

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 27, 2019

The Dawning of the Mission of Messiah

Readings: Nehemiah 8:2–6, 10; Psalms 19:8–10, 15; 1 Corinthians 12:12–30; Luke 1:1–4, 4:14–21

The meaning of today's liturgy is subtle and many-layered.

We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading.

Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple (see Ezra 6:15–17) and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see Nehemiah 6:15).

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see Nehemiah 8:8) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3–4; see also Isaiah 60:10); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; Exodus 19:6); and the forging of an everlasting covenant (61:8; Isaiah 55:3). It sounds a lot like the First Reading.

Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it (compare Luke 4:16–17, 21 and Nehemiah 8:2–6, 8–10).

We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year (see Leviticus 23:24). Jesus also proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God (see Leviticus 25:10).

The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God—the Church—is made "one body" with Him.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor

Rest in Peace

Leonard Gilchrist, 69. Died on January 14, 2019. Long time parishioner and usher here for many decades. His family celebrated a Baptist funeral for him this week and he was buried Friday.

Eternal rest grant unto him, oh Lord



Ferrell B. Randall and Hazel Ballard are retiring from their volunteer position as Nativity counters. Thank you for services at Nativity, may God bless you and your families.

Catholic Daughters. Our Lady of the Americas, Court 2344, will meet on Sunday, January 27th 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.

Funeral Plans/Illness Issues. All parishioners are encouraged to have not only a health advocate in/among your family and friends but also a Catholic advocate who knows you well and loves and lives their faith. Many Catholics in our parish and region are from families of different faiths. If you are ill or you die, and they may not know your wishes there is nothing a parish can do to change families' decisions. Please make your wishes known IN WRITING, and do not wait until the last years or moments of life to call a Priest or Parish. Letters to a local parish are encouraged and certainly can be put it in your will. Thousands of Catholics around the US are dying without the Sacraments and even life-long faithful Catholics are being given Protestant funerals or none at all by their children. The Diocese of Orlando, Fla for example has an official complaint and investigation into the 7th Day Adventist Hospital and Hospice networks, which though excellent, have not for decades followed the wishes of their Catholic patients. "Be generous to all but firstly to those who are of the Household of the Faith." - St. Paul



Sacred Heart League will meet, in the music room, on Friday, February 1st. after the Noon Mass.

Mass Intentions for the Week

January 26 – February 2, 2019

Sat. 1/26	8:00 am	+Bishop Norbert Dorsey, CP
	4:30pm	+Frank Kenney
Sun. 1/27	8:00am	Catholic Daughters
	10:00am	+Dr. William E. Matory, Jr.
	1:00 pm	People of the Parish
Mon. 1/28	12:00	+Fr. Henry J. Januszkiewicz
Tue 1/29	12:00	+Bishop Norbert Dorsey, CP
Wed. 1/30	12:00	Nativity: All employees
Thu. 1/31	12:00	Salesian Family
Fri. 2/1	12:00	Rohini Perera
Sat. 2/2	8:00 am	Souls in purgatory
	4:30pm	+Winslow Vickerie

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *William Cammack, *Lukas Pastier, *Carmen Dolores Campos, *Eileen Carroll-Doshier, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Kevin Fagan, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Linda Foster, *Charlie Gick, *Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, * Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Irene Jimenez, *Geraldine Jones, *Charles Johnson, *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, *Clarence Morris, *Gina Myers, *Iris Newman, *Sheryl Newman, *Amelie Ongbehala, *Father Everett Pearson, *D. Cynhia Peters, *James Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Auristela Roman, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Andre Sims, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Suzie Thompson, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta

Sick Priests. Please continue to pray for Fr. Everett Pearson (ADW) and Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB who are both in hospital.



Tax statements request: Forms are located at both entrances of the church. Complete the form and put it in the collection basket or mail it to the Rectory. Tax statements will be mailed.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

1/20/19

Attendance: 331 souls
Offerings & Tithes: \$10,214
Spanish Mass: \$550
Utility fund: \$784
Christmas offerings: \$5,571

Extra Clergy. Thank you to the rotating clergy and religious who help Nativity, Fr. Michael Hall of the Order of St. Benedict, our Dean Fr. Kevin Kennedy of St. Gabriel's (ADW), Fr. Mike of the Salesians and Don Bosco/Cristo Rey High School, Fr. Andrew Gronnette of Regnum Christi, our seminarians Deacon Ebuka Mba nude and Brother Michael Solomon, O.P. (Dominican). Also, thanks to our guest homilies on occasion Deacon Steven Ari for his great sermons. Please pray for them!

Youth Day Thank You Pope Francis for World Youth Day/Week! Please pray that the fruits of the WYD in Panama City Panama this past week spread throughout the Americas and the world! The Next Youth Day at Nativity is February 16th from 9:00 am to 3:00pm.

New Archbishop and Church Law. The new Archbishop of Washington has not been announced yet. The ADW continues to operate as normal. The following Secretariats and Councils continue to operate: the ADW Finance Council, the College of Consultors, and the Tribunal as well as all seminary operations. All Deans are currently suspended from their obligations, as well as the Priest Senate, the Priest Council, and Priest Personnel Board. No appointing of Pastors or buying/selling of any Church assets is currently permitted. ADW is under the supervision of Bishops Fisher, Dorsonville and Campbell, our Auxiliary Bishops.

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**QUO VADIS?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?**

If you are a Junior or Senior, come and shadow a day in the life of a seminarian at Saint John Paul II Seminary to experience seminary life first-hand! Friday, February 15, 2019. More information and to register visit: www.dcpriest.org or email vocations@adw.org