

Christ Child Catholic Church
Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
August 9, 2020

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

God's Revelation to Elijah

Mount **Horeb** (Sinai) is where Moses received his commissioning at the burning bush, and where Moses smote the rock and water miraculously came out. More importantly, on this very mountain where God instructed Moses regarding the formation of Israel, He instructed Elijah about the reformation of Israel.

“What are you doing here, Elijah?”

In answering God's question, Elijah did what discouraged people do: he selectively-and inaccurately- reported the facts, magnifying the problem and minimizing the good. In this case, he underestimated the strength of God and overestimated the strength of the enemy. Yet God would minister to him through: the demonstration of His presence, the small voice, the new assignment, the assurance that there were still many who were like him, and to supply signs that traditionally accompany His presence –**wind, earthquake, and fire-** to communicate to Elijah on the mountainside. His presence in the **still small voice** suggests that God works in gentle ways as well as powerful ways.

Some of the greatest saints in history suffered from moments of despair, even depression. The prophet Jeremiah cursed the day of his own birth. And no one could fault Job for a chapter's worth

of laments that he had ever been born. Paul even despaired of life while under great pressure that was beyond his ability to endure.

From these examples we can gather that moments of depression are a normal part of life in a fallen world. There will be times when we are tempted to despair, and some people will have a particular proclivity to this. But as believers, we must remind ourselves that our hope is in God, and He is always with us, fighting for us. Besides, the situation is never as grim as it appears; Elijah's perspective had been skewed by his exhaustion: he believes he was all alone in his misery.

Lord, let us see your kindness and your salvation!

Second reading Romans 9: 1-5

Israel's Rejection of Christ

Calling Christ and the Holy Spirit as witnesses, Paul affirms his love for the Jews. His great joy in his position in Christ is contrasted by the sorrow and grief he feels for his unsaved Jewish brothers and sisters.

Paul's wish is the same kind of sincere, selfless gesture as Moses' prayer. **Accursed** means “to be cursed to perdition, to be cut off from God.”

Though Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, he took great pleasure in his Jewish heritage. His pain was so great that he was willing to be separated from Christ if only his people could be in Christ.

The supreme privilege of Israel and their gift to the world is that the Messiah, **Christ**, came through the lineage of the patriarchs –at least **according to the flesh**. But beyond the flesh comes an ancestry Israel cannot claim: this Messiah is **the eternally blessed God**.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for his world!

The Gospel Matthews 14: 22-33

Jesus Walks on the Sea

The disciples had embarked on a journey of approximately five miles, but after three miles or so, the wind started to blow. Every time their boat inched forward, **the wind was contrary**-blowing them backwards.

The **fourth watch** is from 3 to 6 AM. Jesus had told the disciples to row across the lake around 5 or 6 PM. He had gone to the mountain nearby to pray from early evening until 3 AM. Why did Jesus allow His followers to struggle in isolation for seven or eight hours? If He had rescued them immediately, the disciples might forget His intervention or perhaps assume that given enough time, they could have saved themselves. The Lord sometimes waits until His followers have exhausted their resources before He steps in. The disciples had **fear** when they saw someone walking across the surface of the water not only because they suspected a **ghost**. Mark says it was also because their hearts were hard. Even though they had just witnessed the miraculous feeding of a multitude, they failed to apply that experience of Jesus' power to this situation.

What people focus on becomes magnified, especially in fearful circumstances. Peter decided to leave the apparent safety of the boat and rely totally on Jesus-until the **wind** caught Peter's attention.

Whenever believers divert their eyes from Jesus in the midst of a storm, their circumstance assume prominence and they, like Peter, lose heart and begin to sink. The difference between fear and faith is focus.

They failed to experience the joy of walking on water and the **hand of Jesus** reaching out to them in their time of need. It is tempting to look down on sinking Peter for his small faith, but at least he was willing to step out of the boat!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Call the office for an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually call, for an appointment

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

ROSARY We pray the Rosary together every Saturday at 4:30 pm. Please come to pray...

MASS INTENTIONS August 8 - 14

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Brian Donnelly

Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Luis Sandoval

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Constantino Silva

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Irene Ann Miller

Women's Club/Prayer Group

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1 to 2:30 pm. **August 26th!**

Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

With praise and gratitude to Almighty God the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Monterey joyfully announces the Ordination of

REV. MR. LOUIE B. BELLEN

REV. MR. TYLER HARRIS

**To the Holy Order of Presbyter
Through the laying on of hand and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by the Most Reverend Daniel L. Garcia Bishop of Monterey
Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 11:00 AM.
Saint Francis Xavier Church Seaside, CA.**

Stewardship of Treasure

Report Sunday August 1 & 2, 2020

The Plate Collection was \$1,144.00

We thank everyone for their generosity, now and throughout the year.

August 15 Saturday: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Not a holy day of obligation USA!

The Natale or Dormition (“Falling-asleep”) of Mary came to be celebrated as early as the 5th c. in the East and in Rome; patroness of France, Paraguay, Jamaica, South Africa and New Caledonia.

Because she belonged to Christ, Mary, our queen, is raised on high, a great sign for all who believe in her Son.