



OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

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SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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?" - Mk 4:39-40

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN



My dear friends,

Confronting the mystery of evil

The first reading for this Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Job 38, 8-11, gives us an all-too-brief snippet from this fascinating and challenging book of the Bible. Job deals with the question of why innocent human beings should suffer. It's a question that is as relevant today as millennia ago, when this text was written. It is a question that rings out from hospital beds, from the sites of mass shootings, and from countless other tragedies that are part of the human condition.

When the story begins, Job is presented as a wealthy and happy man, having a loving family, the admiration and respect of his neighbors, and enough for him and his family to live on. But then, suddenly, all of this is reversed, and Job loses everything. Three friends come to commiserate with Job, and the book contains long speeches in which they try to convince Job that he has committed some sin, no matter how small or hidden, that has brought punishment from God. Job, however, maintains that he is innocent and that he has done nothing to be punished for.

Job challenges God, asking if the way God acts is just or merciful. God then appears to Job, affirms that suffering is not a punishment for sin, and puts Job back in his place, contending that he doesn't have the wisdom or understanding to penetrate the mystery of suffering. This is the point at which our reading picks up the story. "The Lord addressed Job out of the storm and said: Who shut 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 further, and here shall your proud waves be stilled!" After God speaks, Job humbly retreats, saying that he will no longer challenge the wisdom of God.

The Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 107, takes up the imagery of the sea and those who sail on it. "They who sailed the sea in ships, trading on the deep waters, these saw the works of the Lord and his wonders in the abyss. His command raised up a storm wind which tossed its waves on high. They mounted up to heaven; they sank to the depths; their hearts melted away in their plight."

The gospel passage, Mark 4:35-41, finds the disciples in a boat with Jesus, who says, "Let us cross to the other side [of the lake]." Jesus had been teaching a vast crowd, and so, once he is in the boat, he falls asleep. But then, "a violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up....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 so 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?'"

Notice that in both Job and Mark God draws near, makes it clear that God is in charge, and draws those who are frightened into the struggle in the storms of life. Jesus clearly demonstrates that he has the power to overcome evil with good. Yet, we know that there will be other storms, other evils that the apostles will have to face. And in the end, they will be put to horrifying deaths. But they will be able to face the suffering because they will approach it with faith, knowing that, even if they do not understand, they still have grounds for trust.

At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, Pope Francis offered words of consolation and a blessing to the entire world, reminding us all that we were "in the same boat." And while suffering and death continue to be a part of life, the Holy Father reminded us that we do not have to enter the struggle alone. Jesus is in the boat with us! And, ultimately, the Risen Lord can bring calm after a storm and eternal life after death. The mystery of suffering is not solved in an abstract or theoretical way. Rather, our God enters the mystery with us and invites us to trust that we will make it to the further shore.

SOME PRACTICAL NOTES

Masses will be downstairs in Fr. Casey Hall, where it is cooler, during the months of **July** and **August**.

We are currently not using the main doors of the church (7th Street) because they are in need of **major repairs**. Contractors have informed us that the doors will need to be removed and repaired in their shop. Please use **only the side entrance**, approaching from the parking lot.



The latest diocesan guidelines allow us to bring Holy Communion to the homebound while adhering to appropriate precautions. We who visit are fully vaccinated and the homebound must also be vaccinated. To request a visit, please call Marguerite at 863.2585 ext. 103.



Saturday, June 19-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Agnes Dobosz*
by Marcia Caloon

Sunday, June 20

8:00A *Don, Mary, Dick & Sheila Creek*
by the Creek family

10:00A *Harry & Mary Konvelski*
by their family

Saturday, June 26-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Phyllis Choleva* 11th anniversary
by her family

Sunday, June 27

8:00A *Leo Woznakewicz*
by his family

10:00A *Stanley & Cecelia Aksamit*
by Marilyn Turner

DAILY MASS

Monday, June 21

8:00A *August & Irene Himmelsbach*
by Marie & family

Tuesday, June 22

8:00A *Pat Caloon*
by John

Wednesday, June 23

8:00A *Grace & blessings for Charlotte Choleva*
by a friend

Thursday, June 24

8:00A *Ruth Arnold*
by her family

Friday, June 25

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

June 26

Phyllis Choleva 11th anniversary
by her family

PARISH COLLECTION

Weekend of June 12

Regular collection & mail \$3,180.00

On-line \$734.00

THANK YOU!



REMEMBER A SPECIAL DAY!

Do you want to mark an anniversary, a graduation, a new job, a new baby, good health, thanks for a blessing, birthday or any life event with flowers by the cross or statues in the church? Call the rectory with your request.



1600 lbs of groceries from the Food Bank to help our neighbors

AN APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

Many of those who attend the Monday Community Meals come on foot so things that are small and easily carried are helpful. We can use fruit bars, granola bars, fruit roll ups, boxes of raisins, juice boxes, boxes of gold fish crackers, pretzels, animal crackers and single-serving potato chips, peanut butter and crackers and cheese in small packages, peanuts in small bags, Rice-a-Roni & Knorr noodles, canned meals like Dinty Moore beef stew & Campbell's chunky soups, applesauce, and fresh fruit like bags of apples or oranges. All easy to carry and healthy, too!



LUCKY NUMBER CLUB

Supporters help our parish Justice and Peace Commission to meet the needs of poor and vulnerable neighbors. Membership is \$60.00 a year or \$5.00 a month. For information call the rectory 413.863.2585.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Have been made in memory of *Lorraine Boguslawski* by Helen Chappell, Christina Davis, John & Nancy Boguslawski, Karen Evans, Janet Small, James & Judy Hartnett, Friends of Montague Senior Center, Peter Miner, Joel & Susan Finnell, and Deborah McCormick:



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