

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 3, 2019

Zaccheus, I intend to stay at your house today.

Christ invites us all to take a break in life. He wants to meet with us. He knows how we all are, our things, our occupations, and the whirlwind of our comings and goings: from home to school, from school to work, from work to school, from school back home, from home to the store.

He knows the effort of our worn hands. He knows what we are: water, earth, mud. But he also knows everything we need. That's why when he sees us like Zaccheus in the sycamore tree of our office, the store, our house, he sees us and calls to us: "I intend to stay at your house today."

1. Zaccheus wanted to see Jesus, but lots of things got in the way. He was short and he was a sinner but having made his decision he was able to find the way to overcome his problems. In one way or another, I am Zaccheus. It is a calling that requires an answer. Christ's call breaks our mold and wakes us from the sluggishness of our daily comings and goings. "Today" becomes a reality. Where? "In your house" -- Jesus is the one asking, not me. One day he comes knocking at your door and says, "let me stay here." Jesus Christ doesn't force himself on us, he knows our feet are dusty from the long road we have traveled.

2. It's not normal for a man's salvation to start with the desire to climb a sycamore tree to see Jesus, as was the case of Zaccheus; it is still less ordinary for it to end at a banquet where he gives away all his wealth. Nevertheless, it can help us recall the history of our own encounter with Christ in order to find even more surprising details.

It's a big mystery, but the truth is that we cannot look for God if we haven't already found him. Jesus is always listening, but he also asks for us to listen to him "today." Not tomorrow, "today." Right away. Even though you are tired and annoyed, he understands, but it needs to happen today!

3. The main duty of a Christian is to know and love Jesus Christ. Today he wants to enter each of your homes, so we need to open wide the doors for him. In any house he enters, there is fullness of joy and salvation. Our life is transformed. Saint Teresa used to say, "Where there is a lot of sun, the soul sees its misery and seems very dim."

Christ stretches out his hand like a beggar, "Please, today!" He doesn't ask you to neglect your duty, he only wants to spend a day with you, in your house,

so, the flame of his love may set your heart on fire and consume it. Being burned is not the same as being consumed. Everyone experiences the former; not many attain the latter. He is just asking you to let him in, and that means leaving space in your heart. Listen to him, treat him as a guest.

Just one day! God is your guest; rejoice in the Joy that will fill you if you let it! Show him around your home, let him feel welcome. Don't neglect the details of order and cleanliness and you will see that the day in lower case letters becomes the Day with capital letters.

Fr. Blake Evans, Pastor



to the **Bulnes/Vaisey family** of Ft. Worth, Texas who were here during the World Series and attended our Vigil Mass. They donated several thousand dollars to the parish for Church repairs and maintenance. Mrs. Bulnes is the guest who took the now famous photograph of "the Angel" floating in front Nativity that "went viral" on the internet in August 2019.



Parish damages: The Pastor is aware of the following parish damages

1. The front steps of the Church on 13th street and damage to the Church entrance (vandalism)

2. The rectory 2nd floor collapsed due to a bathroom leak

3. The insurance company is requiring that repairs be made at the Shelter entrance (paving)

4. The drain on the north side of the church has been cleared but repaving is required

5. CCPCS has PAID for \$160,000 of repairs to the school building including new tiles and bathroom repairs and asbestos abatement; they are re-proposing a plan for school playground which is under discussion.

Mass Intentions

November 2 - 9, 2019

Sat. 11/2	8:00 am	Holy Souls
	5:30 pm	Holy Souls
Sun. 11/3	8:00am	+Barbara Jackson
	10:00am	People of the Parish
	1:00pm	Holy Souls
Mon. 11/4	12:00	Santiago & Janine Bulnes
Tue. 11/5	12:00	No mass
Wed. 11/6	12:00	No mass
Thu. 11/7	12:00	No mass
Fri. 11/8	12:00	Holy Souls
Sat. 11/9	8:00 am	+Jennifer Hulsinger
	4:30 pm	+Harriet B. Carter

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

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Catherine Baum, *Jose Guadalupe Bonilla, *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, *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, *Agnes Moore, *Larry Morris, *Iris Newman, *Gloria Payne, *Fr. Everett Pearson, *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.

Question of the week: Given space for repentance, for what failings do I need forgiveness? To whom can I give space for repentance?



November 3. Daylight saving time ends. Clocks are turned backward 1 hour. Vigil Mass on Saturdays will be at 4:30 pm starting November 9th



Second Collection. Let's join to help to provide care and housing for our retired priest so they can live in dignity. Please use the envelopes that have been mailed to your home and/or the ones that have been placed in both entrances to church.

Religious Education: There are currently 85 children in our Sunday School program.

Bible study will resume soon. Father Evans will teach two classes on the Book of Sirach. Stay tuned for more information.

Volunteers are needed for Religious Education on Sundays and for monthly Youth Days. All must follow VIRTUS and Child Protection policies of the ADW.

November

Youth Faith and Fun Day. Saturday, November 9,
9 am – 2 pm.

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!

Parish Social – Community Sunday, November 17, after the 10:00 am mass at the Lounge.

Thanksgiving Mass. November 28th at 10 am. We welcome Fr. Kevin Kennedy and St. Gabriel's parishioners.