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## St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

June 20, 2021



*We are a loving, supportive, and vibrant Catholic community committed to being a welcoming parish family by spreading the Love of Jesus Christ throughout our community and into the world.*

### Drawing a Lesson from the Storm of Life

The role of God in calming the storms of life both in the history of the Church and in the lives of humanity is the central theme of the readings for this *Storm Sunday*.

We need to remember that Jesus is always with us in our "boat of life." We all experience different types of violent storms in our lives: physical, emotional, and spiritual. We face storms of sorrow, doubt, anxiety, worry, temptation, and passion. Only Jesus can calm these storms.

Jesus can give us real peace in the storm of sorrow. When we are totally depressed with sorrow, Jesus assures us of the glory of the life to come. Jesus consoles us at the loss of our dear ones - with the assurance of eternal life for them in the Heavenly home of God the Father - where we, too, will live one day.

When the storms of doubt seek to uproot the very foundations of our Faith, Jesus is there to tame that storm, revealing to us His Divinity and the authority behind the words of the Holy Scripture. All we have to do is ask, and He responds with loving trust and obedience,

Jesus will give us:

- peace in our tempests of doubt, tension, and uncertainty,
- peace in our storms of anxiety and worry about ourselves,
- peace about the unknown future, and
- peace and calm in the storms of passion when our hearts grow hot and our tempers blaze, especially with those we love.

Saint Paul makes a wonderful statement at the beginning of that second reading: "the love of Christ overwhelms us." The love of Christ for us was revealed above all in his death on the cross. As Paul says in his letter to the Romans: "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." It is that remarkable love of God in Christ for us that urges us on, even when we are battling against a headwind. It urges us on until we reach what the gospel calls "the other side" - the place towards which the Lord is guiding the church - the place where he wants us all to be.

May God accompany us in all the storms of life we encounter...Amen.  
In Christ, Father Akuti