

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 4, 2018

WITH ALL YOUR HEART

"If you admire Jesus so much why did you never become a Christian?" - question to Ghandi
"Because I never really met one yet." – answer

"One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'The first is this: *Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*'"

Love is a very serious matter; that is why it natural to take it on fully and totally: "You shall love with all your heart". Why with "all"? Because love cannot bear limits or being measured. You cannot love "a little". That's why St Bernard insisted that "The measure of love is to love without measure."

1. This totality is what measures our happiness and the value of our life; only in love can man rescue his life from capsizing. Jesus speaks of the heart, soul, and strength because it implies all our capacity of understanding, all our emotional strength, all our dynamism of acting. When love for God and neighbor is like this, it alone is enough for us. As Saint Augustine says: "Love and do as you will." Love is total in another sense: it embraces all of Christian morality and Christian spirituality. The other virtues are only aspects of charity; if we practice them without charity, they become sterile. Self-giving, generosity, obedience, and poverty become authentic values only when they are ways of loving.

2. The greatest and most consequential word a father can speak to his son is: "I love you". Love is beyond what is human or terrestrial; it is God's initiative. C.S. Lewis, in *Four Loves*, writes, speaking of charity, "natural Gift-love is always directed to objects which the lover finds in some way intrinsically lovable But Divine Gift-love in the man enables him to love what is not naturally lovable; lepers, criminals, enemies, morons, the sulky, the superior, and the sneering."

3. Today, Christians ask about their identity: What does it really mean to be Christian? What is most important? Jesus did not respond with the first commandment, but rather with the first two, which together form but one commandment. This is the novelty. It's not about two commandments in a hierarchical order, but one sole commandment. What's important is not the order, but the logic: The love God has for us is the source of our love for him and our neighbor. We want to be loved for our intelligence, beauty, generosity, honesty, efficiency. When we see someone offering us supreme love, charity, this produces an incredible impact. Receiving is harder and perhaps more meritorious than giving.

Just like the scribe of the Gospel, we must ask ourselves again, "What is most important? What truly saves our lives, gives true peace to our conscience, remains after the fleetingness of human life?" With this, being brothers and sisters is not difficult. Is it so difficult to leave in each brother or sister that crosses our path an token of love, kindness, respect, appreciation for their dignity, encouragement, and commitment, for the construction of a more human and fraternal world? It will be difficult, but it is essential, primary, first, because "to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



New Guest Priest! Welcome the Rev. Dr. Father Michael Hall, OSB, Ph.D., of the Order of St. Benedict and Headmaster Emeritus of Washington's St. Anselm Abbey School. Father has worked at St. Anselms since the 1960s, has a Ph.D. in History from McGill University in Canada, a degree in Historical Studies, University of Cambridge, England; and M.A. in History and Politics, from CUA and a BA Philosophy/History, also from CUA. Father Hall will be helping us on Sundays throughout the year starting this November. Welcome! And thank him!



Bible Study. Monday, November 5th at 5:45pm. Music Room

The **Nativity Sodality** Officers will be installed on Sunday, November 4, 2018 during the 8 am Mass. All Sodalists are encouraged to attend this Mass. Please wear your Sodality sashes. The regular monthly business meeting will be held after the Mass.

Catholic Daughters. Our Lady of the Americas, Court 2344, will meet on Sunday, November 11th All Catholic Daughters are encouraged to arrive promptly at 7:30 am. After Litany and Mass, the CDA Court will meet in the Lounge for regular meeting.



We are starting a Children's Choir. All children are welcome. We will practice on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month and minister on Youth

Sunday every month. For more information please contact Malaika Campbell at myangel_mdc@comcast.net or (202) 491-3019.



November 4. Daylight saving time ends. Clocks are turned backward 1 hour. Vigil Mass on Saturdays will be at 4:30 pm starting November 10/

Mass Intentions for the Week

November 3 - 10, 2018

Sat. 11/3	8:00 am	+Patricia Hallman
	5:30pm	+Boyd Hamilton
Sun. 11/4	8:00am	+Nativity Sodality deceased members
	10:00am	+Reginald Ramsey
	1:00 pm	People of the Parish
Mon. 11/5	11:00am	+Margaret Pope (funeral)
*Tue 11/6	12:00	No mass
*Wed. 11/7	12:00	No mass
*Thu. 11/8	12:00	No mass
*Fri. 11/9	12:00	No mass
Sat. 11/10	8:00 am	Holy Souls
	5:30pm	People of the Parish

- *Mass will be celebrated off campus

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

Keane Council #353

Annual Thanksgiving Fried Turkey – Raffle tickets will be on sale after all masses. Winners will be announced after 10am mass on **November 18th**.

"LIVING WITH YOUR BAGS PACKED!" Another three-part education presentation on estate planning and administration. The final presentation, on Incapacity Planning, will be on **Tuesday, November 20th**. Presentation will begin at 7pm and be held in the Lounge. Refreshments will be served.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

10/28/18

Attendance: 419 souls

Offerings & Tithes: \$3,984

Spanish Mass: \$1,227

Utility fund: \$271



We are looking for volunteers to help one Sunday a month for 30 minutes during Mass. Contact Malaika Campbell at (202) 491-3019 or at myangel_mdc@comcast.net

Question of the week: Do I put these two commandments above all others in the way that I live my life? Do I see the face of Jesus in my neighbor?"

Care & Share

For those in need within Nativity Church Community. This campaign will begin on Saturday, October 20th and conclude on Sunday, November 18. Items for donation include: deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, mouthwash, lotion, soap, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, socks, wool hats and gloves. Collection bins are located at the front entrance. Thank you!

November- All Saints and Holy Souls. Nov. 2nd is the traditional commemoration of All Souls Day but Masses will be said all month for all deceased parishioners/alumni & All Souls in Purgatory in general. Please write names in the booklet at the St. Joseph Altar. From **Nov. 1st through 8th** any baptized Catholic may gain a plenary (complete) indulgence for a soul in Purgatory (by name or in general, or for all Holy Souls) by (1) devoutly visiting a cemetery and praying out loud or only mentally, for the departed; (2) on All Souls' Day (on the Sunday preceding it or following it) devoutly visit a church or an oratory and recite an Our Father and the Creed for All Souls or A Soul in General (Dead); you must be a baptized Catholic, in a state of Grace, receive communion within 10-14 days of the prayers offered; pray ONE prayer for the intentions of the Bishop of Rome (1 Our Father, Hail Mary or Creed suffices). Those in a state of sin cannot gain the indulgence. If one is in a state of venial (small sin) they MAY gain a partial indulgence only. REMINDER: You may gain only ONE plenary indulgence per day in any circumstance. The Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, praying the scriptures for 20 minutes, and Stations of the Cross all carry with them a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions which one may ask for oneself or for the The Dead any day year-round. A reminder: one must ASK God for the indulgence and not assume it is automatic. Holy Communion worthily received or "hearing" an additional mass may also be offered for the Dead. Communion may be received TWICE per day on any day, but no more. Priests may only receive 3 times daily. Reminder: Frequent Confession is urged for all of us.

November

Youth Faith and Fun Day. Saturday, November 17, 9 am – 3 pm. For young people to Senior in High School.

Parish Social – Community Sunday, November 18, after the 10:00 am mass at the Lounge.

Thanksgiving Mass. November 22nd. at 10 am. ****SGDC** – Saint Gabriel Parish. 26 Grant Circle, Washington, DC 20011