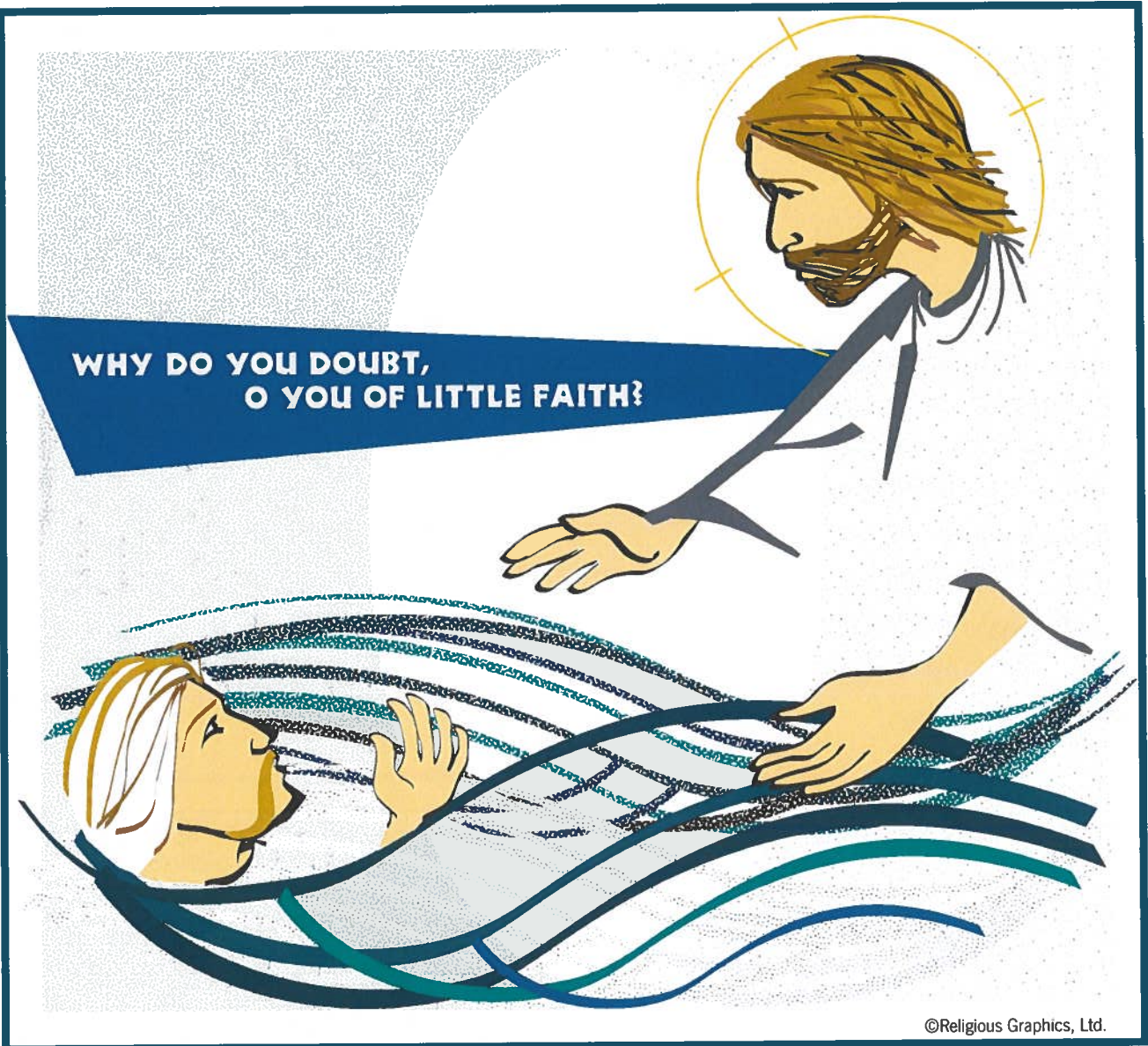


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
Sacred Heart, Goodrich
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 8-9, 2026



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm—4:45pm
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Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable - "We must often draw the comparison between time and eternity. This is the remedy of all our troubles. How small will the present moment appear when we enter that great ocean."

—Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time				August 15-16, 2026
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, August 15 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, August 16 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, August 16 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, August 16 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Brent Fulton Bob Schultz Galen Fritz Roger Jensen	Daryl Ferris Kyle Ferris	Jerry Ogrentz Dave Ladehoff Bob Buente Arlen Hansen	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Dustin Truetner Sean Riordan
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Andy Hansen	Steve Jacob
Eucharistic Minister			Darwin Peerbolte	
Servers				Gavin Downs
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—The Peerboltes	Kim Smicker

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, August 10 (SMM)

8:00 am +Donna Ruder (Steve/Lisa Burton)

Tuesday, August 11 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, August 12 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, August 14 (SMM)

8:00am No Mass

Saturday, August 15 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Rita and Bob Deany (Bev Buckley)

Sunday, August 16

7:30 am (SH) +John Sullivan, Timmy Fitch, Willard Denault, Connie Dionne, and Rhonda Harris (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Eric Nelson (Steve/Dena Coy)
+Rita O'Connor (Linda Burns)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

Looking Ahead

Sunday, August 9—SH Breakfast Canceled

Tuesday, August 11—SH CCW meeting 6:30 pm

Monday, Sept. 7—Herscher Labor Day Celebration

Saturday, Sept. 19—Bus Trip to Mundelein Seminary

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office –Tanhya Osenga 426-2550

Julie Bisaillon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550 debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 jdstreefarms1@gmail.com

Question of the week—

- When has my faith helped me to cope with my fears or overcome them?

Collections Weekend of August 1-2, 2026

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,599

St. James—\$1,965

Sacred Heart— \$646

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts Get Out and Walk

In the turbulence of our everyday lives, we often rely entirely on ourselves, imperfect though we are. Even though most of us, as Christians, know better, we forget or are too stubborn to turn to that Source of perfect wisdom and true security that cannot fail us.

God never turns down an earnest plea from one of His children. We may not recognize his help because it isn't what we expect or want until we learn that his way is the best way.

Letters of application are now being accepted for the Theresa Fritz Catholic Education Scholarship for the 2026-2027 school year. Applicants must be a parishioner of St. Margaret Mary and attend a Catholic grade or high school or a Catholic university. Please submit a letter to Fr. Ron at the Tri-Parish office explaining which school you are attending and your reason(s) for choosing a Catholic school. Letters need to be received in the office by September 4, 2026.



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Parish News:

All Parishes—

- ⇒ Tuesday morning masses will be at St. James until further notice.
- ⇒ Tri Parish Prayer Group will meet each Monday at 7 pm at St James church
- ⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James-

- ⇒ Would you like to help make rosaries to donate to missionaries in the United States? There are no deadlines or minimum commitments, and the CCW provides all of the materials. If you like crafting, or just need to keep your hands busy, this could be something you would like. If interested, please contact Beth Brosseau at 815.671.2286 or jeffandbeth1975@aol.com.



⇒ Sacred Heart—

- ⇒ Important Notice— Beginning on Sunday, July 26 until further notice, Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart will be held in the church hall. Weekday masses on Tuesday will be held at St. James.
- ⇒ Sacred Heart CCW's next meeting is August 11 at 6:30pm in the hall. Tina, Terri, Brenda and Shirley St. Germaine are on for snacks



Time to Sign Up for Adult Ed Classes

Our adult ed classes will resume in September, the topic will be The Gospel of St. Mark. If you would like to attend these classes, please call the office (815-426-2550) and register so we can

order the books. The start date will be Wednesday September 9th.



A Tri-Parish outing is in the works! A bus trip to Mundelein Seminary is being planned for Saturday, September 19. It will be a day of touring the campus, the chapels on the grounds, learning about the history of Mundelein Seminary and of course a delicious lunch.

If you are interested, please call the church office as soon as you can commit so we will know what bus to get. The bus will leave St. Margaret Mary parking lot . The exact time has not been set yet.

University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Mundelein Seminary



Join us as we tour this beautiful campus!



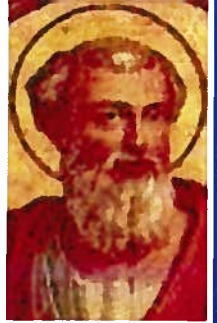
CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO COLE SCANLON AND MEGAN MAGSAMEN WHO WERE MARRIED ON JULY 30, 2026 ST. MARGARET MARY.

YIKES!

Directory Update

You have not missed the new directory . They have not been distributed but it is getting close! We know that it has taken a bit longer than expected!

Saint of the week: St. Pontian (August 13) was the son of Calpurnius. He was chosen 18th pope in 230. He ended the schism of Hippolytus and reconciled the schismatics with the Church. Pontian was exiled with Saint Hippolytus by emperor Maximinus Thrax to Sardinia and sentenced to work in the mines. He abdicated the papacy on September 28, 235 so a new man could lead the Church.



Other obscure saint of the week: St. Benildus (August 13) was educated by the *De La Salle Brothers* and an excellent student. He was a part-time teacher by age 14. Benildus joined the *De La Salle Brothers* at age 14, entering his noviate on February 10, 1820, taking the name *Benildus*. He became a teacher at several schools and became the director of a community at Saugues in southern France in 1841. He founded a school there and remained with it the rest of his life. Benildus taught classes and catechism, visited the sick, and attracted many to the religious life. Over 200 of his students became *De La Salle* brothers. He was known for his sanctity, effective teaching, generosity to students, Brothers, and townspeople, and for the excellent reputation of his school.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!"

Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!" (from Matthew 14).

Reflection

I Loved You Enough

Some day when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them:

I loved you enough to ask you about where you were going, with whom and what time you would be home.

I loved you enough to insist that you buy a bike with your own money that we could have afforded to give you.

I loved you enough to be silent and let you discover that your hand-picked friend was a creep.

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room, a job that would have taken me fifteen minutes to do myself.

I loved you enough to let you see anger, disappointment, disgust, and tears in my eyes.

I loved you enough to admit I was wrong and ask for your forgiveness.

I loved you enough to let you stumble, fall and hurt.

But most of all, I loved you enough to say NO when you hated me for it. That was the hardest part of all.

Questions Catholics Ask

Some of my friends view belief in God as anti-intellectual.

The relationship between faith and reason can seem complicated, but is not contradictory. I admit when I was in college, I went to the Newman Center with the same agenda. It seemed there were two camps on campus: the Christians and the thinkers. I went to the priest to find out if it were necessary to choose between the two, which I was not at all comfortable doing. The priest pointed me toward something wonderful—the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. I learned a valuable teaching from Vatican I: there can be no contradiction between faith and reason, since God is the author of both. Faith and reason spring from the same created reality and are in this sense mutually dependent on divine revelation. This may sound strange, since we think of revelation as a mysterious process involving heavenly apparitions and miraculous unfoldings. Yet talk to a researcher uncovering a new principle concerning the way time operates, or how the human brain functions. Revelation is a word not inconsistent with that scientific seeker's experience.

If something is discovered to be true, therefore, it cannot be an obstacle to faith. Faith must expand to admit what is true. This explains why the same church that once condemned Galileo's teachings as a threat to religious belief had to apologize and restore Galileo's integrity as a Catholic thinker in the long run. God is truth, and truth cannot deny itself.

Needless to say, it would have been better if church leaders hadn't rejected Galileo to start with! Frequently the obstacle to embracing truth is our faith in our own fallible perception, rather than faith in God. It takes courage to remain open to the possibility that we're wrong in our present opinions, comprehension, and vision. More recent popes have viewed science as a partner in the quest for truth rather than an adversary to religious faith.

Two positions are unhelpful to those who think and believe. One is *fideism*, the other *rationalism*. Fideism imagines that all truth drops from heaven unaided by human activity. Moral principles are to be accepted and incorporated without nuance, reflection, or relationship to other avenues of knowledge. Fideists don't want to argue, they just want to imbibe right principles. Rationalists believe all truth can be apprehended and judged by human reason alone. Religious ideas improvable by scientific means are deemed irrelevant if not invalid.

Scriptures: Job 38:1—42:6; Psalm 8; Isaiah 55:6-9; John 1:1-4; 14:6; Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 13:9-12; Hebrews 11:1; 1 John 1:1-4

Books: *The Bible and Science: Longing for God in a Science-Dominated World* – Vincent M. Smiles (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2011)

A Stewardship Moment

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of August 8/9, 2026

Today's Gospel reveals what miraculous things can happen when one embraces a single-minded faith in Jesus Christ. Peter gets out of a wind-tossed boat when the Lord calls him. His faith is tested by his obedience to Jesus who is calling him out onto the water. In the midst of the waves and the wind, Peter gets out of the boat and walks toward Jesus. Good stewards heed Christ's call to them. Sometimes that call directs them to take on seemingly impossible challenges. This week, reflect on how the Lord could be calling you out of the safety of your own "boat" to take on the impossible.



The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank all those who purchased raffle tickets, made donations and attended our Ice Cream Social fundraiser. We appreciate you!

Congratulations to the winner of the 50/50 raffle – Therese Philips.



He walked out the door not knowing where he'd sleep

Kortlan never thought he'd be homeless. He was working, he had an apartment – and then he lost both. He walked out the door that day not knowing where he'd sleep that night. He'd never been to a shelter before. Five months later, he's still moved by how it turned out.

"I'm a living witness – if you work hard on your end, you'll have a happy ending." – Kortlan



Watch the video and see the good your donation to the CMAA brings to our community



RETRouvaille
OF JOLIET ILLINOIS



Stop fighting *with* each other, and start fighting *for* each other! Retrouvaille helps you rediscover calm conversation, productive conflict management, and a deeper understanding of each other that leads to improved trust, commitment, forgiveness, and love.

Our next weekend program is

September 18 - 20, 2026 at the Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darlen, IL

For more information, call us at 815-246-2080, email us at JolietRegistration@HelpOurMarriage.org, or visit us online at HelpOurMarriage.org/Joliet

What can our pets teach us about God?

There is something about animals that draws out the best in us. And that should not surprise us.

Most of us have had an animal that became much more than a pet.

Perhaps it was the dog who greeted you every afternoon when you came home from work or the cat who always curled up beside you and was a faithful companion. Or perhaps the little fish that made your child wonder each time it swam in circles in the fishbowl on the counter.

There is something about animals that draws out the best in us.

That shouldn't surprise us.

When God created the world, He looked upon every living thing and declared it "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Before Adam was given Eve, God brought the animals before him, inviting him to name them (Genesis 2:19-20). From the very beginning of Scripture, animals were part of God's good creation and entrusted to humanity's care.

The Church has always understood that our relationship with animals reflects something deeper.

The Catechism teaches:

"Animals are God's creatures. He surrounds them with his providential care. By their mere existence they bless him and give him glory." (CCC 2416)

That is why Catholics have long asked God's blessing upon their animals. It isn't because we worship them or place them above people. Rather, it is an acknowledgment that every good gift ultimately comes from the Creator.

St. Anthony the Abbot, whose feast falls on January 17, became known as a special patron of domestic animals because generations of farmers entrusted their livestock to his intercession. Centuries later, St. Francis of Assisi reminded Christians that all creation points us back to the goodness of God. Whether preaching to the birds or composing his *Canticle of the Creatures*, he saw the natural world as a constant invitation to praise its Creator.

Maybe that explains why so many of us form such deep bonds with our pets.

Their loyalty reminds us of faithfulness and their dependence reminds us of our own dependence on God. Or perhaps it is just their simple joy that has a way of slowing us down and helping us appreciate the ordinary blessings of daily life.

Every wagging tail, gentle nuzzle, or contented purr can become a small reminder that we live in a world lovingly created and sustained by God.

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Reflection— One in Heart

I hear his table prayer
Echoing down the empty centuries,
Bursting forth in our own days.
He calls us to be
One in heart's concern for tenderness,
One in mind's compassion for his world,
One in affection for a family
That embraces every nation.
Shall we heed his call and begin
A search for unity that begins here
And ends only when peace rules our world?



August 9, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a | Rom 9:1-5 | Mt 14:22-33

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

As I prepared to become a teacher, a professor reminded me that the most effective way to command the attention of a room full of boisterous students is to lower my voice. Matching their volume only adds to the chaos. But approaching with a low, calm voice demands attention due to the contrast in volume. Prior to the scene in which Elijah encounters God on Mount Horeb, he was fleeing for his life. He was distraught. Likewise, in the Gospel the Apostles were in distress as they were tossed about on the sea. Chaos, anxiety, and distress are unfortunately all too common experiences. But God breaks through our worries and brings peace. God speaks to Elijah in a whisper. Christ walks calmly toward the disciples in the rocking boat. God doesn't match the chaos and the volume of our broken world. When Christ says, "Peace be with you," it is a genuine extension of peace to our weary souls from the Prince of Peace. The challenge for us comes in finding the quiet to experience the peace that Christ offers.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Doing the work of God does not mean that we always have to get louder. Proclaiming the Good News may mean that our words grow softer while the gentleness and peace from the Spirit become more visible. I find it interesting that as the crowds are dispersing and the Apostles are getting into a boat, Jesus finds a spot of solitude to pray. All too often in my own ministry, I see the tasks that need to be completed and disregard my own need for solitude. But it is in this quiet that we hear the voice of God that gives life to ministry and that guides us in the path of holiness. God will not add chaos to the world – peace is in his nature and he cannot act contrary to his nature. And so in the midst of our busyness and brokenness, God lowers his voice and calls us to attention.

LISTEN

Particularly with the expansive nature of technology, it can be difficult to block out the world in order to silence our minds and hearts. But we know from Christ's example of prayer and from Elijah's experience on Mount Horeb that God speaks to us in the quiet. Spend some time this week in quiet solitude to make yourself available to encounter God and hear his voice.



Walking on Water, by Ivan Aivazovsky (1848), Public Domain

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Ps 130:5

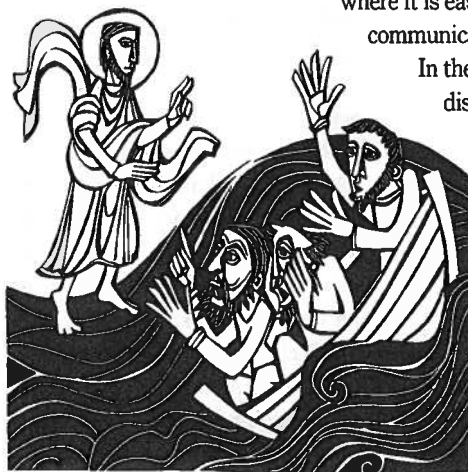
R. Alleluia, alleluia.
I wait for the Lord;
my soul waits for his word.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Matt 14:22-33; L115A

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 offshore, 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." 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."

Reflecting on the Gospel

At the conclusion of a recent performance of the symphony, a few seconds elapsed before the audience burst into applause. During the ensuing intermission, a handful of patrons remained and sat still, quietly relishing the exquisite sounds they had just heard. The majority, however, quickly whipped out their cell phones and began checking messages, texting, and talking. The need for constant communication won out over the momentary gift of contemplative silence. Today's readings invite us to choose to enter into spaces of silence, where it is easier to hear the One who is constantly communicating divine love to us.



In the first reading, at a time of deep fear and distress, Elijah goes to the place that connects him again with the roots of Israel's covenantal bond with the Holy One. But God is not manifest in devouring fire, like that which surrounded the mountain at the giving of the law to Moses (see Exod 24:17). Nor can Elijah hear God in the fierce, crushing wind or in the earthquake. It is in "a tiny whispering sound" (or, as the NRSV translates the original Hebrew, "a sound of sheer silence") that Elijah hears the voice of God. "Why are you here, Elijah?" (1 Kgs

19:13) is the probing question that invites Elijah and us to reflect on whether our actions and choices are leading us to fulfill our hearts' deepest desires for oneness with God and God's purposes. The subsequent verses sketch out how God strengthens Elijah for the remainder of his prophetic mission before he dies. In the gospel, we see Jesus likewise retreat to a mountain by himself to pray, following the noisiness of healing and feeding a crowd of more than five thousand people. That previous episode begins with the note that Jesus had just heard of the death of John the Baptist and had withdrawn to a deserted place by himself (Matt 14:13). But the crowds find him, and he breaks out of his solitude to respond compassionately to their needs.

Today's gospel begins with Jesus's effort to retreat again. Even at night, the peoples' need for him does not abate. His disciples have been in distress in their boat on the lake ever since he left them that evening. He does not go to them immediately, however, but waits until the fourth watch of the night, the last watch, about three hours before dawn. We can surmise that although he is aware of the strong wind that is tossing them about, he remains in solitude, in the necessary inner stillness, where he experiences oneness with God and becomes strengthened to continue to minister compassionately. Coming to the disciples at last, he shares with them his gift of fearlessness. Although his beloved mentor has been executed, and although he can see a similar fate awaiting him as well, from the still center of his heart set on God, he can do what seems impossible. Disciples, too, when they grasp his outstretched hand to come to him, find in him the still center, where his contagious courage dispels all fear.