

Readings for the week of August 13, 2023

Sunday:

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

Monday:

Dt 10:12-22/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday:

Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14/1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28
Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday:

Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3a, 5 and 8, 16-17/Mt 18:15-20

Thursday:

Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 18:21—19:1

Friday:

Jos 24:1-13/Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22 and 24/Mt 19:3-12

Saturday:

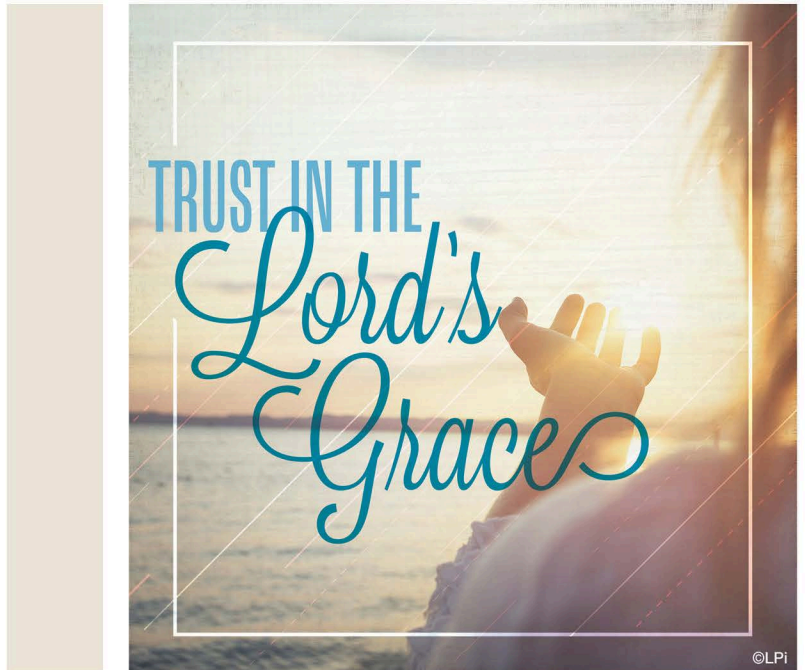
Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2a, and 5, 7-8, 11/Mt 19:13-15

Next Sunday:

Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A man at my parish was struggling to overcome a habitual sin. He said to me, “Father, I know the chance that I will commit sin again is really high. Why should I keep confessing my sins? Isn’t that dishonest?” Anyone who has felt the tyrannical power of sin — and who hasn’t? — has pondered this kind of question.

I responded to him, “What was the probability Peter would walk on the stormy water?” After some silence, he said, “Zero. But when Jesus called, he did it.” I could tell my penitent friend was re-framing the question from his own weakness to the greatness of the Lord’s love for him. The question for us should not be one of human probabilities about our sin, but rather whether or not we will trust the Lord’s grace in our lives.

This week the Lord is calling you and me to do the impossible: overcome sin with love. The only way to do that is to trust he is calling, and then to walk with the eyes of faith locked on him. And if we sink, he will raise us up again and again. Of that, we can be 100% sure.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

God and the Good Strong Wind

My only real memory of the Mackinac Island ferry was the physical sensation of the wind against my face. I remember, distinctly, that it hurt.

It surprised and confused me because wind had never felt painful before. Looking back now, I realize that it wasn't just the wind but the spray from the waves that crashed against the side of the ferry — that was what produced the sharp, biting sensation on my skin. But I couldn't have known that then, because my eyes were clamped shut. I refused to open them, even if I had, I would not have seen much, because my long hair was blown straight across my face.

I was four years old, and it was, in the immortal words of Winnie-the-Pooh, a very blustery day as my family made our way to Mackinac Island. I remember thinking I was going to die. I'm positive now that it wasn't really all that dramatic, but at four years old, you're awfully scared of a good strong wind.

Deep inside, aren't we all, really?

I think of the apostles who cannot recognize Christ — their friend — because he is doing something new. Something impossible. They are so sure he is a ghost, a sinister thing — children are always frightened of what they cannot understand.

And even when he reassures them, still Peter is not convinced. He demands, essentially, a miracle. He demands that Christ make him do what only Christ can do.

And even when the miracle takes place — he walks on water, he defies physics — still he is human. Scared, doubtful, distractible. No match for a good strong wind.

"Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter..." Matthew 14:31

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

If we have a separation of church and state, how should faith influence the way we act in society, especially for those who have a role in the government?

Answer:

No matter who we are, our inner lives affect the way we interact with the world. In the United States, we have freedom of religion. That means there is no official state-sanctioned religion. This does not mean that our faith is a private affair with no impact on public life! We have the ability to freely exercise our religious beliefs in accord with our conscience. Not only do we have the option to do so, but we also have the responsibility.

We're called to imitate Christ in every area of our life, not compartmentalize our faith. This means acting with respect and honoring the common humanity all we encounter. It means recognizing the person behind the politics. It also means standing up for the truth of human life and dignity and advocating for just policies that serve the common good. The Vatican has produced a "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church." It contains more detailed exposition of how our Catholic faith relates to various aspects of public life.

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?"

- Mt 14:30-31

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Elijah looked for the Lord in the strong winds, earthquakes, and fire before discovering the Lord in a light silent sound. Why do you think it is easier to find God when it is quiet?

Second Reading

Paul had "great sorrow" for his fellows Jews (God's chosen people) who did not believe that Jesus was their long-awaited Messiah. How do you feel about family or friends who do not believe in Jesus?

Gospel Reading

Peter cried out to the Lord for help when he feared he might drown. What fears do you have that you could pray to the Lord for help this week?



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“MY HEART WOULD SINK BUT FOR THE FIRM CONVICTION THAT GOD'S WORD CAN NEVER FAIL.”

AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS SISTER

- ST. MARY MACKILLOP