

# Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

## *Faith In Laity Corner*



*19<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Times*

## *Lord, Are WE Drowning?*

Readings 1Kgs. 10; /Mt. 14:23-33

It could be called Divine prophecy that this week's Gospel focuses on a scene where the Apostle Peter almost drowned in the Sea of Galilee. There is no doubt that our global consensus makes this a condition that is far too real for many people living in our times .....on the brink of drowning.....We watch with a level of unease as leaders from North Korea and the United States throw around serious statements which could impact and prove to be the fatal drowning of millions of innocent people. and yet these leaders who are in our midst appear not to demonstrate concern for the life of others. In areas in Africa there are political storms in Kenya, religious persecutions in Nigeria, storms of starvation in the Sahel regions of Africa, political hurricanes in Venezuela, mass executions in Mexico and other areas of Central America. NO one has been spared.... Near home we contend with diminished health care for those who are poor, lip-service to the drug culture, storms of forest fires, flooding, domestic violence in communities, the empowered voices of hate groups. Yes, we can agree that humanity is drowning with all that is weighing us down.

*“There was a strong and violent wind rending the mountains  
and crushing rocks before the LORD....” (1Kg. 19:11)*

In our Sunday readings the great prophet Elijah, felt the storms of buffering winds and the waves crashing him on the rocks. He was seeking God's face in the midst of the storms around him.

Question posed: - What is our reaction to our situation today? Yes, the violence of the winds which engulf us has caused fear of nuclear war and concern for the safety of our lives in the future. How could this be happening so fast? Where do find a life jacket, or who will help us out of the raging waters.

COH/19 OT /Drowning

253/2017/bcw

*“After the earthquake, fire—but the LORD was not in the fire... (1Kg.19:12)*

As humans we observe the terrible scenes of violent death, white collar crime and destruction of our environment; what is to happen with our children; yet we know the response- **fear has to be met with prayer**. Rather than pray harder, so many of us hide our faces. The Gospel reaffirms that this world will bring its many storms. Jesus, who has power over the elements; permitted the storm. The Apostles found themselves alone on rough seas; with Jesus far from them.

*“The boat, already a few miles offshore,  
was being tossed about by the waves....” (Mt. 14:24)*

Jesus knew the fears of His followers, He bridged the gap between Him and them- He walked on the water. Like Elijah, they wanted to see the face of God, but when He does arrive, we become afraid

*“The disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. (Mt. 14:26)*

Our human nature does not change. Elijah, the Apostles and we are all afraid... We seek God, but we are so afraid. Jesus tries to reassure us that though we are afraid, don't let fear cause paralysis. We are invited to walk on the storming waters.

*“Lord, if it is you, command me to come.” (Mt. 14:28)*

Peter took the risk, he walked, His eyes fixed with some anxiety on Jesus. Peter was doing what our human nature tells us *‘is impossible’!* With Peter's eyes and mind focused on God, he was walking on water. He was walking. As long as Peter was drawing on his love for Jesus, he was springing across the water.

*“But when he saw how [strong] the wind was  
he became frightened; and, beginning to sink.” (Mt. 14:29)*

Then like most of us, the reality of life steps in and we lose sight of Jesus and we sink in the foam and rage of the storms of life. Somehow, Peter remembered to say

***“Lord, save me!” (Mt. 14:30)***

Those are the words God desires to hear from all of us; we have to pray for His mercy and saving help.

*“Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him.” (Mt. 14:31)*

God is willing and able to save us from the seas that foam and rage in our lives, we have to reach out so that He can pull us out. The wind, storms and seas are around us and will not cease to toss us everywhere, there is a need to always reach out to Him in prayer. Let us ask for His help that we will not drown.

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Let us pray against the hatred of groups and organizations which attempt to bring disharmony, fear and uncertainty to our society, let us put these issues to God in prayer.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by  
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<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

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