



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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THE LORD CAN SAVE US

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 9, 2026

Today's Gospel recounts a particular prodigious deed of Jesus: He walks at night on the waters of the lake of Galilee toward his disciples who are crossing the lake in a boat (cf. Mt 14:22-33). The question is: Why did Jesus do this? Like a show? No! But why? Maybe because of an urgent, unforeseeable need to help his disciples who were blocked by a headwind? No, because he himself had planned everything, he had made them depart that evening. The text even says he "made them" (cf. v. 22). Maybe he did it to give them a demonstration of his greatness and power? But this is not like him, who is such a humble person. So, why did he do it? Why did he want to walk on the waters?

Behind the walking on water there is a message that is not evident, a message we need to grasp. In fact, at that time, great expanses of water were held to be the haunts of evil powers that man was not able to master. Particularly when storms made them turbulent, these abysses were symbols of chaos and recalled the darkness of the underworld. Now, the disciples found themselves in the middle of the lake when it was dark. They are afraid of sinking, of being sucked in by evil. And here comes Jesus who walks on the water, that is, over the powers of evil. He walks over the forces of evil and says to his disciples: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear" (v. 27). This is the message Jesus gives us. This is the meaning of the sign: the powers of evil that frighten us, that we cannot master, immediately take on smaller proportions with Jesus. By walking on the waters, He wants to say, "Do not be afraid. I put your enemies under my feet" — a beautiful message — I put your enemies under my feet — not people! — not that type of enemy, but death, sin, the devil. These are the enemies of the people, our enemies. And Jesus tramples on these enemies for us.

Today, Christ repeats to each of us, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear!" Take heart because I am here, because you are no longer alone on the turbulent waters of life. And so, what should we do when we find ourselves on the open sea at the mercy of headwinds? What should we do when we face the fear of the open sea, when we see only darkness and we feel we are going under? We need to do two things that the disciples do in the Gospel. What do the disciples do? They call on and welcome Jesus. At the worst moments, in the darkest of storms, call on Jesus and welcome Jesus. The disciples call on Jesus: Peter walks a little on the waters towards Jesus, but then gets frightened. He sinks and then cries out: "Lord, save me!" (v. 30). Invoke Jesus, call on Jesus. This prayer is beautiful. It expresses the certainty that the Lord can save us, that he conquers our evil and our fears. I invite you to repeat it now all together. Three times together: Lord, save me! Lord, save me! Lord, save me!

And then the disciples welcome. First they call on, then they welcome Jesus into the boat. The text says that as soon as he got into the boat, "the wind ceased" (v. 32). The Lord knows that the boat of our life, as well as the boat of the Church, is threatened by headwinds, and that the sea on which we sail is often turbulent. He does not spare us the hard work of sailing; rather — the Gospel emphasizes — he pushes his disciples to depart. He invites us to face difficulties so they too might become salvific places, so Jesus can conquer them, so they become opportunities to meet him. In fact, in our moments of darkness, he comes to meet us, asking to be welcomed like that night on the lake. So, let us ask ourselves: How do I react when I am afraid, in difficulties? Do I go ahead alone, with my own strength, or do I call on the Lord with trust? And what is my faith like? Do I believe that Christ is stronger than the adversarial waves and winds? But above all: Am I sailing with him? Do I welcome him? Do I make room for him in the boat of my life — never alone, always with Jesus? Do I hand the helm over to Jesus? In the dark crossings, may Mary, the mother of Jesus, Star of the Sea, help us to seek the light of Jesus.

POPE FRANCIS — August 13, 2023

Mass & Sacrament of Reconciliation:

from Tuesday, August 11th until Thursday, August 20th inclusive,
there will be no Daily Mass (11am) and Reconciliation (11.30am).

The weekend Masses will be celebrated as usual,

Saturday at 5PM and Sunday at 9AM.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, August 15th and August 22nd 3:30-4:30 PM.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 8 **5:00 PM**
+Omar Quintero

Sunday, August 9 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, August 11 **NO MASS**
Saint Clare

Wednesday, August 12 **NO MASS**

Thursday, August 13 **NO MASS**

Friday, August 14 **NO MASS**
Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 15 **5:00 PM**
+Marian Pokorski

Sunday, August 16 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XIX Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 8 de agosto **7:00 PM**
+Pedro Antonio Molina +Marvin Castillo Courtade

Domingo 9 de agosto **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 11 de agosto **NO HAY MISA**
Santa Clara

Miércoles 12 de agosto **NO HAY MISA**

Jueves 13 de agosto **NO HAY MISA**

Viernes 14 de agosto **NO HAY MISA**
San Maximiliano María Kolbe

XX Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 15 de agosto **7:00 PM**
+Gabriel Peña

Domingo 16 de agosto **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial



After a careful process of review and discernment, I would like to inform our parish community about an important adjustment to one of the goals of the One Heart One Soul Campaign. Although we initially proposed installing a lift/elevator in our parish building, after exploring every possible option, we have confirmed that this is not feasible

due to the structural limitations of the building. The only viable alternative would be to construct a significant extension, whose cost far exceeds the funds raised and would most likely be rejected because of the recent heritage designation of our parish by the City of Kitchener. In addition, based on the experience of other parishes, the long-term maintenance and repair costs of elevators are often quite high, making this option even less sustainable for our community.

Since a primary need behind the elevator was to provide accessible washrooms, the campaign chairs and I have agreed that the best use of these funds is to build a washroom at the church level. This solution respects our historic building, addresses our accessibility needs, and remains faithful to the original intention of the campaign. The Diocese agrees that this change would be the best way to go. Please feel free to reach out to me or to the Campaign Office campaign@hamiltondiocese.com with any questions or concerns you may have.

With prayers, Fr Francisco

Upcoming Meeting Reminder: The Catholic Women's League will be having our next general meeting in the church hall on August 18th at 7pm. Come out to enjoy some fellowship and refreshments and newcomers are always welcome.