

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 19, 2018

BREAD OF LIFE RAISES THE DEAD

God's Word, as well as the Eucharist, is the repast that feeds our soul. It would be reckless not to take part in the banquet that God's Wisdom has prepared for us: Bread and the Word. **The Gospel enlightens our mind; the Eucharist moves our will.** Christ's promise makes a new light shine within us on the horizon of our hope: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day."

1. In the Eucharist Jesus instills in us an immense desire to live, to be simple and authentic. Jesus, before consummating his bloody sacrifice on the cross, wanted to invite us to a banquet that he himself had prepared with a surprising and almost disconcerting type of food: his body and blood. What is the meaning of a banquet in which we are offered food and drink that can only be present through the sacrifice of a victim? There is a lot to understand here, much to adore, much to believe and much to love.

The Eucharistic banquet nourishes us and at the same time drives us to solidarity with others so that everyone may take part in the feast. It teaches us to embrace the little ones, foster friendship, and lead our brothers and sisters to the banquet – a "common union" where what is "mine" becomes "ours", and God changes it into "his", God's.

2. Holy Communion not only nourishes the soul but also gives us strength and makes our spirit enjoy the sweetness of divine things. It is not the sacrament that becomes, like the bread and wine, part of our substance, but rather we who mysteriously become like Christ. The Jews argued, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" We can no longer argue as they did; we must adore, thank and commit ourselves. He left us a last memory, beating and warm throughout the ages, to remind us of that night when he promised to remain upon the altars until the end of time, insensitive to the pain of loneliness he would experience in so many tabernacles.

3. The Eucharist is not only strength and food for the road; the Eucharist is not only for the present. It is also a pledge of future glory. What does "Whoever eats this bread will live forever" mean? Already from the present moment, the Eucharist plants a little "heaven" inside us, because in the Eucharist we receive the suffering and glorious Christ. We are pilgrims of this land, yet citizens of another country towards which we journey and where we will dwell eternally.

Our final destiny cannot be this world. God opens our poor existence on to the horizon of eternal life. His promise must inspire us. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood already has eternal life, and I will raise

him on the last day." How do we nourish our hope and yearning for the final feast? Let us ask the Lord to welcome us into heaven because we have fed on the bread that raises us to True Life. Amen.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



Monday classes resume after Labor Day. Our next text is the Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis, the hallmark of his pontificate and a template of what he asks for the Church living the Good news in the 21st Century. Text is free online or for purchase through the USCCB website. The First class will be an outline of the book.

Evans Family: the Evans, Campos, and Heath family members thank Nativity profoundly for their daily love and prayers for Rafaela Evans our faithful matriarch, mother, grandmother and great grandmother; the mother of your Priest. Special thanks to the employees and parishioners who sent meals for the rotating family members and caregivers attending her. Let us stay united in prayer. God is near. May he reward you.

- Mr. Marion Evans II brother of Father Evans



"Who is she that comes forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in battle array?"

Special thanks to the members of the Legion of Mary from St. Raphael Parish in Rockville, Md., who spend last Saturday going door to door to invite Brightwood Residence to visit Nativity or return to the Sacraments if they have been away.

Mass Intentions for the Week

August 18 - 25, 2018

Sat. 8/18	8:00 am	+Michael Kelly
	5:30pm	+Johnathan Courtney Brown
Sun. 8/19	8:00am	Myers/Wilkinson Families
	10:00am	People of the Parish
	1:00 pm	+Alejandra Albarracin
Mon. 8/20	No Mass	David Goldstein & Family
Tue. 8/21	Noon	+Marie Rigor Fernandes
Wed. 8/22	Noon	+Alejandra Albarracin
Thu. 8/23	Noon	+Patricia Hallman
Fri. 8/24	No Mass	+Aaron Goldstein
Sat. 8/25	No Mass	Ann Butler
	5:30pm	+Willie Poole, Jr.

Additional Masses: Masses will be offered of campus

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *William Cammack, *Lukas Pastier, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Rafaela Evans, *Kevin Fagan, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Dion A. Fortune, *Linda Foster, *Charlie Gick, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Geraldine Jones, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Theresa McNair, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Gina Myers, *Iris Newman, *Sheryl Newman, *D. Cynhia Peters, *James Pope, *Margaret Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Alice Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Suzie Thompson, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Alberta Williams, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta



Nativity will begin Religious Education for our young people. All young people must be in religious education for two years in a row before making a sacrament.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

8/12/18

Attendance: 424 souls
 Offerings & Tithes: \$5,442
 Spanish Mass: \$374
 Utility fund: \$766

Correction: A 2nd Collection was taken up last week for utilities. An incorrect announcement was made at one mass that is was for Catholic University; that collection occurs in September. Thank you for your understanding.

Nativity Sodality will meet on Sunday, September 2nd. after the 8am Mass. All Sodalists are encouraged to arrive at 7:30am for the praying of the rosary. All are welcome. After the Mass, the Sodality will meet in the church lounge for the regular business meeting.

SAINT JOHN PAUL II
NATIONAL SHRINE
 3900 Harewood Rd., NE. Washington, DC 20017

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Visit the official World Youth Day Pilgrim Cross and Icon. Saturday, August 25. Join us for a special visit of the World Youth Day Pilgrim Cross and Icon as they make their way to Panama for the 2019 World Youth Day in January.

Stronger – A Men’s Retreat. Saturday, September 22. A retreat focused on strengthening Christian leadership in men so that each man can learn to be the great leader that God calls him to be.



The Social Outreach Committee is collecting school supplies (notebooks, backpacks, pencils, paper, folders etc.) for children in the Parish. **The distribution will take place on Sunday, August 19th, 2018 in the Church Lounge after the 10:30 am mass 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.** Those in need of school supplies should fill out one of these forms. Please drop the bottom part in the collection basket at Mass before August 19th. You do not need to put your name on the form.