



## Hearing and Listening

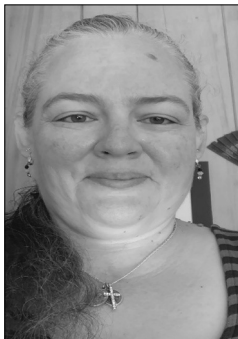
The words “hearing” and “listening” are sometimes used interchangeably by people, yet their meaning is quite different. Most of us hear all kinds of things: cars driving by, dogs barking, music on the radio, etc. Many people, however, are not really paying attention to what they are hearing. Therefore, they are not truly listening. Listening involves careful attention, interest and finally some desire to go out and act upon what was just proclaimed.

In the Gospel today, Jesus reminds us that the Word of God comes to people in various ways, yet many do not nurture it or simply walk away from it. Where do we find the seeds of God’s Word planted in our lives? When we “hear” the Word of God, are we truly “listening” to it? Does it make sense to us? Do we have some kind of plan for putting it into action? Do we allow it to change our lives for the better?

The first reading today from the prophet Isaiah says that when God’s Word comes to people, it is not to return to God empty. It will achieve the end for which it was sent. Let us make sure that whenever we hear the Word of the Lord, whether at Mass or reading the Scriptures by ourselves, that we truly listen to what God has to say to us. Let us make sure that the seeds of God’s Word are given enough nourishment, so that they will sprout and enable us to be the people God wants us to be.

*Father David*

### ***The St. James Altar Server Ministry Welcomes New Coordinators, Mrs. Geissal & Mrs. McGuire***



Greetings. My name is Nicole Geissal and I am proud and blessed to become the Altar Server Ministry Coordinator. I and my family have been members of the St. James community since the fall of 2005 upon moving to Glen Ellyn. I am the proud mother of two daughters who will be in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades this year at St. James the Apostle School and who are both a part of the Altar Server Ministry. I believe that this ministry is vital in teaching our middle school and junior high students how to do God’s work through service. I will strive to make it an enriching and spiritual experience for all of them, which will hopefully aid them in a commitment to service throughout their lives. Please feel free to come up to me if you see me in church, or e-mail me at [ladyfair@comcast.net](mailto:ladyfair@comcast.net) if you have any questions, comments or concerns. May God bless all of our servers and their families.



My name is Samantha McGuire and I am an Altar Server trainer, mother of 3 children and wife to a wonderful husband. I work in electronics and am a former US Navy sailor. I received the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation at Easter in 2016. Joining St. James the Apostle parish has been like coming home to a new family, and I am so excited to give back through this ministry.