

**From the Desk of Father Ed:**

Dear Parishioners,

As Catholics we proclaim to be people of faith, yet often in our lives when we experience some trial or tribulation, perhaps a serious illness, a broken relationship, or the death of a loved one, our faith is put to the test. And often we come to realize that our faith is not as strong as it should be.

Faith is a gift that is freely given to us at our Baptism. It is one of the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love. These gifts were strengthened in us when we received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The gift of faith needs to be constantly strengthened in us through a life of prayer and the grace given to us in the sacraments of the Church. Our faith grows especially when we are in the dark valley of trials and tribulations. Our Faith grows when we are tested and when we step out in faith.

Peter's faith was tested when Jesus invited him to "come" and walk on the water. Peter began to sink in the waters as soon as he took his gaze off of Jesus and realized how strong the wind was. Peter called out to Jesus, "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?"

As Catholics we are called to be disciples of faith and we are called to practice our faith throughout the many trials and tribulations of our lives. Faith tells us that our Lord is always with us and that he cares for us. A sparrow does not fall to the ground without the Father knowing it and we are worth much more to the Father and his Son than many sparrows. Faith requires us to always keep our gaze fixed on Jesus and that he is the one who strengthens us in this gift of faith.

The power of faith gives us the courage to step out onto the waters of trial and tribulation and never doubt that the Lord is with us, that He loves us, and will do everything in His power to save us.

**Parish Life:**

This Tuesday, August 15, is The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 am and 7:00 pm.

Please consider joining us for a weekend retreat on Sept. 8-10 at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us,

Father Ed,

Pastor