

# ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME | JANUARY 21, 2024

*They abandoned their nets and followed him.*

*Mark 1:20*



*Reflection: Marie Regine Redig, SSND; Design: Joyelle Proot, SSND*

## THE TWOFOLD CALL

Today we witness the call of Jonah and the call of Jesus' first disciples. Each one of us also is called by God, called by name to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ. Jonah first ran away, literally, from God's call. Jonah is likely afraid of the people of Nineveh who could ridicule him because of his preaching. He might have also be afraid of an intimate relationship with God; deep love requires great risk. Nonetheless, God pursues Jonah, out of love for Jonah and for the people of Nineveh. God desires that the people of Nineveh be saved and God desires friendship with Jonah. The first call to friendship with God is the most important call; the work of prophecy or a particular purpose is also important, but it is of second importance.

In the Gospels we frequently see the disciples wrestling with Jesus' teaching, with each other and with those who threaten Jesus. Every time, Jesus calls them first to himself, then to the mission. When our hearts are open to God's call to intimate friendship; the building of the Reign of God, our second call, is strengthened by the first.

As St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, we open wide our doors and our hearts to worship, evangelize, and serve all God's people.

God bless you.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you are with us.

– Father Mitch



## MASS SCHEDULE

**Noon Mass, Monday through Friday  
St. Nicholas**

**January 21**

**9:00am St. Nicholas**

*First Lector:* Connie Johnson

*Second Lector:* Kellie Willis

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Bill McHugh, Don Elston, Albert Washington

**11:00am Most Holy Trinity**

*First Lector:* Nicky Hoxworth

*Second Lector:* Meg Reask

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Kenneth Patterson, Korky Buhr, Doris Speed

**January 28**

**10:00 Unity Mass, Sts. Teresa and Bridget,**

Celebrating the feast of St. Bridget of Erin

*First Lector:* Jackie Forbes

*Second Lector:* Vola Wahington Harper

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Don Elston, Valerie Howard, Mike Freymuth

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## ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA RETREAT:

**Feeding Your Soul: Evangelization Within.**

Most Holy Trinity Site, February 3, 9am – 1:30 pm.

- *Explore* the depths of your faith, inspired by the life and spirit of St. Josephine Bakhita.
- *Delve* into her story, drawing parallels to your personal path of joy and suffering.
- *Discover* how to find, nurture, and evangelize your spirit and soul.
- *BE equipped* with effective strategies to rely on during challenging times.

MASS: 9:00 am; opportunity to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation. A light lunch will be served.

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**ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA  
NOVENA begins January 31  
and ends on her feast day**

**February 8.** The Novena is a gift to her and an opportunity for us to get to know her as we strive to become the parish God has called us to be. As we celebrate her life and spirit we also rely on her intercession and example.

The novena will be celebrated in St. Nicholas Church at the noon masses. Prayer booklets are available to pray and reflect.

We anticipate the Feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita as we celebrate a Unity Mass, at Sts. Teresa and Bridget Church at 10:00 am, on Sunday, February 4.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER MITCH!

On your special day, may you know the love and support of our St. Josephine Bakhita parish. Your presence among us is a gift and blessing.

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**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** In this week we are reminded that all are our neighbors and that we are to love all. We recognize there are challenges to Christian unity. So we pray:

*O gracious Trinity we desire to be one as you are one. In your community of complete unity, we have our beginning and our forever. We ask for the gift of visible unity among all. Grant to us a deeper Spirit of love and solidarity, that we may bring your good news to all of creation.*

– U.S. Catholic Bishops

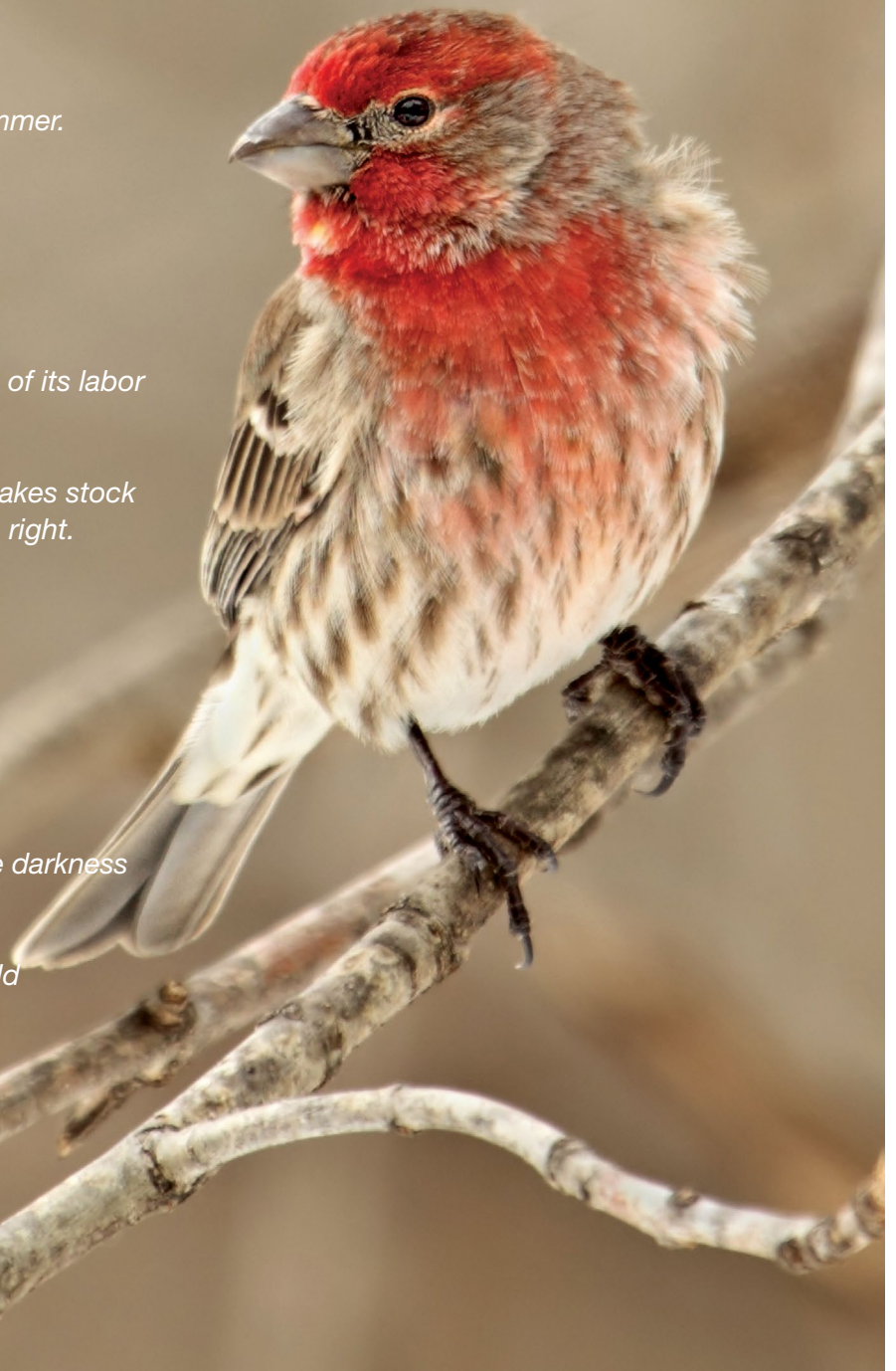


# WINTER IN ORDINARY TIME

Even though poinsettias may still grace our altars, we leave the Christmas season and enter Ordinary Time. The evergreen plants during the winter bring the natural world and the liturgical color green together. It adds warmth to our worship space. As we move into every dayness the great American poet, Mary Oliver, reminds us of the “one, wild and precious life” with which we have been gifted.

## WINTER IN OUR LIVES

*There is a winter in all of our lives,  
a chill and darkness that makes us yearn  
for days that have gone  
or put our hope in days yet to be.  
Loving God, you created seasons for a purpose.  
Spring is full of expectation  
buds breaking  
frosts abating and an awakening  
of creation before the first days of summer.  
Now the sun gives warmth  
and comfort to our lives  
reviving aching joints  
bringing color, new life  
and crops to fruiting.  
Autumn gives nature space  
to lean back, relax and enjoy the fruits of its labor  
mellow colors in sky and landscape  
as the earth prepares to rest.  
Then winter, cold and bare as nature takes stock  
rests, unwinds, sleeps until the time is right.  
An endless cycle  
and yet a perfect model.  
Winter in our lives—  
a time of rest, a time to stand still  
a time to reacquaint ourselves  
with the faith in which we live.  
It is only then that we draw strength  
from the one in whom we are rooted  
take time to grow and rise through the darkness  
into the warm glow of springtime  
to blossom and flourish  
to bring color and vitality into this world  
your garden.  
Thank you Loving God  
for the seasons of our lives.  
- Author Unknown*





**COMPOSERS CONCERT:**

Thursday, January 25, 7:00-8:30 PM at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, 2039 N. Geyer Rd. in Frontenac. The composers of our American Catholic Music have been together all week and now are ready to present to all. Celebrate this evening of

music and song with the composers who have enhanced our worship throughout the years. \$25 general admission. Register at [www.mercycenterstl.org](http://www.mercycenterstl.org)

**BIBLE STUDY RESUMES:** "The Book of Isaiah" on Wednesdays, 1: 00 pm at the St. Nicholas Church Site of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, located at 701 N. 18th St. St. Louis 63103. Noon Mass precedes the session. You are welcome to join us for the liturgy. Please bring a Bible, New American Edition preferred. There is no charge for the sessions. Free will offerings are welcomed. If additional information is needed, please call the St. Nicholas Site phone line at 314.231.2860 ex. 24.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:** A correction to the list of January Birthdays: January 26 is the birthday of Brenda Cole and January 28, Phyllis Allen. To have your birthday included with the February Birthdays, please sign the paper in back of church with your name and birthdate. We celebrate your special day with you.

**LENTEN REVIVAL: From Vision to Restoration...**

**Know that I am Lord!** St. Alphonsus "Rock" Church, February 19-21, 2024. Praise and Worship 6:15. Service starts at 6:30. Rev. Royce Thomas, CSSR, revivalist. North City Interracial Relations Committee. Co-Sponsors: Archdiocesan Office of Racial Harmony and The Annual Catholic Appeal.

**ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY**, 1301 Olive (downtown), offers opportunities to support the poor. The sacred Grounds Café recently opened its doors on the first floor. The new café is sponsored and staffed by St. Patrick's Center and Catholic Charities. It offers delicious pastries and a variety of coffees. The hours are 9-2 Monday through Friday.

**FOOD DRIVE** in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is being held at the Central Library from until the January 31st. Donations of non-perishable food benefit the Food Bank which also helps many St. Vincent de Paul food ministries.

**FISH FRY AT MOST HOLY TRINITY SITE:** With our Christmas decorations put away, our attention now turns to the Fridays in Lent, beginning February 16. **Please help by donating 5 cake mixes of the same kind and 4 icing containers (not Baker's choice brand).** Dessert is included in the meal, and it takes 5 cake mixes to fill our huge cake pans. **To volunteer in any way**, please call 314.422.5964 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Many volunteers make this event fun and successful!

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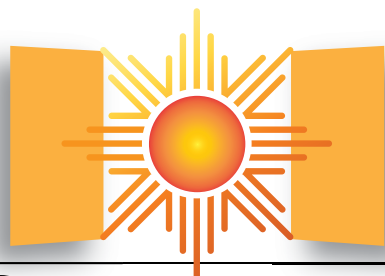
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**OPEN WIDE  
OUR DOORS**

St. Josephine Bakhita  
Most Holy Trinity, St. Nicholas,  
Sts. Teresa & Bridget Sites

**ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SERVICES**

**Most Holy Trinity Site**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food/Utility Assistance  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9:00 – 12:00  
4335 Warne Ave, 63107  
314-535-9794 (during operating hours)

**St. Nicholas Site**

Food Pantry sponsored by Ascension SVDP  
Mondays (except holidays): 10 – noon  
701 N 18th St., 63103  
314.289.6101 ext. 1171

**St. Nicholas (Off-site)**

Food Pantry sponsored by Immacolata SVDP  
First and Second Tuesdays: 9:00 – 11:00  
Hot meal, snacks, fellowship; Dine in or carry-out  
1414 N. Taylor Ave, 63110  
314.289.6101 ext. 1171

**Sts. Teresa & Bridget Site**

Food Pantry/Utility Assistance/Store Vouchers  
Tuesday, Thursday 9 – noon  
Bag Lunches for homeless  
Sts. Teresa & Bridget Hall  
2431 N. Grand Blvd., 63106  
314.531.1169

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA), PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, MARRIAGE:** Contact Sister Janice at 314.241.9165