

When Jesus Climbs Into Your Boat

Have you ever thought how Jesus Christ comes to be Lord of all areas of your life? It isn't all at once, is it? On Sundays we give Him our heart and tell Him we want to live for Him, and feel that wonderful peace, knowing that we are loved. But then we go back to work on Monday and the real world hits. We wonder "How can my faith make any difference in this place?" We know His teachings and believe in His salvation, but how can He actually change my marriage, my family or workplace into a place filled with His love?

Well, often, the answer is exactly what Jesus did with Peter in this morning's Gospel: Jesus asks us if he can use our "boat", our boat being whatever we use to get by; to gain security, to protect ourselves. He doesn't start preaching to us, He just enters and quietly asks us to try His path in whatever area we've welcomed Him into. He may ask a simple task of obedience waiting for our "Yes." Because if we agree, as Peter did, we will be amazed at the results with Jesus in our "boats".

Answers to What's Your Catholic IQ?

1. **c)** All Saints Day celebrates those saints, canonized or not, known or unknown, who were faithful to Christ and are with God in heaven now.
2. **d)** The Sign of the Cross reminds us of our Baptism, when we were brought into the Christian community in the name of the Holy Trinity -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:19).
3. **a)** Through Christ's intercession to the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit given at Baptism and Confirmation, all Christians are empowered to do all that Jesus did and more.
4. **d)** Saint Francis (1182-1226) is often depicted with animals. According to his first biographer, Thomas of Celano, Francis preached to birds and fish, tamed the murderous wolf of Gubbio, and even carried worms to safety because Christ was referred to as a "worm, not a man" (see Psalm 22:7).
5. **b)** Catholics look forward to the eschaton because Christ will return to fully establish God's kingdom.



Saint Patrick Catholic Church

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"Every Catholic an Apostle"

**5th Sunday of Ordinary Time
 February 10, 2013**

Caught By God



Simon Peter ... fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him. (Luke 5:8-9)

While fishing isn't as widespread a career as it once was, "catching people" is a well-defined science. Otherwise known as advertising, this public art form is designed to hook consumers and take their money, their time and their energy. Once caught, the consumers serve the advertisers' goal. Everyone is together in one net.

In today's readings, Isaiah, Peter and Paul demonstrate the moral character necessary to become true "fishers of people." These wise men of God are brought to their knees by an encounter with the Divine. Isaiah, Peter and Paul fish for people because God has first caught them. Divine light reveals their unworthiness, and they respond appropriately "Woe is me," exclaims Isaiah. "I am a man of unclean lips." In the longer version of today's second reading, Paul says that he is "the least of the apostles" and "unfit." Peter tells Jesus to leave him, "for I am a sinful man."

Humility is an unpopular attribute these days, but if you wish to be caught by God or to go fishing on God's behalf, acknowledging your unworthiness is key. Before each and every Communion we proclaim our unworthiness, and yet, moments later, we stand ready to receive. Our wise forefathers knew the importance of humility. They also knew that the unworthy become worthy through the grace of God.

Strangely enough, true humility — which, on the surface, would seem to disqualify us from any form of meaningful ministry— actually prepares us to become fishers of people. Once Isaiah has announced his unworthiness, his unclean lips are cleansed; his guilt and sin are blotted out. Once Peter is on his knees, he is ready to fish for people. St. Paul says it best: "By the grace of God I am what I am."

Today's readings invite us to become an advertisement for God. Unlike our glossy counterparts in the secular world, we shine from within. Hollowed out by unworthiness, we stand worthy. Our brightness has nothing to do with color or design, money or power. Our salvation history, our journey with the Divine attracts others. This is our calling.

Peter left everything and followed Jesus. We are to do the same. Having a relationship with the Divine is not reserved for prophets and saints. God wishes to connect with each of us. Our stories may not be as dramatic as the biblical ones recounted today, but each of us has a unique salvation history. Are we attentive to the way God moves in our lives? Do we recognize our unworthiness and thereby become worthy?

Recently, a cherished uncle passed away after a brief illness. When his daughter Melanie feels particularly alone, she asks God for a sign that her father is still with her. Too many times to be mere coincidence, a rainbow has appeared in the sky after she prays this request. How tender is our God! How powerful is his yearning to communicate!

Once caught and in communication with the Divine, we are each called to be a witness — an advertisement. Our response needs to be clear, concise and certain. Five words suffice: "Here I am. Send me."

Karen Johnson

OFFICE HOURS AND STAFF:
 Monday thru Friday from 9a.m. to 3p.m.

Parish Secretary
 Zuly Horner (334)298-9025

Religious Education
 Lisa Flatt (334)540-5329

Youth Director
 Tyler Flatt (334) 540-5333

Lazarus Outreach Center
 Mary Wilburn (334) 298-8552

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (EST)

WEEKEND MASSES:
 Saturday: 5:30 p.m. English
 Sunday: 8:30, 11:30 a.m., and 5p.m.
 7:00 p.m. En Español

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday: **NO MASS**
 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9am
 Wed: 12:05pm Followed by Adoration
 Holy Days—as announced

PARISH COUNCIL: Second Monday

of the month in the Parish Hall, 5:30 pm.
FINANCE COMMITTEE: Third Monday of the month in the Parish Hall, at 5:30 pm

OUTREACH SCHEDULE: Wed. & Fridays 9 to 11:30am **THE THRIFT STORE** open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10a.m.—2p.m.

SACRAMENTS: For preparation and available dates for the sacraments: Baptisms, Matrimony, or a special Mass, please speak directly with Fr. David or call the office.

NEW IN OUR PARISH?
Welcome! Please visit: <http://stpatsphenixcity.org>
 click the Register Now button and follow the instructions to create a new user account and register! Already register? go online! Create an account and you can update or make changes to your records.



SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY MARCH 3, 2013.
PARISH RETREAT!
In the Mother Grace Hall at St. Joseph, Holy Trinity.

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS: If there is an emergency imminent death or need of sacrament, or if you or a loved one are about to have surgery, are in a hospital or nursing home, the priests are ready to assist you and administer the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion.

- Father David: (229) 205-8520
- Father Marco: (334) 540-1445
- Father Raul: (229) 276-5481

For all other inquires please call parish office during regular office hours.

OLD BLESSED PALMS: Bring your old blessed Palms back to church. We will burn these palms and use the ashes on Ash Wednesday services. Since they have been blessed they are sacramental and you should not throw it in the trash.

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In Thanksgiving
The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity

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