

## Day 09 Novena Miraculous Catch Fish

Rev. Peter G. Jankowski  
July 25, 2026

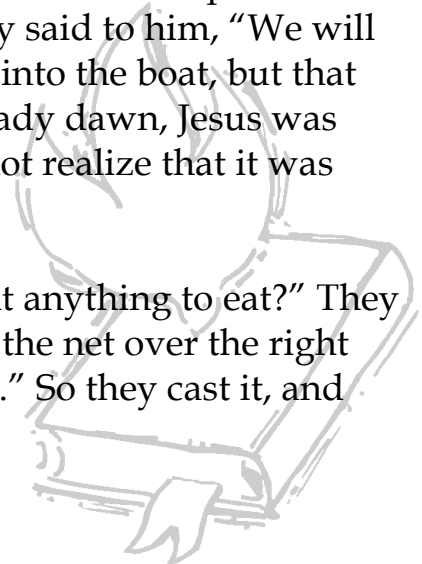
2 Cor 4: 7-15  
Ps 16: 1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11  
Lk 24: 13-35

---

On this last day of the St. Anne Novena, I wanted to focus on one more miracle in the Gospel of John outside of the *Seven Signs* that we have already addressed, because this is yet another miracle, another sign that Jesus showed his apostles and really sets the stage for how we are supposed to continue on after this Novena. The homily I offer today usually is preached in the Cycle C readings for the Third Sunday of Easter from the Holy Gospel according to John.

At that time, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way, together with Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathaniel from Kana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, who are James and John, and two others of the disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night, they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to him, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat, and you will find something." So they cast it, and



they were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea.

The other disciples came into the boat, for they were not far from the shore, only about 100 yards, dragging the net with fish. When they climbed out of the shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of 153 large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." None of the disciples dared to ask, "Who are you?" Because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner, the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to Simon Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." Jesus said to him a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted, but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to Peter, "Follow me."

I focus on this additional miracle story in the Gospel of John in addition to the gospel for the day, because all of us now on this last day of the Novena have been challenged by God as to what we are going to do with the fish that we have caught. What are we going to do with this message that God has given us?

For the last eight days, we have been focusing on these miracles, these signs of Jesus, which reveal who He is to us and what He was willing to do to feed us, to love us, to heal us, to raise us up from the dead. He can do all kinds of things for us because His purpose in life is to reveal who He is and what He is calling us to do. It is not just good enough to listen to the word. Now we have to carry this word out to the nations knowing full well what is going to happen to us when we do.

What we are called to do from this day forward is not going to be easy, because just like 2,000 years ago, when Peter denied Jesus three times and Thomas doubted that Jesus rose from the dead, and James and John got petty and were more concerned about where they were going to sit in the Kingdom of Heaven rather than going out and living the message. Eventually, all of them changed their ways, and all of them

had enough strength to do God's mission, and they all suffered for it, and they all died for it.

This is the challenge that we face in our lives, knowing full well that if we live this message and if we do what God is asking us to do, it is not going to turn out well for us because it usually does not, not in this world. In the next world, though, if we do what God asks us to do, if we walk through that fire, if we walk through the cross and not around it, if we walk through the fire and not around it, God will continue to feed us with the bread of life for the rest of our life, for the rest of our existence, both in this world and in the next world.

We celebrate the feast of St. James the Apostle (the "proto martyr" or first martyr among the apostles) because we remind ourselves that he was one of the apostles who dedicated himself to suffering and dying for the cause of the faith. As traditions explains to us, some eight-hundred years later in 844 AD during the Battle of Clavijo, St. James descended from the heavens and led the Spanish people against the Moors in a battle where, according to tradition, he led on his trusted

horse and wielding an enormous sword. The story tells us that St. James slew the enemy in that battle so that the Catholic faith could survive.

On this last day of the Novena, we come together knowing very well that we are being asked to have this prudence, this wisdom, this strength and this love to do what God asks us to do. What God asks us to do is going to take a great deal of our strength because this is not a world that will be easy on people like us. But if we live the life, if we live the faith, if we preach Christ crucified, if we change our lives, God does not remember us for what happened to us yesterday – God allows us to start with a clean slate. When we change and direct our lives to *love*, God will love us overflowing more.

Obviously, we all have shortcomings. We all can do and say things that could destroy each other, but we also have a potential for great good. If we focus on the *good*, if we turn away from sin and believe in the gospel, so many good things await us. That is why we are here today, and that is why I am so blessed that you have stayed with us through these entire nine days and tomorrow, the feast day of St. Anne.

We dedicate a great deal of time and effort to record and produce these videos, but we are doing them because this is our mission; *you* are our mission. *This* is what God has called us to do with this type of evangelization. Please just know it takes a lot of work, a lot of effort, a lot of strain. I will record the masses, and then I will spend a great deal of time producing them and uploading them so that you can watch them in advance or during the novena.

We are very thankful for Fr. Sebastian Genoni, MIC who will be coming from Argentina to lead this mission for our Hispanic community, Fr. Jim Heyd, who is working with the Vietnamese and French-Canadian communities to bring them to us on July 26<sup>th</sup> and for all of you who have stayed with us to watch these Novena Masses, to live in God's love so we can take this love, be fed by God, and then take this food, this love, this message, and share it with the people that we meet. This is our prayer.