

Grow & go

Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**He has done
all things well.**

**Scripture Readings for the 23rd
Sunday of Ordinary Time** can be found [here](#)

In this week's Gospel, Jesus heals a deaf man, using the word *Ephphatha!* (which means "open") to open his ears and cure his speech impediment. At baptism in the Catholic Church, the *Ephphatha* prayer is said while the ears and mouth of the child are touched. The prayer opens our ears to hear the Word of God, and our mouths to speak it. In the Second Reading, from St. James, we are challenged to treat all people with dignity, as did Jesus. Jesus not only cured the man, but in doing so, enabled him to enter more fully into relationships with others.

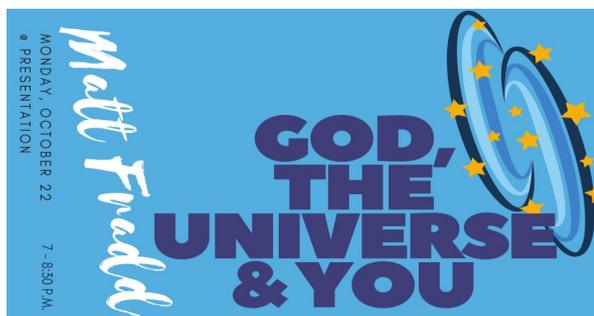
- **What makes it difficult to hear and speak the Word of God in your life?**
- **Have you been blessed by someone simply listening to you?**
- **Who among us are the most difficult to welcome into our lives?**

As parish communities, we are called to be salt and light for the world. In the US Bishops' statement, *Communities of Salt and Light*, they say parishes are measured by the way we care for the poor, the homeless, the alienated in our community and world. You can read the document and learn more about the Church's commitment to social justice [here](#).

This week we celebrate the feasts of St. John Chrysostum (September 13) and the Triumph of the Cross (September 14.) John is a doctor and father of the Church, known for his preaching and writing. Some of his writings were adapted for [this song](#) in the musical *Godspell*.

The Triumph of the Cross is celebrated in honor of the dedication of the Basilica built during the time of Constantine in the supposed place of Christ's crucifixion. This [song](#) is often used in liturgy on this day.

Save the Date!



Please pray for the 44 women who are making the

Christ Renews His Parish retreat this weekend.

**Thank you to all who have contributed time, food and money
to make the weekend possible!**

Questions? Contact Mary Pat at mstorms@olpls.org