

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 30, 2019

Following The Christ Class 101

A superficial reading of today's First Reading and Gospel may give us the impression that Elijah is easier on his disciple than Our Lord is with his, but the Second Reading can shed a little light on the apparent difference. In today's 1st Reading, we see Elisha called by Elijah to follow him and become a prophet. The Lord sent Elijah to invite Elisha to follow him. Every call comes from the Lord. Elisha asks Elijah if we can put his affairs in order before leaving. Scholars differ about what Elijah meant when he responds, "Have I done anything to you?" It seems he is simply saying that Elisha has not started following yet and is free to do what he wants. Elisha does a last gesture of kindness and concern for his family before dedicating his life to the Lord's service. Saint Paul reminds us in the 2nd Reading that life is a battle between the flesh and the Spirit. The Christian life presents a new way of living, living in a way that you are not enslaved to things and situations, but alive in the Spirit and focused on the spiritual goal. Even good things, if sought for the wrong reasons, can oppose a life of the Spirit. The ultimate measure of Christian living is whether you truly love your neighbor or not. Every direction we take in life is measured by our intentions in taking the next step.

A common denominator in today's First Reading and Gospel is that the disciple asks to do something before following his master. The subtle difference is that, unlike Elijah, Our Lord can always read hearts and see whether that heart is speaking from the flesh or the Spirit. Elisha is "liquidating his assets" and making one last gesture of love for his family before departing. The hearts of disciples in today's Gospel are only known to Our Lord, and it is in his response to them that we see a potential conflict between Spirit and flesh that he is trying to help them address. The first disciple in today's Gospel perhaps doesn't understand that following Our Lord is a lifelong commitment: he's not just headed to the Rabbi's house instead of his own, he is committed to permanently follow Jesus, just as every Christian is called to do, and go wherever he leads them. The second disciple wants to attend to important family business, but sometimes following Our Lord requires sacrifice and self-denial: in telling the dead to bury their dead Our Lord perhaps is telling him too that the family business he is concerned about can already be handled by another member of his family.

Remember here that, unlike Elijah, the Lord can read hearts.

The last potential disciple wants to go home and say goodbye first: Our Lord sees something in that request that would put flesh over Spirit. Perhaps the disciple would go home and stay there. Perhaps his father or mother would convince him not to leave. Following Christ is the best thing we can do for ourselves and our family, and we must never lose sight of that.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



Deeper into the Holy Spirit - to live in the Spirit we MUST go deeper into the Mystery of the Eucharist Jesus Truly God Truly Man present to us in the Bread of Life. Your Pastor recommends pastorally some summer reading on the Eucharist: inspirational "*The 7 Secrets of the Eucharist*" by layman Vinny Flynn; "*Why the Eucharist Matters for YOUR Life*" by convert Chris Padgett; Advanced: "*The Hidden Manna, Theology of the Eucharist*" by the late Fr. James T. O'Connor. American Priest.

Healing Week - the charismatic Mother of God Catholic Community Gaithersburg welcomes Catholic faith healer and teacher Damian Stayne from England Mid-July, followed by a Night of Healing **downtown** at CUA at the Pryzballa Center. Free. 7pm July 13. Free parking METRO CUA/Brookland. The poor, the marginalized, those who feel both physically or spiritually wounded are invited to come. All are welcome. FREE. Priests and Consecrated from the entire ADW and the region will attend. Come Holy Spirit! More info: online <https://motherofgod.org/>



Happy Birthday USA. The rectory offices will be closed on the 4th of July.

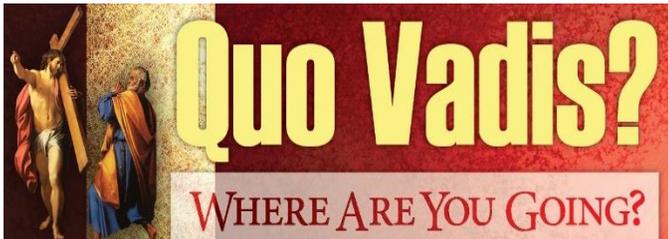
Mass Intentions

June 29- July 6, 2019

Sat. 6/29	8:00 am	No mass
	5:30 pm	+Kevin Fagan
Sun. 6/30	8:00am	People of the Parish
	10:00am	+Kevin Fagan
	1:00pm	Hernandez-Chirino Family
Mon. 7/1	12:00	No mass
Tue. 7/2	12:00	No Mass
Wed. 7/3	12:00	No mass
Thu. 7/4	12:00	No mass
Fri. 7/5	12:00	No mass
Sat. 7/6	8:00 am	No mass
	5:30 pm	+Kevin Fagan

Please pray for the sick and home-bound of our Parish:

Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You. Hear us for Your sick servant (N...) for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily health, he (she) may give thanks to You in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord.



Summer Camp 2019

High School young men: Where are you going?

Qua vadis camp is run by priest and seminarians of the archdiocese, includes mass, great talks, sports, eucharistic adoration, games, food, and time to relax with other young men discerning God's will in their live.

July 28-31 at Mount St. Mary Seminary. Register now at dcpriest.org

Summer camps for young people. Fr. Andrew Gronotte, from Our Lady of Bethesda Center, will be leading several camps near us.

Visit: <https://conquestyouthministry.com/camps/>

Report

6/23/19

Attendance:	381 souls
Offerings & Tithes:	\$4,980
Spanish Mass:	\$589
Utility fund:	\$59

For those who tithe and give regularly thank you! For those who do not, please prayerfully consider giving a sacrificial gift to keep your Nativity parish home strong and alive. Your ADW taxes help support the St. Anthony school in NE Washington and many other regional schools.



Attention Parishioners: You may have noticed a new envelope in your July tithing packet that you received in the mail from Our Sunday Visitor that is marked MAINTENANCE FUND. Donations collected in this envelope will be used when needed for the upkeep and repairs of buildings and grounds on campus at Nativity.

Youth Faith and Fun day. July 20, 2019

For young people starting at 3rd grade to Senior in High School

- ✓ fun, games, lessons, lunch, daily mass, mentor help from young peers

At Nativity Church with volunteers from Our Lady of Bethesda Center 1 Priest, 1 Brother, 1 Lay Youth Missionary; and 6 High School volunteers. Chaperones and other helpers are welcome. Cost \$5.00 per person (for food/drinks and material expenses). Donations are welcome! -

RCIA The office of catechesis is offering three RCIA trainings this Summer. Sessions will be from 9am to 3pm.. Training is free of charge, but you need to register in advance.

- Saturday, July 27. Saint John the Baptist in Silver Spring, MD.
- Saturday, August 3. Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomons, MD

To register, contact Sara Blauvelt at blauvelts@adw.org



Question of the week: What commitment have I made that was the most transformative? How can my commitment to my faith be more complete?