

August 9, 2020

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Color is **Green**

1st Reading 1 KGS 19:9, 11-13

PS 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

2nd Reading ROM 9:1-5

Gospel MT 14:22-33

Christ's presence in the Mass: The Priest - The last three weeks our *Building Faith@Home* lessons have shared the ways Christ is present in the Mass: The Assembled People, The Word Proclaimed & The Eucharist. The fourth way Christ is present in the Mass is through the Priest. The Priest is our outward sign of Christ presence. The priest gathers His people, welcomes us, leads our prayer and mediates our prayers to the Father. He teaches and preaches, and he gathers us around the table of the Lord. There we join him, in persona Christi capitis, in the person of Christ, the Head of the Body as together we give thanks and praise to the Father, call down the Holy Spirit, join all the choirs of angels and saints in their unending hymn of praise, and know that heaven and earth meet in that Eucharist. He is the outward expression of that glorious promise of Jesus: to be with us when we gather ([Stollery, Debbie 2017](#)) This brings us full circle to the Assembled People. Through our own baptism, we all **share** in the threefold office of Christ: priest, prophet and king. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is clear about the priestly office:

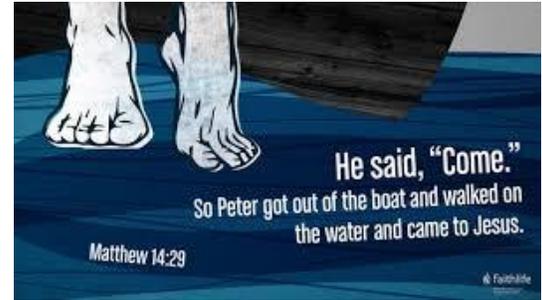
Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ. ... "to be a holy priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5). By Baptism they share in the priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission. They are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people ..." (1 Peter 2:9). Baptism gives a share in the common priesthood of all believers (CCC, 1267, 1268). What does this mean? Ordained priests, by Holy Orders, are members of the ministerial priesthood. Yet the common priesthood designates all the baptized. Sharing in the priesthood of Christ begins at one's Baptism.

"The common priesthood and the ministerial priesthood worship together at Mass. We are a priestly community. The lay faithful worship alongside the ordained priest(s). Both make offerings to God. The priest is specifically ordained to consecrate the Eucharist — to offer and consecrate the bread and wine — on behalf of those gathered. The laity, too, actively participate by offering themselves and their gifts and sacrifices to God." ([Catholic Digest, Aug 15](#))

How do you offer yourself at Mass, share your gifts and sacrifices?

Celebrate @ Home Activities or @ Mass!

- Pray for our priests and those discerning the call to priesthood. Download the handout at [Bit.ly/vocationprayer](https://bit.ly/vocationprayer)
- Become a "Prayer Warriors for Vocations" as a family! Visit the Diocese of Syracuse Vocation Page <https://vocations-syracuse.org/become-a-prayer-warrior/> and send a prayer!
- Pray through the intercessions of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests.
- Jesus continues to invite us into a relationship with him in today's Gospel. As a family, reflect on the questions in the Question of the Week box.



Question for Children: What does God's voice sound like when you pray and listen to Jesus?

Question for Youth: In today's Gospel, Peter began to walk on the water when he was focused on Jesus. He began to sink when he got distracted by the storm. What is your life like when you are focused on Jesus and your relationship with God? How is it different when you get caught up in other things?

Question for Adults: Tell about your experiences of hearing God speak in "tiny voices" rather than in the winds and earthquakes of life.



Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI -

- [Syrdiocese.org](https://syrdiocese.org) - Office of Catechesis "Building Faith@Home" pages - See previous issues to review the four ways Christ is present in the Mass
- [Biblelessonstuff.com](https://biblelessonstuff.com) - Walk on Water Object lesson "Can you imagine walking on water?" Science & faith
- [Sermons4Kids.com](https://sermons4kids.com) - Walk on Water Object Lesson "Sink or Float" activity for children of all ages, and share the Gospel Story (MT 14:22-33)