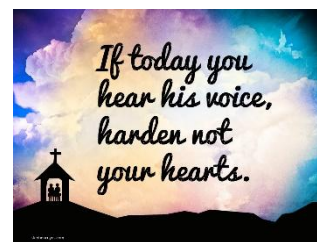


TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



Dear Friends in Christ,

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." This is our responsorial psalm for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, year A.

Do we hear God's voice every day? Yes, we do. God's voice or God's words come to us in many ways. We hear His words in the liturgy of the word at Mass. We hear His voice whisper in our minds helping us to make the right decisions. We hear God's words comforting us in our sorrow for others. We hear God's encouraging words lifting us up when we fall. We hear God's words of forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and so forth.

God always finds a way or has a way to communicate with us and He never stops talking to us. He wants a response from us. But, do we hear His voice, His words? This is the problem. We are so busy and our minds are always occupied with many things. God's word is hard to accept! God's plan does not make sense! God's wisdom does not get along with our wisdom! God's word is "out-of-date!" Does this sound familiar to us?

When everything goes smoothly, we often do not want to listen to God's voice because we take credit for all good things; we are in control (who else?). When we do something wrong, we do not want to be corrected. Yes, we close our ears to God's voice through the teaching of the Church or those with authority. If we continue to reject the correction from the Church, then we will be treated just like the "Gentile and tax collector" as we hear in today's Gospel.

Friends in Christ, God's voice is now the voice of love, mercy, and forgiveness, but when the day comes, God's voice will be the voice of justice.

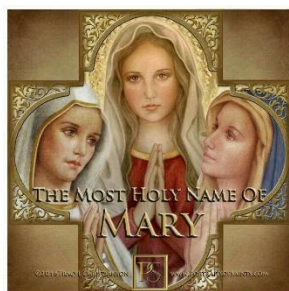
God wants us to hear His voice and do what He says. Not only do we just listen to Him, but we also practice it, carry it out through our good deeds and in the way we act.

God's voice guides us back to Him. God's voice asks us to listen to the voice of those in need, particularly of our brothers and sisters in our community here and throughout the diocese. God's voice encourages us to listen to their cries, to help them to live with full human dignity as God's children with our contribution to the DSA. Thank you to all who donated and helped reach our goal. God's voice also asks us to show our appreciation or our gratitude to our retired priests as we will have a collection on September 23-24. So, please pray and consider and give generously.



"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." May we always be attentive to God's voice, and may God give us a heart of repentance, love, and forgiveness as the ways of our response to His voice.

Peace in Christ,
Fr. Tien



"Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, for all who celebrate the glorious Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she may obtain your merciful favor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever."

The Most Holy Name of Mary
Feast Day - September 12

Safe Environment Training

Effective February 19, 2026, all volunteers are now required to complete a background check and safe environment abuse prevention and education training. And once safe environment certified, annual renewal training is required. Find more information about the Diocese of Charlotte's Safe Environment program and to register for a CMG Connect account that combines all our Safe Environment screening, onboarding and training in one place by visiting <https://charlottediocese.org/offices/safe-environment/>

Questions? Please contact our parish local Safe Environment coordinator: Kristen Fox, kkarcher9@yahoo.com, 828-200-3870. You may also contact the Diocese Safe Environment department at Safe Environment training safeenvironment@rcdoc.org.



There is a second collection today for
Capital Improvements.

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, September 7th
for Labor Day. There will be NO Mass at 9:00 a.m.



Rosary is prayed ½ hour before every Mass.

Adoration every Friday after our 9:00 a.m. Mass with the
Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 11:30 a.m. and benediction till noon.
Reconciliation ½ hour before Vigil Mass; Wednesday at 6:15 p.m.

Prayers for healing: Donna Barbaro, Dolores Botti, Chad Cook, William Crunkleton, Susan Darby, Lillianne Duong Davis, Tony Frede, Dariel Hellerer, Wayne Hirsch, Guyla Ivers, Anette ML Jigla, Sandra Kanter, Georgette Lee, Terry McConnell, Michelle Mercer, Dee Moffitt, Delphine Moss, Monica Moya, John Ontiveros, Freeman Robinson, Josette Roisin, Kathleen Rogers, Mike Scarborough, Roxanne Lumia Smith, Wanda Stamey, Irene Tisdale, Art Todesco, Alan Tucker, Ruby Christina Tucker, Joe and Charlene Youdell, Rosalie Perreault, David Ramsey, Susie Lopez Pineda, Kamri Peck, Kathy Tallent, Denise Burkart, Connie Blackburn, Sharon Beals, Josephine Jennings, Dominga Feria Lopez, Bill Garbinski, Nick Birchard, Mary Ann Janda, Josiah Mihok, Robert Horgan



Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, September 5

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

5:00 P.M. ✚ Bill Holten by the Choir

Sunday, September 6

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 A.M. ✚ Fr. Jose Maria Parcon

✚ Norma Deimel by Glenn Deimel

11:30 A.M. ✚ Marciano Diaz Ordaz

✚ Antonina Arango Diaz

✚ Marciano Diaz Acevedo

Monday, September 7

NO MASS

Tuesday, September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

NO MASS

Wednesday, September 9

Saint Peter Claver, Priest

5:30 P.M. ✚ Barbara Ruple

Thursday, September 10

9:00 A.M. ✚ Claire Galam

✚ Holy Souls

Friday, September 11

9:00 A.M. ✚ Marta Mares Mares

✚ Evangelina Rodriquez Mares

Saturday, September 12

The Most Holy Name of Mary

NO MASS - Eucharistic Congress

Sunday, September 13

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 A.M. ✚ Maxine Arzberger

11:30 A.M. Misericordia Group



Please remember to keep
Saint Francis Parish in your will.



Donations made easy! Here is your
QR Code that you can scan with your phone.