

Today's Gospel is found only in the Gospel of St. Mark. Note, what the crowd says about Jesus, "He has done all things well." In the creation narrative, after creating, God saw all the things He had done and declared them good.

St. Mark also deliberately evokes Prophet Isaiah's promise, which we hear in today's 1st reading that God will make the deaf hear and the mute speak. The crowd recognizes that Jesus is doing what the prophet had foretold. The evangelist wants us to see something far greater, that, to use the words from today's 1st reading: "Here is your God."

Notice how personal and physical the drama is in the Gospel. Our focus is drawn to a hand, a finger, ears, a tongue, spitting. In Jesus, Mark shows us, God has truly come in the flesh. What He has done is to make all things new, a new creation. As Prophet Isaiah promised, He has made the living waters of Baptism flow in the desert of the world. God has set captives free from their sins; he has come that rich and poor might dine together in the Eucharistic feast, as St. James tells us in today's 2nd reading.

He has done for each of us what He did for that deaf mute. He has opened our ears to hear the Word of God, and loosed our tongues that we might sing praises to Him. Let us then, in the Eucharist, again give thanks to our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. Let us say with Isaiah, here is our God, He comes to save us. Let us be rich in faith, that we might inherit the kingdom promised to those who love Him.

Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

RESUMES on **September 12th**, at **9:30am**,
in the Religious Ed Building.

UPCOMING RETREATS:

WOMEN'S RETREAT: "PASSING THE FAITH ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION" — This retreat is hosted by St. Benedict Lodge ((56630 North Bank Rd, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413) on **Sept. 14-16**. Speakers will be Sr. Lilly Fitzpatrick, OP, and Sr. Patrick Kearney, OP. Cost is \$100/person for private room, and \$90/person for a shared room. Please send a \$30 deposit to register, to the above address. To learn more, call 541-822-3572, or go to website: sblodge.opwest.org..

RETROUVAILLE — FIND A NEW BEGINNING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE by attending a Retrouvaille retreat Rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship. Retrouvaille is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering For confidential information or to register for the **October 12-14 (2018)** weekend, go to: www.helpourmarriage.org or call 1-503-225-9191.

END OF LIFE ETHICS — There are lots of tough questions when faced with making decisions for terminally ill loved ones....explore the catholic options with Fr. Tim Furlow and Eugene Catholic Young Adults (ECYA) this Thursday, **Sept. 13th, 6:45pm**, at the K of C Columbus Hall (1144 Charnelton St). ECYA is for every Catholic young adult, ages 21-39! For more info, contact: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com or 541-270-9329 or [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://www.facebook.com/EugeneCYA)

JANE KIRKPATRICK (AUTHOR) IS COMING TO TOWN! Come join New York times best-selling author, Jane Kirkpatrick, as she share her humorous and thought-provoking presentation, "Frontier Faith and Courage", at St. Paul Church (Eugene), on Wednesday, **Sept. 19th**, in the parish hall (1201 Satre St), at **7:00pm**. Jane lives near Bend, OR, and has written 32 books — 27 novels and 5 non-fiction. This event is sponsored by the Women of St. Paul, and tickets are \$10/person, available at the door from 6:30pm. More info on Jane available at: jkbooks.com.

GREAT HOUR OF CARING WITH ARCHBISHOP SAMPLE — 5Come attend this 5th Annual Great Hour of Caring fundraising breakfast on Wednesday, **Sept. 26** from **8-9:00am** at the Eugene Hilton. The theme is "*Making Waves of Change*" and Archbishop Sample will be our honored guest. This is a free event thanks to our very generous sponsors. We hope to see you there! **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED by September 10** — Email events@CCSLC.org or call (541) 345-3628 ext. 317 to RSVP.



Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
(Congregation of Marian Fathers
of the Immaculate Conception)
Keynote Speaker



OCTOBER 6TH (SATURDAY)
8:00AM -- 4:00PM

OREGON STATE FAIRGROUNDS PAVILION (IN SALEM)
rosarybowlnw.org

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT DIVORCE?

When the Song of Songs speaks of marital commitment as a love that "deep waters cannot quench ... nor rivers sweep ... away" (8:7), it reminds us of an important reality to which the Church bears witness: A valid, sacramental marriage between two baptized Christians is permanent. No power on earth can dissolve it. It remains until the death of one of the spouses.

This is an unpopular position to take in our culture, but it is based on the explicit teaching of Jesus. He said with regard to married couples: "They are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate" (Mt 19:6). And so, the Church opposes divorce and remarriage. Jesus went on to say that those who have been validly married commit adultery if they form a sexual union/remarry with another, because they are still married to the original spouse.

But Jesus did note a special case: When a first marriage is "unlawful", he said, the ban on remarriage doesn't apply, because the first union was not valid (Mt 19:9). In this light, the Church recognizes that not all attempts at marriage are valid, even if they are civilly legal. Certain conditions invalidate the civil marriage. For example, if a woman was forced to take vows against her will, or a man attempted to take his sister as a wife, the resulting "marriage" would be invalid, and eligible for an annulment.

When the Church grants an annulment, therefore, it's not providing a "Catholic divorce" — rather, it is declaring an instance where a valid sacramental marriage was never present, although it was recognized by civil authorities as "legal". The two individuals, then, are free to marry.

The Old Testament distinction between a concubine and a wife is somewhat analogous to the Church's distinction between civil and sacramental marriage (Gn 21:10-14; Jgs 8:31; 1 Cor 7:15). Many societies have in their civil law, similar distinctions between valid and invalid marriages.

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Gn 1:26-31; 2:18-25; 17:15-21; 21:12-20 · Mal 2:14-16 · Mt 5:31-32; 19:1-9 · Mk 10:2-11 · Lk 16:18 · Rom 7:2-3 · 1 Cor 7:1-24,39 · Gal 4:21-31 · Eph 5:2,21-33 · Heb 13:4 · 1 Pt 3:1-9 ·

& Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 1534-1535 · 1601-1666 (esp. 1629, 1650-1651) · 2382-2386 ·