



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

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TODAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024

THE 12TH SUNDAY IN THE ORDINARY

9:00 AM –Holy Mass of the Eucharist,
celebrated in the Traditional Rite.

OPENING HYMN

“TO THEE WE COME, O LORD, OUR GOD”

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,
Before Thine altar, Father
Thou knowest best our yearning hearts;
This supplication answer.
Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,
Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.
Under Thy cross we stand prepared,
To serve Thee with devotion,
Be it with sweat of blood or tears,
Or humble resignation.
For we Thy people are, O Lord,
Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.



ENTRANCE HYMN

(Psalm 46:2-4a; Daniel 6:27)

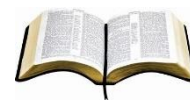
- C. God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress. Thus, we do not fear, though earth be shaken and mountains quake to the depths of the sea, though its waters rage and foam and mountains totter at its surging.
- R. For He is the living God, enduring forever; His kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall be without end.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest,
And peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God, and Father
We worship You; we give You thanks
We praise you for Your glory
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God
You take away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
Receive our prayer
For you alone are the Holy One
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ
With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

- C. The Lord be with you.
- R. And also with you.
- C. Let us pray: Almighty Father, You are the consolation and salvation of those who trust You. The tempests of the world rage about us and the sea of life often carries us far from You. Speak Your Word of command that the earthly storms may subside, and we may be guided in peace to the harbor of Your Kingdom. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
- R. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB
(Job 38:1, 8-11)

The Lord addressed Job out of the storm and said: Who shuts within doors the sea, when it burst forth from the womb; when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling bands? When I set limits for it and fastened the bar of its door and said: Thus far shall you come but no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stilled!

C. This is the Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL
(Psalm 107:28-29)

V. They cried to the Lord in their distress; from their straits He rescued them.
R. He hushed the storm to a gentle breeze, and the billows of the sea was stilled.



**A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER
OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS**
(2 Corinthians 5:14-17)

Brothers and sisters: The love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him so no longer. So, whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

C. This is the Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE
(Isaiah 43:2a,3a)

C. Alleluia, alleluia.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.
V. When you pass through the water, I will be with you; For I am the Lord, Your God, the Holy One of Israel, Your Savior.
R. Alleluia, alleluia



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK
(Mark 4:35-41)

C The Lord be with you.
R. And also with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to His disciples: "Let us cross to the other side." Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as He was. And other boats were with Him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then He asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

C. This is the Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is seen and unseen.
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father.
God from God, Light from Light, True God
from true God, begotten not made
Of one being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made
For us and for our salvation.
He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary
AND BECAME MAN.
For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory

To judge the living and the dead
 And His kingdom will have no end.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 The Lord and Giver of Life
 Who proceeds from the Father,
 With the Father and the Son
 He is worshipped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 I believe in One, Holy, Catholic
 and Apostolic Church
 I acknowledge one baptism
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 I look for the resurrection of the dead
 And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



OFFERTORY VERSE
 (Psalm 69:2)

V. Save me, O God, for the waters threaten my life.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

C. Heavenly Father, through this holy sacrifice, may we become a new creation to work together with Your Son for the reconciliation of the world. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE
 (Psalm 101:5)

V. But the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord's glory as water covers the sea.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- C. The Lord be with you.
- R. And also with you.
- C. Let us pray. Lord, Jesus Christ, through this Holy Eucharist reassure us in all times of fear that in our passage through life You are ever present to protect and save us. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
- R. Amen.



REFLECTIONS ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

“Who then is this whom even wind and the sea obey?”
 - Mark 4:41

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

A **“miracle”** is defined in the dictionary as a “surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.”

It has been said that during the ministry of Jesus there were 34 miracles recorded in the Gospels that were attributed to our Lord and witnessed by His Apostles and the disciples. Among these miracles were the healing of the sick, the casting out of demons, and the control over the very laws of nature.

The following is a list of the miracles of Jesus:

1. Water Turned into Wine
(John 2:1)
2. Many healings by Jesus
(Matt. 4:23; Mark 1:32)
3. Healing of a Leper
(Matt. 8:1; Mark 1:40; Luke 5:12)
4. Healing of a Roman Centurion's Servant
(Mark 8:5; Luke 7:1)
5. Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law
(Matt. 8:14; Mark 1:29; Luke 4:38)
6. Calming of the Storm at Sea
(Matt. 8:23; Mark 4:35; Luke 8:22)
7. Healing of the Possessed Men of Gadara
(Matt. 8:28; Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26)
8. Healing of a Lame Man
(Matt. 9:1; Mark 2:1; Luke 5:18)

9. Healing of a Woman with a Hemorrhage
(Matt. 9:20; Mark 5:25; Luke 8:43)
10. Raising of Jarius's Daughter.
(Matt. 9:23; Mark 5:22; Luke 8:41)
11. Healing of Two Blind Men.
(Matt. 9:27)
12. Healing of a Demon-possessed Man
(Matt.9:32)
13. Healing of a Man with a Withered Man.
(Matt. 12:10; Mark 3:1; Luke 6:6)
14. Feeding of 5000 People
(Matt. 14:15; Mark 6:35; Luke 9:12;
John 6:1)
15. Jesus walking on the Sea.
(Matt. 14:22; Mark 6:47; John 6:16)
16. Healing of the Syrophenician's Daughter
(Matt. 15:21; Mark 7:24)
17. Feeding 4,000 people.
(Matt. 15:32; Mark 8:1)
18. Healing of an Epileptic Boy
(Matt. 17:14; Mark 9:14; Luke 9:37)
19. Healing of Two Blind Men at Jericho
(Matt. 17:14; Mark 9:14; Luke 9:37)
20. Cursing of the Fig Tree.
(Matt. 21:18; Mark 11:12)
21. Healing of a Man with an Unclean Spirit.
(Mark 1:23; Luke 4:33)
22. Dealing of a Deaf, Speechless Man
(Mark 7:31)
23. Healing of a Blind Man at Bethesda
(Mark 8:22)
24. Healing of Blind Bartimaeus
(Mark 10:46; Luke 18:35)
25. A Miraculous Catch of Fish
Luke 5:4; John 21:1)
26. Raising of a Widow's Son.
(Luke 7:11)
27. Healing of a Stooped Woman.
(Luke 13:11)
28. Healing of a Man with the Dropsy
(Luke 14:1)
29. Healing of the Ten Lepers
(Luke 17:11)
30. Healing of Malchus' Ear
(Luke 22:50)
31. Healing of a Royal Official's Son.
(John 4:46)

32. Healing of a Lame Man at Bethesda
(John 5:1)
33. Healing of a Blind Man.
(John 9:1)
34. Raising of Lazarus
(John 11:38)

Source: The Master Study Bible published by Holman Bible Publishers of Nashville, TN

I am reminded of the beginning and the ending of the Gospel of the Gospel of John:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made and without Him nothing was made that was made.”
- John 1:1-3

"Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them was written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."
- John 21:25

If we look at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, we read in Luke4:16-21:

“He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’

Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

I am also reminded of when John the Baptist, was thrown into prison, as we read in the Gospel of Luke 11, he sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus: “Are you the one or do we wait for another?” To this Jesus replies: “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.”



OUR PARISH CALENDAR

DAILY HOLY MASS

8:45 am Liturgy of the Hours
9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

(June 24th – June 29th)

- Mon. 6/24** Solemnity – John the Baptist
Nativity of John the Baptist
Rumold, Bishop & Martyr
Martyrs under Nero, Martyrs
- Tue. 6/25** Mass of Health & Healing
Prosper, Bishop & Writer
Febronia of Nisbis, Virgin & Martyr
Gallicanus of Ostia, Confessor
- Wed. 6/26** Mass to the Martyrs of God
John & Paul, Martyrs
Vigilius of Trent, Bishop & Martyr
Pelagius of Cordovia, Martyr
- Thurs. 6/27** Mass to the Holy Angels of God
Ladislaus of Hungary, King & Confessor
Zoilus & Companions, Martyrs
Samson of Constanitouple, Priest
- Fri. 6/28** Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus
Iranaeus of Lyons, Bishop
Paul of Rome, Bishop
Plutarch & Companions, Martyr
- Sat. 6/29** Feast – Peter & Paul Apostles
Peter & Paul, Apostles
Emma of Gork, Widow
Cassius, Bishop



SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024 **The Angel Garden Club of HNJ**

8:30 am – 10:00 am The Angel Garden Club of HNJ to meet and continue work projects around the Church proper (weather permitting). Refreshments will be provided.



“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”

- Philippians 2:4

OUR PARISH OUTREACH

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for Me.”

- Matthew 25:40

Our Food Ministry: “Feed the Hungry”

The next date for giving out groceries will be on Saturday, **July 20th from 10:00 am till noon, while supplies last.**

I want to thank Mary Tudryn who volunteered her time this month handing out groceries.

HELPING TO CLOTHE THOSE IN NEED

“I was naked, and you clothed me.” – Mt 25:36

As we continue to develop our Parish Outreach programs, it was decided that we would set up a collection bin, in the vestibule of our church, to help those in need, by collecting **new packages of underwear and socks for men, women and children.** If you are able, please consider helping us, to help others, by donating through donations or monetary contributions. May God bless all our efforts and endeavors.

NEXT SUNDAY – JUNE 30, 2024
13th SUNDAY IN THE ORDINARY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Traditional Rite.



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

In our prayers, may we remember all our brothers and sisters, who are sick or ill and pray for God's blessings of health and healing to rest upon them.

Every Tuesday, depending upon the Liturgical Calendar, or the Ordo of the PNCC, a Holy Mass of Health and Healing is celebrated.

In our prayers, we remember with love those who are currently in health care facilities;

Pauline Puchalski
George Sadowski
Joe Kisloski

Let us pray. O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illnessness and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

PARISH OBLIGATIONS

Presently, our current dues are:

Single Unit

Under 65 years of age: \$310.00

Over 65 years of age: \$290.00

Family Unit

Under 65 years of age: \$555.00

Over 65 years of age: \$530.00

It should be noted that the requirements of being a member in "good standing" in the PNCC is found in the Constitution of the PNCC. This not only includes the financial support of the Parish, but also includes the fulfilling of the spiritual obligations of attending church and receiving the Sacraments.



ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION CALL TO PRAYER

During the month of June 2024, the **Eastern Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Commission** of the PNCC, has called upon its members and others to offer the following two following prayers every **Wednesday** at noon:

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, Master of the harvest, We humbly ask You to send more laborers into Your fields, for the work is indeed great. Grant more faithful priests and deacons to Your Polish National

Catholic Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(From PNCC Book of Devotions and Prayers).

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

FRONTIER CABLE ACCESS TV (FCAT)

Times to view our Holy Mass

Wednesdays

Channel 12: 10 am, 2 pm, 7 pm

Channel 15: 7 am, 5 pm

Sundays

Channel 12: 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm 7pm

Channel 15: 9am, 3pm, 7pm

Please note: Rebroadcasts and other information pertaining to Holy Name of Jesus PNCC can be found on YouTube. We welcome all to worship with us.



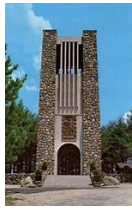
CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES

JULY 7, 2024

The Eastern Diocese of the PNCC will hold its Annual gathering at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH on Sunday, July 7, 2024 at 3:30 pm. This year Holy Mass will be celebrated with the intention for all departed Bishops, priests and deacons of the PNCC. Following Holy Mass there will be a reception at the Woodbound Inn. There is no charge for this gathering. Parishes are asked to announce this function. A deadline of June 30th has been posted. Those wishing to participate are asked to contact Father Koerber.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

I want to thank Dick Floyd and Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd for the cleaning of the church proper and Parish Hall this past week. Also, a special thank you to Eric, Josh. and Jimmy. for their continued work on our Parish grounds.



CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES



The History

In the fall of 1937, Sibyl and Douglas Sloane III purchased the property in Rindge, NH that was later to become the Cathedral of the Pines.

Settling on what was then 128 acres, they envisioned that their four children—Douglas, Sanderson (“Sandy”), Margaret, and John (“Jack”)—would one day build their own houses on the property.

In 1938 a hurricane ripped through the region. The five-acre piece of land that Sandy had selected for his future home was particularly hard hit, and it was months before the Sloane’s went to assess the damage. When they finally did, they were awestruck at the sight. The storm had knocked down many of the pine trees, revealing a stunning panoramic view of Grand Monadnock Mountain, with other mountain ranges in the distance.



After the US entered World War II, Jack and Sandy both joined armed forces and served in the Army Air Corps. Jack survived his many missions on a B-26 bomber. Sandy had almost flown enough missions on a B-17 bomber to entitle him to home leave. He lost his life when his plane was shot down over Germany in 1944.

In August 1945 the Sloane’s planned a memorial service for Sandy at the clearing overlooking Grand Monadnock Mountain, the special place Sandy had planned to build his home. Many people in the community came to the service. Thus began the story of the Cathedral of the Pines.



THE ALTAR OF THE NATION

Built in 1946 and recognized by Congress in 1957, the Altar of the Nation at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH, is dedicated as a National Memorial to American men and women who lost their lives in war.

The stones that make up the main body of this Altar comes from all fifty states and from every United States President since Harry Truman. There is a stone from Plymouth, England where the Pilgrims left the Old World and one from Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts where they landed in the new. There are stones from the battlefields of Lexington, Concord, and Yorktown where the American Revolution began and ended. Three stones from the Parthenon in Athens and a stone from the ancient Colosseum in Rome are also embedded in the altar.

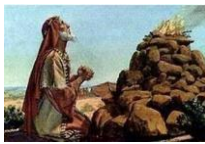
Stones have come from the homes, libraries, or grave sites of U.S. presidents including George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, and Ronald Reagan. A volcanic rock from Little America in the Antarctic honors the famous explorer Admiral Richard E. Byrd.

Numerous stones come from the battlefields of WWI and WWII in Europe, such as the one contributed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower that he took from Omaha Beach in Normandy, site of the D-Day invasion. There are tributes from the Pacific Theater of WWII with stones from Japan, the Coral Sea, and from the shores of Iwo Jima. There are stones from Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq. One of the more recent stones, donated by President George W. Bush, came from the Pentagon following the attack on America, September 11, 2001.

Three large slabs of “verde antique,” also known as “Maryland Green,” marble form the top of the Altar. The slabs weigh more than half a ton each. They come from a quarry in Maryland that straddles the Mason-Dixon line, the boundary separating the north and south during the Civil War. The slabs on

the right and the left symbolize the North and the South and the one in the center symbolizes the joining of the two into one Union. Soil from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem is mixed into the mortar that binds the marble to the Altar.

Perhaps the most unusual stone is the one from Koblenz, Germany, the town where Sandy Sloane's plane was shot down in 1944. In 1969 the mayor of Koblenz made a special trip to the Cathedral and presented a stone from the 600-year-old bridge over the Moselle River in Koblenz. The donation of the stone and the accompanying service which followed on October 14, 1969 symbolized the Cathedral's ideals of friends.



THE IMPORTANCE AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN ALTAR

An altar is defined as a “table or platform for the presentation of religious offerings, for sacrifices, or for other ritualistic purposes.”

Altars are found in shrines, temples, churches and other places of worship. They are used particularly in Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, modern paganism as well as certain Islamic communities.

Many historical-medieval faiths also made use of altars, including the Norse, Greek and Roman religions.

Not only in early religions, but especially in the Judeo-Christian tradition one is reminded of the importance of altars. It can be said that the altars were used as:

- **Places of sacrifice.** Animals, grain, fruit, wine, and incense were offered on altars as sacrifices to God.
- **Communication:** Altars served as a “center point” of interaction between the divine and human worlds and establishing “covenants.”
- **Worship and Encounter:** Altars were erected where people encountered the blessings of God, and in which they gave their thanks, and maintained a strong relationship with their Supreme Being.

Examples of Altars in the Old Testament

- **Noah:** After the flood, Noah built an altar to thank God for His blessings. God in turn, responded favorably to Noah's offering.
- **Abraham:** We read in the Old Testament, that Abraham built altars at various locations as he moved with his family. The story of God testing Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac.
- **Moses:** God instructed Moses to create an altar of incense in the tabernacle. Priests offered incense twice a day and once a year for atonement.



THE TABLE OF THE LORD

I don't think it would be difficult, as followers of Jesus, to consider the table which Jesus shared the “Last Supper” with His Apostles and instituted the Holy Eucharist as anything else but an altar. In the Christian / Catholic faith, whenever Holy Mass is celebrated, the central theme of the liturgy is the consecration of the bread and wine, on a “consecrated altar” which becomes the Body and Blood of Christ.

The very table that is set each year by Jews around the world for the Passover meal, is a reminder of the long history of the Jews and the covenant that they share with God; first from their deliverance by Moses from Egypt, to their first enslavement in Babylon in 587 BC, and leading up to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD.

But in the New Testament period, this table was to take on new meaning, for Jesus was to give the eternal gifts of His Body and Blood as a new “covenant,” and as a reminder that He would later offer Himself as a sacrifice on the cross for the sins of mankind. Jesus was to become the ultimate sacrificial Lamb of God.

It should be noted that the term “altar” appears approximately 378 times in the Bible, connecting the covenants of God of both the Old & New Testament.

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.”

- 1 Corinthians 11:26



The Storms of Life

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus:

Due to the topology of the land surrounding the Sea of Galilee, many violent storms take place. The sea of Galilee lies 680 feet below sea level. It is surrounded by hills, especially on the East side that rises over 2000 feet producing cool and dry air. In the center of this basin is the Sea of Galilee, which is a semi-tropical region producing warm, moist air. When these two regions collide, the differences between these two land masses create sudden changes in temperature and pressure, causing strong winds dropping to the sea, which funnel through the hills. Think about the topology and the weather conditions of the State of Oklahoma, where the winds of the Rocky Mountains collide with their lowlands and of the Mid-west. This area is known also as “Tornado Alley,” due to the extreme weather.

In today’s story, Jesus having preached to the crowds, departs at night in a boat with His disciples. There were other boats that accompanied Him. Now Mark tells us that Jesus was asleep in the stern of the boat when a violent squall appeared, and as Saint Matthew comments, it came upon them suddenly and without warning. This storm was so violent that the boat was filling with water. It is now that the disciples woke Jesus and said to him: “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” They didn’t say: “Jesus, there is a bad storm,” but rather: “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” They were afraid of losing their very lives, although many of them were fishermen and knew about the violence of the Sea of Galilee where many of them worked.

We all have heard the phrase: “The storms of life.” Every single one of us has experienced, are experiencing or will experience storms in various degrees throughout our lives. Some storms will not be as bad as others. But when we are faced with a storm in our life, so violent, that we are afraid of perishing, even though we have been baptized into the faith, naturally cry out to the Lord: “Jesus, do you not

care?” When we see, in the lives of others, our family and friends, whom we love, experiencing their own violent storms, do we not also cry out to the Lord: “Jesus, do you not care?” And finally, when we see in our world, the violent storms of war and chaos, do we not cry out: “Lord, do you not care?”

My brothers and sisters: As we read today, Jesus was and is at the stern of our own “boats of life.” I have read that the stern is considered the most important part of the ship. It is where the captain of a boat steers and controls the direction of the vessel. The captain is the most knowledgeable and thus naturally takes control and pilots the boat in all kinds of conditions, and in all kinds of weather.

When we “cry out” to the Lord to help us, to guide us, to direct us and to save us, Jesus says to each one of us: “Quiet! Be still,” There are times, when we all have felt or feel that the Lord is asleep and is unaware of the storms that take place in our lives. But it is in our faith, and in our belief, that He is ever present, and we are not alone. There may be some who would call this “wishful thinking” but if you ever felt the Lord come into your life, during a personal storm, you know that He is in control and will never abandon us. Did He not say: And Lo, I am with you?”

He also asks us: “Why are you terrified?” “Do you not yet have faith?” In the first letter of Saint John 5:4, we read: “For everyone who is born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.” In Holy Scripture, we see the power of God and faith, from the leper to the blind man, from to the afflicted woman to the paralytic. To each, Jesus tells us or show us, that if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, all things are possible. He also tells us that our faith makes us whole. In the Book of Psalms 3:5, we read: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding.”

And so, may we, in prayer, call upon the Lord daily, and trust in Him. May we come to know Him and all upon Him to help calm all those storms that encompass us and those that we fear. May the words found in the Book of Isaiah 26:3, be an inspiration as you call upon the captain of your very soul: “You will keep in perfect peace Him, whose mind is steadfast, for He trusts in you.” Amen.