

**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**9th Sunday after Pentecost
30 July 2023**

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Who Is Able to Walk on the Sea? (Mt 14:22-34)

THE STORY OF CHRIST coming to His disciples in the midst of the sea is found in all the Gospels except for Luke. The version in Matthew, however, is the only one containing the disciples' confession: "*Truly You are the Son of God!*" (Mt 14:33).

John describes the scene in a much simpler way: "...*they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat and they were afraid. But He said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they willingly received Him into the boat...*" (Jn 6:19-21).

Mark's version ends with these words: "*They were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure and marveled for they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened*" (Mk 6:51-52).

Feeding the Multitude

In each of the Gospels the story of Christ in the sea follows the report of how He fed the five thousand from a few loaves of bread and two fish. Both of these incidents came to be understood as pointing to the divinity of Christ.

In John's Gospel Jesus confronts the crowd which had followed Him around the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum: "*You seek me, not because you saw the signs but because you ate the loaves and*

were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes but for the food which endures to everlasting life which the Son of Man will give you because God the Father has set His seal on Him” (Jn 6:26-27).

The people, John suggests, followed Jesus to Capernaum looking for another meal. Jesus’ closest followers, Mark affirms, were not much better. The first disciples “*did not understand about the loaves*” either. They needed another push to help them see just Who was in their midst.

By the time the Gospels were written, however, Christ had risen from the dead. “*Beginning with Moses and the Prophets He had expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself*” (Lk 24:27). The disciples had received the Holy Spirit and began to speak of Jesus in terms reminiscent of God’s dealings with the Jews in the Old Testament. The Gospel pictures of Christ feeding the multitude and walking on the water were drawn with specific Old Testament allusions in mind.

Christ feeding the multitude with bread and fish is described in terms reminiscent of God feeding the Israelites with manna during the exodus from Egypt. Jesus’ words to Philip, “*Where shall we buy bread that these may eat?*” seemed to echo Moses’ words, “*Where can I get meat to give to all this people?*” (Num 11:13) Jesus’ action answered for the believers the response of God to Moses, “*Is this beyond the Lord’s reach?*” (Num 11:23).

The Gospel writers had come to see the One who nourished the Israelites in the wilderness of Sinai as the same One who nourished their descendants on the hillside. But they described the Old Testament feeding with manna as surpassed by the act of the incarnate Christ. While the Old Testament says that each Israelite was allowed only one omer (c. 3½ liters) of manna, for example, those receiving the bread and fish could eat “*as much as they wanted*” (Jn 6:11). While the manna would spoil if not immediately consumed, the bread which Christ gives produces twelve baskets of leftovers. The message would be clear to Jewish believers: Christ is the One who fed Israel in the wilderness and now outdoes what He did in the past!

Walking on Water

The image of Christ walking on the sea is also rooted in the Old Testament which contains several references to walking on water. The fifth-century disciple of St Jerome, Chromatius, writes that God is the One who walked on water in the Scriptures and He is the One who walks on water today:

“Who was able to walk on the sea if not the Creator of the universe? He, indeed, about whom the Holy Spirit and spoken long ago through blessed Job: ‘*He alone stretched out the heavens and walked on the sea as well as the earth*’ [Jb 9:8].

“Solomon spoke about Him in the person of Wisdom: ‘*I dwelt in the highest places and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. I orbited the heavenly sphere alone and walked on the waves of the sea*’ [Sir 24:4-5]

“David likewise declared in his psalm: ‘*O God, Your way was through the sea, Your path through the great waters*’ [Ps76:19, LXX]....

“What is more evident than this testimony? What is more clear? It points to Him walking on the water as well as on the ground. This is God’s only begotten Son, who long ago according to the will of the Father stretched out the heavens and at the time of Moses in a pillar of cloud showed the people a way to follow” (*Tractate on Matthew 52, 2*).

Both the feeding of the multitude and the walking on water show Christ acting as only God had acted in the history of Israel.

The Confession of Peter

Only in Matthew’s narrative do we read of Peter’s attempting to walk on the water. Peter was an experienced fisherman by trade; presumably he knew how to handle himself in water. In any event Jesus’ rescue of Peter prompts the others in the boat to affirm, “*Truly You are the Son of God*” (Mt 14:33).

The Gospel of Matthew is so crafted that its climax is Peter’s own confession of faith two chapters later: Jesus said to the disciples, “*Who do you say that I am?*” *Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’*” (Mt 16:15-16). Jesus responds with the praise of Peter and his faith, “*on this rock I will build my church*” (v.18). What was so special about Peter’s confession if the disciples in the boat had previously said the same thing?

Although most English-language Bibles translate both confessions the same, there is a significant difference in the original Greek. While Peter says, *Su ei o Xristos o uios tou theou* (“You are the Christ, the Son of God”), the disciples in the boat say, *alithos theou uios ei*, without the definite article *o*. This is perhaps better translated as “Truly you are a son of God.” The disciples confess Jesus as a holy one, as one beloved of God. But Peter confesses Christ’s unique sonship, which would indeed be the cornerstone of the Christian Church’s faith.

A Spiritual Interpretation

The fourth-century Bishop of Poitiers, St Hilary, lived during the major theological controversies on the Trinity and the Incarnation which shook the Church. He saw this event as a preview of the Lord’s Second Coming which would bring an end to these and any tribulations affecting the Church on earth:

“Once [Jesus] got into the vessel, the wind and the sea calmed down. After His return in eternal splendor, peace and tranquility are in store for the Church. With His arrival made manifest, all people will exclaim with great wonder, ‘Truly You are the Son of God.’ Everyone will then declare absolutely and publicly that the Son of God has restored peace to the Church, not in physical lowliness but in heavenly glory.”

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
23	4 June 2023	363.00
24	11 June 2023	715.00
39	18 June 2023	1,502.00
50	25 June 2023	5,002.00
31	2 July 2023	\$429.00
38	9 July 2023	1,547.00
34	16 July 2023	1,365.00
44	23 July 2023	540.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions:

For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. John Azar, Fr. James Graham, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, A Special Parish Intention, Mandie, Nick Baiad, Charlie & Kathleen Barnette, Richie Damici, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Fr. Basil Samra

Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:00AM, The Third Hour

Friday – 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

WE'VE BEGUN PRAYING the 3rd Hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8am. This is a short prayer service from our version of the Liturgy of the Hours. It lasts less than 20 minutes or so. Come join us!

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN – Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

MELKITE MUSIC 101

There is nothing like Melkite music. For beginners, the task of learning Byzantine chant can be daunting, however. This three-week series will cover some of the basics of Melkite music and give participants the tools to continue learning in their own communities. Each session will last two hours with a ten-minute break in the middle. Participants will be able to practice music, ask questions and learn where to find essential materials and resources.

Each session will run from 6-8pm (**CDT**) on Thursday July 20, 27 and August 3. Abouna Justin will open the Zoom link at 5:30 pm (CDT) so that those who wish to virtually 'attend' Vespers may do so.

July 20...Session 1: Introduction and Definitions, How to learn Melkite Music.
Divine Liturgy Music,
Learning the Eight Tones (part 1: Tones 7, 8, 1 and 2)

July 27...Session 2: Learning the Eight Tones (part 2: Tones 3, 4, 5 and 6), Praying Vespers

August 3...Session 3: Praying Orthros, Feast Day Music

Those interested should email Abouna Justin at protosouth@stgeorgebham.com with "MELKITE MUSIC" in the subject line of the email. He will send out a Zoom link and any further details.

Calling all single Catholics! August 25th-27th, 2023 - Join 400+ singles coming from all parts of the US (and beyond!) at the 22nd National Conference for Single Catholics at St. John's Resort, in Plymouth, MI *OR participate virtually and engage with others via the online socials and small group discussions.* This is your chance to connect with like-minded singles (of all ages). The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, Mass, adoration, fellowship and more. (If joining us in-person, use the promo code (**PARISH23**) when you register to get \$50 off! *Discount for the first 50 sign ups nationwide to use this code.*) Visit NationalCatholicSingles.com for more information and to register. (Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 512-766-5798.)



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS, Troop 1917, is starting its 12th year! Our Christ-centered, very active troop based at St. Teresa of Avila, 4921 Columbia Road, Grovetown, has opening for every level, ages 5 – 18.

AHG'S mission statement is "Building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country". And our motto is "Faith, Service, Fun" and the girls grow closer to Christ through religious awards programs and devotionals. Service is integral to AHG, and our troop provides more than six community service opportunities each year. Girls love AHG because they make great friends and participate in exciting and challenging activities including camping and other outdoor adventures.

If you and your daughter(s) would like to see what we're all about, please email our registrar, Noelia, at jfniperez@gmail.com, for more information. We are holding our kickoff party on August 24th and Parents University on August 31st, so email her soon to check out our amazing troop!

THE DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH is sponsoring a Eucharistic Revival day August 26th hosted at Saint Teresa of Avila and led by Eucharistic Preachers Father Malachy Napier and Father Mathias Thelen. Fr. Malachy is a Conventional Franciscan of the Renewal (CFR), who grew up as a parishioner at Saint Joseph. Fr. Mathias is the co-founder of Encounter Ministries. Bishop Parkes will celebrate Mass at 4:30 PM. The day will be a powerful time to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. It will include perpetual adoration, family adoration, a youth track, paid childcare, confession, and a Eucharistic Procession and Healing Service. Register via the Saint Teresa of Avila website or parish office.

Upcoming Calendar

Aug 6 – Sunday, Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord

Aug 14 – Monday, Vespers, Feast of the Dormition – 7pm

Aug 15 – Tuesday, Divine Liturgy, Dormition – 7pm

Feast of the Nativity of Mary – Sept. 8th

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Sept. 14

Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 8)



You de-scen-ded from on high, O Com-pas - sion - ate



One; and con-sen - ted to bu - ri - al for three days



that You might free us from suf - fer - ing.



O Lord, our life and our re-sur - rec-tion, glo - ry



to You.

Kondakion of the Transfiguration

(Tone 7)



On the Moun - tain You were trans - fig - ured, O



Christ our God, and Your Dis - ci - ples saw as much



of Your glo - ry as they could hold, so that when



they should see You cru - ci - fied, they would know



that You suf - fer wil - ling - ly, and would pro - claim



to the world that You are ve - ri - ly the Splen - dor of



the Fa - ther.

Prokimenon

Reader: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

All: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

Reader: God is renowned in Judah; in Israel, great is his name.

All: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

Reader: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them;

All: Let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	1 st Cor 15:12-19	Matt 21:18-22
Tuesday:	1 st Cor 15:29-38	Matt 21:23-27
Wednesday:	1 st Cor 16:4-12	Matt 21:28-32
Thursday:	2 nd Cor 1:1-7	Matt 21:43-46
Friday:	2 nd Cor 1:12-20	Matt 22:23-33
Saturday:	Rom 15:30-33	Matt 17:23-18:4

Saints of the Week:

July 30: Holy Apostles, Silas and Sylvan and their companions
July 31: Holy and Just Eudocimos; Forefeast of the Procession of the Holy & Life-Giving Cross
Aug. 1: Procession of the Holy Cross; Seven Maccabee brothers, their mother Salome and tutor, Eleazar
Aug. 2: Transfer of the remains of the holy protomartyr Archdeacon Stephen
Aug. 3: Holy Fathers, Isaac, Dalmatos and Faustos
Aug. 4: Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus
Aug. 5: Preparation for the Feast of the Transfiguration and the martyr Eusignios
Aug. 6: Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord

Word Search

W	I	N	D	N	F	J	A	L	A	T	E	X	D	D	E	Y	D
Q	X	Y	A	R	P	L	X	G	O	E	G	W	W	B	N	E	O
B	X	Y	P	F	D	B	U	F	F	E	T	E	D	D	O	N	U
E	I	W	A	H	S	Y	F	I	R	M	F	M	I	J	L	J	B
I	K	P	L	Y	G	N	R	E	C	Q	R	S	P	K	A	L	T
M	E	O	A	X	B	J	T	R	F	H	C	O	J	U	T	M	S
Z	G	X	R	R	O	E	O	W	T	I	B	R	L	N	A	M	H
P	A	Y	M	D	P	W	T	I	P	N	J	A	I	F	P	E	X
Z	R	C	E	N	D	S	A	L	T	E	Q	A	E	K	S	D	S
E	U	R	D	P	O	F	E	E	S	Q	T	A	H	E	H	B	D
J	O	O	C	H	X	S	R	U	T	N	R	T	V	A	N	P	E
S	C	S	G	C	R	A	S	N	U	J	H	A	W	U	P	J	P
H	S	S	B	H	S	D	D	O	F	O	W	A	B	V	D	C	I
F	B	O	Y	E	C	K	M	W	A	L	K	I	N	G	Z	Z	H
O	A	O	N	L	N	T	V	L	R	Y	A	M	Q	D	Z	T	S
T	D	N	D	I	L	T	A	P	Q	F	O	U	R	T	H	W	R
Y	E	Y	S	Z	V	Z	J	W	O	L	J	I	N	B	P	L	O
G	B	O	D	P	H	I	H	V	C	O	Y	M	B	T	E	W	W

Alarmed

Alone

Boat

Buffeted

Courage

Cross

Crowd

Disciples

Doubt

Faith

Fear

Fourth

Gennesaret

Ghost

Hand

Jesus

Late

Mountain

Peter

Pray

Sea

Sink

Walking

Watch

Waves

Wind

Worshiped

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus
JFK Council

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm
Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm
St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group
Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:
Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession
Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation
Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning
Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing
Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 1-800-479-5910.