

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 22, 2019

### The Praying Church

The first theme this Sunday has to do with the Church's relationship with the world around it. In the first century, the civilized world in which Christianity was taking root was still pagan. The different cultures around the Mediterranean Sea had been forcefully united under the Roman Empire. The Empire's fabulous wealth opened the door to a pleasure-loving lifestyle among the rich and powerful. It also required the spread of slave labor and the injustice and misery that went along with it. Furthermore, it allowed for the spread and interaction of the many different pagan religions native to each culture. In the midst of this sea of paganism, Christianity was still only a tiny island.

In his instructions to Timothy, St Paul lists as the first responsibility of those living on that island to pray for the pagan sea all around them, and especially for the "kings and for all in authority" - the Emperor, the governors, and the other civil leaders, many of whom had already begun to persecute the Christians. In St. Paul's words the Church was not only a boat journeying to heaven, it was also God's chosen instrument for the spread of a stable and prosperous society here on earth, in which everyone could live a "quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity." And the primary way for the Church to do that was through prayer.

Today, once again, the Church is an island in a sea of paganism. The island is bigger now, but the surrounding culture is still hostile to Christian values. So today it is still our responsibility as God's ambassadors to pray for peace, justice, and prosperity in society, to pray for our leaders. God wants our culture to be healthy and our society to be stable, but he chooses to need our prayers as channels for his grace.

**Fr. Blake Evans, Pastor**



**Bible Study: "Calling All Angels".** 3 Weeks only. The Mystery and Truth of the Angels and Archangels in time and space and the life of the Faithful Believers. **September 9, 14 & 23** at 5:45 pm in the Music Room Bring your Bible and the Catechism. In the Music Room. Free.

**Happy Feast Day to our Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle** founded in 1840, relocated and re-established in 1893. The majestic French Organ was completed this year and a concert was held this week to commemorate the great music legacy of our Cathedral. St. Matthews is listed nationwide as a "gem of the Federal city" similar in compliments to the praise of our own lovely Nativity Great Upper Church. St. Matthew pray for us. The faithful should visit their Cathedral regularly or at lease annually: 1725 Rhode Island Ave NW near Conn Ave. NW **Metro:** Red Line Dupont Circle South.



Please see the insert about matters related to the Gospel Choir and misunderstandings about the mass schedule.

**Mass in Latin (the Novus Ordo/all readings in English)** is celebrated **only** on months where there are 5 Sundays, this is to assist our international community. Thank you to Denise Lindenkugel the Dir, of Music at Georgetown Prep for her volunteering and cantoring for us. Singers are requested for this mass.

**Catholic Daughters. Our Lady of the Americas, Court 2344,** will meet on Sunday, September 22. All Catholic Daughters are encouraged to arrive promptly at 7:30 am. After the Mass, the CDA Court will meet in the Lounge for regular meeting.

# Mass Intentions

**September 21 - 28, 2019**

Sat. 9/21	8:00 am	Maria Myers
	5:30 pm	+Fr. Dominic DeBlase, SDB
Sun. 9/22	8:00am	Catholic Daughters – living and deceased
	10:00am	People of the Parish
	1:00pm	All deceased parishioners
Mon. 9/23	12:00	+Bishop William Curlin
Tue. 9/24	12:00	Special intention engament
Wed. 9/25	11:00	Hurricane Dorian's victims
Thu. 9/26	12:00	No mass
Fri. 9/27	12:00	+Charles Ferry
Sat. 9/28	8:00 am	+Ryan Heath
	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, \*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, \*Maria Magdalena Medrano, \*Agnes Moore, \*Larry Morris, \*Iris Newman, \*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.

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.

**? Question of the week:** What can I do to serve God over mammon?

**Youth in action** - thanks to our youth who spent hours painting and repairing the paint colors on the front of the main Church steps. Thanks to all the volunteers from Regnum Christi and the *Our Lady of Bethesda* Retreat Center who came to help us that day. More parishioners helping on Youth Days would be appreciated. Thanks to Fr. Andrew Gronnette for his evident love and concern for our kids.



**“Let the children come to me.”**

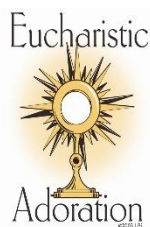
Matthew 19:14

Religious Education begun on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, however you can still enroll your children. All young people must be in religious education for two years in a row before receiving a Sacrament.

**Annual Red Mass for the Supreme Court - Sun, Oct 6**, 67th Annual Red Mass, hosted by the John Carroll Society at The Cathedral 10am, with Archbishop Wilton Gregory as celebrant.

## Thank you

**Catholic Daughters. Our Lady of the Americas, Court 2344** for their kind donation of \$1,250 for our Religious Education program and Church needs. May God continue blessing you abundantly.



The sacred tradition of Adoration is timeless. We are grateful for those who have prayed and assisted here in adoring our Lord and radiating in His Presence. Three Holy Hours were offered in April May and June. No Nativity parishioners came. The June Holy Hour for our son Fr. Ebuka Mbnude being ordained was only attended by one parish employee; the Pastor is grateful to Clara Castillo who for years assured a regular attendance of the faithful. She has moved overseas. Church Law requests 40 hours of continuous adoration by every parish worldwide. Nativity has not fulfilled this in over a decade. An Adoration Society volunteer is requested. For now, the Pastor has secured enough volunteers for Adoration on the 1st Saturdays of the month AFTER the 8am Mass for now. This does not meet the requirements requested by the Holy See. *"Sacrament most Holy we Thee Adore!"*