

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

August 9, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers:

Our **faith** in God can be shaken by fear, discouragement, doubt, and frustration. Our trust and hope in God can be shaken by inner conflict, turmoil in the world, opposition from others and even scandal within the Church. When these things happen we are tempted to test God by asking Him to prove that He truly does exist and prove that He is with us. Perhaps we find ourselves saying something like this: "Hey God, if you really exist and truly love me, you will do this for me...." Our Scripture readings for today present to us individuals who remained steadfast in their **faith** in spite of adversity and their fears.



In our first reading the prophet Elijah experiences discouragement, fear and frustration. In an effort to escape from King Ahaz and Queen Jezebel's wrath (they want to kill him) Elijah flees into the desert. Elijah is convinced that he can no longer be of service to God so he prays that God would take his life. God responds to Elijah by providing him with food that gives Elijah enough strength to make a 40 day journey to Mt Horeb. Because Elijah is so fearful, God offers him a dramatic lesson to change his attitude that helps renew his **faith** in God. God reassures Elijah that He would soon be passing by. As Elijah stands within the shelter of a cave he hears a strong driving wind but God is not in the wind. An earthquake follows but God is not in it. A consuming fire appears and God is not in it. Finally when a small whisper of sound happens Elijah hears God speaking becoming aware of God's presence and steps forward from the cave. By coming in this quiet way God invites Elijah to set aside his fear, discouragement and frustration and assume a calmer attitude to listen to God and understand God's mission for him. Thus Elijah's wavering turns into a renewed **faith** in God.

In our second reading the evangelist Paul appears to be defending himself against the charge of being indifferent to his own Jewish people. He experiences profound anguish and frustration because the majority of the Israelites have failed to believe in Jesus' Gospel message. Paul grieves over the resistance mounted against him by his fellow Jews as he preaches the Gospel. But Paul has great **faith** that God's creative power and compassion will mysteriously reach out to his fellow Jews and win them over.

In today's Gospel passage from Matthew, Peter and the other apostles experience fear, doubt and frustration. In this gospel episode Peter demonstrates little **faith**, hovering between his belief and disbelief in Jesus. Peter and the other apostles are in a boat that encounters hostile winds and waves. *Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

Sat Aug 8	4:00 p.m	Jim Alt
Sun Aug 9	8:00 a.m.	Mary Zaleskie
Sun Aug 9	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman
Sat Aug 15	4:00 p.m	
Sun Aug 16	8:00 a.m.	
Sun Aug 16	10:00 a.m.	

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,660.00	Loose \$212.00
Total	\$2,872.00	
51 envelopes returned = 24%		



*Thank you for your generosity!  
Thank you also to those who give  
electronically!!*

## Assignments for August 15 & 16, 2020

**Money Counters: Tonya Meyer, Barb Galvan  
4:00 p.m.**

**Greeters:**

**Cantor:**

**Ushers:** Dave Siefker, Chuck Niese

**Lector:** Jenny Roby

**E.M.:** Jennifer Tschuor

**Servers:** KJ Hohenbrink

**No 8 a.m. Mass this week**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Greeters:**

**Cantor:**

**Ushers:** Mike and Rhonda Maag

**Lectors:** Anna Crisp

**E.M.:** Cathy Hermiller

**Servers:** Ally & Izzy Stechschulte

## **Readings for August 16, 2020**

**20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 55:1 – 3

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8:35, 37 – 39

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13 – 21

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...Jesus approaches them, walking on the sea. Fear and terror overtake them because they believe they are seeing a ghost. Jesus calms their fears by saying: "Take courage, it is I. Do not be afraid." Peter has his doubts and asks for proof by having Jesus command that Peter be allowed to walk on the water and come to Him. As Peter touches the water he is overtaken by fear and begins to sink. He cries out to Jesus for help and Jesus saves him. Jesus declares Peter to be of little **faith** and a doubter. However, in the future, Peter will experience a profound renewed **faith** in Jesus and he will become the rock of Jesus' church.

We can learn valuable lessons from today's readings by reflecting on the lives of Elijah, Peter and Paul. Elijah had to venture out of his cave (really out of himself) to find the courage that his **faith** demanded. Peter was called to leave the safety and protection of the boat and walk upon the chaotic waters. Paul came out of his relative security to proclaim boldly the insights of his conscience. Like Elijah, Paul and Peter we are often afraid to step out of our secure positions. Preconceived ideas take over; fear overcomes our **faith**; doubt and frustration fill our minds and hearts and we remain safely inside ourselves. As believers we must leave ourselves open to receive God's **grace** in our lives. As **faithful** people let's not look for God in the spectacular but try to see and find Him in the quiet, simple things of life, making our lives conform to the true image of God. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

**Fr. John will be away** until Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be no daily Mass during that time (August 10, and 12). For Parish matters please contact Rachel in the Parish Office. Please pray for me as I will be praying for you.

## Pick an Apple and Help our Preschool

**Grow** If you are willing and able, please grab an apple and bring in supplies to the church to ensure our preschool is set up for a successful year starting in the fall! *Thank you* for your continued support of this incredible program!



**IMPORTANT:** Our restrictions and guidelines for the return to Mass have been **extended until September 1**. The faithful of the Diocese of Toledo **continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice**. Please use your best judgment when considering the gradual return to Mass.

Dear parishioners:

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your overwhelming support of our preschool program. Whether you have supported us through prayer, spread the good news of our program, donated gifts, or gave monetary donations... **THANK YOU!** With your help, we have created a special place in our preschool classroom. Our sweet students get to prepare for kindergarten and grow in love for Jesus! St. Mary's Christian Preschool is a place where children can **PREPARE, PLAY, & PRAY**.

With Sincere Gratitude,  
Miss Katie & Miss Amanda



**RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** into the Catholic faith. RCIA is for anyone who:



- Is a non-baptized adult
- Baptized in another Christian church and is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, with or without the intention of becoming a member
- A baptized Catholic who never received Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation

**RCIA will be starting** in September. If you have any questions, please call Fr. John in the parish office at (419) 358 - 8631

**August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption.** This year, it falls on a Saturday and is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. on that day as per usual for the weekend.

**2020 Census** The census is your chance to shape the future of your community. Be counted!