

Dear Padre,

Martyrs and people who commit suicide willingly sacrifice their lives, so how are they different? If I deliberately put myself in a position to be killed—even for a worthy cause—isn't that a form of suicide?

Life is a gift from God. While both martyrdom and suicide contradict the natural human disposition to preserve and perpetuate life, the former is a totally self-giving act; the latter, a self-inflicted one.

The early Church believed that martyrs went directly to heaven because their sacrifice of life was the ultimate Christlike expression. Their courageous endurance of indignities and tortures—their heroic willingness to die in defense of the faith or to save another's life—demonstrates a supreme love of God and neighbor over love for life itself (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2473).

Those who take their own lives to end personal suffering or despair make a decision that belongs to God alone. It's an action that can revolve totally around the "self," often with little thought given to its consequences. It's a sin against hope (CCC 2091) that reveals a lack of faith and trust in God.

Conversely, martyrdom is a profound expression of faith, trust, and hope in God. Nevertheless, our compassionate God fully knows the intensity of suffering that triggers suicide and "can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance" (CCC 2283).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

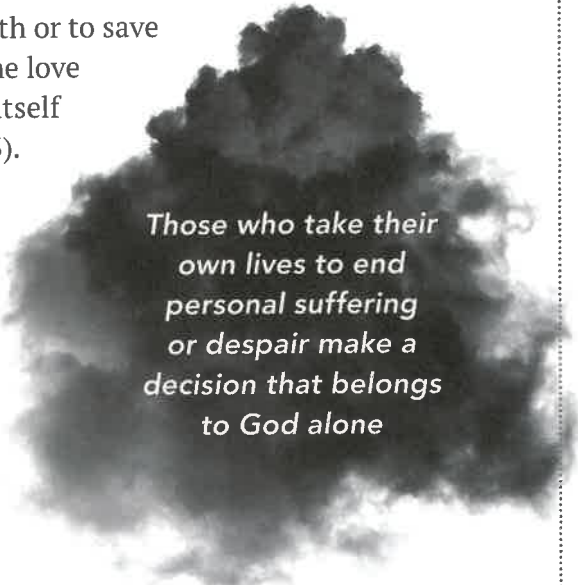
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Remember that story about the poor widow lady...Her husband had committed suicide; he jumped from the bridge into the river. And she wept. She said, "I am a sinner, a poor woman. But my poor husband! He is in hell."...And the Curé of Ars said, "But wait a moment, ma'am, because between the bridge and the river, there is the mercy of God."

HOMILY, MARCH 18, 2019



Those who take their own lives to end personal suffering or despair make a decision that belongs to God alone

Calendar

Monday
SEPTEMBER 6
Weekday
Col 1:24—2:3
Lk 6:6—11

Tuesday
SEPTEMBER 7
Weekday
Col 2:6—15
Lk 6:12—19

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 8
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mi 5:1—4a or
Rom 8:28—30
Mt 1:1—16, 18—23, or
1:18—23

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 9
St. Peter Claver, Priest
Col 3:12—17
Lk 6:27—38

Friday
SEPTEMBER 10
Weekday
1 Tm 1:1—2, 12—14
Lk 6:39—42

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 11
Weekday
1 Tm 1:15—17
Lk 6:43—49

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 12
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 50:4c—9a
Jas 2:14—18
Mk 8:27—35

Our Parish COMMUNITY

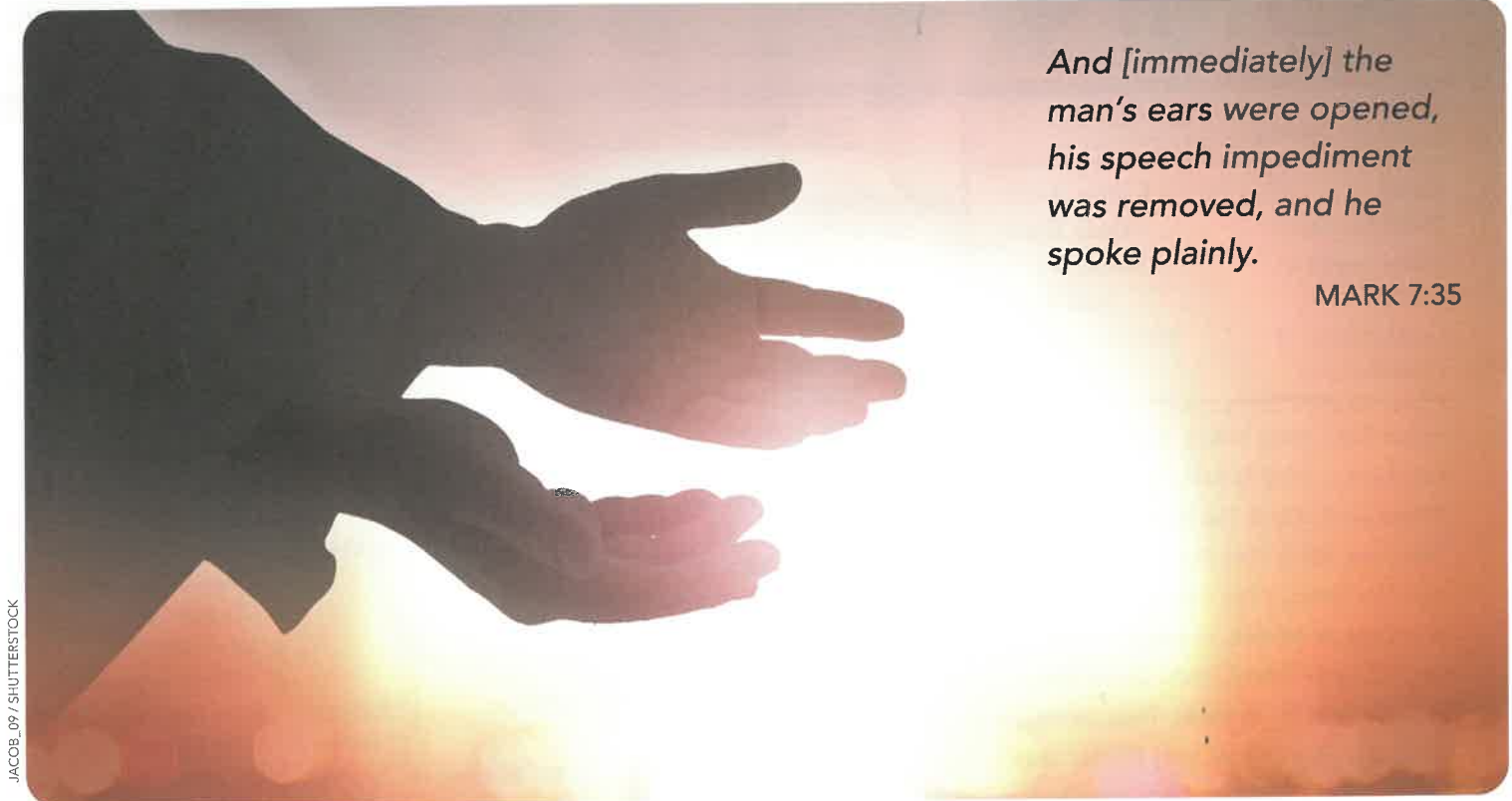
September 5, 2021

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Is 35:4—7a

Jas 2:1—5

Mk 7:31—37



And [immediately] the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

MARK 7:35

He Has Done All Things Well

Deep in the heart of each of us is a desire for a perfect world—a world of peace and harmony, where life flourishes and people care for one another. From beginning to end, our religious tradition promises that such a world is just ahead of us. Today's readings assure us that physical obstacles will not prevent its accomplishment, because the graciousness of God is stronger than any other power.

Today's reading from Isaiah instructs us: "Be strong, do not fear!" (35:4). It encourages us to believe in this promise of ultimate fulfillment and to trust that God will see it through. Our focus changes slightly in the Gospel passage. What was a promise of the future for Isaiah bursts forth as a reality in the Gospel, where the healing of broken bodies and troubled lives is realized by the warm words and gentle touch of Jesus.

Do such miracles really happen? Or are these fanciful stories that provide hope for people with little scientific understanding? Are miracles real? Of course they are. However, their true meaning might be much more profound than we realize. A miracle is a manifestation of divine power far beyond human control or comprehension. It is an experience of being made whole again, an occurrence in which peace and harmony are reestablished. Sometimes a miracle is spectacular; at other times it is far too deep to be seen. But always it is God working in our lives to create us anew.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Where does your life need healing? What are you doing about it?*
- ★ *How might you be a source of healing in the lives of others?*



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Saint Terence Mission

1130 East San Antonio Ave

Many, LA 71449

Phone: 318-256-5680

FAX: 318-256-9177

Office Hours: 8AM—4PM (M-F)

Website: www.stjohnmany.org

Email: office@stjohnmany.org

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Francis Kamau, FMH
 Parish Secretary: Sheila Royal
 Office Assistant: Shirley Rivers
 DRE: Jean Rains
 Groundskeeper: Michael Beasley
 Housekeeper: Pam Little

Prayer List: Vivian Halleck, Bessie Mowad, Vicki Martin, Eddie Richard, Norma Bergeron, Clifford Shuff, Roy & Pam Beasley, Ezra Thibodeaux, Bill & Mary Hurd, Joanna Presseau, Lisa Brown, Bobby Bowen, Piper Rae Pate, Cameron Johnson, Alan Nichols, James Edwards, Addie Procell, Trisha Adams, Sue Ferguson, John Wayne Behan, Timbo Sepulvado, Don Speaks, Marti Vienne, Gary Mitchell, Justin Lincecum, Betty P Skinner, Mary Jane Olsen, Caitlin Pine, Clairiste Byles, Sr., Marty Starks, Trent Chaney, Ginger Mogedan, Cyndle Eyre, Doug Wages, Margaret Zammit, Debbie Britt, Hannah Salley, Lucille Wagenspack, Seth Freeman, Billie Cass, Millie Craig, Celeste Peacock, Tim Richardson, Fr. Juan Garcia, Dr. Jo Beth Miller, Evelyn Bouillion, Jim Wyatt, Janice Ezernack, Shirley Funderburk, Rodney DeRouen, Joni Bynog, Bobby Slaydon, Kathy Ann Crysel, Mickey Cedars, Gina Sattler, Joe Hayes, Louise Moore, Dell Remedies, Alberto Gonzales, Kyle Foster, Brad Cook, Ira Joe Key, Larry Thompson, David Meche, Kathy Logan Adcock, Terri Tedder, Blanche Neal, Susan Giblin, Kate West, Mark Trosclair, Waylon Malmay, George Polk, Landon Sepulvado, Glen Westfall, Richard Ebarb, Johnny King, Shinette Thompson-Palmer, Rayne Skelton & Todd Matthew

Please note: The names on the prayer list will go through a cycle. As the names are moved to the top, they will be removed as new names are added. Please contact the office to add or remove a name.

This Week in our Parish

Weekend Masses at St John:

Sat, 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Sun, 11:00 AM

Weekend Mass at St Terence

Sun, 8:00 AM

Weekday Masses at St. John:

Tues, 5:00 PM

Wed—Fri, 8:00 AM

Saturday September 4th

3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Sunday September 5th

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

5:30 PM Youth Group Meets

Monday September 6th

Labor Day—Church Office Closed

Wednesday September 8th

8:30 AM—6:00 PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

5:30 PM RCIA

Thursday September 9th

6:00 PM Bible Study

Anointing of the Sick /Ministry to the Sick

Please call the church office if someone is in a hospital, nursing home, shut-in, and would like to be visited or receive the sacraments.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the office in advance to register for seminar.

Funerals

Arrangements may be made by calling the office

Parish calendar online:

<http://www.stjohnmany.org/calendar>

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples are required to call the church office at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday September 4th

- 4:00PM 1. + Lawrence Gill
2. + Chris & Eunice Ebarb
3. + Deacon Mike Sullivan
4. Waylon Malmay (SI)
5. Betty Procell Skinner (SI)

Sunday September 5th

- 8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
2. + Christy Wriborg
3. + Jeffrey & JoJo Bergeron
4. + Dr Sien Oey
- 11:00AM 1. + Deacon Mike Sullivan
2. + June & Floyd Lopez
3. + Dr Sien Oey
4. Ira Joe Key (SI)
5. + William Sepulvado, Jr.

Tuesday September 7th

- 5:00PM 1. + Terry Rivers

Wednesday September 8th

- 8:00AM 1. + Father Ken Williams

Thursday September 9th

- 8:00AM 1. + Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday September 10th

- 8:00AM 1. + Deacon Mike Sullivan

Parish Support

(Thank you for your generosity!)

August 28th—29th, 2021

St John	\$	4366.00
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St Terence	\$	1229.00
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The Sanctuary Candle

Week of Sept. 5th—Sept 11, 2021

St. John & St Terence Sharon Greer (SI)

Note: Please call the church office to request the Sanctuary Lamp or Mass Intention in memory of or in honor of a loved one. If you would like to have flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one, contact the parish office.

Bible Study

The first session of our evening Bible Study Class will begin at **6:00 PM Thursday**. *The Bible Timeline*® study program takes you on a guided journey through salvation history. *The Bible Timeline* will teach you how to read and understand the entire Bible and introduce you to the wonderful narrative of Scripture in a way that will transform your life. Anyone interested in the program is invited to attend. Pre-registration is not required.

Office Closure

The church office will be **closed this Monday** in observance of the Labor Day holiday and will reopen Tuesday at 8AM.

Thank You

We appreciate EVERYONE who helped in any way with our 150th Anniversary Fishing Tournament fundraiser this weekend. We are still in the process of tallying the proceeds. Please see next week's bulletin for an update on monies raised.

Fall ACTS Retreats

Consider joining us for one of the upcoming ACTS retreats. Registration forms are posted on the St Joseph Church/ Shreveport website at www.stjosephchurch.net/ adult-faithformation. For more information please contact Kevin Nolton at kevinlntn@gmail.com. Men's : Sept. 16-19. Women's : Sept. 30-Oct. 3

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Resumes

Adoration at St. John's will resume Wednesday, **September 8th** at 8:30AM. Please consider giving an hour each week to Our Lord in Adoration. If you have questions, contact Mary Beth Tarver at 318. 332.9901.

Historical Marker Application Approved



Father Francis recently received notification that our application for the erection of a Louisiana State Marker has been approved by the Office of Tourism. Thus, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will be the future site of a Louisiana Historical Marker. The unveiling ceremony, blessing by Bishop Malone and special Mass has been scheduled for **Thursday, November the 11th at 10AM**. More details will be forthcoming.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith? Have you been thinking about becoming Catholic? Are you an adult who was never baptized? Have you been baptized but never received First Communion or Confirmation?

RCIA is the process established by the Church for individuals to become Catholic and receive the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Centered on fostering a deep relationship with Jesus and the Church he founded, this journey takes place through distinct stages over a period of time. Classes begin September 8th at 5:30 P.M.

Interested? Contact: Yvonne Busby, RCIA Director at 318-256-2645

CCD Begins September 12th

The first CCD class will be held on **Sunday, September 12th at 9AM**. This year CCD will be held each Sunday morning from **9:00 - 10:45AM**. A light breakfast will be provided. You may still register your child by contacting Jean Rains.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, we hear how Jesus "makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!" In living the gospel, we must open our ears to hear and recognize all the everyday opportunities for making God's presence known especially to those who are poor and suffering. On September 9, the Church celebrates the feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Frederic heard the call of Jesus to love and serve those who are suffering. Thank you for your donations that enable to us to help those in need.

Second Collection

There will be a second collection next weekend for the Catholic University of America. Please join us in support of students during this crucial time.

Date	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers	Ushers
Saturday Vigil, September 11th, 4PM (Saint John)	Yvonne Busby	TBD	Juan & Emelyn Plascencia	TBD
Sunday, September 12th, 8AM (Saint Terence)	Carrie DeRouen	Jan Collins		TBD
Sunday, September 12th, 11AM (Saint John)	Amy Ebarb	TBD	Reese Koss Avaree Procell Addie Process	TBD