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www.ascensioncatholic.net

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 9, 2020



PETER SAID TO JESUS,
"LORD, IF IT IS YOU,
COMMAND ME TO COME
TO YOU ON THE WATER."

MATTHEW 14:28

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ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

www.ascensioncatholicssch.org

U.S. Department of Education

School of Excellence

Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

FAITH FORMATION

Religious Education

Pre-K3- Gr. 3 Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30pm

Pre-K3- Gr. 6 Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Pre-K3- Gr. 6 Wednesdays, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Gr. 1-6 Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Ascension Catholic Life Teen

Sundays 6:45-8:30pm

Edge (Grades 7&8) Wednesdays 6-7:30pm

Ascension Social Concerns: 259-5685

Religious Articles Gift Shop

Open after all weekend Masses

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass

4:30 pm

Sunday Masses

7:30 am

9:30 a.m.

11:30 am

5:30 pm

(Contemporary Music)

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday: 7:30 am

Sat. 9:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:15-4:25

Wednesday: 5:00 pm

(or by appointment)



As a good steward of the Lord's blessings, please remember to consider
your Parish Family or School Endowment in your Last Will and Testament.



- ♦ **Elijah Encounters God in a Tiny Breeze**
- ♦ **Jesus Comes to Peter and the Apostles in the midst of a Storm**
- ♦ **Paul Laments his People's Rejection of Jesus**

This week's readings offer us much to ponder and reflect on.

First Reading: 1Kings 19:9, 11-13

Elijah encounters God in a tiny breeze

To get a good feel for this reading, it would be helpful to read Chapter 18 and all of Chapter 19 of 1Kings. Reflecting on the first reading, Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB, writes:

Ahab was king of Israel from 874 to 853 BC. Under his reign, Baal (pagan) worship became the official cult in Israel. The Baal-worship was fostered by Ahab's queen Jezebel (a Phoenician princess). God's prophets were being killed. Those who survived were in hiding. None the less, Elijah took on himself the fearsome task of combating this false worship.

However, he adopted a very militant, even blood-thirsty, approach. For instance, after the defeat of the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel, he had all of them (400 plus) slaughtered. When Jezebel heard what he had done, she wanted him killed, so he fled into the desert in fear for his life. From there he was directed to Mount Horeb, the mountain sanctified by the theophanies of the Exodus and the giving of the law.

At Horeb he took refuge in a cave, where he received a strange vision. He witnessed a whirlwind that shattered rocks, then an earthquake, and then a fire. But the vision led him to understand that God was not in any of these things. Then he heard the sound of a gentle breeze. And he realized at once that he was in the presence of God.

And a voice said to him. *"What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

And he said, *"I'm here because of my zeal for Yahweh. The Israelites have abandoned your covenant. Your prophets have been killed. I am the only one left, and now they want to kill me."*

Then the voice said, *"You must go and anoint Elisha as your successor."*

Thus Elijah was shown another aspect of his God. He was taught that *God's ways* are not man's ways—even Elijah had to learn this. The tactics he had adopted were not God's tactics. Violence is evil. Violence committed in the name of God is doubly evil.

God's approach is not a violent one (symbolised by the mighty wind and the earthquake). Rather, it is a gentle one (symbolised by the breeze). God's approach is as gentle as a breeze. God's presence in the world achieves what he wills as gently and relentlessly as a breeze.

And God's voice is the gentlest voice of all. God did not make himself heard to Elijah in the sound of the mighty wind or the earthquake, but in the whisper of a gentle breeze.

Since we live in a very noisy world, if we want to hear the voice of God, we need to create some stillness and quietness in our soul. (Elijah had to go to a cave to hear it.) Many other voices clamour for our attention, voices that are loud, strident, and seductive.

Yet, for those who know how to listen, God's gentle voice can make itself heard even in the midst of a storm. Over the roar of wind and the waves, the apostles heard the gentle voice of Jesus saying to them, *"Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid."*

To live by faith means to trust in God and to rely on his power. God won't carry us, but he will uphold us if we let go. We are God's children. There is an unbreakable bond between God and us. With this conviction our prayer should produce a kind of lightness in us that makes it possible for us to walk over the waves of danger.

(Used with permission granted by Dominican Publications, www.dominicanpublications.com. New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies, by Flor McCarthy.)

Gospel: Matthew 14:23-33

Jesus is with us in the stormy events of life

The following reflection on today's Gospel is also by Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB.

Taken in a literal sense, the story of Peter attempting to walk on water may not be relevant for us. But taken symbolically (which seems to be how Matthew intends it to be taken), it has great relevance for us. 'Walking on water' is a symbol of something that is impossible to unaided human beings. There can be many situations in which we feel weak and powerless.

At some time or other, every disciple of Jesus is faced with very trying circumstances, very difficult decisions, very great sorrows, very powerful temptations. At those times it is as if we are being asked to ‘walk on water.’ Here are some examples of the kind of things the modern Christian might have to cope with.

John is a young person living away from home. It is Sunday morning. He is in a warm bed and it is cold outside. Should he leave that bed and go to Mass? He knows that he will have to face the laughter of his mates as they take their ‘liturgy of the word’ straight out of the tabloids. Will John be able to obey the gentle voice of Christ calling him to walk across the water of cynicism to go to church and listen to the Word of God?

Mary is a single girl who has become pregnant. She is heading into the middle of a storm of protest from her parents and gossip from her neighbors as soon as the news breaks. Then she is offered a way out—a quiet abortion. No one will ever know. But then she hears the gentle voice of Christ saying that abortion is wrong. Will she have the courage to listen to that voice?

Eileen is a young mother with three children. Suddenly her husband leaves her for another woman. She feels hurt and betrayed, lonely and angry. Then she hears the voice of Christ inviting her to trust. Will she have the courage to walk on those troubled waters, relying only on the word of Christ?

Gerry is a policeman. A drug dealer offers him a large amount of money if he would turn a blind eye to his activities. It’s very tempting. But then he hears the voice of Christ saying, ‘Do not participate in corruption.’ Will he be able to walk across those foul and ugly waters?

Paul is a commercial traveler. He is away from home. One night he meets a very attractive woman. He hasn’t been getting on very well of late with his wife. No one will every know if he is unfaithful to her. Will he have the strength to walk across the waters of fidelity at the call of Christ, who tells him that adultery is wrong?

We could multiply the examples, but I think the point has been made. At some time or other, everyone is faced with very trying circumstances. At those times it is as if the Lord is asking us to ‘walk on water.’ But at the same time he stretches out his hand to uphold us.

It’s in our weak moments that we experience the strength of God. If we never felt ourselves going under, then we’d never know the rescuing power of God.

At those times we can draw courage from the example of Peter. Peter represents the typical disciple who is caught between faith and doubt. He set out to obey Jesus, but ‘as soon as he felt the force of the wind,’ that is, persecution, his faith failed him. Jesus’ rebuke, “Man of little faith! Why did you doubt?” is directed at us too.

Like Peter, we often start out courageously only to lose heart when the going gets tough.

We have to contend not only with an outer struggle (against ‘the elements’), but also with an inner struggle (against ourselves). To

some extent, the whole life of a Christian is a kind of ‘walking on water,’ in so far as it implies walking in faith, which means relying only on the word of Christ. Many times we are asked to step out on his word. But Christ is not a ghostlike figure from the past. He is the Son of God who lives among us.

One day we will have to leave the earthly ‘boat’ that has carried us through the stormy waters of this world, and set out across the dark waters of death. If at difficult moments during life we have opted for Christ, then at death it will come naturally to us to reach out and take his hand, so that he may haul us onto the shores of eternity.

(Used with permission granted by Dominican Publications, www.dominicanpublications.com. New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies, by Flor McCarthy.)

Another reflection on the Gospel by Patricia Sanchez

Fifty years and four months ago, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, minister, pastor, professor, and one who resisted the Third Reich until his death, heard the same invitation that Jesus extended to Peter in today’s Gospel, “Come!” Heartened by Jesus’ words, “Do not be afraid,” Bonhoeffer in full faith, followed Jesus through death to life. His analysis of Peter’s response is worthy of our attention: “Peter had to leave the ship and risk his life on the sea, in order to learn both his own weakness and the almighty power of his Lord. If Peter had not taken the risk, he would never have learned the meaning of faith. ... The road to faith passes through obedience to the call of Jesus. Unless a definite step is demanded, the call vanishes into thin air, and if people imagine that they can follow Jesus without taking this step, they are deluding themselves like fanatics.”

Bonhoeffer went on to point out the theological paradox evidenced in the interchange between Jesus, who commanded the elements, and Peter, who was asking to believe and follow Jesus into the murky, unknown depths. Only the one who believes is obedient, noted Bonhoeffer, and only the one who is obedient believes. "Faith is only real where there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience" (*The Cost of Discipleship*, Macmillan Co., New York, 1960). In effect, Jesus was inviting Peter to learn a new language, that of obedient faith, and in learning that language he would be able to make the vision of Jesus his own.

If Peter had not taken the risk, he would never have learned the meaning of faith. ... The road to faith passes through obedience to the call of Jesus.

Through the experience of Peter, the Matthean Jesus reaches beyond the Sea of Galilee and beyond Judah into our own lives and experiences, calling forth in us a similar faith. "Come!" He speaks the language of daring but also of reassurance: "It is I. Do not be afraid." Jesus is there for us as he was for Peter, ready to stretch out his hand to catch us.

But more than a safe port in a tempestuous sea, the presence of Jesus in this narrative reminds readers of who he is. Some scholars, such as Douglas A. Hare (*Matthew*, John Know Press, Louisville, Ky: 1993), points to the "high Christology" here. [A "high Christology" stresses the divine nature of Jesus; a "low Christology" places emphasis on the humanity of Christ—Fr. Eamon.] A number of texts reference God walking on the sea (Job 9:8; Hab 3:125; Psalm 77:19), so some argue that today's Gospel is a theophany in which the divinity of Jesus is revealed. This idea is supported by Jesus' statement in verse 27: "Get hold of yourselves! It is I" or *ego eimi*, as per Exod 3:14, "I am who I am."

This Gospel also emphasizes Jesus' *function*. He is the Messiah, charged and sent by God to save humankind. The story told earlier in the gospel regarding the quieting of the storm (Matt 8:23-27) reminds the Matthean church of the 80s and the church today that regardless of how the bark of Peter is jostled by the storms of scandal, temptations, doubts, persecution, lukewarm leaders or unfaithful servants, Jesus will be present as one who calms storms, quiets fears and challenges the courage and commitment of his own.

(Used with permission The Word We Celebrate: *Commentary on the Sunday Lectionary Years A, B, C*, by Patricia Sanchez - Sheed & Ward publisher (9-1-89.)

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Paul's Great Sorrow

The following reflection is from my commentary on this reading for our Small Christian Communities.

These verses are an introduction to Chapters 9, 10 and 11 of Romans, in which Paul deals with the issue of the Jews in God's mystery of salvation. Paul is very proud of his Jewish heritage and, prior to his conversion, saw it as his God-given duty to rid the Israelite faith of Christian heretics. But God opens his eyes and helps him to see that Judaism is a preparation for the fullness of God's revelation. Paul hopes all Jews would come to this conclusion and open their hearts to Jesus. Unfortunately, this is not happening. The rejection of Christ by his own people breaks Paul's heart. His grief is so deep that he is willing to be separated from Christ if this means that his people will accept Christ. Paul lists seven privileges or blessings that his people have received from God which should open their hearts to see in Christ the fullness of God's revelation. Paul's pain is not unlike the pain of people who become separated from family and friends over issues of faith and religion.

Please share the following with others.

Have patience with everything that remains unsolved in your heart.

Try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books written in a foreign language.

Do not now look for the answers. They cannot now be given to you because you could not live them.

It is a question of experiencing everything.

At present you need to live the question.

Perhaps you will gradually, without even noticing it, find yourself experiencing the answer, some distant day.

By Rainer Maria Rilke

Have a blessed week,

Fr Eamon

tobin2@live.com



Next Sunday's Readings August 16, 2020 A

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

**Think of an experience when your
persistence had positive results
in a way you did not expect.**

Summer 2020

LIFE TEEN

WE ARE A HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY THAT LEADS TEENAGERS INTO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS AND HIS CHURCH

JOIN US SUNDAY EVENINGS @7:30 PM AS WE RENEW OURSELVES IN CHRIST WITHIN OUR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS. AT THE MOMENT BOTH GROUPS ARE MEETING ON ZOOM BUT MAY BEGIN MEETING IN PERSON AFTER JULY 15TH PER DIOCESAN REGULATIONS.

BEACH Party

JULY 15, 7-8:30 PM HIGH TOWER BEACH-SATELLITE BEACH. JOIN US FOR ICE CREAM & A SAND CASTLE BUILDING COMPETITION. BRING YOUR OWN SAND BUCKET (IF YOU HAVE ONE). SIGNED FORMS REQUIRED.

SUMMIT

TUESDAY NIGHTS @7 TEENS GATHER TOGETHER TO READ SCRIPTURE AND DIVE INTO THEIR FAITH. IF YOU ARE WANTING TO BUILD COMMUNITY IN AN ENVIRONMENT MADE FOR YOU, JULY 22ND BACK IN YOUTH RM. NO MEETING JULY 14TH.



CARA GIULIANO & ANNA NAGY
ASCENSIONCATHOLICTEENS@GMAIL.COM
321.254.1595 EXT 3501
FOLLOW US: INSTAGRAM @ASCENSIONCATHOLICTEENS

YOUTH MINISTRY



Ascension Catholic Life Teen

Life Teen and Edge

Our Life Teen and Edge programs have been meeting virtually for the past few months and will be ending for the summer.

Keep an eye on our Facebook/Instagram for additional information and special virtual events at Ascension Catholic Teens.

Life Teen-High School Teens

Summit Bible Study every Tuesday at 7:00pm. All graduated 8th graders—graduated seniors are welcome!

Edge - 7th and 8th Grade Teens

Edge: Summit Bible Study for all those entering 7th & 8th grade!

Questions about Youth Ministry?

Contact Cara Giuliano, Director of Youth Ministry, or Anna Nagy, Associate Youth Minister, EDGE program at ascensioncatholicteens@gmail.com

See Summer 2020 Information



Ascension Catholic School Mission Statement

Ascension Catholic School is committed to maintaining a Catholic Community of companions on the journey toward academic excellence, global service and lifelong learning. We live this out by showing respect to all people, by being responsible for our actions, by showing reverence, and by making right choices.

Pray The Rosary With Your Parish Family!



Join Father Eamon every Sunday night at 7:00 pm.

This Sunday, Father Eamon will pray the Joyful Mysteries focusing on gratitude with the Samler Family: Kirk, Theresa, Jacob and Brooke. We will gather virtually, quiet ourselves, and pray the Rosary to prepare for the busy-ness of the week ahead.

Join Father Eamon by phone, computer or tablet via our parish website: <https://www.ascensioncatholic.net/>. Click on Ascension Catholic Media or Parish Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACCMelbourne>.



Missing our Church Family? Come Zoom With Us!!!

“We kept thinking we were going to be able to get together again,” said Sue Gardiner. “Some of the ladies didn’t think they could do the technology, but we coached everyone along and we got together for the first time since March! Yes, we cried, wished we could hug, but it was so good to be able to see each other and reconnect. Now we wish we hadn’t waited so long!”

Wondering about SCC and ZOOM? Get your password!

Call or email today for your password: ldodson@ascensioncatholicsch.org or 254-1595 ext. 3067.

Wednesday, August 12, at 7:00pm!

Come ZOOM with us or Watch on YouTube

Parish website: <https://www.ascensioncatholic.net/> - click on Ascension Catholic Media
—Or Parish Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACCMelbourne>.

Prefer an afternoon? Come ZOOM with us...

Join Leigh Osgood-Barry on Wednesday afternoons at 1pm on ZOOM! Call or email for your password: 321-254-1595 ext. 3067 or ldodson@ascensioncatholicsch.org.

HOLY HOUR

Starting next Wednesday, August 12, we will have a weekly Holy Hour, every Wednesday, 5:00-6:00 pm in Our Lady's Chapel.

There will also be an opportunity for reconciliation during that time.



Adults (age 18 and older) interested in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation are invited to a preparation class, Saturday, September 19.

Please contact Deacon Chris for more information and to register for the preparation class, either by phone at 321-242-8003 or by email at cmeehan@ascensioncatholicsch.org.

**Covid-19 got you down?
Wanting to talk?**

Call the Listen Line!

Parishioner Anne Seims knows the gift of having someone really listen. She is coordinating a team of *Loving Listeners* to take your calls.

If you'd like to chat, or if you'd like to volunteer to listen, call Anne at 321-720-5211 or Kate Midden at 321-610-8210.



Neither Anne, Kate nor any of her volunteers are therapists or counselors — they are people with loving hearts, willing and able to listen.



GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

My name is **Katherine Laird** and I am working towards earning my Girl Scout Gold Award!

I am creating a **Life Skills Learning Library** in the Ascension School Library encouraging students to master important life skills, including: civics, recycling, effective listening skills, healthy living, budgeting, time management, navigating without electronics, and basic first aid. I would love to include the parish family in this project!

If you have any books or resources that teach these subjects, are appropriate for grades K-8, and are 15 years old or newer, please contact me at:

katherine.laird@melbournecc.org

or at 321-200-3378. (If I do not answer, be sure to leave a message. I will return your call as soon as I can.)

Thank you for helping me to make this project a success!



Ascension Prayer Shawl Ministry

*It's easier to pray when
you are wrapped in Love!*

While most of our parish ministries have been shut down during this pandemic, our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** members have continued to knit and crochet for those in need.

We have prayer squares and prayer shawls available for anyone who would like one or knows someone who could benefit from one. Please call Carol at 330-806-8928 and we will get you what you need.

ROSARY-MAKING MINISTRY

We are unable to hold meetings right now due to the pandemic but we need to continue making rosaries and not get discouraged. I would like for all current members of the Rosary Ministry to continue making rosaries. When you have rosaries made, please contact me at (321) 537-9168 or michidavis@cfl.rr.com so we can arrange a time and place to meet to give me the rosaries. If any other parishioners want to find out more about this ministry, you are welcome to contact me, Michi Davis, at the above telephone number or email address.





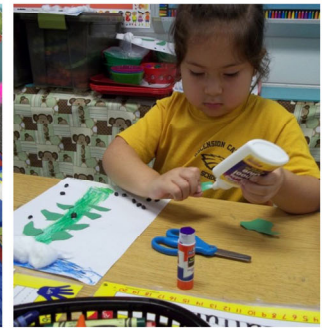
**Space is
limited!**



**ASCENSION CATHOLIC
SCHOOL**

VPK Now Enrolling

**FOR THE 2020-2021
SCHOOL YEAR!**



Why Ascension VPK?

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT | MORAL RESPONSIBILITY | LEADERSHIP | FAITH FORMATION

† Degreed and certified teachers

† Rigorous, faith based curriculum

† Wrap around and extended care available



Ascension Catholic School

**3000 North Harbor City Blvd
Melbourne, Florida 32935**

**For more information contact
info@ascensioncatholicsch.org**

Serving students in PreK 3 - 8th Grade | Visit www.ascensioncatholicsch.org for more information

Solemnity of Mary

The Assumption of Mary, celebrated on August 15, is not a holy day of obligation this year. When the feast falls on a Saturday or Monday, the obligation is lifted. The Sunday takes preference.

You are welcome to attend the 9:00am Mass on Saturday, August 15.



Monsignor Martin B. Power Council 14573

The Knights of Columbus is open to all Catholic gentlemen 18 and older. We have dedicated men of all ages who help meet the Knights' mission of helping those in need and our Parish. Some members participate much less than others because of family and job pressures. We can use your help as little as once per year.

Grand Knight Rob Light @ 321-626-9641
Deputy Grand Knight Eddy Merlet @ 954-882-3687
Membership Director John Miller @ 321-794-6620

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FATHER MCGIVNEY FOOD DRIVE



Please help your Knights of Columbus celebrate Father McGivney Week (August 9-16), Founder of the Knights of Columbus, by donating canned food to the Social Concerns Food Pantry, **August 15-16**. Food collection will take place during the Masses (out front) as is done with the food collection at the beginning of each month. Fr. Michael J. McGivney (Venerated and soon to be Beatified) established the Knights of Columbus in 1882 at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Since then, the Knights have grown to a membership of nearly two million strong worldwide, assisting local communities through national efforts and global outreach with works of charity.

Thank You and God Bless!

—SK Rob Light, Grand Knight (Council 14573)



Ladies Auxiliary K of C

We invite all ladies of the parish who have some affiliation with a Knight in any council, living or deceased, to join us. Our mission is to support the Knights in Council #14573.


For membership information, please contact
Ginny Reeder at 978-460-1972
Kris Webster at 321-914-7813

SAIL OF MELBOURNE

The Fall Semester of SAIL has been canceled. I am sure this does not come as a shock, considering the state of affairs in our state. The safety of our instructors and students is our top priority and there is no way to ensure that, if we attempted to move forward with the semester.

I am hoping that we might have a tighter control of the virus by the end of the year so we could hold our Winter Semester, but we shall see.

saint snippets



*"God will never
refuse her anything
she asks for us."*

—St. John Vianney
speaking of St. Philomena

St. Philomena

*4th-century virgin and martyr to whom many miracles
have been attributed; patron saint of infants and youth.*

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August 11



Wedding Anniversaries

Anthony & Jacqueline LaManna 35 years Aug 10



Greg Grasso, Betty Elko, Claire Grasso, Mia Moore, Carmelia Navarretta, Peggy McKelvey, Cathi Hurd, Ted Stoner, Betsy Coradine, CVNS, Joan Barco, Rose Struzinski, Mary Laird, John Kelly, Jim Eisenmann, Laurie Chatman, Marge Pearsall, Terri Sills, K.J. Baker, Richard Furstenburg, Amanda Oudwa, Janice Roberson, Robert Hinnant, Mary Ellen Ritter, Maureen Kurtz, Theo Reaves, Leo Shumaker, Mary Ann Shumaker, Shirley Mattai, John DeStefon, Thomas Horan, Margie Boozer, Bill Porzio, Wayne Fogel, Anthony Tynes, John Hemel, John Thorstad, Joan Cantwell, Tim Durkin, Art Coridine, Steve Weinhold, Leslie Selage, Werner Schulz, Justine Miller, Patrick Kenny, AJ Johnson, Marion Sampieri, Ron St. Clair, Fr. Mike DiRenzo, Elisa Fernandez, Eric Farrell, Frank Cavaliere, Rose Cavaliere, Jim Thorstad, Traci Wood, Frances Moberly, Joey Tauper, Sarah Morawa, John Brower, John Loft, Adrienne Matteucci, Rewa Donley, Donna Dillard, Charlotte Balchunis, Rita Stanley, Sean Stanley, Devin Scott

Please pray for those in the nursing homes.

Pray for our Armed Forces Personnel here & overseas

Joseph Marci, Robert Crowl, Bryan Calenda, David Barlow, Dylan Traver, Marty Martinez, Jonathan Martinez, Bryan Satterwhite, John Kinsora, Josh Grier, Robert Grover, Rory O'Connor, Shane O'Connor, Alex Ritner, Kyle Mimbs, Kristin Agresta, Andrew Nemethy, Lance Freeberg, Theresa Mavity, Matthew Hammond, Daniel Amulong, Dr. Jerry Higman, Margaret-Anne Sytxma, Matt Maurer USAF, Daniel Sosa, Ray Romano, Matthew Cavalcante, Chad Bloomstine, Logan Solio, Nick Owens, Nicholas Jon DeDominici, Benjamin Fredrick DeDominici, Reece Sampieri, Andrew Conklin

Prayer to my Guardian Angel

Dear Guardian Angel

I am glad that you are my companion on the journey of life.

This day, watch over me and protect me from all harm in body, mind and spirit.

Help me to follow Jesus's Way of Love.

Help me to be aware of your caring presence and to often pray to you.

Thank you for being my friend and protector.

Amen

Mass Intentions For The Week



**Week beginning Monday, August 10, 2020
and ending Sunday, August 16, 2020**

Mon. 7:30 am	† Joann Stadelmaier
	† Maria Nancy Pando
Tues 7:30am	† Jacqueline Edrington
	† Jeffrey Brownell Graves
Wed 7:30am	† Rick Madden
	† Claude Santiago, Jr.
Thur. 7:30am	† Jory Rayes
	† Asuncion Aytona
Fri. 7:30am	Special Intention — Holly Procko
Sat. 9:00am	† Marie Neve
	† Charlotte Beumer Newberry
	4:30pm
	† Richard Migliore
	† Louise Story
Sun. 7:30 am	† Joyce Hannan
	† Donna Yacavone
	9:30 am
	† Robert Migliori
	† Nonasio Furtado DeMenezes
	11:30 am
	† Flo McCaffrey
	† Carl & Dorothy Radavick
	5:30pm
	People of the Parish

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In many church buildings constructed in the early twentieth century, there is a window or statue of Pope St. Pius X. Often these windows were purchased with coins collected by grateful children, since in 1910 a decree admitted much younger children to First Communion. Before then, only teenagers were customarily confirmed and then admitted to the Eucharist. What we often think is ancient practice in fact sometimes has fairly shallow roots, in this case only ten decades. For centuries, Communion had marked the end of formal religious education, but a hundred years ago, Pius X located it at the point at which a child could express a desire for the sacrament and receive it with understanding. In 1917 a new code of canon law determined that age to be about seven, and this practice was observed almost everywhere until the beginning of the Second Vatican Council forty years ago.

In a growing number of dioceses, recent practice has restored the sacramental order that Pius X's generous decree upset, and increasingly confirmation is celebrated before First Communion. But the gift Pius gave to the children of the Roman Church remains firm: everywhere we admit children to the Lord's table. Where the traditional order has been restored, seven-year-old children are confirmed before First Communion.

- Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

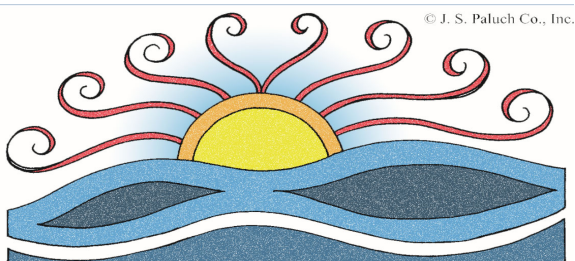
After the miracle of Jesus walking on water, the disciples exclaimed, “Truly, you are the Son of God” (Matthew 14:33). Most Christians will probably never experience such a dramatic miracle. Like Elijah, we await the manifestation of God in other moments. Perhaps the biggest challenge for the believer is to be constantly attuned to the possible presence of God in the everyday events of life. This is a stance that takes some people years to develop. Others seem to find the Lord easily in the simple things. As the week unfolds, let us look for the presence of God in the little things around us. Perhaps, like Elijah, we will be surprised at what we find. And, like the disciples, we can add our voice to the confession, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

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ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS (EDITH STEIN) (1891-1942) - August 9

“Come,” Edith gently whispered, taking her sister Rosa’s hand, “let us go for our people!” These were Edith Stein’s last words as the Nazis, enraged at the Dutch bishops’ condemnation of their genocide, took into custody all Catholic converts from Judaism. Born Jewish, but non-practicing from her teens, Edith’s search for truth led to a doctorate in philosophy, a brilliant career as professor and author and, finally, to the *Autobiography of Saint Teresa of Ávila*, which she read in one sitting, then declared, “That is the Truth!” Baptized on January 1, 1922, observed then as the feast of Jesus’ initiation into the covenant of Abraham, confirmed on February 2, the feast of Jesus’ Presentation in the Temple, Edith entered the cloistered Carmelites in Cologne, transferring to a convent in Holland when she realized that, because of the Nazi persecution of the Jews, her presence could imperil the safety of the other nuns. She died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz as a daughter of Israel and of the Church.

- Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

How do we encounter God in the midst of the trials and storms of our lives? Our readings help us reflect upon God’s presence with us in difficult times. We hear of the prophet Elijah, who had just boldly demonstrated God’s power, and is now terrified as he flees for his life, desperately seeking God’s presence. We hear of Peter, after briefly walking on water during the storm, sinking fast as fear overwhelms him. At times our fears, sadness, or fatigue might severely test even our strongest desires to care for others and to serve God. Perhaps these are the moments when, as we encounter our weakness, we may open ourselves more deeply to God’s strength. Often with difficulty, and perhaps over a lifetime, we can learn to depend on God, who always extends a loving hand toward us, especially during the storms of our lives.

A “LITTLE” FAITH

In Matthew’s Gospel, Peter often serves as a representative of Jesus’ other disciples, and of all who strive to follow Jesus. When Peter desires to imitate Jesus by walking on the water in the middle of the storm, maybe wishing to show how strong his faith is, he encounters his own limitations and his need to be rescued by Jesus. Jesus then says to Peter, with tenderness as well as with challenge, “O you of little faith.” Jesus accepted the fragile and limited faith of Peter and the other disciples and loved them unconditionally.

The early church identified with Peter, as people with a “little” faith. Their faith was not fully mature, or as extraordinary as others’ faith might seem to be. But they knew that their faith, however small or imperfect, was real and true. We might remember that our own “little” faith is cherished by God. God loves us as we are, and always seeks to form us toward a fully mature Christian life of faith.

GROUNDING IN GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

Today’s passage from Saint Paul’s letter to the Roman begins an extended reflection, in Chapters 9–11, of Paul’s coming to terms with the mixed but generally negative reception of his fellow Jews toward his proclamation of Christ. He was concerned for the Jewish people certainly, but also for the members of the early church, who were both Jew and Gentile. His primary concern was that their Christian faith should always be grounded in God’s faithfulness. So Paul rejected any notion that God somehow had abandoned Israel or God’s covenant with them.

As Catholic teaching confirms, especially in the Second Vatican Council, the Church shares with the Jewish people in the tradition of God’s faithfulness. We are to acknowledge and repent of the Church’s participation and complicity in the darkness of anti-Semitism, both in the past and today. We pray continually with and for the Jewish people as our sisters and brothers in faith.

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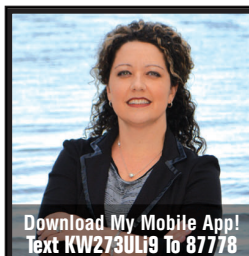
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