

The Bells of St. Mary's
The Church of the Immaculate Conception
Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time August 9, 2020

From Rev. Fr. Anthony Ekanem, MSP

Calm in the Storm

On this nineteenth Sunday of ordinary time, the Church joyfully reminds us that Jesus, our Savior, is always close to us. He calms the storms of our life. He lifts us from the depths of our despair, confusion and restores our peace. The presence of the storm and all that it represents make us confused and afraid in life. Thus, it equally deprives us of our peace. But He is always there with us.

Things interesting about today's readings are the three significant figures and personalities of Elijah, Paul, and Peter. Their encountered in today's readings were in one way or the other embattled. As such, their peace threatened.

First, Elijah was fearful and running away from Ahab and his wicked wife, Jezebel, who wanted him dead at all costs. Second, Paul was ravaged by sorrow and anguish due to the unbelief of his "*fellow brothers of Israel.*" This was a significant burden that threatened his peace of mind. Third, Peter was sinking right in front of Jesus due to fear, his lack of faith, and Courage. This is the dilemma of our lives. In one way or the other, our peace is threatened. Think about our present storm - the impact of COVID – 19 pandemic on us. How do we handle it?

In the first reading, the embattled prophet Elijah encountered God, and his peace was restored. A vital lesson for us in this reading is that, when we are internally calm and away from the distractions of life, we hear God speak to us. To say that God spoke to Elijah after the gentle breeze is to say that Elijah experienced peace. God came at the appropriate time, not in the mighty wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but after a gentle breeze. Contrary to what some of us think, God speaks to us when we are attentive and calm. Often, we seek God with distracted minds. In such a state, we may not encounter Him. It is when we are calm that we hear Him speak to us.

In the second reading, Paul expresses his grief for his people (fellow Jews). This was because they rejected the good news. His sadness and pain were so great that he lamented: "*I will willingly be condemned if it could help my brothers.*" In order words, he was not at peace because of their situation. Therefore, Paul teaches us that we must not always think about ourselves alone. Instead, we should equally be concerned about the welfare, salvation, and peace of others. It is through this that we derive our inner peace.

In today's gospel, the disciples of Jesus experienced the storm of their life, and Jesus was available to calm it, and equally, restore their peace. "Storms" are part and parcel of our human existence. There are inevitable in this world, just as the waves are inevitable in the sea. If taken the Gospel story literally, the relevance to our lives is lost. It is to be understood symbolically.

By that I mean,

- the boat represents the Church;
- the wind and waves stand for the persecution that had been loose on the early Christians.

Jesus is not with them physically; He is in Heaven, praying to the Father. However, in the hour of need, He makes His presence felt among them, calling their fears and bringing them peace. Understood like this, the story has high relevance for us.

Some people think that if you have enough faith, life will all be plain sailing. But it is not so. Faith or trust in God doesn't shield us from the hard knocks of life rather it shows a way in the midst of our troubles and despair.

Sometimes, they struck us that we are crushed, devastated, and almost annihilated. Like the disciples of Jesus, each of us experiences the storm in diverse ways in our lives. Corona virus pandemic is a case in point. Each of us through our experience is handling the effect of virus differently, but in all, we need His presence, His guidance and peace because it is frightening and overwhelming. That is the storm that robs us of our peace. However, when we encounter Christ, peace is restored, and fear disappears. Paul wrote: *"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair, persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our bodies."* (2 Corinthian 4: 8-9).

Finally, as Christ said to Peter, so He also speaks to us today: *"Courage! Do not be afraid; it is I."* So, all we need to do is trust Him and keep walking without the fear of sinking. "No matter what we go through in life, don't let go of God's hand" Like Peter, we must step out with faith and courage against the storms of our life. Therefore, let us hold on firmly to Jesus, who calms our storms and restores our peace. For, "God is not the Author of confusion but of peace." (1 Corinthian 14:23).



Saturday, August 8, 2020

12:05 pm - In Thanksgiving in honor of St. Anthony

* Marie Mason

5:00 pm - Carlos Villanueva * Roslynn Fajardo

7:30 pm - Eulojia Sanchez + * Elvira Esquivel

Sunday, August 9, 2020

7:30 am - Missa Pro Populo

9:00 am - Rita & Rafaela Navarro + * Carmen Navarro

11:00 am - Angel & Pilar Gutierrez Health * Linda Gutierrez

Monday, August 10, 2020

8:15 am - John & Elizabeth Majersky +

Mr & Mrs. Michael Martin

12:05 pm - Héctor René Gabriel + * José Gabriel

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Paqcuai Obama & Hannah Buleu +

* Francisco & Cluadia Dougan

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Maureen Ihejeto * Sr Stella Ihejeto

Thursday, August 13, 2020

8:15 am - Kevin Ihejeto * Sr Stella Ihejeto

12:05 pm - Johnny Rios + * Melissa Carrion

7:00 pm - Aida & Hilda Rodriguez + * Julia Diaz

Friday, August 14, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Arnulfo De La Asuncion Flores + * Rose Flores

Saturday, August 15, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Constant Mary Mikulski +

* Mr. & Mrs. Michael Martin

5:00 pm - Elizabeth & Joseph Anthony + Mr. & Mrs. Anthony

7:30 pm - José Rosado + * Juan Arias

Sunday, August 16, 2020

7:30 am - Amelia Morales + * Marta Vega

9:00 am - Guadalupe Ryes + * La Familia Reyes

11:00 am - Esther & José Duarte +

Dear Parishioners,

**Please observe social distancing
and wear a mask while inside the
Church!**

PRAYER

**A PRAYER TO HELP US ALL THROUGH THIS
COVID-19 CRISIS:**

Prayer to the Virgin Mary for Protection

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, **Our Lady of New York**, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,

as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what

Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



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Yonkers, NY.

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Start typing name— Immaculate Conception St. Mary's Church Yonkers NY. You will see a number of parishes with this name).

Scroll to Immaculate Conception St Mary's Church

After creating your account the next time you want to go on simply type in your web browser formed.org and it will bring you to the website. In the upper right corner you will then see sign in. Click that and you are set to enjoy all the wonderful resources. I would highly suggest during this time you sample some of the movies that they offer. Enjoy!



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Sundays Readings:

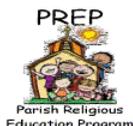
First Reading: *1 Kings 19: 9a, 11-13a (115a)*
Elijah the prophet heard the Lord's voice not in wind, not in an earthquake nor in fire, but in a tiny whisper. When he heard the Lord, Elijah hid his face in his cloak, overcome with awe.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 85: 9, 10, 11-12, 13-14*
Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: *Romans 9: 1-5*
Paul wrote that he would willingly accept being separated from the Christ for the sake of his fellow Israelites, from whom came the Messiah.

Gospel: *Matthew 14: 22-33*
Jesus walked on the water, he called to Peter in the boat with the other disciples. Peter stepped out on the water until his faith faltered and he began to sink. Then Jesus stretched out his hand

Religious Education Program



Sacrament of Confirmation
Bishop Gerald Walsh will be here on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 3:00 pm to confirm our Candidates. Remember them in your prayer. Thank you!

New registration forms for 2020 are on the website.

Religious Education office is open for registration.
The following Wednesdays & Thursday from 10:00am - 1:00pm and Saturday 10:00 am - 12:30 pm our application is on the website.

Classes will begin In October

Registration fee for one child \$125.00
two Children \$225.00,
three or four children \$300.00

~ Parish Membership ~
Every family member & single adult to be considered active members of St. Mary's must be properly registered in the parish; receiving & regularly using the parish weekly donation envelopes or using We Share online giving. Only in this way can parish issue documents attesting to parish membership and Catholic practice. Example a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. We welcome new members!

Stewardship



*** Tithing –God's Plan for Giving on Sat/Sun, August 1 & 2, 2020**
Parish Mass Total Collection: \$2,785.00
English Mass Collection was \$1,605.00

Archdiocesan Appeal



Update of 2020 Appeal Goals
2020 Mandatory Goal \$37,500
Pledged: \$35,857.00
Paid: \$31,835.00

Thank you very much for your contributions towards our Annual Cardinal's Appeal
We still need \$1,643 in pledges to reach parish goal and \$5,665 in cash to reach our parish goal.

June Update of Renew & Rebuild

Pledges: \$420,984.30
Paid: \$237,501.50
Left: (\$183,482.80)

Ways To Support

Continued Financial Support:

We urge all who can to please consider joining the online We Share automated giving program by going to: <https://icmary.churchgiving.com/>



Please, continue to bring your collection envelopes or any contribution you wish to make to help support our parish, by mailing or dropping your envelope at the

The Feast of the Assumption,

This year, August 15, is NOT a holy day of obligation in US.

MEMORIAL MASS

Fr Felino Reyes will be here to offer Mass for the repose of his mother Andrea Reyes on Friday, August 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm immediately followed by a reception at the our Parish Garden.

Come and join

There are till spaces in our Mass Intention Book for those who wish to book Mass for a