

## Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 25, 2019

We have **bad memories**.

That's what the Letter to the Hebrews tells us today: "You have **forgotten** the exhortation addressed to you as children."

- We have **forgotten** what God has **taught** us.
- We **forget** it all the time.
- And God wants to **remind** us of it.

What is this all-important lesson?

The Letter spells it out: "do not disdain the **discipline** of the Lord or lose heart when **reproved** by him; for whom the Lord **loves**, he **disciplines**..."

- In other words, **every trial and tribulation** that comes our way in life is either **sent** or **permitted** by God **for our benefit**.
- **Nothing** is outside of his wise and loving plan.
- And the main **focus** of that plan is to **restore us** to the **fullness of** life that sin has disrupted.

This is what the last line means: "[so] that what is **lame** may not be disjointed but **healed**."

- We live in a **fallen** world.
- We have been **wounded** by **original sin**.
- We have also been wounded by the sins of **other people**.
- We have also been wounded by our **own** sins.
- All these wounds have made us into **spiritual cripples**.
- We no longer experience the **wisdom, joy, and meaning** that we were **created** to experience.

**But God hasn't given up on us.**

- Through the sacrifice of his Son on the cross, he has **redeemed** us.
- And now that we are redeemed, we need to **rehabilitate** from our spiritual injuries.
- We need to **re-train our fallen nature** to live the full, **abundant** life we long for.
- That training takes **discipline** - trials and hardships. It takes going through the "**narrow gate**".

This is the lesson God is **reminding** us of today: **God's wisdom and saving love are behind every hardship and trial we face.**

Fr. Blake Evans, Pastor



This weekend Rev. Stephen J. Toth, will speak at all masses about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Father Toth will share personal witness about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

F. Toth was called to the priesthood due to his work with Mother Teresa in Calcutta & the Missionaries of Charity in India, Lima, Peru, Brazil & Haiti. He was ordained in 2002 for the Archdiocese of Newark. In addition of preaching on behalf of Food for the Poor, he is a hospital Chaplain in New Jersey. Please join me in welcoming Father Toth.

Father Evans



**September 15<sup>th</sup>.** 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:** Who do I need to look at differently in the light of today's Gospel? How will I strengthen myself so that I can open the narrow gate?

Nativity Sodality will meet on Sunday Sept 1<sup>st</sup> after the 8 am Mass for their regular meeting in the church lounge.

# Mass Intentions

**August 24 – 31, 2019**

Sat. 8/24	8:00 am	Souls in Purgatory (No mass) *
	5:30 pm	People of the parish
Sun. 8/25	8:00am	El Shaddai - DC
	10:00am	CCCPs Brightwood Students
	1:00pm	+Rafael Bonilla
Mon. 8/26	12:00	Pope Francis
Tue. 8/27	12:00	Arch. Wilton Gregory
Wed. 8/28	12:00	Nativity employees
Thu. 8/29	12:00	Stuart Smith
Fri. 8/30	12:00	+Ana Julia Aguilar
Sat. 8/31	8:00 am	Sick & homebound parishioners
	5:30 pm	People of the parish

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

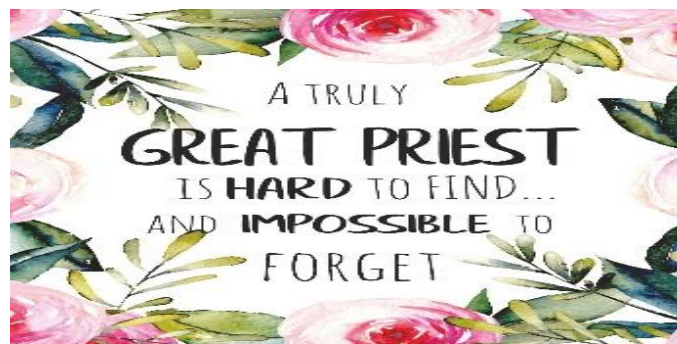
\*Alice R. Allen, \*Amina Anderson-Pringle, \*Catherine Baum, \*Jose Guadalupe Bonilla, \*Ann Butler, \*Carmen Dolores Campos, \*Eileen Carroll-Doshier, \*Carla Andrea Catacora, \*Shawn Coleman, \*William Corbel, \*Maria Cruz, \*Isel Fitzgerald, \*Linda Foster, \*Fr. Ricky Gancayo, \*Charlie Gick, \*Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB, \*John Green, Sr., \*Janet Henery, \*Blanca Hernandez, \*Guillerma 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.

**Weekly Report**

**8/18/19**

<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>353 souls</b>
Offerings & Tithes:	\$6,080
Spanish Mass:	\$1,242
Utility fund:	\$532

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



Thank you! **Fr. Mike Mendl, SDB** for all your kindness and for celebrating masses at Nativity while in the DC area. We wish you all the best in your new post in New Rochelle, NY. You will be missed!



**Back to School.** Last day to drop your contribution of school supplies (notebooks, backpacks, pencils, paper, folders etc.) for our children, is August 25<sup>th</sup>. Distribution will be this Sunday (August 25) in the Church Lounge after the 10:00 am mass until 1:00 pm.



**Youth Faith and Fun day. September 14, 2019**

**9am – 2pm**

For young people starting at 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!