



# OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.

NINETEENTH  
SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
AUGUST 13, 2023

## Jesus' Invitation to Faith

*"Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."*

Matthew 14:31-34

In this week's Gospel passage, Jesus invites Peter to come to him on the "troubled" waters and to not be afraid. Peter takes the first steps but then, of course, his doubt takes over and he begins to sink. After Jesus rescues him, Peter once again declares his faith, "*Truly, you are the Son of God.*"

Each of us face storms in our lives that test our faith. It doesn't take much for us to see the similarities between Peter and the other disciples' storm and our own current life situations as an opportunity to experience God's presence and power. During life's difficult moments, situations, medical conditions, or other trying circumstances, as we wonder how we will cope, Jesus invites us: "*come to me.*"

### Faith Lived in the Christian Community

In the scriptures and spiritual writings, the Christian community is often depicted as a boat, with Peter at the helm. Our individual faith and trust in the Lord's guidance are sustained by that boat of community. That is the role of a parish – to help each one of us to grow in faith and to live that faith in collaboration.

Over the last few weeks, we have been reporting the results of the OLL Community Survey conducted in May to better understand the needs of our parishioners and the community at large. Your insights and responses will help shape our parish planning as we continue to emerge and adapt after the pandemic. We've come a long way since those dark days, but new "storms" will always test our faith and trust in the Lord.

### Survey Results and Next Steps

The Pastoral Council and the Parish Staff both had their first look at the Community Survey results this past week. The

parish Liturgy Team and Faith Formation Team will also review the survey findings in the coming days. All groups will have further opportunity to discuss the results and incorporate your insights into our plans. Here are a few quick take-aways from those first conversations:

- *Sense of community and hospitality.* We need to work on how first-time visitors and newcomers experience

our community. It starts with greeting at Mass but includes the ways we seek to involve them in our parish life.

- *Shorter homilies.* Survey responses appreciated our preachers and gave them high marks for depth and spirituality but thought homilies could be

shorter.

- *More silence at Mass.* Similarly, you were complimentary of our music program at all Masses but desired more times of silence or reflection.

- *Focus on our children and youth.* The survey found that many parishioners are unaware of our existing programs for children, families, and teens. Expect plenty of communication as we return this year to in-person Life Kids programs each Sunday and opportunities for parents and older teens.

- *Email is your preferred means of communication.* Our twice-weekly parish emails help you stay connected and informed. If you are not currently on our email list, go to the bulletin page on our [website to sign up](#).

We are preparing a final survey report which will be posted on the parish website. As we look to the future, may we keep Jesus' words in our hearts: "*Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.*"

- Tom Tomaszek, Pastoral Associate



## Community SURVEY