



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

# Family Faith Focus

Volume 9, Issue 2

August 9, 2020

## Dates to Remember

- August 8: 4:00 PM Mass
- August 9: 9:00 AM Mass
- Reservations are required. Space is limited.
- Please see our parish website for more information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

## Food for Thought

"Go forth without fear, for he who has created you has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Blessed be you, my God, for having created me."

—St. Clare of Assisi

*St. Clare of Assisi (1194- 1253) was born into a family of nobility. After hearing the preaching of St. Francis of Assisi, she, too, abandoned her life of nobility to follow him and founded a religious community of women known as the Poor Clares. Her feast day is August 11.*

## Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Matthew 14: 22-33**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone.

Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night,

he came toward them walking on the sea.

When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified.

"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply,

"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

After they got into the boat, the wind died down.

Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying,

"Truly, you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## The Morning Offering

Father, help me through this day  
that it may be spent in your service.  
In all of my thoughts, words, and actions,  
may I do your will faithfully,  
for love of You and my brothers and sisters.  
Amen.



## Sunday Gospel Connection: August 9, 2020

### Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Cycle A

### Matthew 14: 22-33

**Gospel Background:** Today's Gospel directly follows Matthew's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray.



The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in Chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost.

Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with the Gospel account about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. Before the feeding of the multitude, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry.

Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son.

**Family Connection:** The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Jesus. The family, the domestic church, participates in this mission too.

Talk about how your family participates in the mission of the Church. Discuss ways in which you seek to reach out to your neighbors and people in need through acts of kindness, mercy, and justice. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 14:22-33. Talk about how Peter wanted to be like Jesus, to walk on water like Jesus did. Note that Peter was successful for a time, but then he doubted Jesus, and he began to sink into the water. Talk about how your family's acts of mercy and justice are rooted in your faith in Jesus. Pray together that Jesus will continue to work through your family to prepare the kingdom of heaven. Pray together the Morning Offering or the Lord's Prayer. *(Please see page 1 for the words to the Morning Offering.)*

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/19th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-a-sunday-connection/>

**LOYOLA PRESS.**  
A JESUIT MINISTRY