

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 23, 2020

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My dear Parishioners and Friends,

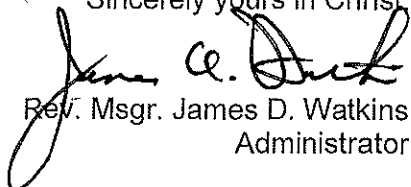
As you may know, Father Blake Evans has taken some time to address some personal needs and has, therefore, decided to take an extended leave from his duties as Pastor of Nativity Parish. Archbishop Gregory has asked me to fill in as Administrator of the Parish for about six months to help out. In addition, Father Tim Daniel has been appointed as Parochial Assistant to celebrate the majority of the Sunday Masses, offer daily Mass, and administer the Sacraments to the parishioners.

This is a time of transition for the Parish, as the Archdiocese selects a new Pastor. It is the general hope that a new Pastor will be appointed in July of this year. During the next several months, I will be meeting with key leaders of the Parish in the various ministries and groups to listen carefully and to gather critical information with a view towards making recommendations to help to improve Parish life and ministry.

As Christian disciples, we manifest the Kingdom of God through lives of faith, hope, and love. In particular, I would encourage all of us to venture forward together with charity, patience, and kindness as we work together to build up the Parish in our Lord's name. As well, I would ask you to keep Father Evans in your precious prayers.

Father Daniel and I are here to serve you as best we can. We will collaborate with you and work together to bring greater understanding and communication among all the aspects of Parish life and ministry. All of this will, naturally, take time; so, please be patient. I know I can count on your charity and respect – which I pledge to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Rev. Msgr. James D. Watkins
Administrator

P.S. If you would like to send me any correspondence, please refer to the Parish Administrative Assistant at: lauraj@nativitychurch.net



Mass Intentions

February 22 - 29, 2020

Sat. 2/22	8:00am	Toni Hill & Annette Mitchell
	4:30pm	People of the Parish
Sun. 2/23	8:00am	Toni Hill & Annette Mitchell
	10:00am	Sandra Lucas
	1:00pm	The Gonzalez-Lim family
Mon. 2/24	12:00pm	Deceased children of the Morales family
Tue. 2/25	12:00pm	Sandra Lucas
Wed. 2/26	12:00pm	Special intention
	6:30pm	People of the Parish
Thu. 2/27		No mass
Fri. 2/28	11:00am	+Leonardo Aguilar, Sr. Funeral
Sat. 2/29	8:00am	Souls in Purgatory
	4:30pm	+Efrain Fernandez

Pray for the sick and home-bound of our Parish:



February 26

A day of prayer, abstinence, and fasting.

Masses: 12:00pm & 6:30pm with imposition of Ashes

Catholic Daughters meeting will take place on Sunday, February 23rd after the 8:00am Mass.



Father Augustus Tolton

First enslaved American to be ordained a Catholic Priest.

Save the date! Social Sunday - Please join us in the Lounge on Sunday, March 1st, after the 10:00am Mass, for donuts, coffee, juice, and fellowship. This is a wonderful time for parishioners to meet St. John Paul II Seminarians as well as to get to know each other better. Social Sunday is free to all parishioners.

Dollars and Diapers Outreach Ministry 2020. Diapers may be dropped off at the front vestibule of the church in the labeled collection containers. Donation envelopes are in a basket located on the altar rail labeled DOLLARS AND DIAPERS. Please place all monetary donations in the envelopes into the Sunday collection basket while the campaign is ongoing.

**SAINT
JOHN PAUL II
NATIONAL SHRINE**

3900 Harewood Rd., NE. Washington, DC 20017

Weekly Rosary with Meditations by Saint John Paul II. Every Saturday during lent at 12:45pm.

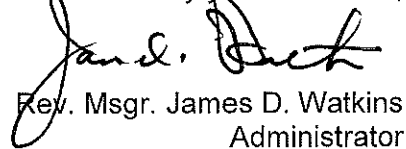
My dear Parishioners and Friends,

With the observance of Ash Wednesday, we will begin the liturgical season of Lent – a time of prayer, penitence, sacrifice, conversion and charity. These forty days of Lent afford us an annual opportunity to reflect seriously on the Passion of the Lord as it relates to our own lives. Our divine Lord instructs us, "If anyone wishes to follow after me, let him take up his cross and follow in my footsteps."

So, this is in part what we are doing this Lent as Catholic Christians. We are taking up our cross and following in His footsteps. We are also helping others to take up their crosses. Consider the many people along the Way of the Cross who assisted Jesus on that first Good Friday: the women of Jerusalem who offered Jesus comfort, Simon the Cyrene who was merely passing by and lifted the heavy burden off Jesus' shoulders, Veronica who wiped the sweat and blood from the Master's face, Joseph of Arimathea who provided his own tomb for Jesus' burial, and Mary and John who prayed at the foot of the cross. All of these characters played a vital role in Jesus' Passion, and their charity is, without doubt, fondly remembered by our Lord.

As we enter into this holy season and make this spiritual journey of prayer, fasting, and penitence with our divine Lord in the desert of our souls, my prayer is that these forty days of Lent prepare us by God's grace for the joys of fifty of Easter!

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Rev. Msgr. James D. Watkins
Administrator

