

St. Boniface

Catholic Church

stboniface@rrt.net

230 1st St. NW - Lidgerwood, ND 58053

Also Serving St. Martin of Tours, Geneseo and Sts. Peter & Paul, Cayuga

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saint Boniface

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 a.m.

St. Martin of Tours - Geneseo

Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

(June and August)

Sts. Peter & Paul - Cayuga

Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

(July and September)

August 9, 2026 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Being Human is to Doubt

Humans doubt. It's what we do. We doubt ourselves and we doubt others.

Before any of us say anything about Peter's doubting the words of Jesus that told him he could get out of his boat and walk on water, we need to get real with ourselves: How would I respond in the same situation? I remember when I was child taking swimming lessons. One day I simply tightened up my muscles and sank. The lifeguard pulled me up and asked what happened. I said I did not know. The truth is that I was sinking under the weight of my own doubt. I did not believe I could do what clearly, I was told I could. That was only in five feet of water in a pool! Now that I'm older, I can look back and laugh. But an adult, the swimming pool is life, and I would be lying if I said that there are no longer times I find myself sinking due to new doubts. Much of our doubt comes about because of a lack of trust in God. We place our trust in material things, wealth, or imperfect people instead of the One who is worthy of our trust 100 percent of the time. Our stewardship is often hampered by our doubt that God will provide all that we need. If I give more, I may not have enough to survive! When we place all our trust in God, not only do we find that we have been given all we need – our doubt that cause us to sink in the pool of life fades away. We don't suddenly become perfect in our trust, and there will be times when we find ourselves with concerns again. However, it is in those moments we find that He is still there, speaking the words we need to hear: "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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. - Mt 14:28-29

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC.

GLPI

**1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a | Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33**

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Weekly Mass Schedule



<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Aug. 8	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Johnny Ahrens
Sunday, Aug. 9	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	† Tom Kaczynski
<u>Weekday Liturgies</u>		
Monday, Aug. 10	NO MASS	
Tuesday, Aug. 11	NO MASS	
Wed., Aug. 12	NO MASS	
Thurs., Aug. 13	10:00 am (St. B.)	† Jim Biewer
Friday, Aug. 14	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Helen Novotny
<u>Sunday Liturgies</u>		
Saturday, Aug. 15	5:00 pm (St. B.)	† Margaret Wettstein
Sunday, Aug. 16	8:30 am (St. B.)	Pro Popula
	10:30 am (St. M.)	† Dec. Members of St. Martin's
		Men's Society

Reconciliation Schedule

St. Boniface: Saturday & Sunday – Before/after Mass

Thursday – after Mass

St. Martin: Sunday – Before and after Mass

Sts. Peter & Paul – Before and after Mass

Prayer Requests

Please keep the following people in your prayers:
 Tracey Monson - Lawrence Heley - Fr. Chad Wilhelm
 Avery Trittin - Baby Weston - Anne Heley
 Joan Moerke - Shirley (Art) Heley - Dan Frolek
 Shirley Ahrens - Peggy Harles - Dan Schmit - If you have
 any imminent prayer requests, please call or text Cindy at
 701-640-1401.

All Parishes

Eucharistic Adoration - Please come and spend time
 with Jesus on Thursdays in adoration, anytime from 5am
 – midnight. We need adorers to share the 2-3, 3-4 and 5-
 6pm slots. Please contact Sharon at 612-790-1211 or 538-
 7010 if you are able to help.

KC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 8pm.

Bans of Marriage - Myah Jelinek and Nathan Battest
 will be united in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony on
 Saturday, August 15 at 3pm at St. Boniface. Please keep
 them in your prayers as they begin their married life
 together.

Mass for the Assumption (Not a Holy Day this year)

will be on Friday, Aug. 14, 5pm at St. Boniface.

Our Lady of the Prairies – All are welcome to the 70th
 Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Prairies outside of
 Wahpeton on Sunday, Aug. 16: Speaker at 2pm,
 Rosary/Confessions at 3pm, Holy Mass at 5pm and picnic
 at 6pm with Bishop Folda.

Come & See - Do you sometimes wonder: What is it like
 in a convent? Am I called to religious life? Come & See
 with the Franciscan Sisters in Hankinson on **August 21-
 23**. Contact Sr. Mary Ruth at srmmaryruth@scretreats.org /
 (701) 242-7195 or visit [ndfranciscans.org/vocation-](http://ndfranciscans.org/vocation-events)
 events.

KC Highway Cleanup – Sunday, Aug. 23 at 2pm.

KC Family Picnic – At the KC Hall on Sunday, Aug. 23:
 Social at 3:30, Potluck meal at 4pm. Main dish will be
 provided.

**At the Darkest Hour, Jesus Emerges From the Storms
 In Your Life** – *Tom Hoopes*

The wind is raging and the swells of the sea are taller than
 the boat. The night seems never-ending, and Jesus has
 gone missing. Do you hunker down and go where the
 wind takes you? Do you grit your teeth and wait for the
 end? Or do you step out into the storm?

Here are six takeaways for Nineteenth Sunday in
 Ordinary time Year A, drawn from Sunday
 Readings columns at this site and the Extraordinary
 Story podcast.

First: Jesus shows us what real power looks like.

This Sunday's Gospel begins after last week's Gospel
 about the miracle of loaves. Jesus sends the crowds away,
 fed, and sends his apostles away, amazed. He wants them
 to go off across the lake for two reasons: First, so that he
 can remind them that he doesn't really need them; and
 second, to remind them that *they* desperately need *him*.
 When the weather gets bad, the apostles on the boat panic,
 but Jesus walks toward them on the swelling waves. They
 see him coming and are terrified, crying out in fear, "It is
 a ghost!" He answers, "Take courage, it is I; do not be
 afraid."

They learn that, without him, they are "tossed about by
 the waves," and that with him, nothing can hurt them.
 Real power is quiet, calm, and certain — not frantic,
 hurried and frightened, and Jesus has real power.

**Second: This Gospel is a lesson for each of us,
 individually.**

But at the dramatic center of the story is the figure of
 Peter. He says "Lord if it is you, command me to come to
 you on the water!" And Jesus says, "Come."

Peter stands up in the howling wind and, with one foot on
 the boat and one in the water, starts stepping out toward
 Jesus — until he notes how strong the winds are blowing.
 Then he plunges into the water crying out, "Lord, save
 me!"

Every one of us is Peter, standing up in the storm — but

the lesson is subtle. Sunday's First Reading sets it up perfectly by telling the story of Elijah sheltering in a cave when, like Peter, the Lord passes by. First a strong and heavy wind comes, but God isn't in that. He isn't in the earthquake or the fire that follow, either. Instead, he is in a "tiny, whispering sound."

Elijah knew to look for the Lord not in the chaos of life, but in the calm that comes despite the chaos. Peter, meanwhile, sank because he stopped focusing on the Lord and looked at the chaos of the storm instead.

The truth is, God is a special case. He is not on the surface of things; he is the bedrock of reality. He is not part of the crazy, ever-changing world that swirls around us; *he is the fundamental truth that does not change*. God is there in your life, walking through the storms and whispering after the earthquake. To hear him you have to "be not afraid," let go of the stress and anxiety, quiet yourself and listen. Pray during the argument; call on the Holy Spirit from the middle of the day's crisis. Listen for the steady whisper of his strong, calm power underneath the noise.

But, third, this Gospel passage isn't just about each of us personally; it's about all of us, together.

Since Peter's boat is a symbol of the Church, this Gospel is also about the whole world.

The Fathers of the Church say the storm represents two different forces. Persecution is a "mighty wave" that "rises against the boat of Christ," says Augustine — and today Christians are persecuted as never before, being murdered for the faith all over the world.

But St. Hilary points to a second force. We are also "tossed by the spirit of the antichrist, and by the troubles of the world." Pope Benedict XVI updated that for our time. He said:

"How many winds of doctrine have we known in recent decades, how many ideological currents, how many ways of thinking? The small boat of the thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by the waves — flung from one extreme to another: from Marxism to liberalism, even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism."

We have become the playthings of the storm, at the mercy of the two deadly enemies of the Church: The fierce attacks of violent opponents, or the lullaby of relativism that lulls us into a surrender to the comforts of the world.

Fourth: Be forewarned: Both our personal storms and our cultural storms will last all night, with no sign of rescue from Jesus.

In the Gospel, Jesus doesn't appear to the apostles until the "fourth watch of the night" — in other words, between 3 and 6 am, the darkest hour, just before the dawn. That means that each one of us alone and all of us together must fight the storm all night with no help on the horizon.

Then, even when Jesus does show up in the Gospel, he

doesn't quiet the storm. At first, he merely says, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

In the dark night of the soul, what God really wants from us is trust. That's what he got from Peter at first. Early on in his ministry, when Jesus performed a miracle on his boat, Peter said, "Go away from me, for I am a sinful man." Now, Peter tells him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

This is what he wants to hear from Catholics today. He doesn't want us to hide from our troubles or give in to our tempters. Hiding from them won't make them go away, and giving in means being swept along by lies.

Giving in to the storm means distrusting Jesus in favor of politics, and judging the Church harshly according to our political core beliefs. Or it means making money the center of our life, giving dribs and drabs to the poor and to the Church while lavishing money on ourselves or drowning in debt. Or it means letting our doubts about the faith keep us pinned in the boat, fearing the storm.

What Jesus wants is the trust Mother Angelica said, "Faith is one foot on the ground, one foot in the air, and a queasy feeling in the stomach."

Fifth: God has unlimited power, but there is one way to stop him in our life: sin.

There is only one place that God is powerless in Sunday's readings and in our lives, and that is in the face of human freedom.

Again, this happens to us individually, or altogether.

When Peter is walking across the water to him, Jesus can't make him trust him. Peter has the freedom to fear the storm more than he trusts God. Then, in the Second Reading, St. Paul is frustrated because he can't make his beloved Jewish people embrace Christ. He has "great sorrow and constant anguish of heart" that they will not accept the Lord. After all, "They are Israelites; theirs is the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever."

We face the same choices in our lives: Embrace his love, or reject it. Believe in his power, or give in to doubts. Partner with the All-Powerful One, the Master of Nature and Super-Nature, or get swallowed by life's storms.

Sixth: In every tabernacle, or monstrance, or Mass, Jesus appears in our darkness in the Eucharist.

Today, look at Jesus when he comes in the Mass and pray: "Lord, appear in the darkness of the lives of your people. Lord, if it is really you, tell us to come to you across the water. Lord, when we are sinking into doubt and discouragement, save us. Truly, you are the Son of God."

Then, at communion time, he tells all those prepared to receive communion, "It is I; do not be afraid. Come."

The Eucharist is the center of the storm — the quiet power of our omnipotent God. Step out of your boat and meet him.