

- If there were one sentence that sums up this Sunday's readings I would say it is this: God is close by and very much in control.
- Our first reading is from Chapter 38 in the Book of Job. In the first 37 chapters of that book we see Job going through a lot of personal pain and suffering and loss. By the end of Chapter 37 Job thinks he has God figured out. Job's view of God is that of a distant, far-off and disinterested God.
- But in Chapter 38 things change for Job. In the midst of a terrible storm, God draws close and talks to Job. God points to things in nature to reassure Job that He is very much present in the world. God tells Job: look around you. Look at that powerful raging sea – I set its boundaries; I say how far it goes and no farther.
- God reassures Job that He *is* present; He *is* all-powerful and very much in control. We can have that same reassurance if we just do what God told Job to do: just look around.
- Our hearts beat thousands of times per day, trees pump out oxygen for us to breathe, the earth yields food for us to eat, life bursts forth each day – all because God says so. And again today we are fed at this altar with the real presence of Jesus.
- God is close to us and very much in control.
- We see the same message in our Gospel reading today.

- Our Gospel reading presents us with the account of Jesus and the Apostles setting sail on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus, exhausted from preaching to the crowds is asleep in the boat. They were sailing on smooth calm waters then suddenly an intense storm kicks up and the boat is tossed about and taking on water. The terrified Apostles wake Jesus calling out: “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” Jesus wakes up and miraculously calms the storm.
- How many times has this scene played out in our own lives? Sailing along in calm waters then out of the blue a sudden storm: illness, loss of a job, trouble in a relationship. Our first reaction is usually just like that of the Apostles: fear and worry. We forget what God told Job - look around I’m here with you and in control. Like the Apostles we forget who is in that boat with us. We forget what Jesus showed the disciples. He was there and in control. He calmed the storm.
- It is during those storms in our lives we need to hear those same words Jesus asked his Apostles in that boat: “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?”
- And when we turn to Jesus during our storms we too see His presence, His power. Maybe He removes the problem: the illness leaves, a new job or opportunities open for us, the broken relationship mends.
- Other times He gives us the strength, the patience to endure the storm longer, or to look at the

problem differently. Both are miracles aren't they?

- Jesus has authority and command over physical nature (as we saw Him calm the wind and storm) and He has command over human nature.
- Jesus can calm our fears and anxieties just the way He calmed that storm; if we let Him. He clearly has the power, what He waits for is the permission.
- That is ours to give. To quiet those storms in our lives;
We must give our faith – strong belief and trust in Him, belief and trust that He loves us deeply and is concerned for our well being and can make a difference.
- We need to remember what God told Job and what Jesus showed the Apostles: God is close by and very much in control.
- And what a great message to hear on Father's Day.
- God truly is our loving Father. He created us, loves us and wants to be closely involved in our lives.
- One of the ways God shows us this is by giving us earthly fathers (and mothers too, but since this is Father's Day we will stick with the dads today).
- Parenting is a ministry, a gift from God. There are so many beautiful times we parents

experience. But being a dad also comes with those sudden storms at times.

- We see that in the life of our spiritual Father St. Joseph.
- St. Joseph is a perfect example for all Fathers. A religious man. Dedicated to His family. A teacher to his son Jesus. He brought Jesus to Temple to learn the faith. He taught Jesus a trade, carpentry. He enjoyed the beauty and love of family life. He was a dedicated, hard-working provider.
- But this father's life was not without storms: He had to search for Jesus who was lost for three days; Joseph had to uproot his family twice and move to new places to protect his son from harm.
- Not easy. How did he do it? He had Faith. He knew and trusted that God was close by and squarely in control. So he put his life and his family's life in God's hands.
- Fathers today are called to do the same. Like God our Father and Joseph our spiritual Father we are called to be close and present for our children.
- We are called to be in control: teaching them love, kindness and compassion. Setting boundaries for them to grow safely. Letting them feel the safety of a fatherly presence. Scripture tells us God our Father is slow to anger abundant in mercy. We are to imitate that quality.
- And to imitate those qualities of St. Joseph especially when those sudden storms pop up. Joseph dug in; he didn't leave. He stayed and

toughed it out. Always remembering God was with him. Close, powerful, and squarely in control.