

So they set sail, and while they were sailing Jesus fell asleep. A squall blew over the lake, and they were taking in water and were in danger. They came and woke him saying, "Master, master, we are perishing!" Jesus awakened, rebuked the wind and the waves, and they subsided and there was a calm. Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?"

- Luke 8:22-25, NAB

LENT 2019: Our faith is in you, Jesus.

"Father, did you see the editorial in the newspaper? What are the pope and the bishops doing?" "Father, with what is happening in the Church, I just cannot support the CMA." "Father, will the cardinal excommunicate the governor for promoting late-term abortion?"

"We have lost four brother priests, and the Basilians are leaving the diocese. What is going on?" "Another priest is accused and is taken out of public ministry."

Lately, I have felt overwhelmed by wave upon wave of unpleasant news about our Church. Just when I feel I am gaining some footing, another wave comes rushing, toppling me over. I do not like the feeling of uncertainty that comes from the boat being shaken by forceful waves.

For us, modern-day disciples, the incident on the Sea of Galilee serves a good image for the Church in turbulent times. Scandals bring about doubt. Changes elicit insecurity. Disciples, then and now, panic - some abandon ship, and some raise fists at Jesus.

These days I have been taking refuge on this icon (see image above), which I found after days of searching the internet. The original is in an Orthodox Monastery at Mount Athos in Greece. I am glad to settle for a copy, and it is the one sitting on the stand by the Baptismal font. I invite you to take the time to pray and reflect before it.

Icons have fascinating theology. Firstly, they are *written* not drawn or painted. They are *written* because they are expressions of the Word of God, not in word but in image form. To convey the narrative as it develops over a period of time, images of important characters are repeated. In this icon, we see Jesus written both asleep and awake!

Secondly, icons are *windows* to the divine. We do not simply look at icons. We need to see through icons. As windows, they are places of encounter between the reader and God. And we need to be receptive to God or Jesus who also stares back at us. The sleeping Jesus could very well be the God whom we encounter when we are wondering whether He listens to our prayers or not. The awake Jesus could very well be the God whom we encounter when our prayers are answered promptly and precisely.

Lastly, icons *reveal* Jesus. Not only in the face of character that depicts him but also in the very faces of the other characters. Why? Because all men and women were created in the image and likeness of God. And who is the perfect image of God? Jesus! In western art, individual identity matters. In orthodox icons, our identity in Christ matters. Icons invite us to really find and encounter Jesus. In finding and encountering Jesus, we are transformed by him that we become like him.

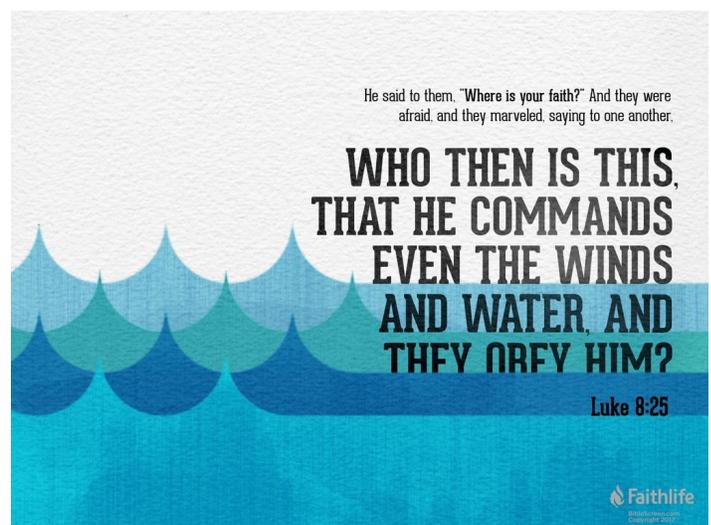
This icon brings me to the Sea of Galilee two thousand years ago, and through this icon, Jesus brings himself to me right here, right now. I can feel the wind and the waves. I can also feel the calm and stillness.

Jesus was, is, and will remain in control - both asleep and awake. Jesus' responsibility is to be in control - he can quiet the winds and still the waves. The disciples' responsibility is to have faith in Jesus, and to remain faithful - again, he can quiet the winds and still the waves.

Forceful winds and tall waves can give birth to great faith. This Lent, stay in the boat, because in the boat is Jesus. This Lent, we ponder on the question that Jesus asks each of us, "*Where is your faith?*" Let the forty days of Lent strengthen our resolve and response,

Our faith is in you, Jesus.

- Father Edison





Trust in Jesus Always

Dear Jesus, thank you for this holy season of Lent. I desire to spend these forty days with you, in your boat, in a stormy sea. Help me to focus on you that I may do what is essential: pray, fast and give alms. Give me the courage to stay and remain with you. And may everything I do give glory to you for you are Lord forever and ever. Amen.

A. Opportunities for Prayer (& Reflection)

In addition to our weekly obligation to worship God at Sunday Mass, choose another prayerful activity. In prayer (& reflection), we direct our lives first to God.

□ Daily personal prayer. *Take a copy of the Lenten and Easter reflection booklet, 'Daybreaks'. Use our parish App, and check out the available prayers.*

□ Daily family prayer. *e.g. before meals, before bedtime, blessing your children before they go to school. Use the prayer cube in the Family Packet provided to you for your use. Host the Traveling Chalice and Paten for a week.*

□ Daily Mass. *As your weekday schedule allows for this.*

□ Stations of the Cross. *Guides for adults, teens and children are provided in church, by the baptismal font. During the weekend, parishioners are invited to pray the stations 30 minutes before Mass. Consider attending our youth's Living Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 22, 7 PM in Church.*

□ Weekday Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. *Monday, April 8, 4:30-5:30 PM and Tuesday, April 9, 5-7 PM. This devotion allows us to spend quiet time, even for just a few minutes, with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Benediction will take place 5 minutes before the end time.*

□ Forty Hour Devotion. *Beginning Thursday, March 28 at 7 PM until Saturday, March 30 at noon. Sign up at the Welcome Table. Please include your phone number so a reminder could be sent to you.*

□ Use resources provided to you for free on Formed.org: *Open your personal account using the Parish Code: 3KRJJK. Explore programs like 'Forgiven,' 'Reborn,' 'Beloved,' 'Prayer,' and much more.*

B. Opportunities for Fasting

Through fasting, we detach ourselves even from our basic needs, *e.i.* food, in order to attach ourselves more and more to God. Do the following as applicable to you.

□ Abstinence: *Abstinence from meat are binding to Catholics from age 14 onwards. Days of abstinence are: Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Fridays of Lent.*

□ Fasting: *Obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. Days of fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*

□ Sacrament of Reconciliation: *We "fast" from our sinful inclinations and actual sins by encountering and allowing the love and mercy of God to heal us. Parents, consider celebrating the sacrament as a family. Thank you for your witness to your children.*



• Check out the Confession icon on our parish App for Confession times, How-to-Guide, Examination of Conscience and the Act of Contrition.

• To download the parish App, text "App" to 88202. Download myParish App, and select "Saint Patrick" for your parish.

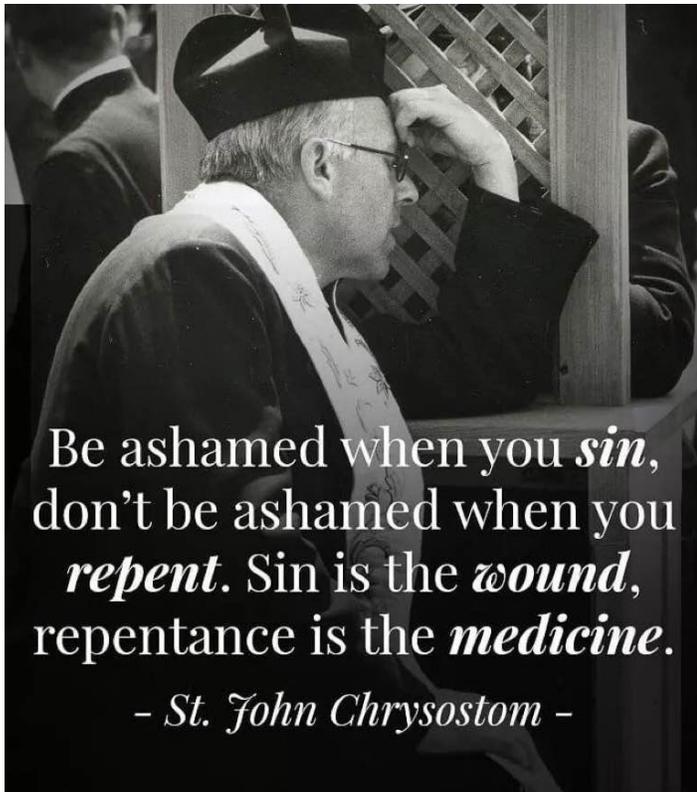
Examination of Conscience

- * Do I put God first in my life?
- * Do I do things based on my love

for God?

- * Do I pray daily?
- * Do I grow my knowledge of my Catholic faith?
- * Does the way I speak reflect my love and respect for God?
- * Do I show respect for things that represent God & Jesus?
- * Do I prioritize sports, school activities, and house work over Sunday Mass?
- * Do I use my talents and skills to serve at Sunday Mass?
- * Do I confess my mortal sins before receiving Communion?
- * Do I visit and keep in touch with my parents?
- * Am I patient and loving towards my parents?
- * Do my words and actions hurt another person?
- * Do I stand for the vulnerable?
- * Have I been silent or negligent about the abortion debate and its expansion? Have I by word or action, of lack thereof, enabled the sin of abortion?
- * Do I abuse alcohol and drugs?
- * Do I treat my body with respect?
- * Have I committed sin against chastity?
- * Have I engaged in sex contrary to God's law, outside marriage, used birth control?

- * *Have I respect things that belong to others?*
- * *Do I use time at work efficiently?*
- * *Do I treat my employees justly and pay them a fair wage?*
- * *Am I a good steward of the earth for future generations?*
- * *Do I gossip about others?*
- * *Have I told lies about others?*
- * *Have I kept patience when I deal with my spouse and children?*
- * *Have I been true to commitments that I have made?*
- * *Have I acted and influenced others to lead them to be unfaithful to their commitments?*
- * *Am I grateful for the blessings that I have received?*
- * *Do I envy others for what they have?*
- * *Do I, as a steward, support the well-being of the Church?*
- * *Have I become materialistic in my way of life?*
- * *Do I celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year?*



Be ashamed when you *sin*,
don't be ashamed when you
repent. Sin is the *wound*,
repentance is the *medicine*.

- *St. John Chrysostom* -

C. Opportunities for Alms-Giving

Through alms-giving, our love and attachment to God leads to love and concern for our neighbor. The fruit of our giving up something becomes a blessing as we share the fruits of our fast with others, in particular, with the poor. Listed below are examples (Obviously, not exhaustive; you may substitute these with other creative ideas). Choose at least one.

- *Gift of Time*

- Spend time with your family. Have meals together, walk, hike, etc.
- Help at the Community Dinners. *We serve*

the dinner at the First Presbyterian Church in Victor on the third Saturday of the month, from 4 to 7 PM. Call Jean Acquilano @ 645-7998.

Parents and Teens? Why not sign-up for Service Sunday. *Contact Kristen Leschhorn @ 924-2800.*

Help in hosting our homeless guests through Family Promise. *We are hosting on Apr 14-21. Contact Joe Murphy @ 764-2712.*

- *Gift of Talent*

Volunteer to as a liturgical minister at Sunday or weekday Mass.

Connect and serve through a parish ministry.

- *Gift of Treasure*

CRS Rice Bowls. *Due April 13-14.*

Forty Cans for Lent: *Our knights are sponsoring a 40 Cans for Lent Drive. We ask each parishioner to donate one can of non-perishable food for each day of Lent for the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard. Drop off donations in collection bins at church entrances.*



Sacred Liturgy during Lent and Easter

Respect and Observe Holy Days of Obligation

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|-------------|---|
| March 6 | Ash Wednesday
7:00 AM: Liturgy of the Word
Noon and 7 PM: Mass |
| March 13 | Diocesan Day of Penance
Noon-8 PM, Church |
| March 28-30 | Lenten Forty Hour Devotion
Thurs, 7 PM until Saturday, Noon
Alcove |
| March 22 | Living Stations of the Cross
Friday, 7 PM, Church |
| April 13-14 | Palm Sunday
Sacred and Classical Music Concert
Sunday, 4 PM, Church |

Performed by string and woodwind instrumentalists of our congregation, this concert commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on this feast day.

April 16 Chrism Mass
 Tuesday, 7:00 PM
 Sacred Heart Cathedral
During the liturgy, ordained priests renew their vows, and oils for the celebration of the sacraments are blessed.

April 18 Holy Thursday
 12:15 PM: Liturgy of the Hours
The Liturgy of the Hours is the other common public prayer of the Church (the other being the Mass). During the Liturgy of the Hours, psalms are read. As part of their vows, priests and religious pray the Liturgy of the Hours several times a day. Today, many lay faithful pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Because of our public prayers, the Church is always at prayer because somewhere at a particular time of the day or evening, these prayers are offered to God.

7:00 PM: Mass of the Lord's Supper

At the end of the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the Parish Center until midnight. As your schedule allows you, do visit local churches (Visita Iglesia) this evening for adoration.

On Holy Thursday, we commemorate Jesus' Last Supper where he instituted and left us the gift of the Eucharist and of his Priesthood.

Since the Holy Triduum forms a unified liturgical celebration, the faithful are encourage to celebrate Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday as one continuous liturgical action.

April 19 Good Friday
 12:15 PM: Liturgy of the Hours
 3:00 PM: Passion of the Lord

On Good Friday, we commemorate the death of Jesus on the Cross at Calvary.

April 20 Black Saturday
 11:45 AM: Blessing of Easter Food
 12:15 PM: Liturgy of the Hours
On Black Saturday, we commemorate Jesus' descent into hell and we await for his resurrection.

8:00 PM: Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is called the greatest and most noble of all solemnities. In one sweeping liturgical celebration, the Old Testament and the New Testament come alive in the liturgical celebration of Jesus' Paschal Mystery, which finds its completion in his resurrection.

April 21 Easter Sunday
 Masses: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM
Our First Eucharist candidates will be receiving first Communion at certain Easter weekend Masses.

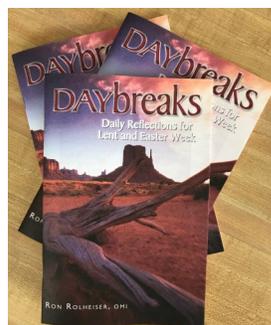
May 30 Ascension Thursday
 Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM, May 29
 Mass During the Day: Noon May 30

June 9 Pentecost Sunday (*Don't forget wear red.*)
 4:30 PM, 8:30 & 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM
During the weekend of Pentecost, we will be holding our annual Parish Ministry Fair. Prayerfully discernment about serving God and one another through our parish ministries.

Lenten Packet for Families with Young Children

Young families, kindly take a Lenten packet with you. In it are -

- a Lenten calendar (to provide you simple ideas to show kindness each day (like finding something in your closet to give to others & playing a game with a friend),
- a wooden prayer cube,
- Stickers and Stories for Lent, 'Peeking Through the Palms' activity booklet for children.
- a Rice Bowl (the fruit of our fasting leads to almsgiving; return the bowl to church on Palm Sunday)



For Adult Parishioners

- These are available to you -
- Daily reflections for Lent and Easter, 'Daybreaks'
 - Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowls.

Easter Season Egg Hunt

May 19, Sunday
 After the 10:30 AM Mass, Parish Grounds (Scheduled at a later date, hopefully we get favorable weather. Children, please bring



your own baskets.)

God bless you always! Saint Patrick, pray for us!

