



June 23, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 38:1, 8-11 | 2 Cor 5:14-17 | Mk 4:35-41

## GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

St. Boniface, an English Benedictine monk who died in the 8th century, wrote in a letter: “In her voyage across the ocean of this world, the Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life’s different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship but to keep her on her course.” Oceans and seas, lakes and rivers, baptism. The role of water in daily life and its use as a metaphor are woven throughout our Scriptures. In today’s readings, we hear two references to the sea. First, we have God talking to Job out of a storm, reminding the prophet that he – the Lord – is the one who created the seas and keeps them firmly in their place. The Gospel passage provides us with a stark reminder of that truth. As the disciples and Jesus cross the sea, a storm crops up and threatens to sink their boat. But one command from Jesus and the water is still. St. Boniface had it right. We really all are on that ship with Jesus on its voyage across the ocean of this world, and trusting in him to keep us on course and safe from harm ensures we reach the destinations he intends for us.

## GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How to do our part to keep this great ship that is the Church on course? Trust in Christ, trust that he is present within us and guiding us each day. No one is immune from stormy seas, and like the disciples, we can turn to Jesus in times of peril. He asked the disciples: “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?” Like the disciples, we must experience the change of heart that is necessary to place complete trust in Jesus to replace our fear and anxiety. God has things under control. Of course, that is what can be so scary sometimes. I know God will take care of everything, but what if I don’t like how he does it? What if I want him to answer my prayers one way and he answers them a different way? This is where Jesus might ask me: “Do you not yet have faith?” And I would have to reply, “I’m working on it.”

**PRAY** We are assured throughout Scripture that God loves us, cares for us, and sustains us. But how do we move from knowing that in our heads to feeling it in our hearts? Prayer. If we center our life on Jesus and his commands, trusting in him will become second nature. Take some time this week and pray with today’s Psalm (107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31), which praises God for his love for us and gives voice to trusting in his providence.

### Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

[www.ascensionsaratoga.org](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions (Sat) 4:00-4:45pm

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## What God Can Do

Jesus called his first disciples along the shores of the Sea of Galilee to be “fishers of men,” so it’s only natural that Christians place importance on the imagery of the sea. One of the earliest symbols of Christ is the fish. The anchor, a symbol of safety and strength, was combined with the cross to form another Christian symbol. The ship is a symbol of the church, and the seashell is a symbol of Baptism. Ponder these rich metaphors of the sea and how God’s wondrous watery creation inspires you to understand your faith. - *Preparetheword.com*

## Pope Francis on St. Peter & St. Paul

Feast day: June 29

Peter’s answer can be summed up in one word: *follow*... Peter left everything behind to follow the Lord... [he] left his nets and followed Jesus, without demanding any kind of guarantee beforehand. He was to learn everything day by day, as a disciple, a follower of Jesus, walking in his footsteps. It is not by chance that in the Gospels the last recorded words of Jesus to Peter were: “Follow me.” (John 21:22).

[For] Paul it is *proclaim*, to preach the Gospel... On the road to Damascus, as he led a fierce persecution of Christians,... the risen Jesus met him and blinded him by his light... Paul then devoted his life to traversing land and sea, cities and towns, heedless of privations and persecutions, for the sake of preaching Jesus Christ. Paul could then write: “Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:16) He could then confess: “To me, life is Christ.” (Philippians 1:21).

## Peter’s Pence Special Collection

June 30

“Peter’s Pence” Collection for the Holy Father enables the Holy Father to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests to aid those who suffer as a result of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Likewise, it provides the faithful with a tangible opportunity to not only empower the weak, defenseless and voiceless, but to also sustain those who suffer.

## Quo Vadis (Where Are You Going?)

Calling all young Catholic men (ages 13-17) who is seeking to deepen their faith and see what God’s call in their lives. The Quo Vadis overnight retreat (June 28-29) offers guidance and time in prayer, as well as classic camp activities like sports, hiking and great food. You will have the chance to meet and hang out with priests, college men and diocesan seminarians, who serve as group leaders and help run the retreat. Scan QR code for registration and info.



## WEEKLY OFFERING - JUNE 16

-\$4,978 (baskets: \$3,080; online: \$1,898). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$312,622. Budget: \$325,000.

Thank you for your generosity.

## MASS INTENTIONS

June 23	Sun	05 pm	Marie Firato +
June 26	Wed	08 am	Cynthia Stolz (L)

## FORMED

Our parish is subscribed to FORMED, which provides the very best Catholic content to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere.

*This Week on FORMED* is a weekly videos designed to help us learn more about the content related to each week of the year.



Registering for FORMED is easy:

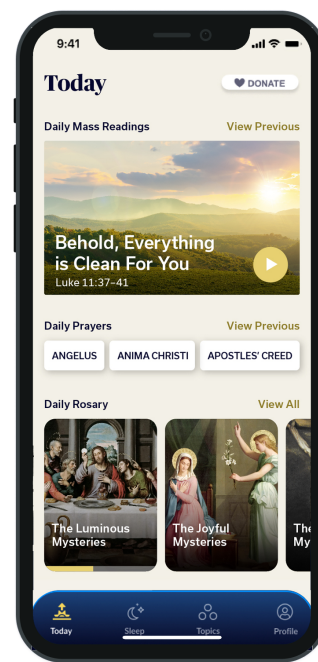
- Go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup).
- Select your parish by entering name, city and/or zip code.
- Enter your name and email address.
- Check that email account for a link.

## Amen App

Amen is the *free* Catholic app that brings you beautiful prayers, faithful meditations and nourishing Scripture to draw your mind, body and soul to rest in God.

The content is designed to connect you with God, help put your mind at ease, and release the tension of the day.

The Amen app’s goal is to help you increase Christian mindfulness, reduce stress, anxiety, improve your sleep and build a better relationship with Jesus Christ.



## Ascension Commemorative Book

To honor our Church of the Ascension’s 60th Anniversary, we plan to publish a commemorative book that will include the parish’s history, stories, historic documents and pictures, and photos of our parish families.

- We need volunteers with skills for
- Photographs -Photo session coordination
  - Layout & Artworks -Content editing.

Please contact Fr. Hao at [ascensionpastor@dsj.org](mailto:ascensionpastor@dsj.org) if you, or someone you know, can work on this book.

## Growing Together As Families

Our Church of the Ascension welcomes families in various stages of life. Our focus at this time is to provide opportunities for families with young children to find the support to grow in their relationship with each other, with the parish and with the Lord. Please (1) sign up at the tables near the church’s main entrance, or (2) call the parish office at 408-725-3939 x3 for **our first meeting at 10:00 am on Sunday, June 23**, in the Hall Classrooms.