

KEEPING FAITH FIRST- FAMILY FUN

D I A R F A I Z E K
M Z L F V Z M I G Y
Q U M F V D M U A S
L F F C Y M E L R U
C O M M A N D N U S
E R O T P B I Y O E
D G N I K L A W C J
Y O A Z B S T P L L
H V U M Z K E Y O C
K C Y B O P L F F E
G H O S T H Y H G F
O F F S H O R E R W
S E L P I C S I D N
H M J F H T G T P I
G L A C O H W O R A
W O T T T N I S E T
K A S E T B N S C N
W Y N P O H D E E U
A E J A E F E D D O
D T T B B L D W E M

AFRAID
BOAT
COMMAND
COURAGE
DISCIPLES
DOUBT
FRIGHTENED
GHOST

GOSPEL
HOMAGE
IMMEDIATELY
JESUS
MATTHEW
MOUNTAIN
OFFSHORE

PRECEDE
TOSSED
WALKING
WATCH
WIND

Catechizing Corner!

Today's story, and the earlier story in chapter eight in which the sleeping Jesus was frantically asked to save the storm-tossed disciples, are indicative of the "first-century Mediterranean belief in spirits, including the wind spirits that play havoc with human life." The only way for human beings to protect themselves is to find a more powerful spirit to challenge the chaos-creating spirit. This more powerful spirit is God, and God's agent, Jesus, who is known for his ability to challenge evil and mischievous spirits throughout the gospel.

We are told that Jesus went off to pray. This time he went alone and he prayed most of the night. In the Mediterranean cultural context, prayer was intended to get results. It was a "message communicated to someone who is ultimately in charge of one's existence." When Jesus is called upon to save the disciples from the storm later that evening, we see the results of his prayer. Jesus did not doubt the power of God to still the storms of the sea; we likewise are never to doubt our source of power.

Peter is known in all of the gospels for his fervor and his impetuosity. There is no doubt that he holds a position of distinction and authority in relation to other apostles. Yet Peter is like all those "people of little faith." He wants proof—a sign—that it is really Jesus.

Mary Birmingham, *Word and Worship Workbook, Cycle A* Paulist Press



Holy Family Catholic Church
South Pasadena, CA
www.holyfamily.org

Disciple's Reflection for the Question of the Week

**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

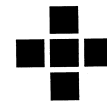
8/13/2023

A Call to Prayer

**The Word of God
Matthew 14:22-33**

**Faith Sharing
Questions of the week**

Closing Prayer



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Holy Family is a welcoming Catholic Eucharistic community of disciples of Jesus Christ connecting faith with life and reaching out to those in need!

Call to Prayer

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment and listen attentively to this week's passage.

The Word of God Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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 off-shore,

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."

Gospel Glossary

The **watch of the night**, are the periods of time that the disciples stayed up in the night to monitor their safety.

Jesus is seen **walking on the sea**, which is a great act that reassures the disciples to have faith in

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,

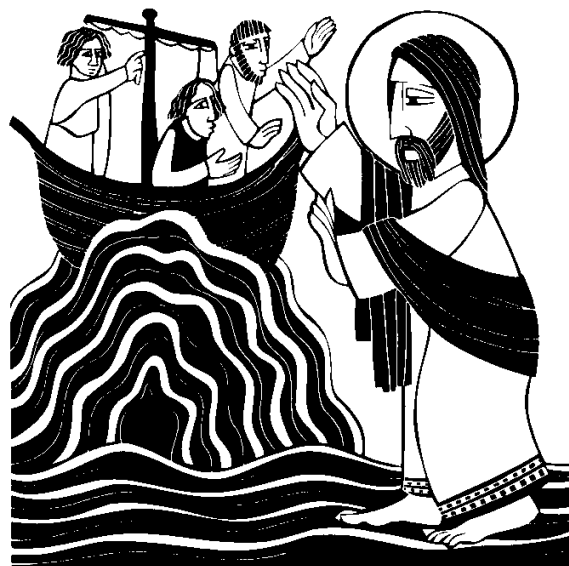
and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

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."

The Gospel of the Lord



Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

Adults: Have you ever wondered why Jesus had not answered your prayers? Only to learn later He truly had answered your prayers, just not in the response you had expected? How did this strengthen your faith?

Teens: How would you react if you were tossed on the seas and Jesus appeared to you and told you not to be afraid?

Children: Was there ever a time that you felt so frightened and alone that you failed to remember that Jesus was with you?

Closing Prayer

Lord, You have called us to be your disciples, to live in faith, walking always in your footsteps. By your suffering, death, and resurrection, you have made us children of God. As you have loved us and asked us to love one another, help us to love and embrace everyone in our lives.

Fill us with love, compassion, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and tolerance, even when we face the pain of hatred, rejection, and failure.

Guide us to be good disciples. May we seek always the praise and glory of God and the good of all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time