



**August 13, 2017 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 115 Gospel MT 14:22-33**

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "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?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

**Spiritual Reflection:** A close look at the story in today's Gospel show Peter testing God and not God testing Peter and yet it is Peter who fails. God does not abandon Peter despite His failure. Peter will be given many more chances to grow in faith.

**Spiritual Questions:**

1. How do you test God?
2. What prevents you from keeping focus on Christ?
3. How can failing help you grow in faith?
4. How can you develop more courage in matters of faith?
5. How quickly does the Lord save Peter?