

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 17, 2018

### A SEED OF HOPE

It is quite likely that Jesus told the parables of the mustard seed and the parable of the seed that grows silently in the night and the parable of the sower, when the group of his followers was small, and the fruits of his preaching were few and far between. It was the opportune moment for **sowing hope** in the hearts of his disciples. Jesus also invites **us** today to draw 3 from his Gospel:

that we be realists; that we be patient; and that we hope in his promises:

**1. The word of God does not bear fruit automatically.** In life we reap what we sow. Going through life waiting for a stroke of luck is like that flame that quickly dies out. What remains is that which one toiling builds up. It is necessary that we create the conditions needed so that the seed takes root and grows until it reaches its fullness. Things that are worthwhile don't come about just like that; rather they are built little by little. Hope (Elpis) is a theological virtue, it comes from God, which responsibly takes the present into account and it values it and faces it with Realism but with eyes on eternity. Our life is transcendent, and we know that our human drama will certainly be overcome by grace and an end in the glorious City of God.

**2. The Word will bear fruit at its proper time.** And God's timing does not always coincide with ours. We have to begin each day with new goals as if each were the first, the only, and the last day of our lives. We should never be downhearted. We always must conquer new goals no matter what it may cost us. Thanks to our hope we never remain fixed in a spot with our arms crossed; there is always a second chance.

**3. The word of God has humble beginnings and sure ends.** A farmer is a man of hope because year after year he begins preparing his land confident that this year will be better than the previous ones. We have the same sentiments as that farmer, because we can always be better, we always hope for better times. Let us allow things to develop gradually. Humble and insignificant beginnings will turn into works of God which change people and our contemporary society.

**In the Church we are that small seed that Christ wanted to sow;** through us grace and salvation will have to reach all those men and women who live around us. Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to say: "Don't try to do spectacular things. What is most important is your daily gift of self."

Let us ask God **not to become disheartened in moments of crisis**, even though we do not see the fruits; let us not allow ourselves to become seduced by purely material results; may we always feel the nearness and the solidarity of the Church, present in every corner of the earth; and above all, may we learn to discover the hand of God, even in the small actions of our lives. Amen.

**Father Blake Evans, Pastor**



His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl cordially invites the faithful of the Archdiocese to attend the **Episcopal Ordination of Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher**, as our new Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, Friday, June

29th at 2 PM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A reception will follow immediately after.

Peter's Pence Collection  
*Be a Witness of*  
**Charity**

Next week, we will take the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit [www.usccb.org/peters-pence](http://www.usccb.org/peters-pence).



to the Knights of Columbus, Keane Council # 353; to the Catholic Daughters; to the Hispanic Community for all your work in the receptions to celebrate Deacon Ebuka Mbanude. If you like to send him a present or just get in touch with him, please send him an email at: [nzeebuka@gmail.com](mailto:nzeebuka@gmail.com) During the Summer he will be at Our Lady Queen of Peace, located at 3800 Ely Pl SE, Washington, DC 20019. Also, a big thank you to all the volunteers who came to our Youth and Fun day on Saturday, June 16.

**2018 Annual Jubilarian Mass** – Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the Annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50+ years on Sunday June 17, 2018 at 2:00 pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



# Mass Intentions

## June 16 - 23, 2018

Sat. 6/16	8:00am	All Fathers living & deceased
	5:30pm	+Winslow Vickerie
Sun. 6/17	8:00am	+Maria Dessin
	10:00am	All Fathers living & deceased
	1:00 pm	People of the Parish
Mon. 6/18	Noon	ADW-All new Priest/Deacons
Tue. 6/19	Noon	Mt. St. Mary's Priest Class of 2010
Wed. 6/20	Noon	Bob Myers (birthday)
Thu. 6/21	Noon	Michael Williams & Family
Fri. 6/22	Noon	All Fathers living & deceased
Sat. 6/23	8:00am	+Alyssa Diane Villacorta
	5:30pm	+Joseph Duncan

**Nativity is "in Need" - Financial Need** Nativity is a generous parish, last year we raised over \$7000 for social concerns, fire victims and other. This year we raised \$2,500 for the Church in the Holy Land including the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem. But monthly giving to Nativity overall has dropped in the past year by a large amount: we are now \$30,000 UNDER where we were last year, and we have bills dating back to the winter months totally \$55,000 that must be paid. These include monthly bills for our property insurance which total almost \$4,000. Nativity is responsible for all 5 buildings on our property. For the next few weeks updates will run in the bulletin and the Pastor will speak about our current status. Reports that have been shared with the Finance Committee. We are now listed as a "needy parish" of the Archdiocese and ways of sharing resources with other parishes are under discussion. We have received no bequests or large endowments for more than 1.5 years. In the meantime, 1. pray for benefactors and friends to help us, pray for yourself ask God what you can give to help. 2. Pray for the Cardinal, he has been a largest contributor for 3 years. Also, I publically thank the El Shaddai Community who annually donate over \$9,000 to the parish and have been generous with our Youth as well.

**Nativity 2025!** Our parish will celebrate its 125th Anniversary of our founding in the year 2025. A planning committee, music/concert ideas and more will begin THIS year.

**Youth Center Damage:** The YC has suffered serious damage to exterior and indoor flooring totaling \$52,000. 38 other parishes are currently damaged in some form from winter and spring storms. Catholic Mutual Insurance will cover the repairs. Fr. Evans has worked with CM and work orders are underway but currently overall 60% of the ADW is under construction or repair. We appreciate your patience. - Frank Ward, Catholic Mutual

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

6/10/18

**Attendance: 481 souls**

Offerings & Tithes: \$5,664

Spanish Mass: \$141

Utility fund: \$289

Youth Day: \$487

Past due bills: \$55,000



Nine Masses are being offered for all our Fathers Living and Deceased this month. A Memorial Prayer book is available in the Main Church for you to inscribe their name for remembrance.



Recently several of our parishes have received emails masquerading as pastors or other parish staff asking to purchase gift cards on their behalf. We have also seen similar activities where an attacker impersonates a pastor and

attempts to instruct staff to initiate a wire transfer. Please always keep in mind that the Church in Washington is a public organization, which often results in targeted phishing scams. In most cases the attacker will do their homework and use public information such as pictures, email addresses, pastor's names and parish names to attempt to tailor a phishing email to a specific parish or person. Please keep in mind the following guidelines to help detect and avoid falling victim to these scams.

- **Check the senders email address**
- **Check for spelling and grammar mistakes**
- **Beware of websites asking for unrelated information**
- **Receiving unexpected email.**
- **Trust, but verify.** When in doubt and asked to send money or gift cards via email, contact the person through known legitimate means to confirm the request.

These are all important things to look out for, but no one single item is necessarily a foolproof indicator. It's important to take all these guidelines into account and look out for a blend of potential problems with a suspect email.