



# The LIGHT House Sunday School News

***Building the Body of Christ  
Year of the Family***

**September 8, 2019**

***Church Calendar***

Baregentan of the Fast of the Exaltation

***Readings***

*Is 13:1-11, 2Cor 7:4-16, Mk 7:31-37.*

**Sundays: Look Ahead Calendar of Events**

<b>Sept 15</b>	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
<b>Sept 22</b>	Baregentan of the Fast of the Holy Cross of Varak
<b>Sept 29</b>	Feast of the Holy Cross of Varak

: Anna Robinson (401-580-6788)

**Today: Special Blessing for Students  
By Our New Primate  
Bishop Daniel Will be Today's Badarak Celebrant  
Banquet Following Divine Liturgy**

**Registration and Welcome Back Picnic is Next Sunday,  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup>**



## From DCE

### From Today's Readings

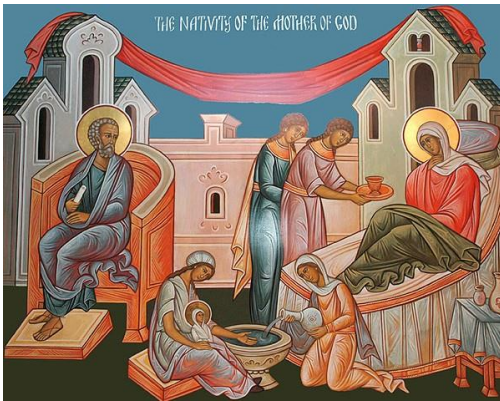
**Mark 7:31-37** A deaf mute from Decapolis, the predominantly Greek region of 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine, is brought to Jesus by caring people who seek his healing. Jesus takes him away from the crowd and first touches his ear and then, using His own saliva, touches his tongue, looking heavenward as He heals the man. Those seeing this and hearing the story later in Mark's Gospel could not miss the connection with Isaiah's prophecy (35:5): that when the Messiah comes, "then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared."

*Discuss/reflect: Here we see again how people are brought to Jesus by others who are convinced that He can change lives. Do you share that belief? If so, have you brought this truth to others?*

**2 Corinthians 7: 4-16** Paul's spirit is refreshed when he hears the good news Titus shares with him: rather than being distressed by a letter Paul had sent them, the Corinthians were prompted to repent. They embrace Titus and feel only concern and love for Paul. "I rejoice...!" exclaims a relieved and encouraged apostle. A lesson for us all is that faith renders tensions subordinate to the common bonds of Christian love. *Discuss/reflect: Paul talks of being comforted with the arrival of Titus. (v.6) In your ministry in the church, have you ever felt strengthened by the pre-sence of another? What is godly sorrow and how does it differ from worldly sorrow? (vv 8-11)*

**Isaiah 13:1-11** This oracle against Babylon points to its destruction (historically, by the Medes and Persians) on "the day of the Lord," a phrase that can be applied to any manifestation of God's judgment. The sound of advancing armies and genuine human terror is vividly described. The cosmos shares in the agony as the heavens darken. *Discuss/reflect: Babylon stood for wealth, refined culture, and political power. Where do you see these priorities blinding people to God's values of truth, justice and love today?*

### Today is the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, Holy Mother of God



Although not recorded in Scripture, Mary's birth and upbringing are mentioned in early Christian sources such as the Infancy Gospel of James. James recounts the longing of Sts. Joachim and Anna for a child; they find comfort in the story of Isaac's birth to the elderly Abraham and Sarah. Joachim fasts for 40 days and nights; Anna wraps herself in mourning clothes and sits in her garden praying fervently. After angels appear to them both assuring them of a child, Anna runs up to Joachim and, filled with emotion, "hung on his neck" exulting "The Lord has blessed me abundantly!" In joy and gratitude, they promise the child to the Lord and when Anna gives birth and learns it's a girl, she names her Mary. So fervent was their desire for holiness, that as Mary took her first steps, they vowed not to let her walk on anything impure until she was dedicated to the Temple and so created a ritually sacred space for their beloved daughter. *Reflection: Mary is prophesied to become a child that would be "spoken of throughout the world." The holiness of her parents and her home life prepared her to be part of God's extraordinary plan for her. How might this be instructive for us in learning how to hear God's plan for our lives?*

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