love instead of anger, or care for someone else in a moment instead of ourselves. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2021/8/16)

Christian stewards strive to be “rich in faith” by consciously choosing to make room for God in their daily lives no matter what the cost. Let us pray that our eyes and our ears might “be open” to His workings, works, and prompting in our lives. Let us work to help others heal though our Christian stewardship.

August 22, 2021

Envelopes	\$ 3,029.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 1,125.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 3.00
Catholic Register	\$ 10.00
Assumption of Mary	\$ 20.00
Food Bank Collection	\$ 10.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 4,197.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,761.00
Total Offertory	\$ 5,958.00

*Restore*Repair*Rejoice*

Payments/Donations \$177,999
Pledge Payment Committed \$10,495
Total Pledges/Donations \$188,494

BOWLING LEAGUE: St John's Bowling League begins Friday, September 10th. League members can pick-up a full schedule on the kiosk in the Gathering Space. We're still filling teams, and new members are welcome. Call Gary Johnson at 814-696-2683 for details.

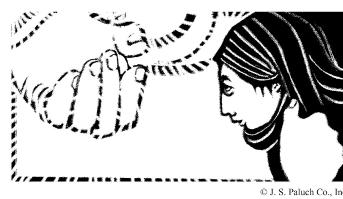
HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP 2021-2022: For \$150 you can sponsor a student in our sister parish, Sts. Peter and Paul in Haiti. This donation helps with tuition, books, uniform, and lunch. In the Gathering Space you will find the display with envelopes. If you are renewing, please take your renewal envelope. If you are new, take one for a new sponsorship. You can return the envelopes in the collection or mail to the office

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, BELLWOOD, welcomes all Pilgrims! Thursday, September 9: Confessions at 5:00 pm, Mass at 6:00pm Fr. David Roesch guest celebrant. Friday, September 10: Confessions at 5:00 PM, Mass at 6:00 PM, Fr. Alan Thomas guest celebrant. Saturday, September 11: Confessions at 3:30 PM., Saturday Mass at 4:00 PM, Bishop Mark main celebrant. Sunday, September 12, 9:00 AM, outdoor Sunday Mass at Shrine of St. Joseph, Celebrant: Fr. Jozef Kovacik, Pastor. St. Joseph Table Social to follow.

9/11 20th ANNIVERSARY MASS: The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona will be the site of a special Mass commemorating the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terror attacks. The Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. with Bishop Mark presiding. All are invited – especially local first responders, medical professionals, and public servants. Please join us as we remember the lives lost and honor those who bravely serve and protect our community. Refreshments will be served in the parish hall following the Mass

HAITI SPECIAL COLLECTION: Bishop Mark is asking everyone in our diocese young and old to contribute to a special collection for Haiti that is to be taken up at all the Masses on the weekend of September 18-19. Online donations are also encouraged through the GIVING section of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown website. All proceeds will be given to Catholic Relief Services for immediate distribution. The need is so great at this time. Schools, businesses, churches, and medical centers have been severely damaged or completely destroyed. Medical supplies and even clean drinking water is not readily available. Please be generous in responding to our neighbors in their time of need. Please be a Good Samaritan!

THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION MONTHLY FISH FRIES: Starting on Friday, September 10th from 3:30p - 6:30p. Both DINE IN & TAKE OUT available. Please call (814) 535-2698 to place your Take-Out order.



Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
September 5, 2021

Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs to the kingdom?

— James 2:5

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, September 5 – The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
10:00 AM - Mass for *Richard Sernulka* requested by
Betty Dennis

Monday, September 6 – Weekday/Labor Day

9:00 AM - Mass for *Andrew Szarwark* requested by
Richard & Joyce Lowe

Tuesday, September 7 – Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Reta M. Loth* requested by
David & Bonnie Loth

Wednesday, September 8 – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:30 PM - Confessions
6:00 PM - Mass for *Fred Mazarella* requested by
Karen Mazarella

Thursday, September 9 – St. Peter Claver, Priest

8:30AM– Mass for *Albert Houseknecht* requested by
Richard & Joyce Lowe

Friday, September 10 – Weekday

8:30AM– Mass for *Ken Hartman* requested by
Donna Fink

Saturday, September 11 - Vigil of The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00 PM - Confessions
4:00 PM - Mass for *Fr. Paul Turnbull* requested by
Barbara Bundy

Sunday, September 12 – The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
11:00 AM - Mass for *Tim & Marie Farrell* requested by
Cecelia Bloom

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Col 1:24 — 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11, or, for Labor Day, any readings from the Mass “For the Blessing of Human Labor,” nos. 907-911

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

Thursday: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11;
Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday: Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18;
Mk 8:27-35

TOP 10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE ADULT CHOIR!

10. Rehearsal night means one night away from the stresses of busy life. Music is such a strong strong emotional force. Choir rehearsal will quickly become your favorite part of the week. It's an opportunity to escape your daily stresses and responsibility for a few hours and focus on making something beautiful. It's a liberating feeling to not have the weight of the world on your shoulders but to instead be part of a whole and doing something worthwhile.
9. You always have a great reserved seat for Christmas and Easter.
8. You will be setting a good example for all the children, teenagers (and reluctant adults.)
7. Intellectual Stimulation—when you make music, you are using both sides of your brain simultaneously.
6. Since warm-ups are a half-hour before mass, you'll always be early enough to get a good parking place!
5. No auditions or solos required!
4. People who are involved in music live longer and are healthier
3. From our beloved St. Augustine: "To sing is to pray twice!"
2. You don't need to know how to read music. In fact many of our choir members don't read music. If that's been what's kept you from joining, then your non-choir days are over! Here's what you do...you come to choir rehearsal and sit next to someone who reads well. All you have to do then is listen and you're home free. You'll be amazed what you can learn by just planting yourself in the middle of the music.
1. Serving the Lord—considering all HE does for us, it's just a little giving back to HIM!



Join us for rehearsal Wednesday @ 7:00 PM!
For more information, call or text Debbie
Johnson - 814-931-2867

Do you like to sing?



Mrs. Johnson is looking for singers for a Youth Choir to sing at an occasional weekend mass, in the Advent/Christmas Concert on December 12 and for 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve.

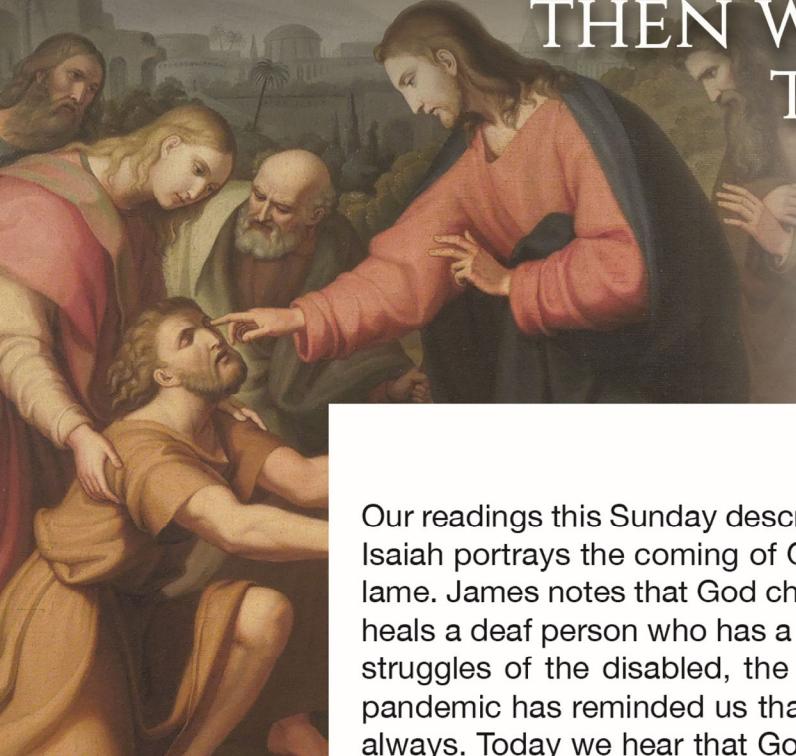
If you are in grades 2 - 12 and would like to join us, please come to rehearsal on Tuesday, September 14 at 6:00 in the church.

For more information, call or text Mrs. Johnson at 814-931-2867.

THEN WILL THE EYES OF THE BLIND BE OPENED

the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Isaiah 35:5-6



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GOD LIFTS US UP

Our readings this Sunday describe God's work of liberation for those who are vulnerable. Isaiah portrays the coming of God in terms of the healing of the blind, the deaf, and the lame. James notes that God chooses the poor to be rich in faith. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus heals a deaf person who has a speech impediment. The readings remind us of the acute struggles of the disabled, the excluded, and the poor. In the last year and a half, the pandemic has reminded us that we are all vulnerable, that illness and death are near us always. Today we hear that God's presence is revealed when God lifts us up, and when we join God to lift each other up. Our care for others, especially those in greatest need, can be our grateful response to God's healing of us in our own vulnerability.

BLESSING FOR ALL

The story of the deaf man related in today's Gospel is one of several descriptions of extraordinary healings in this part of Mark's Gospel. Mark leads readers to understand that in Jesus, God is fulfilling the divine promises prophesied by Isaiah: "the ears of the deaf (will) be cleared . . . the tongue of the mute will sing." When the deaf can hear and the mute can sing, this sign of the coming of God means that the gifts of sight and hearing are now available, not only for the individuals involved, but for their families and the whole community around them.

There is a "ripple effect" of blessing extending well beyond individual healing. Those isolated by deafness and speech impediments could now fully participate in common life. With their inclusion, the community itself receives healing. In the Gospels, salvation is always inclusive and wholistic. God brings blessing to one small part of creation, so to extend blessing to all of creation.

BOTH LOVE AND CRITIQUE

For those who first heard today's passage from the letter of James, it probably struck a nerve. James challenged the local church's treatment of the poor as compared to the rich. It might strike a nerve for us too, because we live in a society where the wealthy are very much privileged, and the honoring of wealth is deeply ingrained in our cultural value system. James warns the church not to imitate the class distinctions made in the broader society. The Gospel proclaims that we are all equally God's children.

The church typically lives in a particular place and within a dominant culture. The church is always called upon to reflect upon its faithfulness to the Gospel, discerning whether it absorbs cultural values and attitudes that conflict with the Gospel. The church is called to love and nourish the culture, and at the same time to speak in critique of its idolatries. These challenges continue in our own parish communities, here and now.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

God's Word for Children

God told the prophet Isaiah what to say to us when we feel afraid (Isaiah 35:4).

To find what that is, use the star code to fill in the circles. Then tell a friend what you have learned.

$\star = g$ $\star \star = o$

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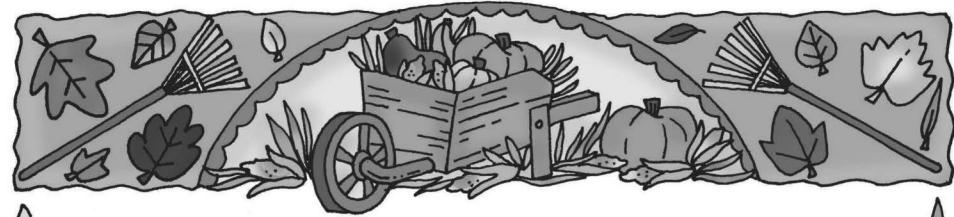
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BO \circ sORon \circ ,
*** $\star \star \star$ *

fe \circ r \circ \circ +!

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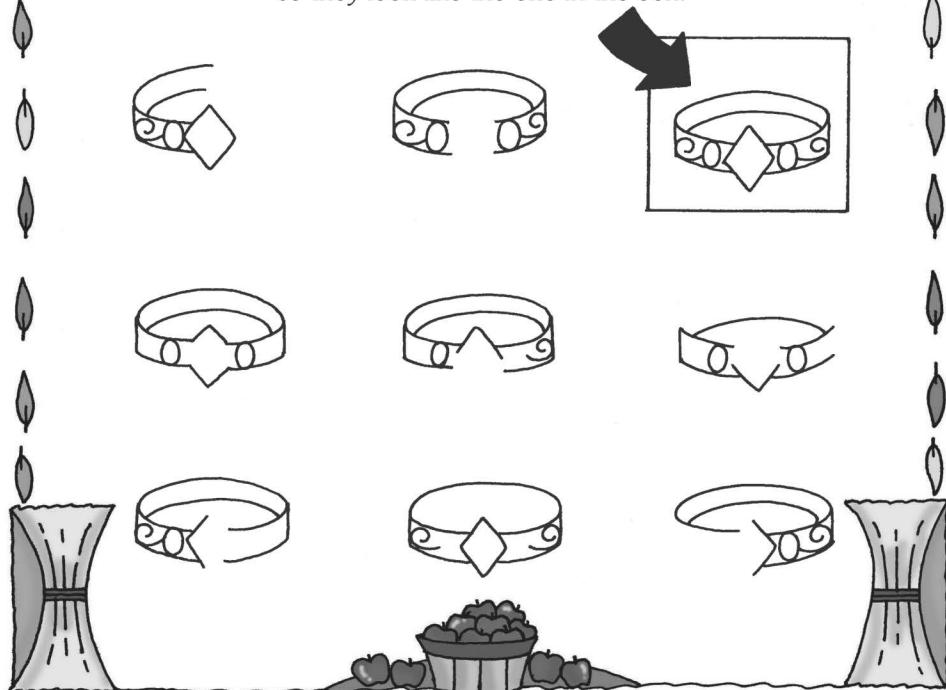
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

James wanted people to treat everyone the same.

It wasn't right to show more attention to a nicely dressed person with gold rings than to one who looked poor.

Remember, God wants us to show the love of God equally to everyone!

See how fast you can finish drawing these rings so they look like the one in the box.



"Be opened!"
Mark 7:34



BE STRONG, FEAR NOT

On September 11, 2001, a great tragedy struck our nation. Hundreds of people died, many others were injured, and parts of our country were destroyed. Each year on the anniversary of this event, we remember those who lost their lives and pray for their families and friends. With Christian generosity we also pray for the people who took over the planes and created the disaster.

We pray that this sort of calamity will never happen again. We pray for peace. We pray that God will soften the hearts of those who would harm others and comfort the hearts of those who mourn.

On September 14, the Church celebrates an important feast, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The cross, a symbol of the suffering and death of Jesus, is also a sign of hope. The cross that seems to be a tragedy is also a sign of victory. Death is overcome by new life for those who believe. We pray that victims of all tragedies find peace in the new life promised them by God.

In today's first reading we hear God tell the prophet, "Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!" (Isaiah 35:4). In this cross, write some of the things that might frighten you or make you sad. Place them in the cross of Jesus. Ask Jesus to comfort and protect you, strengthen you, and calm your fears.

