

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of June 23, 2024

Sunday:

Jb 38:1, 8-11/Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29,
30-31 (1b)/2 Cor 5:14-17/Mk 4:35-41

Monday:

Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/
Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80

Tuesday:

2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36/
Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 10-11/Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday:

2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3/Ps 119:33, 34, 35,
36, 37, 40/Mt 7:15-20

Thursday:

2 Kgs 24:8-17/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/
Mt 7:21-29

Friday:

2 Kgs 25:1-12/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/
Mt 8:1-4

Saturday:

Vigil: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/
Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19
Day: Acts 12:1-11/34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Next Sunday:

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12,
13 (2a)/2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/
Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Right now, you and I are only worried about one of only two things: wind or water. Bear with me. This week we hear the account of the terrified disciples waking Jesus in a sea-storm. He chastises them for their lack of faith, and then, **“rebuking the wind, he said to the sea, ‘Quiet, be still!’”** He rebukes the wind and stills the water. In the Bible wind and water represent the two most fundamental poles of our experience of creation. Wind means heaven, spirit, that which gives identity, unity, order, light. Water stands for earth, variation, potential, that which can be drawn into identity, darkness, chaos.

Too much “wind” is when things get way too rigid, abstract and ideological — when we face oppressive leaders and tyrants, when we get addicted to our own way of doing things, when our attention is too narrowly focused on one thing. Too much “water” is excessive novelty, passivity, indifference, and chaos — when our attention is too broadly diffused on many things, when things seem to be crumbling without direction into the dark abyss. We know both terrifying experiences all too well.

The point of the miracle is that God in Christ is the One who brings final cosmic harmony between these two vital but threatening forces. He ultimately does so from the wood of the cross, when he breathes forth the wind of his spirit and pours forth the water from his side to establish a new creation, filled with harmonious peace. When the wind and water are out of control, trust him.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Perfect Storm

I am writing this on a Saturday morning. Saturdays are my writing days, when my husband takes over the kids and the house and I disappear into the office with an enormous cup of coffee and noise-canceling headphones. Saturdays are sacred — if work can be called sacred.

But Saturday morning is also the only time I'm able to consistently get to confession. Every other time the sacrament is offered in my area during the week, I seem to have unavoidable commitments — but on Saturday morning, all I have is work, and how can I let work come before a sacrament, as much as I might secretly want to?

I've spent a good deal of time being bitter about this, because it's just not convenient, having to carve out time from work to run to the other side of town, especially when I get there and there's a line. I sit there in the sanctuary, waiting my turn, checking the clock, stewing, fretting. Obsessing over forgetting one of my sins. Thinking of how much work I have when I get home.

Saturday mornings: *a perfect storm*, I sometimes call it in my head.

I forge ahead, though. I've never gotten up and dashed back to my desk. I make it into the confessional and I stammer out my pathetic little list and receive absolution. Then I go before the tabernacle to perform my penance.

It's while I am kneeling there that it happens. Always. God awakens, and he cries into the depths of my heart: "Quiet! Be still! Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?"

After teaching all day by the shore of the sea, Jesus asks his disciples to remove him from the crowds. He wants to escape the noise, the clamor, the disquiet. But the clamor follows him, because the world is full of it. Storms crop up wherever we go.

Jesus sleeps through the storm, because he understands what the disciples do not: the storms of the world cannot hurt us. They are only so much noise.

"Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" — Mark 4:41

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

We are considering homeschooling our children. Does this present a problem when it is time for them to receive the sacraments? What must we do?

Answer:

Homeschooling is legal in all fifty states and like other types of education, has its advantages and its drawbacks. There are many factors to consider, and each family has to decide what the best way to educate its children is. With religious education, many dioceses have a formal policy that outlines procedures and expectations, some of which include more than just academic information. Call the religious education office to find out what they are for your area.

In general, though, an appointment with your parish priest to discuss your situation is the best first step. An opportunity to discuss what is available, what the expectations are for each sacrament, and how you can best prepare your child helps make your time of preparation more effective. The priest can direct you to good catechetical materials, parent information classes, and other choices and possibilities for your child. All parents need to be part of their child's religious education, taking a lead in instilling the values and beliefs of their faith. Communication and information helps us all to teach and preach the Gospel as Jesus did.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Thus far shall you come but no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stilled! (Jb 38:11)

Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting. (Ps 107)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come. (2 Cor 5:17)

Gospel:

They were filled with great awe and said to one another,
"Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" (Mk 4:41)

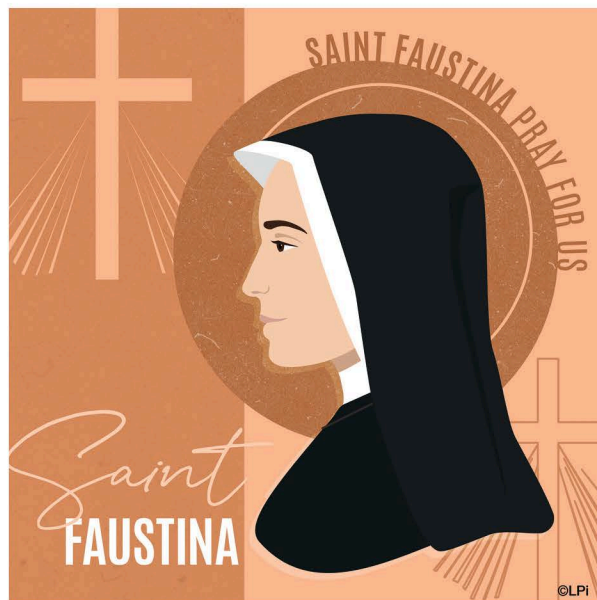
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

So often when we are weathering the storm, it feels like God is asleep — but we never even tried to wake Him up! Bring God your fears, your doubts, your uncertainties. He will show you that He steers the ship, and even the wind and the seas obey.

Observances for the week of June 23, 2024

- Sunday:** 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Thursday: St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Friday: Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr
Saturday: Sts. Peter And Paul, Apostles
Next Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

St. Faustina was a Polish sister of Our Lady of Mercy. Her miraculous experiences and writings about her revelations of God's Divine Mercy sparked a worldwide Catholic movement refocusing the faithful on the Mercy of God and how to share that mercy with their neighbors.

Prayer for Inner Peace

Jesus,
Speak your command of "Quiet! Be still!" into the dark recesses of my mind — my fears, concerns, and anxieties. Be with me, at every moment, no matter the storm.
Fix my eyes upon you.
Amen.

He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?”

- Mk 4:39-40

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

God challenges Job not to question His power over creation. Have you ever challenged or questioned God in prayer?

Second Reading:

Paul speaks of believers in Christ as a “new creation.” In what ways do you sense something new in your life as a Christian?

Gospel:

The disciples feared for their lives while caught in a violent storm until Jesus calmed the wind and the sea. When has your faith in Jesus helped calm your fears?



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“
START BEING
BRAVE ABOUT
EVERYTHING.
”

MYSTIC AND DOCTOR
OF THE CHURCH

-ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

THE LORD'S LOVE IS

everlasting.

PSALM 107



“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was great calm. They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?” - Mk 4:38c-39, 41

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