

# NINETEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

## AUGUST 9, 2020

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From the priests' desks:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Sacred Heart:

Today's Gospel (Mt. 14:22-33) might well have been one of the original "Storm Stories" (now a popular TV series!) and certainly one of the most unusual. As a matter of fact, the story of Jesus walking on the water is a very strange account. Strange, of course, because people don't normally walk on water, but also because it is so out of character with the Jesus presented in the rest of the Gospels: the Jesus who deliberately avoids the spectacular and the theatrical; the Jesus who does not wish people to believe in Him solely on the basis of a miraculous display of power; the Jesus who even orders those who have witnessed his miracles to keep these things to themselves, and not to talk about them to others. We remember how, at the beginning of his public life, Jesus was tempted by the devil to jump from the roof of the temple and to command angels to catch him in order to impress his followers, and how he rejected this suggestion—because he wasn't looking for popularity and approval for himself, but rather the honor of the One who sent him: his heavenly Father.

This unusual story is joined in all the Gospels to the story of the Multiplication of the Loaves, which we heard in last Sunday's liturgy. In that account Jesus appeared as the new Moses—the one who could miraculously feed his hungry people, even as Moses during the Exodus from Egypt had provided heavenly bread, the Manna. When we see the story in this way, we recognize that the walking on the water is another reference to Moses. Even as Moses was empowered by God to split the Red Sea so the people could escape from the Egyptians, so Jesus also has power over the water and is also able to rescue his followers. There is, then, a deliberate effort in the Gospels to associate Jesus with Moses, to allow the past, so to speak, to interpret the present; to refer back to a well-known experience to shed light on something which is mysterious and unexplainable.

And so, the early Christians saw the ministry of Jesus not as a contradiction but a fulfillment of the Old Testament. As good Jews they applied to Jesus the traditional titles of their religion—Rabbi, Teacher, Son of Man, Son of God, Messiah—even as he helped them see that the truth he came to reveal went beyond any category they could use to describe it. The great sadness of St. Paul in today's second reading was that the majority of the Jews, his co-religionists, could not accept Jesus as the Messiah, and so had concluded that he was a blasphemer, a

false Messiah, or even someone possessed by the devil. Of course, what Paul came to realize ultimately was that it was the power of faith which enables a person to correctly understand the meaning of events, past and present, even as that same faith had led Elijah in today's first reading to discover God, not in the whirlwind, the earthquake, or the lightening, but rather in the tiny, whispering sound—in the least expected place, the place which could most easily be overlooked.

In our own lives we are constantly trying to make sense of things that happen to us on the basis of past experience. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes things happen that interrupt the smooth, orderly flow of our lives; things we could never prepare for or expect: the sudden loss of a job that you've held for many years; the end of a relationship that meant a great deal to you; an unexpected illness that leaves you in great pain or handicapped; the death of someone very close to you. These shattering experiences—all of which converge in the current pandemic—leave us feeling like St. Peter in today's Gospel—I was walking on water there for a while, but now I'm sinking. But the interesting thing is that Jesus doesn't tell Peter to stay in the boat, to play it safe, so to speak. When Peter asks to join him out there on the lake Jesus very simply answers: "Come!" Join me but be prepared to get your feet wet; because it's going to get rough; the wind is strong, and the waves are high. I didn't say it would be easy, and I certainly didn't say that you would never sink. What I did say is that I would be here with you. So, don't be afraid: I'm no ghost; I'm real. I can lift you up and I can keep you afloat. But you have to trust in me and believe in me. You have to grab my hand and hold on to it. I can't do that for you. Whatever is pulling you away—your weaknesses, your sins, your pride, or your fear—you have to let go of that so that you can hold on to me.

Just before the millennium celebration in the year 2000, I remember there was talk among some enterprising Israelis about building a transparent bridge just under the surface of the Sea of Galilee so that devout as well as curious pilgrims to the Holy Land could have the experience of walking on water in imitation of Jesus. As far as I know the bridge was never built. In another sense, however, the bridge has already been built and has existed since Jesus' first invitation to Peter to come and join him out on the lake. It is a bridge built not by technology but by trust, and the architect is not the know-how of the mind but the hope and yearning of the heart, born up

by grace, reaching out to find that solid ground on which to walk in security and happiness through a faith which is truly alive and nourished by a life in tune with the will of God.

Fr. Michael Rafferty, OAR / Fr. John Gruben, OAR



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**  
**August 8, 2020**  
**CONGRATULATIONS**

Catechists

Mrs. Margaret Cicalese  
Mrs. Theresa Mauriello  
Mrs. Donna Miller

GROUP I

Zaneta D'Souza  
Anthony Almanzar  
Elias Almanzar  
Anderson Alvarez  
Jeremy Bathan  
Ryan Fox  
Andrew Grasso  
Carl Jean  
Johnny Quinones Jr.  
Jake Thomas  
Jack Sheldon  
Andrew Sheridan

GROUP II

Gabrielle Bernard  
Gaetano Buonocore  
Isabella Henderson  
Nicholas DeSimone  
Lia Mennell  
Desmond Holbrook  
Gianna Santagato  
Peter Kern  
Alexis Tully  
Mark Reilly  
Allie Weinstein

**PARISH CALENDAR**

**Monday, August 10**

Mass at 9am

**Tuesday, August 11**

Mass at 9am

**Wednesday, August 12**

Mass at 9:00am

**Thursday, August 13**

Mass at 9:00am

**Friday, August 14**

Mass at 9:00am

**Saturday, August 15 - Holy Rosary-12pm**

**Sunday, August 16**

**2020 - 2021 MASS BOOK**

Due to the pandemic we still have almost 100 Masses open in the 2020 Mass Book. Therefore, we will not be opening the 2021 Mass book until Mid- August.

**CARDINAL'S APPEAL 2020**

***Parishes are only as strong as its parishioners.***

As you are aware a church's resources come only through the generosity of its parish family. Please consider donating today. Bless you all and pray for an end to this virus. To date we have raised \$88,144.00 towards our goal of \$122,500.

**RENEW AND REBUILD  
UPDATE**

As you may remember just a few short years ago in less stressful times the parish embarked on a campaign **Renew and Rebuild** to help our Church properties. At the time it was decided that all the pledges received would go to the preservation and repair of our beautiful Church building. We were, at the time very successful and pledges totaling, \$1,807,887 were received. As you may recall 26% percent plus the Cardinal's Appeal for that year were included in what was raised and would go directly to Archdiocese. They also received their portion first. Presently we are working with the Archdiocese to install bathrooms in the church (with an addition in the library area). As you may recall last summer the new roof promised was completed. In reviewing the status of monies needed for the installation, it became very clear that a number of donors have lapsed over the last two years in payment of their pledges. To date we have a balance owed of \$905,444.21 thru total pledge amounts and in lapsed donations of \$237,447. The impact of the loss of received payments will of course mean that we will be unable to complete all the projects we were in hopes of accomplishing with the monies. We do realize these are tough times for us all and if possible, we ask that you honor your pledge if at all possible. We also want to keep all informed of where we are in the process of honoring our commitments and accomplish all we are able. Thank you very much.

**SACRED HEART RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION PROGRAM  
REGISTRATION  
2020-2021  
Registration**

**Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> – 5 to 7pm**  
**Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> -10am to 12pm**  
**Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> – 5 to 7pm**  
**Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> – 10am-12pm**

**\*\*\*All In Person Registrations Are By  
APPOINTMENT ONLY\*\*\***

Please call **357-6044**

If you are uncomfortable about registering under the current pandemic, we do understand and want to make you aware that we will be providing an online course that will mimic in-class work until the current health issue is resolved. A program for children with Special Needs is also available. Please supply us with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate for registration. Thank you.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome into the Roman Catholic Church and our Parish Community the following children who were recently baptized at Sacred Heart:

### NAVEEN ALEXANDRE PUROHIT

Son of Nirav and Nancy

### LILY ARABELA DIAZ

Daughter of William and Domini



*Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them:* Keith Alanis, Jenna Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Michael Brady, Angie Clifford, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Mirella Cosentino, The Cosentino Family, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, David Eckert, Sr., Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene Gentile, Joseph Gilson, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Senan Halpin, Clement Hayes, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Anna Kasperska, Eileen Kennedy, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Rosemarie Manthey, Matthew Luludis, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Rosemary McCormick, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Jacob Mendelsohn, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Mary Lou Oldfield Napolitano, Barbara Neilson, Robert Nunes, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Overend, Daryl Pack, Shace Paljusevic, Noreen Pidgeon, Peter Princi, Etta Rooney, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, (Baby Ty) Reilly, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Shaun Stein, Patricia Steiper, Janet Tamburro, Richard Vanadio, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, Robert Vogt, Fr. Wing, and Vladimir Zaslavsky.

### FOR OUR ARMED FORCES & FIRST RESPONDERS

### OF ALL KINDS, AND OUR DOCTORS & NURSES

We pray for all the men and women serving our country AND especially the sons and daughters, grandchildren and loved ones of our parishioners.

### ALTAR MEMORIALS

AUGUST 9, 2020

Altar Wines In Memory of

JOSEPH B. VARANO

Altar Candles In Memory of

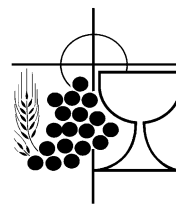
PALMA & HENRY HECK

Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of

MARY LOUISE & LAWRENCE CHESTER

BOOSTER CLUB

WEEK 25-PHYLLIS SKERRY



9:00AM DAILY – (MONDAY – FRIDAY)  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
SUNDAYS

8:30AM, 11:30AM AND 5:30PM  
10:00AM – (SPANISH)

LIVE STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.SACREDHEARTPARISH.ORG](http://WWW.SACREDHEARTPARISH.ORG)

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

11:00AM – 1<sup>ST</sup> HOLY COMMUNION

1:00PM – 1<sup>ST</sup> HOLY COMMUNION

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 VIGIL MASS

5:30pm – Special Intention Theresa Hubbard /  
Kay Finnen

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

8:30am – Lawrence & Catherine Diebner /  
Catherine & Daniel Greeley

10:00am – Spanish Mass

11:30am – Ken Gaudreau / William & Mary Maloney

5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners

### MONDAY, AUGUST 10

9:00am – Joanie Dominianni / Mary McClair

7:15pm – **NO Novena**

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

9:00am- Special Intentions John Renner /  
Martin J. Brennan

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

9:00am – Tony Amalfitano

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

9:00am – Thomas P. Erskine, Jr.  
/ The Hetherington Family

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

9:00am – Mary (Spiegleman)Lewis/ Maria Perrone

5:30pm – Vigil – Molly Ruddy

### SATURDAY, THE ASSUMPTION

9:00am – Palma & Henry Heck

12:00pm – Holy Rosary

12:30pm - Robert J. Neilson

5:30pm – **Vigil Mass** -Mary & Luciano Antonucci

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

8:30am – Dianne Messina / Brian Foster

10:00am – Spanish

11:30am –Intentions Marion & Michael Seman /  
John McGrath

5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones:  
Especially: **Marie Marasuilo, Patrick Monahan, Salem K. Naber, Rosemary Mc Comiskey, Edith Mondesir, Catherine Ulrich.**