

AUGUST 13, 2023
**NINETEENTH SUNDAY
 IN ORDINARY TIME**

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

When we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, we can weather any storm.

Elijah had a king and queen pursuing him, wishing him dead. Tired of being on the run, Elijah prayed for death, but God had a different plan for him. The prophet was told to wait and to listen for God's voice on the mountaintop. There, Elijah experienced the terrors of high winds, a raging fire and an earthquake. God was not speaking through those tumultuous occurrences.

Rather, the immense and intense God of all the universe chose to speak words of comfort to Elijah in the tiniest whisper, one that can only be heard if the listener has blocked out every other distraction. So often, God's people pray for signs and wonders, and we forget to listen for the tiny whisper or to see the miracles happening all around us.

Jesus was working many wondrous signs in the Gospel. Jesus walked on the water just hours after he fed thousands with five loaves of bread and two pieces of fish, with an abundance left over. When sighted by the Apostles from the boat, Jesus spoke familiar words of comfort, Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.

Peter has his doubts and says, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. If? Why would Peter doubt after all he has seen and heard? Jesus gives Peter the opportunity to come to him on the water. At first, all was well, as long as Peter kept his eyes fixed on Jesus. It wasn't until he was distracted by the dark of night, wondering how deep the water was and how high the waves were that Peter began to sink like a stone, needing Jesus to save him.

When we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, we can weather any storm. The cross is our anchor in the stormy seas of life. Jesus continues to speak those same words of comfort to us when we are experiencing the storms of life: Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid. It is Jesus who will carry us across the stormy seas to the safe harbors of heaven.

That was the faith that helped the Apostle Paul to spread the Gospel near and far, to the Jews and to the Gentiles. In today's reading from the Letter to the Romans, Paul laments the refusal of fellow members of his Jewish ancestry to embrace Jesus as the Messiah. He experienced sorrow and anguish that some of their number could not be convinced to come to faith in Christ. Paul states that the Jewish people were given every sign from God – the law, worship, prophetic promises and patriarchs, and still some refused to believe.

The God of Jesus Christ is calling upon all of us to listen to his tiny whisper, and to see the signs of his love at work all around us. He encourages us not to be distracted by the storms of this world, but to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and through him, our salvation.



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| OFFICE HOURS | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI) |
| WEEKDAY MASSES | 9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI) |
| SATURDAY VIGIL MASS | 5:00 PM |
| SUNDAY MASSES | 8:00 AM 10:00 AM |
| HOLY DAY MASSES | 9:00 AM 7:00 PM |
| CONFESSIONS | 4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT |

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

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| Saturday | August 12 |
| 8:30 AM | Men's Coffee & Gospel |
| 9:30—11 AM | Food Closet Open |
| 5:00 PM | Mass: Living & Deceased Members of the Boivin & Robillard Families |
| Sunday | August 13 |
| 8:00 AM | Mass: Lorraine Collins (RIP) |
| 9:15 AM | Rosary |
| 10:00 AM | Mass: Lena & Antonio Carchia, Antonio Lena (RIP) |
| Monday | August 14 |
| 8:35 AM | Rosary |
| 9:00 AM | Mass: Frances Vito (RIP) |
| 6:30 PM | Knights of Columbus Meeting |
| Tuesday | August 15 Assumption of Mary |
| 9:00 AM | Mass: Petronella Nieuwendyk (RIP) |
| 7:00 PM | Mass: Gill Poirier & Dante Gabriele (RIP) |
| Wednesday | August 16 |
| 8:35 AM | Rosary |
| 9:00 AM | Mass: Grandchildren of Mary O'Reilly |
| Friday | August 18 |
| 8:35 AM | Rosary |
| 9:00 AM | Mass: Souls in Purgatory |

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

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| 5:00 PM | Open for your Intentions |
| 8:00 AM | Mass: Healing for Alfred |
| 10:00 AM | Mass: Betty Salisbury (RIP) |

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
 A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

This **Tuesday, August 15**, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who already shares the promised gift of resurrection in Christ. A Holy Day of Obligation Masses will be at **9AM and 7PM**

Mission Appeal Talk MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONERS

Maryknoll Lay Missioners is one of the largest U.S. Catholic organizations sending laypeople into global mission who have accompanied people experiencing poverty and marginalization around the world.

Kip Hardgrave will speak at all masses next weekend, **August 19-20** to share his mission experience as part of the Diocese of Providence's Mission Coop Plan.

The second collection will be taken to support Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Your generous donations will allow MLM to prepare and sustain laypeople in global mission and help build a more just, compassionate and sustainable world.

2023 Faith Formation Classes

We will be mailing out registration forms for the new session 2023-24 Faith Formation for all grades.

Faith Formation is a continuous and life-long experience. Our Formation classes begin with the first grade and continue through the Confirmation program in high school. If you have a child entering first grade, or if you are new to St. Paul's Parish, please call or email the office at 401-647-3664 faith@stpaulsfoster.org.

Food Closet Ministry

This month we are in need of **Cookies, Crackers, Jelly & Maple Syrup**.

Second Collection August 12/13

Our second collection this week will help **offset the cost of utilities**. Thank you for your continued support.

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – Aug 5/6
\$3,629.00

Peter's Pence Collection – Aug 5/6
\$ 493.00

Thank you for your support!

Prayer Request from Fr. Laporte

So often, I have asked you to pray for the priest—pray for me as I endure 44 radiation treatments five days a week for nine weeks. I have had prostate cancer for four years, but now it is getting more serious. The treatment begins August 17 and ends October 19. With radiation, there is an 85% chance that I will be cured—so pray for the priest through these days.

Fr. Paul Laporte

Knights of Columbus Meeting

This Monday, August 14 at 6:30 PM.

The Eucharistic Adoration

As the Fruit of The Eucharistic Revival, now onwards on the last Sunday of each month, we will have The Eucharistic Adoration with the Recitation of the Holy Rosary and Benediction after the 10AM Mass, **Sunday August 27**.

Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundance of grace. (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The Office of Marriage Preparation & Enrichment is hosting the annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration to honor couples of the Diocese of Providence who will be observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and OVER wedding anniversaries in 2023. The celebration will be held on Sunday, October 22, 2023, 1:00PM at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Providence. It will include Mass, renewal of marriage vows, a personalized certificate for each couple and a reception for the couples and their families. Bishop Richard G. Henning will be the main celebrant and homilist. Please let the parish know if you will attend so we can make reservations for you.

2023 Christmas Bazaar Dec 2/3

Main Raffle Prizes

- \$1000 Gift Card Tree
- Ninja Foodi Digital Air Fry Oven
- MICLON 27.5" Electric Bike
- A-Frame 17ft Telescoping Ladder

We are asking 40 people to donate \$25 toward the \$1000 gift card tree. If you are able to donate please take one of the envelopes in the entrance of the church and return your \$25 cash or check made out to St. Paul's either to the office or in the collection basket. **Thank you** for your support!

The Wonders of The Mass

Priests—Angels on Earth

St. Alphonsus: The entire Church cannot give God as much honor, or obtain so many graces as a single priest by celebrating a single Mass. Thus, by the celebration of a single Mass, in which he offers Jesus Christ in sacrifice, a priest gives greater honor to the Lord than if all men, by dying for God, offered Him the sacrifice of their lives. With regard to the power of priests over the real body of Jesus Christ, it is of faith that when they pronounce the words of Consecration, the Incarnate Word has obliged Himself to obey and to come into their hands under the sacramental species.

St. Ignatius Martyr: Priests are the glory and the pillars of the Church, the doors and doorkeepers of Heaven.

St. Alphonsus: Were the Redeemer to descend into a Church and sit in a confessional, and a priest to sit in another confessional, Jesus would say over each penitent: "Ego te absolvo." The priest would likewise say over each of his penitents: "Ego te absolvo," and the penitents of each would be equally absolved. Thus, the sacerdotal dignity is the most noble of all the dignities in this world.

St. Ambrose says that it transcends all the dignities of kings, of emperors, and of angels. The dignity of the priest as far exceeds that of kings as the value of gold surpasses that of lead.

St. Cyprian said that all who had the true spirit of God were, when compelled to take the Order of priesthood, seized with fear and trembling. **St. Epiphanius** writes that he found no one willing to be ordained a priest, so fearful were they of so divine a dignity.

St. Gregory Nazianzen says, in his life of St. Cyprian, that when the Saint heard that his Bishop intended to ordain him a priest, he, through humility, concealed himself.

St. Ambrose, as he himself attests, resisted for a long time before he consented to be ordained.

St. Francis of Assisi never consented to be ordained.

~Father Paul O'Sullivan, O.P.