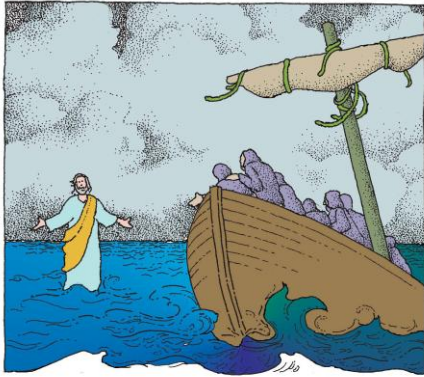


Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



It is I; do not be afraid.

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COMMENT

Elijah was willing to wait for the Lord. He was open to all the customary manifestations. After all, the first manifestation of the Lord on Mount Sinai was accompanied by great rumbling and smoke. Elijah would be right to expect some natural disturbance, some deep shaking and groaning of the earth as it bears witness to God's amazing, frightening appearance. But God is not in the earthquake nor in the mighty wind nor in the fire. No, God is present in the quietest possible breeze. One holds one's breath watching Elijah who waits. One is quietly satisfied and delighted at Elijah's apprehension of the Lord's appearance and his response to it. Elijah, the non-writing prophet, is truly a man of God. He was in the Lord's presence, and he knew it. He is a prophet worth heeding.

Now we turn to another story in which a natural phenomenon figures. In this, it resembles the first reading. In the first reading, God is the central figure and Elijah is the object of God's attention. In the Gospel reading, Jesus is central and Peter is the object of his attention, and ours. Matthew, Mark, and John all tell the story of the storm at sea. They all set before us the arresting image of a small boat battered by the angry winds. But the stories differ in significant ways. Mark and John have Jesus walking over the waters toward the boat. Peter stays put. The endings of these three stories all differ also. The disciples are amazed and speechless. Only Matthew has Peter act and speak. Jesus summons Peter to meet him on the waters. Peter does fine as long as he is focused on Jesus; he begins sinking the moment his focus is on himself. Without skipping a beat, Jesus reaches out to steady Peter. Jesus also locates the cause of Peter's near drowning—"Why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31) Peter does not respond. Jesus boards the small craft. The wind ceases. Then comes the confession of faith by the apostles, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

REFLECTION

Miracles attract attention and they are signs of something. But, they are often ambiguous. It is commonly

noted that seeing is believing. For example, in heaven one is not likely to need faith. For in heaven one will possess vision; one will see. John the Evangelist and apostle calls Jesus' miracles signs of God's active presence among us. What are we to make of spectacular happenings such as the calming of the sea, not to mention walking on water? We know that in the temptation stories, Jesus forsook spectacular actions that would only serve to dazzle people without also fundamentally strengthening them in mind and body.

What are we to make of today's Gospel? What is it teaching us? Among other things, it graphically shows us the Church—a small boat tossed about by the storm at sea. It is a picture that helped the early Church, and it is one that helps us now. When this Gospel was written, well within the first century, the Church was small indeed, and the strong winds were blowing against it, threatening its survival. The vision of Jesus walking on water inspired fear and awe. After Jesus calls them to task, Peter makes a conditional request. "If it is you ..." And Jesus simply challenges Peter by issuing the command: "Come!" Peter is clearly the leader. It is he who fixes his eyes on the one who summoned him. And it is Peter who falters. But more importantly, it is Peter who recovers by grasping the hand of the One who reaches out to him.

This reaching out to grasp the proffered hand is enough for the Church. In the strength of Christ, the Church can stand against the sinful forces of the world in which it finds itself. The Church will falter when its faith falters. It will fail when it doubts the presence of its Lord. It will experience the poise and calmness of soul that comes with firm faith in the presence of Jesus Christ in its midst. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
Tuesday:	Ez 2:8 — 3:4; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
Wednesday:	Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Ps 113:1-6; Mt 18:15-20
Thursday:	Ez 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-59, 61-62; Mt 18:21 — 19:1
Friday:	Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63; Ps Is 12:2- 3, 4bcd, 5-6; Mt 19:3-12
Saturday:	Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
Sunday:	Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

ATTENTION: If you are interested in being a Eucharistic Minister, an Usher, Lector, or Altar Server, please contact Deacon David Mendez @325-725-6333.

ATENCION – Si está interesado en ser Ministro de la Eucaristia, Ujier, Lector, o Monaguillo/Monaguilla, pongase en contacto con Diacono David Menez

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 8th -

5:00PM-IHM –+Belinda Gomez, Tom & Guadalupe Morales; +Alma Martinez; +Roman Solano; +Manuel & Petra Aguilar +Lorenzo Ramirez

Sunday, August 9th –

8:00AM – IHM +Sarah Gomez, Eulalio y Sarita Olvera, Ysidro y Elvira Navarrette; +Christopher Cardoza; +Martina Herrera; Por la conversión de nuestra Comunidad de Holy Spirit

11:00AM – IHM – For the People of Nolan County

Tuesday, August 11th 9:00AM-HF

+Rita Garza, Cindy Reyna, Zeke and Jane Barrera

Wednesday, August 12th 6:00PM - IHM

+Clara Saenz

Thursday, August 13th 9:00AM-HF

+José Cruces

Friday, August 14th 9:00AM – HF

+Ray T. Reyes

Saturday, August 15th -

5:00PM-IHM – For our seminarians, Cameron Moore and Martin Luna; +Alma & Frances Solano; +Josie & Anthony Adames

Sunday, August 16th –

8:00AM – IHM Por Grupo Misionero y en acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Maria Montealvo, Erick Medellin, Anna Islas, Maria y Adolfo Herrera; +Rodrigo DeLoera; +Rita Romero

11:00AM – IHM – For the People of Nolan County

FOOD DRIVE

The parish will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to one of our local food pantries. You can bring your donations to any of the Masses during the month of August. Let us share what we have with those in need.

God Bless you – Thank you!

COLECTA DE ALIMENTOS

La parroquia recolectará alimentos no-perecederos para donar a una de nuestras despensas de alimentos locales. Puede traer sus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas durante el mes de agosto. Compartamos lo que tenemos con los necesitados. *Dios lo Bendiga- Gracias!*

BINGO PRIZE DONATION REQUEST

The Jamaica committee is accepting donations of prizes for our Bingo game during the Jamaica. If you would like to help, we kindly ask that all donated items be new and unused so that everyone has the opportunity to win a wonderful prize.

Some ideas include gift cards, home décor, kitchen items, games, candles, snacks, seasonal items, or other new gifts. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps make this event fun and successful for our parish community. Please drop off all prizes at the parish office. Thank you for your kindness and support. May God bless you for your generosity!

DESPEDIDA/FAREWELL for our **Seminarian, Martin Luna**, this Sunday, August 9th, after the 11 o'clock Mass, IHM hall. Remember to bring a covered dish! Martin leaves to continue his studies at the Seminary. **If you would like to drop him a note or card: Martin Luna, 5200 Glennon Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63119. He appreciates & looks forward to any mail!**

WEDNESDAY – Mass at 6:00pm & Adoration until 8:00pm @IHM. Fr. Josh will be in the church after the Mass. If you need to go to confession, please let him know. He will hear confessions until 8:00pm.

ULTREYA MEETING: “BEIN VENIDA” for Michael Perez, new Cursillista

Monday, August 10th – 7:00pm @IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don't have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit <http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html>

• **SOFTBALL – Sweetwater Coed Church League** is just around the corner. This league is for any male or female from the age of 14 years and older. No experience needed. Come join the fun! If you are interested in playing, contact Deacon David Mendez @325-725-6333.

August 1/2 , 2026 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$4142.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1109.50
CCD.....	854.00
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$6105.50

Thank you for your generosity

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

August 15 – Youth Group August 22 – Parish Council

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM 2026 – 2027

REGISTRATION

(Note: ALL CURRENT and NEW STUDENTS)

WHEN: Starts: Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Ends: Thursday, August 27, 2026
Days: Monday thru Thursday
Time: 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Where: IHM Hall c/o Sister Tita, OND

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: NO REGISTRATION on WEDNESDAYS or SUNDAYS when CLASSES start!

CLASSES BEGIN:

- (a) Wednesday, September 9th: 7th to 11th Grades
Class Time: 7:00-8:30pm
- (b) Sunday, September 13th: Pre-K to 6th Grades
Class Time: 9:30-10:40am

*Religious Education Calendar 2026-2027 will be given upon registration.

*Baptismal Certificate is required of all new registrants and current students without baptismal records.

Please come and register early!



Community Prayer for Rain

The process to become an official Saint of the Church is called canonization and there are 4 stages: Servant of God, Venerable, Blessed, and Saint. There are several people from the Americas that are currently undergoing this process. One of those is Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950 A.D.) who after living through the trauma of the Indian Wars started a family and converted to Catholicism. He went on to become a catechist and spent the rest of his life leading others to Christ in the sacraments.

The following prayer may be prayed for nine days in a row with the intercession of Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk for rain and for the local crops.



Grandfather! Great Spirit! Behold us, who stand before you, singing our song of thanksgiving for your beloved servant, Nicholas Black Elk. Faithfully he walked the Sacred Red Road and generously witnessed the Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ, among Native people. Grandfather, we humbly ask you, to hear the prayers we plead through his intercession (mention your petition). We ask Holy Mother Church to recognize his sanctity, by acknowledging his presence among the company of saints and as one to imitate in his zeal for the Gospel. Open our hearts to also recognize the Risen Christ in other cultures and peoples, to the glory and honor of God the Father through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oración Comunitaria por la lluvia

El proceso para convertirse en Santo oficial de la Iglesia se llama canonización y consta de cuatro etapas: Siervo de Dios, Venerable, Beato, y Santo. Varias personas de las Américas se encuentran actualmente en este proceso. Una de ellas es el Siervo de Dios Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950 d.C.), quien, tras vivir el trauma de las Guerras Indias, formó una familia y se convirtió al catolicismo. Llegó a ser catequista y dedicó el resto de su vida a guiar a otros hacia Cristo a través de los sacramentos.

La siguiente oración puede rezarse durante nueve días consecutivos, pidiendo la intercesión del Siervo de Dios Nicholas Black Elk para la lluvia y las cosechas locales.

¡Abuelo! ¡Gran Espíritu! Míranos aquí, ante ti, entonando nuestro canto de acción de gracias por tu amado siervo, Nicholas Black Elk. Él recorrió fielmente el Sagrado Camino Rojo y dio testimonio generoso de la Buena Nueva de nuestro Señor Jesucristo entre los pueblos nativos. Abuelo, te pedimos humildemente que escuches las súplicas que presentamos por su intercesión (mencione aquí su petición). Pedimos a la Santa Madre Iglesia que reconozca su santidad, admitiéndolo en la compañía de los santos y como ejemplo a imitar por su celo en favor del Evangelio. Abre nuestros corazones para reconocer también a Cristo Resucitado en otras culturas y pueblos, para gloria y honor de Dios Padre, por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén.