

LIVING FAITH

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 9, 2026



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake.

But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.'

He said, 'Come.'

So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus.

But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him,

'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

We often hear people say things like, "We're all in the same boat." There's a way that this is true. There's also a way that we could say that we are all facing the same storm, but our boats may be very different, depending on the different situations of our lives- family, friends, employment, health, whether we are in school or not, etc.

The Gospel for today offers hope and consolation. The disciples, out on the lake, face a terrible storm, and they are battered by fierce winds and high waves that threaten to swamp the boat. Did you notice that Jesus came to them without being asked or invited? So strong was his love and concern that he came toward them, walking on the water. What a wonderful image of Jesus—he is One who knows our cares and concerns, and loves us so much that he accompanies us, even- perhaps especially- in our most difficult moments and our trials. Jesus does the same thing for us. No matter what the storm, if we look, he is there beside us, walking with us, accompanying us.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- What is your response to this story of the presence of Jesus in the storm at sea?
- Have you ever witnessed a storm with high winds, rain and waves? How did you feel?
- Have you ever felt certain that Jesus was walking with you? How did you know this?
- Have you ever been the presence of Jesus for someone else who was going through a storm?
- Has anyone else ever been the presence of Jesus for you as you walked through a storm?

Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H	V	S	L	F	P	X	Z	A	I	N	W	C	R	D	U	Q	J	M	Y	O	K	G	T	E	B

1. 26-21-9-24 _____
2. 12-10-11-15 _____
3. 12-9-24-25-14 _____
4. 5-9-10-24-1 _____
5. 9-5-14-9-10-15 _____
6. 3-10-11-22 _____
7. 12-9-2-25-3 _____
8. 5-25-9-14 _____
9. 12-9-4-22-10-11-23 _____
10. 4-9-22-25 _____

BOAT	WIND	SINK	WATER	FAITH
LAKE	WALKING	FEAR	AFRAID	WAVES

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WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT MARY?

ASSUMPTION OF MARY

At the moment of her death, Mary was taken to Heaven in body and soul.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mary, from the first moment of her conception was kept free of every stain of original sin.

THE MARIAN DOGMAS



CatholicLink

Virgin Mary is the Mother of God.

MARY'S DIVINE MOTHERHOOD

She remained a virgin before, during and after Christ's conception and birth.

PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

FEASTS THIS WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AUGUST 15



Stained glass window of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Marian Chapel at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, St. John's, by Gerard Earley, 1954. Photo by Robert and Lynn Young, 2018.

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." The pope proclaimed this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians and laity. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. The feast was celebrated under various names-Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption-from at least the fifth or sixth century. By the 13th century there was universal agreement.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's Assumption into heaven. Revelation 12 speaks of a woman who is caught up in the battle between good and evil. Many see this woman as Mary, who best embodies the people of both Old and New Testaments, her Assumption can be seen as an exemplification of the woman's victory.

Since Mary is closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life, it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to believe in Mary's share in his glorification. So close was she to Jesus on earth, she must be with him body and soul in heaven.

Hail ! Holy Queen

Hail! Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To you do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, O most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit
of your womb, Jesus.
O clement! O loving! O sweet Virgin Mary!

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.