



Diocese of Joliet

DIOCESE OF JOLIET TARGETED RESTRUCTURING OF JOLIET DEANERY

GROUP 1

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
St. Anthony
St. Bernard
St. Joseph Joliet
St. Mary Magdalene

GROUP 2

Sacred Heart
St. Joseph Rockdale
St. Jude
St. Patrick
St. Paul the Apostle

GROUP 3

Cathedral of St. Raymond
Holy Cross
St. Ambrose (Crest Hill)
St. Anne (Crest Hill)
St. John the Baptist
St. Mary Nativity

Prayer for the Joliet Deanery Targeted Restructuring Process

Father, we praise you and thank you for your blessing upon the Church of Joliet for these many years. With your grace the Church has faithfully passed on the Catholic faith for several generations. We are at a time of transition in our culture and in our Church and we need your guidance. Send your Holy Spirit to lead the Restructuring Process and to enlighten, guide, and strengthen us and also the leaders in this process, especially Bishop Ronald Hicks. We promise to submit ourselves to all that that you desire of us and accept your will for us.

O God, renew your Church “as by a New Pentecost” through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IS THAT WE MUST TRUST IN JESUS

The disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. It was nighttime, dark and their boat was being tossed about by the waves. During the fourth watch of the night, the darkest hour before dawn, Jesus walked toward the boat on the water. The disciples saw him and were terrified; they thought it was a ghost. Jesus said to them, **“Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”** Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus told him to come, and Peter began to walk on the water towards Jesus. But he got distracted by the wind and became frightened, and he began to sink. Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, **“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”**

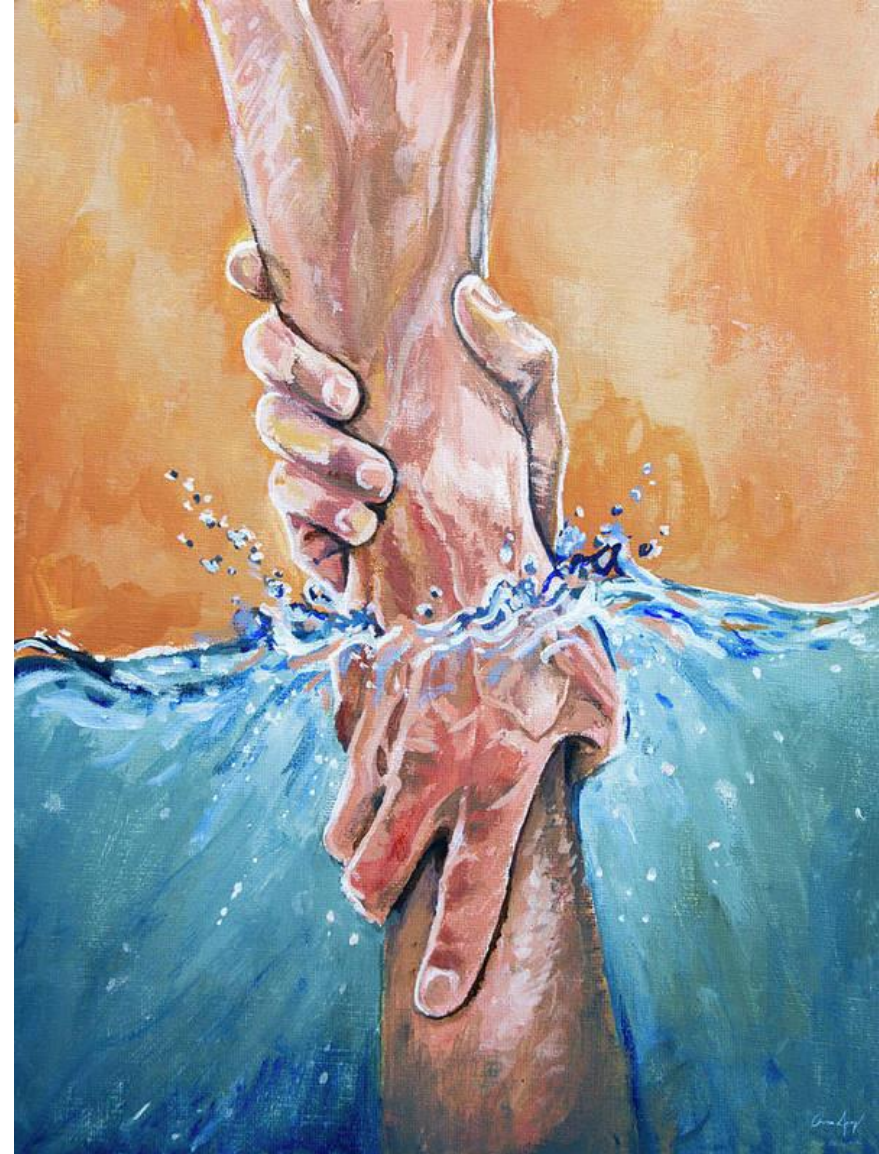
Matthew 14:22-33



“Life is precarious, so
faith is imperative.”

Fr. Larry Gorski

The boat in this gospel is the Church. Peter represents all of humanity. The darkness, the dangerous waves and the chaos is the work of the devil. The devil sows division and seeds of doubt and would like nothing more than to destroy the Church. If we keep our eyes, hearts and minds focused on Jesus, and reject the devil’s work, things will be okay. We must turn to our faith in times of fear, doubt and uncertainty about the future.



THE CHURCH HAS EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES THROUGHOUT HISTORY

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
70	The destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans marked the end of the Jewish state for almost two centuries.
1054	The schism between Western Christians (Roman Catholics) and Eastern Christians (Eastern Orthodox) began. The Eastern Christians rejected papal authority and the belief that the Holy Spirit proceeded from both the Father and the Son.
1517	Protestant Reformation begins with Martin Luther posting his “95 Theses”; he is condemned as a heretic.
1545	The Council of Trent met to address clergy/papal corruption and the Protestant threat. The findings of the Council of Trent, which relied heavily on the teachings of Thomas Aquinas, characterized Roman Catholicism until Vatican II.

VATICAN II

In 1962, 2,400 Roman Catholic bishops met in Rome to lead the Church into the modern era. The results of this Council included:

- (1) a shift in emphasis from the church as a monarchical structure organized under the primacy of the pope to the collegial union of bishops;
- (2) a positive view of the role of non-Christian religions;
- (3) an admittance that both Catholics and Protestants were to blame for the division during the Reformation and that Protestants are now to be considered “separated brethren”; and
- (4) an acceptance of the use of vernacular language in the liturgy.

2002 CLERGY SEX ABUSE SCANDAL

The Boston Globe exposed the scourge of childhood sexual abuse by Catholic priests in the Archdiocese of Boston. This led to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops adopting the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People later that same year, and the adoption of the Essential Norms, which became the law of the Church in 2006.



God Takes Care of His Church

- In 2000+ years, the Church has undergone many changes and crises, yet it has survived and remains the largest Christian religion in the world.
- The Diocese of Joliet is undergoing change. We cannot continue to ignore the practicalities such as fewer priests and seminarians, fewer sacraments being celebrated, decreased Sunday collections, decreased mass attendance, and aging buildings that require tremendous financial resources to maintain. These issues must be addressed.
- If we Trust in Jesus and reject the urge to criticize, doubt and sow division amongst parishioners, our diocese will emerge stronger. This is an opportunity to make the Church in general and the Diocese of Joliet, in particular, more robust.

PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS 1950 -2022

	2022	2020	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960	1950
ACTIVE DIOCESAN PRIESTS IN DIOCESE	108	106	119	150	173	168	185	145	79
ACTIVE DIOCESAN PRIESTS OUTSIDE DIOCESE	7	3	5	10	14	16	8	3	N/A
INACTIVE PRIESTS - RETIRED, SICK OR ABSENT	62	66	58	45	31	22	11	6	N/A
TOTAL DIOCESAN PRIESTS	177	175	182	205	218	206	204	154	79
RELIGIOUS PRIESTS IN DIOCESE	91	104	110	102	159	181	261	238	183
TOTAL PRIESTS IN DIOCESE	268	279	292	307	377	386	465	392	262
EXTERN PRIESTS IN DIOCESE	13	15	10	12	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ORDINATIONS OF DIOCESAN PRIESTS	2	3	3	1	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ORDINATIONS OF TRANSITIONAL DEACONS	3	7	5	4	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ORDINATIONS OF PERMANENT DEACONS	17	43	18	17	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL PERMANENT DEACONS	230	243	209	152	138	36	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL BROTHERS	39	43	63	85	120	262	210	114	90
TOTAL SISTERS	328	341	496	811	948	1,100	1,064	973	948
TOTAL PARISHES	118	120	120	120	116	111	108	90	73
PARISHES WITH RESIDENT DIOCESAN PRIESTS	78	76	98	100	96	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PARISHES WITH RESIDENT RELIGIOUS PRIESTS	22	25	13	15	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PARISHES WITH ADMINISTRATORS	18	19	9	5	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MISSIONS	7	5	10	11	12	11	11	17	16

PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS

- 41.7% fewer active diocesan priests today than in 1970
- 65.2% fewer order priests today than in 1970
- 5.6x the number of retired, sick or inactive priests than in 1970
- 9 active priests between 65-69; 9 active priests over 70
- Since 2021, 12 of our diocesan priests have died
- Ratio of active priests to parishioners in 2022 is 1:4,816; in 1970, this ratio was 1:1,680
- 10 more parishes today than in 1970
- 81.2% fewer seminarians today than in 1970

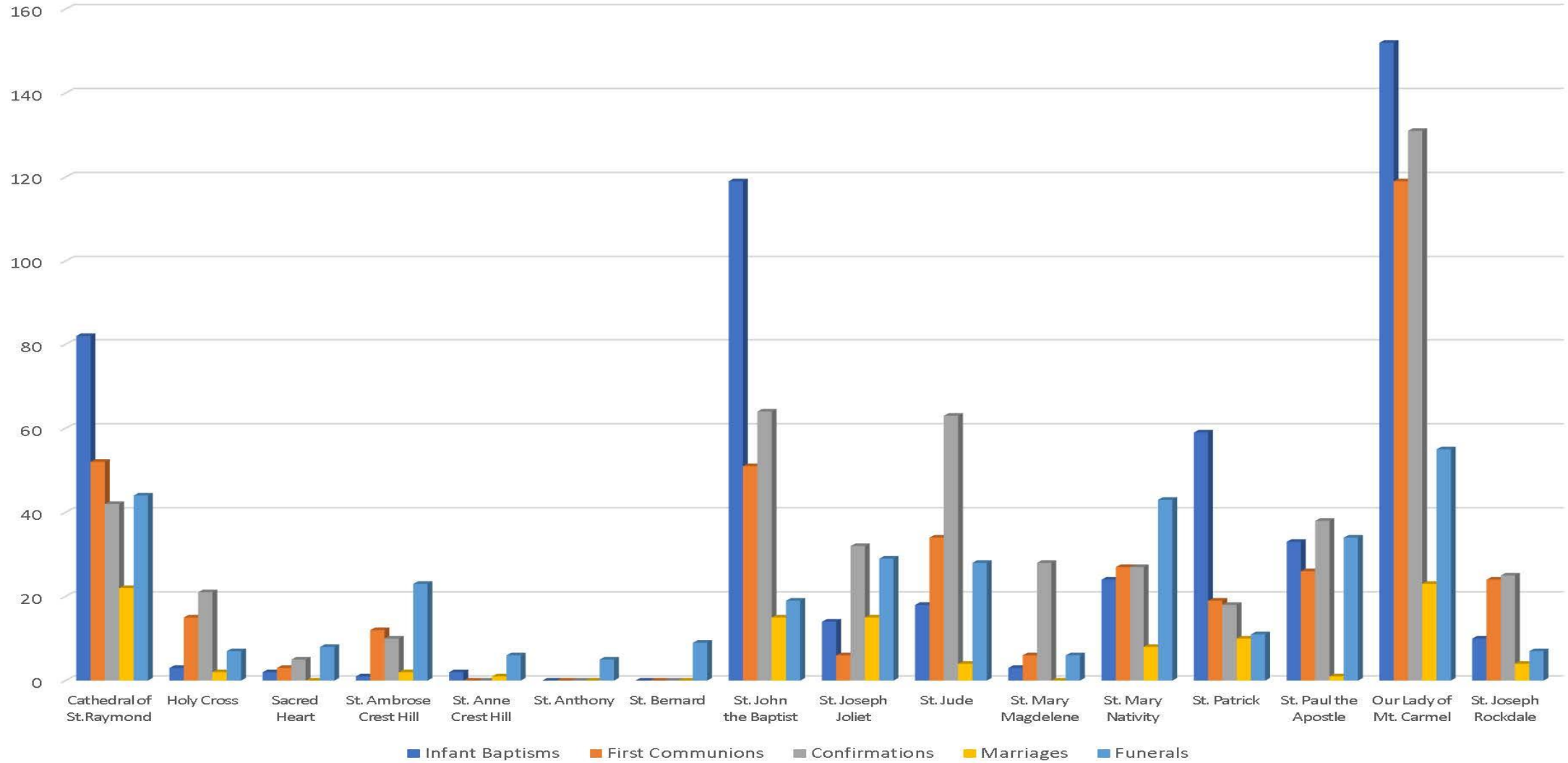
PARISH DATA POINTS

City	Distance from Cathedral	Parish	Territorial/National	School	Priests	2022 Registered Families
Joliet	0 mi	Cathedral of St. Raymond	Territorial	yes	Rev. Bill Dewan	1,700
Joliet	1 mi east	Holy Cross	National (Polish)	no	Rev. Jerome Kish; Rev. Tomasz Sielicki, SChr.	213
Joliet	2 mi south/east	Sacred Heart	Territorial	no	Rev. Bill Dewan; Rev. John Abulag	245
Crest Hill	2 mi north	St. Ambrose	Territorial	no	Rev. Anthony Nyamai	489
Crest Hill	2 mi north/east	St. Anne	Territorial	no	Rev. Anthony Nyamai	212
Joliet	2 mi southeast	St. Anthony	National (Italian)	no	Rev. John Balluff	220
Joliet	3 mi east	St. Bernard	Territorial	no	Rev. Chris Groh	129
Joliet	1 mi southeast	St. John the Baptist	National (German)	no	Rev. Larry Janezic, OFM; Rev. Rommel Perez, OFM	600
Joliet	2 mi east	St. Joseph	National (Slovenian)	no	Rev. Tim Andres, O.Carm.	884
Joliet	3 mi west/south	St. Jude	Territorial	yes	Rev. Michael Lane	1,010
Joliet	4 mi ssoutheast	St. Mary Magdelene	Territorial	no	Rev. Chris Groh	537
Joliet	1 mi east	St. Mary Nativity	National (Croatian)	yes	Rev. Jerome Kish	636
Joliet	1 mi south	St. Patrick	Territorial	no	Rev. J. Rodolphe Arty, C.S.C	525
Joliet	2 mi southwest	St. Paul the Apostle	Territorial	yes	Rev. Mark Cote	829
Joliet	2 mi east	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Territorial	no	Rev. Enrique Varela, O.Carm.	3,242
Rockdale	3 mi south/west	St. Joseph	Territorial	no	Rev. Michael Magiera, FSSP	285

2022 PARISH SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

Parish	Infant Baptisms	First Communions	Confirmations	Marriages	Funerals
Cathedral of St. Raymond	82	52	42	22	44
Holy Cross	3	15	21	2	7
Sacred Heart	2	3	5	0	8
St. Ambrose Crest Hill	1	12	10	2	23
St. Anne Crest Hill	2	0	0	1	6
St. Anthony	0	0	0	0	5
St. Bernard	0	0	0	0	9
St. John the Baptist	119	51	64	15	19
St. Joseph Joliet	14	6	32	15	29
St. Jude	18	34	63	4	28
St. Mary Magdelene	3	6	28	0	6
St. Mary Nativity	24	27	27	8	43
St. Patrick	59	19	18	10	11
St. Paul the Apostle	33	26	38	1	34
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	152	119	131	23	55
St. Joseph Rockdale	10	24	25	4	7

2022 Joliet Deanery Sacramental Statistics



DIOCESAN SACRAMENTAL STATISTICS

	2022	2020	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960	1950
INFANT BAPTISMS	4,930	5,183	8,075	9,889	9,491	7,594	6,438	6,222	3,140
MINOR BAPTISMS	186	246	196	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ADULT BAPTISMS	122	165	205	319	103	462	424	451	422
RECEIVED INTO FULL COMMUNION	287	357	598	852	327	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FIRST COMMUNIONS	6,285	6,782	9,638	9757*	7,283	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CONFIRMATIONS	6,146	6,518	8268*	7,148	5,608	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CATHOLIC MARRIAGES	831	975	1,259	1,646	1984*	1,578	1,384	911	706
INTERFAITH MARRIAGES	134	187	333	662	839	964	900	377	371
TOTAL MARRIAGES	965	1,162	1,592	2,308	2,823	2,542	2,284	1,288	1,077
DEATHS/FUNERALS	3618*	3,369	3,460	3,522	2,971	2,269	1,859	1,321	877

* HIGHEST NUMBER RECORDED

POPULATION AND SACRAMENTAL DATA POINTS

- Diocese of Joliet was in its heyday from 1970-1990
- Catholic population was 655,415 in 2010; it was 520,148 in 2022, a 20.7% decrease
- Overall population in the diocese in 2020 was 2,336,202; in 2022 it was 1,935,465, a decrease of 17.2%
- Infant baptisms have decreased by 50.2% since 2000
- First communions have decreased by 35.6% since 2000
- Confirmations have decreased by 14.1% since 2010*
- Catholic marriages have decreased by 58.2% since 1990**

FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

Parish	AUDIT YEAR	2-4 YEARS	4-6 YEARS	6-8 YEARS	8-10 YEARS	TOTAL
Cathedral of St. Raymond (2023)	\$23,150	\$60,000	\$104,500	\$4,650	\$20,000	\$212,300
Holy Cross (audit scheduled)						
Sacred Heart (audit scheduled)						
St. Ambrose Crest Hill (2022)	\$34,100	\$405,700	\$112,750	\$448,500	\$215,250	\$1,216,300
St. Anne Crest Hill (2022)	\$4,750	\$176,850	\$80,400	\$58,250	\$92,000	\$412,250
St. Anthony (audit scheduled)						
St. Bernard (2018)	\$49,200	\$65,500	\$150,500	\$90,000	\$0	\$355,200
St. John the Baptist (2021)	\$1,000	\$43,150	\$12,350	\$0	\$60,000	\$116,500
St. Joseph Joliet (2021)	\$34,575	\$255,590	\$111,500	\$18,250	\$135,000	\$554,915
St. Jude (2023)	\$252,000	\$121,100	\$75,800	\$0	\$0	\$448,900
St. Mary Magdelene (2020)	\$55,000	\$215,000	\$445,400	\$0	\$0	\$715,400
St. Mary Nativity (2023)	\$27,750	\$329,500	\$338,900	\$9,600	\$374,000	\$1,079,750
St. Patrick (2019)	\$337,000	\$466,900	\$1,192,500	\$40,000	\$0	\$2,036,400
St. Paul the Apostle (2023)	\$90,250	\$224,850	\$271,750	\$555,800	\$586,250	\$1,728,900
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (audit scheduled)						
St. Joseph Rockdale (audit scheduled)						
TOTAL						\$8,876,815

JOLIET DEANERY FINANCES

- The combined funds on deposit of all parishes in the Joliet Deanery is \$8,847,773.94 as of 6/29/2023.
- This includes ALL funds, i.e. operating, restricted, buildings and repairs, memorial, capital reserve, capital campaign, mass stipends, ministries, etc.
- The total cost of facility needs over the next ten years is \$\$8,057,115.
- All other parish expenses are NOT INCLUDED.
- Do the math. This is not sustainable.

JOLIET DEMOGRAPHICS

Study group within a 4.5 mile radius of the Cathedral

- 2022 population was 143,495; number of households was 50,162.
- Projected population increase by 2032 is 5.5%; projected household increase by 2032 is 5.8%.
- Children 17 and younger are declining as a percentage of the total population; they are aging through, but not being replaced at the younger levels.
- Married couple households are decreasing; persons who never married, are divorced and/or widowed are increasing.
- 20% of adults rank religious/spiritual programs as very important.

WE MUST TRUST IN JESUS. Our faith will sustain us.

The disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. It was nighttime, dark and their boat was being tossed about by the waves. During the fourth watch of the night, the darkest hour before dawn, Jesus walked toward the boat on the water. The disciples saw him and were terrified; they thought it was a ghost. Jesus said to them, **“Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”** Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus told him to come, and Peter began to walk on the water towards Jesus. But he got distracted by the wind and became frightened, and he began to sink. Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, **“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”**

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