



**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**June 23, 2024**

## *St. James Catholic Church*

*3909 Harrison \* Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

*"Small enough to know your name, big enough to make a difference."*

### *Reflection from Ben Babaran*

In the readings of this Sunday, our church reminds and encourages us that, Christ is with us even in the midst of all the storms of this life. It is then a great cause for celebration and thanksgiving because we are so glad that Jesus cares for us.

As I was reading the Gospel, it put a smile in my face as I saw Jesus pulling a joke on his disciples. How can somebody sleep on a boat being tossed by a storm? Even when asleep, our Lord has the power to control and regulate all the natural, physical and spiritual forces or activities going on in this world.

During our trip to the Philippines, my family and I encountered a strong torrential storm up in the mountains where our children went up to have their tattoos from the village of the 107 years old tattoo artist, Whang-Od. The storm challenged my faith in Christ! I was afraid our family would be stranded in the mountains. The torrential rain caused landslides along the treacherous highway. In fact, the rear, right tire of our van got busted by sharp boulders that fell along our path. In addition to the storm outside, there was a storm happening inside the van – our children were quarrelling. Yet, Jesus was with us and protected us. Thank God and thanks for all your prayers.

Life is full of storms. At times, they can become so strong and strange that our human strength can no longer support us. At such moments fear and complaints might take over the central stage of our life. Even in some cases, we might lose our faith in God, thinking that he has abandoned us or that he does not exist. These storms come in different forms. However, the good news is: Christ assures us that He is with us and is aware of the storm we are battling. So, we cannot be with Him and yet sink. Another point is: no matter how experienced we think we are in navigating our storms, we cannot overcome our storms alone. Christ reminds us: "Apart from me, you can do nothing."

As the Sunday's readings ask us to trust in Christ, Jo and I continue to start our day with the psalmist prayer: "Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth" (Ps 121, 1-2).