

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 18, 2019

What does Jesus **mean** by saying that he came "to **set the earth on fire**"?

Readings: Jeremiah 38:4–6, 8–10; Psalm 40:2–4, 18; Hebrews 12:1–4 Luke 12:49–53

- He is speaking about the fire of **Christian virtue**, of the **Christian way of life** that makes power struggles, prejudice, and oppression **obsolete**.
- He is speaking of the fire of **faith and hope** that will bring **countless** human lives back onto the path of a **meaningful and fulfilling** life.
- He is speaking of the **love** for one's **neighbor** that will take root and gradually build up a **civilization of justice and love**. 20 centuries later, we know that this is what Christ **meant**.

But when he said it, the Church didn't yet **exist**. It hadn't converted **emperors and kings**. It was just an **embryo**, just a **tiny community** of ordinary fisherman from the boondocks.

Jesus successfully **communicated** that mission statement. His Apostles **got the message** and made it their **own**. They let Jesus set **their** hearts on fire **first**. And then they went on to do **their** job. Started **spreading** that fire. They spread it with **words and deeds**. They even sealed their work with the **sacrifice of their lives**. All but one of the Apostles died a **martyr's** death. And the next generation of Christians continued carrying the torch. And the next...

But even so, the world is **not yet all ablaze**. Many **pockets** are still **cold and dark**. places that **used** to be blazing are now only **smoldering**. Many hearts still haven't been **renewed** by the fire of Christ's love and wisdom. And so, Jesus **repeats the lesson today**, to **us**. He gives **us** his **mission statement**, and **invites** us to make it our **own**, to **take up the baton**, to put **our** lives on the line to **spread the saving fire** of Christian virtue and truth.

Fr. Blake Evans, Pastor

A graphic with a teal background and the words "Thank You" written in a white, cursive font with a white underline.

To the Salesians of Don Bosco, Fr. Mike Conway, Fr. Mike Mendl and Fr. Tom Provenzano, for celebrating our Sunday masses.

Mr. and Mrs. John Naughton of the Shrine of St. Jude, who donated several thousand dollars to Nativity.



September 15th. Please register your children before the first day of Religious Ed. We are asking for \$50 per child. We will take registrations after the 8am and 10am Masses. Please come to the area around the baptismal font to fill out the registrations. Thank you!

Sick Calls/Hospital calls: Please be sure to leave a NAME and number of **next of kin** if you call the Parish to request a **visit to the sick**. We receive many requests without family contacts. Thank you!

Question of the week: When have I stood up for what is right? When would I be willing to do so?



Back to School. We are collecting school supplies (notebooks, backpacks, pencils, paper, folders etc.) for our children, last day to drop your contribution is Sunday August 25th. Distribution will be August 25th in the Church Lounge after the 10:00 am mass until 1:00 pm.

Mass Intentions

August 17 – 24, 2019

Sat. 8/17	8:00 am	Home bound parishioners
	5:30 pm	+A. J. Cooper III
Sun. 8/18	8:00am	+Michael S. Kelly
	10:00am	People of the Parish
	1:00pm	Guillermo Hernández
Mon. 8/19	12:00	Elene Dieng (No mass) *
Tue. 8/20	12:00	Sara Garcia Cooper (No mass) *
Wed. 8/21	12:00	+Rafaela Evans (No mass) *
Thu. 8/22	12:00	Rohini Perera
Fri. 8/23	12:00	+Patricia Hallman (No mass) *
Sat. 8/24	8:00 am	Souls in Purgatory (No mass) *
	5:30 pm	People of the parish

*Masses will be celebrated off campus.
Thursday, August 22, there will be noon mass.

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

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Catherine Baum, *Ann Butler, *Carmen Dolores Campos, *Eileen Carroll-Doshier, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Linda Foster, *Fr. Ricky Gancayo, *Charlie Gick, *Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Guillermo Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *James Humphries, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Irene Jimenez, *Geraldine Jones, *Charles Johnson, *Manuel Juarez, *Busara Kennedy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Theresa McNair, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Larry Morris, *Iris Newman, *Howard Noack, *Fr. Everett Pearson, *D. Cynthia Peters, *Michelle Perez, *James Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Fr. Vince Rigdon, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Robert Schaeffer, *Andre Sims, *Bonafacio Selayo, *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Suzie Thompson, *Auristela Toro, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams.

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.

Weekly Report

8/11/19

Attendance: 377 souls
Offerings & Tithes: \$5,119
Spanish Mass: \$349
Utility fund: \$66
Maintenance fund: \$40

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 strong. Your ADW taxes help support the St. Anthony school in NE Washington



In Rome's Via de Monserrato, just a few blocks from the Tiber River, lies the **Venerable English College**. Founded as a Seminary in 1579, it has formed generations of English Catholic Priests for ministry to England and the English-speaking world. During the 16th and 17th centuries, 44 former students of the English college were murdered in England during different waves of persecutions. 40 of them have been beatified or Canonized and have their own feast day. The students at the English college knew that they were preparing for martyrdom in a world where the State had become God, a King called himself the Head of the Church, and the society to save its comfort denied the faith to save their lives and possessions. St Philip Neri, who lived near the college, used to greet the students with the phrase "*Salvete Flores Martyrum* – Hail, the flower of the Martyrs." And the college's motto hangs above the door. It reads: "**I have come to set the earth on fire,**" and that was a desire the students made their own. They understood that God's love passed through the Cross, and that our own love must do the same. Therefore, they were willing to witness to God's love even to point of giving up their own lives. The martyrs of the English college exemplify **setting the world on fire for love of God**. *Priest-Martyrs of England pray for us!*

Young Adult Group-Are you a child of God between the ages of 18-40? Are you looking for a sense of community in your walk with God? Come to the Nativity Young Adult Group! Our next meeting will be on **August 21st at 7pm in the Music Room**. There will be food, prayer, and discussions! If interested, please text your name, cell phone number, and email address to Kayleen Mark at 202-817-8283. Invite a friend, we look forward to meeting you!