

## 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Visitors to the Holy Land like to take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee, the sea on which Jesus walked. A certain tourist wanted such a ride and the boatman told him the fare was fifty dollars. "Fifty dollars!" exclaimed the tourist, "No wonder Jesus walked!" A proper understanding of the gospel story of Jesus walking on the sea has a lot to teach us about who Jesus is, but also about the church in its journey through the world, and about the life of faith of the individual believer.

**About Jesus:** The miracle story of Jesus walking on the sea, together with the one that goes before it, the multiplication of loaves, shows that Jesus is Lord and has authority over all forces natural and supernatural. The Jews believed that the sea was the domain of supernatural demonic forces. A rough and stormy sea was regarded as the work of these hostile spirits. By walking on the raging waves and calming the stormy sea Jesus is showing himself to be one who has power and total control over these hostile spiritual forces. Do you know Christians who have surrendered their lives to the Lord but who still live in constant fear of evil spirits, sorcery, witchcraft, potions and curses? Today's gospel brings us the good news that these powers of darkness stand no chance at all when Jesus is present and active in our lives and affairs.

**About the Church:** The boat on the sea is one of the earliest Christian symbols for the church in its journey through the world. Just as the boat is tossed about by the waves so is the church pounded from all sides by worldly and spiritual forces hostile to the kingdom of God. In the midst of crisis Jesus comes to restore peace and harmony in his church. But he comes in a form and manner in which he is easily mistaken for the enemy. He comes in a way that makes many well-meaning Christians cry out in fear "It is a ghost!" (Matthew 14:26) as they try to keep him out. But if we listen carefully we shall hear through the storm his soft, gentle voice whispering in the wind, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid" (verse 27). If we believe his word and take him on board, the storm immediately subsides and the crisis is resolved.

How can we be absolutely sure that it is Christ and not a hostile ghost? We can't. We must act in faith. We must stand on the promise of Christ that if we are busy going about the duty he has assigned us, just as the disciples were busy rowing their boat to the other side of the shore as Jesus had instructed them, then Jesus himself will come to us riding on the very waves that threaten to swallow us up. As the church in the modern world, like Peter's boat, sails through the stormy seas of our time, we need to keep an eye on those very seas for Jesus who comes bringing deliverance and solace. We must strive to recognize him even when he comes in the unseemly and utterly unexpected form of a ghost.

**About the Individual Believer:** From the point of view of the individual believer, the story of Jesus walking on the seas, especially the involvement of Peter in the story, is a lesson for disciples who are tempted to take their eyes off Jesus and to take more notice of the threatening circumstances around them. Peter had said to Jesus, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water" (verse 28). Jesus gives him the word of command, "Come" (verse 29). It would seem like Jesus is commanding the impossible. Yet whatever Jesus commands us to do He gives us the power to do it. And the ordinary man, Peter, begins to walk on water, coming to Jesus. "But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and began to sink" (verse 30). While Peter kept his eye fixed on Jesus, and his mind focused on Jesus' word, he walked upon the water all right; but when he took notice of the danger he was in, and focused on the waves, then he became afraid and began to sink. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

**MAY THE LORD INCREASE OUR LITTLE FAITH SO THAT IN ALL THE STORMS OF LIFE WE SHALL HAVE OUR EYES AND OUR TRUST CONSTANTLY FIXED ON JESUS AND HIS POWER AND NOT ON OURSELVES AND OUR WEAKNESSES.**

## St. Benedict the Moor Church



### Our Mission

St. Benedict the Moor is a Catholic Christian Community that celebrates its African-American heritage and welcomes cultural diversity. Join us at the Table of the Eucharist as sisters and brothers in the Lord. We are committed to grow and diversify the Church through the new evangelization, family, catechesis, young adult ministry and outreach to the poor. In the spirit of the prophet Joshua, we can say:

*"As for me and my household; we will serve the Lord."*

August 9, 2020

### Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation."*

### St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am  
Daily Masses: Mon.-Fri. 12:00 noon  
Saturday: 8 am  
Holy Days of Obligation:  
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 pm  
(Exceptions will be posted)  
Sacrament of Penance: Divine Mercy  
Room Saturday 8:30-9:30am  
or by Appointment

Emergencies:  
call Fr.Noel: 410-818-8149  
Office: 706- 323-8300

Communications  
Address: St. Benedict the Moor  
2935 9th Street  
Columbus, Georgia 31906

### Pastor

Fr. Noel Danielewicz, OFM Conv.  
tau1226@gmail.com  
410-818-8149

### Staff

Administrative Assistant  
Deborah Thompson

Director of Religious Education  
Gail Buffong  
706-536-8468

Director of Outreach  
Beverly Casimier

Music Ministry  
Mary Beth Kozee/Joe Saulsbury

**Office Hours:**  
Pastor: Monday-Friday 10-11:30 am  
1:00-3:00 pm

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stbenedict07@knology.net  
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Website  
stbenedictthemoorcolumbus.org  
**Church**

2930 Thomas Street  
Columbus, GA 31906  
**Community Hall/Office**  
2935 9th St.  
Columbus GA 31906

## Birthday Blessings

Mary Brogden	August 2
Shirley Dexter	August 3
Christine Walker	August 7
Courtney Flowers	August 10
Jewel Nettles	August 10
Latrella Conwell	August 13
Kathryn Brogden	August 14
Deborah Thompson	August 16
Ayokunle Ayinmide	August 18
<b>Fr. Noel Danielewicz</b>	August 18
Ida Ruth Lane	August 22
Gail Buffong	August 23
Karen Dexter	August 27
Joseph Dawson	August 28



## Update

**Fr. Noel** was taken off of the ventilator and was able to breath on his own. He is currently on a less invasive machine. On Tuesday, Fr. Noel was placed on a regular diet and was talking and responding to the medical staff. **Praise God!** Keep praying for continued improvement and complete recovery. **Thank you for all of your prayers!**

## Deanery Masses

St. Anne and Our Lady of Lourdes have resumed their regular Mass schedules.

<b>St. Anne</b>	<b>Our Lady of Lourdes</b>
Saturday: 5:30pm	5:00pm
Sunday: 8am, 10:30am	10:00am

*Masses at St. Benedict are canceled until further notice.*

## Rosary Line

During the length of COVID-19, we will continue to pray for a cure and vaccine to keep humanity protected from this pandemic. If you are already part of the Church—Family praying the Rosary invite someone else to join us for prayer....this is an evangelical moment to grow the Church. We begin each evening on 8PM as we seek the intervention of Mary, Mother of the Church. Simply dial on your phone or cell phone: 706 894-9969.

## August Saints ~St. Clare of Assisi

Clare was born in **Assisi** during the **Crusades** era, the eldest daughter of Favarone or Favorino Sciffi, Count of Sasso-Rosso and his wife **Ortolana**. Traditional accounts say that Clare's father was a wealthy representative of an ancient Roman family, who owned a large palace in Assisi and a castle on the slope of **Mount Subasio-Ortolana** belonged to the noble family of Fiumi, and was a very devout woman who had undertaken pilgrimages to **Rome**, **Santiago de Compostela** and the **Holy Land**. Later in life, Ortolana entered Clare's monastery, as did Clare's sisters, **Beatrix** and **Catarina** (who took the name **Agnes** and was later declared a saint herself).

As a child, Clare was devoted to prayer. As a teen she heard Francis preach during a Lenten service in the church of San Giorgio at Assisi and asked him to help her to live after the manner of the Gospel. On the evening of **Palm Sunday**, 20 March 1212, she left her father's house and accompanied by her aunt Bianca and another companion proceeded to the chapel of the **Porziuncula** to meet Francis. There, her hair was cut, and she exchanged her rich gown for a plain robe and veil.

Francis placed Clare in the convent of the Benedictine **nuns** of San Paulo. Her father attempted to force her to return home. She clung to the altar of the church and threw aside her veil to show her cropped hair. She resisted any attempt, professing that she would have no other husband but **Jesus** Christ. Clare was soon joined by her sister **Catarina**, who took the name **Agnes**. They remained with the Benedictines until a small dwelling was built for them next to the church of **San Damiano**, which Francis had repaired some years earlier.

Other women joined them, and they were known as the "Poor Ladies of San Damiano". They lived a simple life of poverty, austerity and seclusion from the world, according to a Rule which Francis gave them as a **Second Order** (Poor Clares).

Clare was canonized on 26 September 1255 by **Pope Alexander IV**, and her feast day was immediately inserted in the **General Roman Calendar** for celebration on 12 August, the day following her death, as 11 August was already assigned.

## Stewardship Report

<b>Week of Aug. 2, 2020</b>	
Offertory envelopes	\$1430.00
On—Line Giving	100.00
Utilities	5.00
Kitchen Renovation	25.00

Sisters and brothers, may the Lord keep on blessing your giving and generosity.

## 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### READING 1 1 Kgs 19:9A, 11-13A

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter. Then the LORD said to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by." A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD— but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake— but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire— but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

### READING 2 Rom 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

### GOSPEL Mt 14:22-33

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."

## Food Distribution

Community distribution will start again on Thursday. We will be receiving food from "Feeding the Valley." **Distribution begins at 9:30 AM.** If you know someone in need, please get the word out. If you would like to volunteer, please call the office and let us know of your availability. Help us at St. Benedict to make a difference!

## Special Collection

Next week, we will be asking you to please be generous in your support of our Friars, who are in formation and education, as they are preparing for lives as professed religious men in the Church and for others who will also be ordained to the priesthood.

Their education and formation generally includes four years of college with a minor in philosophy. The Novitiate year which is like a "**religious boot camp**," and a year of supervised ministry. For priesthood candidates attend four years of Theology which is equivalent to graduate school. Please support this collection in Fr. Noel's honor. Write **Friars in Formation** on the memo line of your check. May the Lord bless your generosity a hundred—fold.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Our sick list is for parishioners, family and friends in need of prayer. Please keep our list current by calling the office to add or remove a name.*

Fr. Noel Danielewicz	Mittie Lewis
Sr. Agnes, fsma	Sr. Maximiliana, PC
Sr. Delores Anne, cssf	Fr. Jeremiah McCarthy
Helen Bell	Delores McLeod
Amanda Cole	Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
Mik Cole	Denvey Nelson
Robert Cole	Sr. Norberta, fsma
Robert Dozier	Cordell Parker
Bertha Gibbs	Gwendolyn Parker
Yvonne Gilberti	Anna Perez
Elizabeth Grey	Debra Pough
Ginnette Hughes	Evelyn Pough
Clarence Johnson	Marcus Ransom
Donald Julien	Beverly Rumley
Paul Julien	Lydia Sliva
Elvia King	Madeline Smith
Michael King	Dorothy Stewart
Lenny Korona	Friar Jude Winkler
Ida Ruth Lane	

