

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | FEBRUARY 18, 2024

*This is the time of fulfillment...
Repent, and believe in the gospel.*

Mark 1:15



Reflection: Ann Marie Merth, SSND Design: Joyelle Proot, SSND

FORTY DAYS

The number forty calls for change, for transformation. Whether the forty days of the flood, the forty years of exodus in the desert, or Jesus' forty days of fasting and prayer in the desert, all are about change. As we make our forty days' journey through the holy season of Lent, we accompany Jesus, in fasting and praying in the desert, and suffering and dying on Calvary. We commit fully to Jesus' journey. Our hope in Resurrection Life is strengthened.



The Spirit of God pushes us into the desert places of our lives and our world, knowing that the temptation to despair will greet us. Why does God "drive us out into the desert?" The Spirit drives us like a shepherd drives sheep. A good shepherd knows what is best for the sheep. A compassionate shepherd accompanies the sheep in every step of the journey. Lent is a holy season to bring whatever blocks us from trusting God's grace into the light of day. Even death loses its sting when confronted by love, by our courage, by God's Spirit and ultimately by the death of Jesus on the cross. We walk these forty days with Jesus; we will be transformed by grace.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you are with us.

– Father Mitch

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE: During Lent abstinence from meat on Fridays is obligatory in the United States. Fasting requires Catholics ages 18-59 to reduce the usual amount of food eaten.

ALLIANCE TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING: The House of Representatives is expected to vote this week on a critically important piece of anti-human trafficking legislation, H.R. 5856, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act.

"This legislation is critical for continuing and bolstering our nation's efforts to eradicate human trafficking and assist human trafficking survivors".

As St. Josephine Bakhita parish, we stand up for human dignity and protection of the vulnerable.

COLLECTION: 2/11/254 - \$5,697.21 THANK YOU!

MASS SCHEDULE

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

**February 18: Sts. Teresa and Bridget
9:00am Mass**

First Lector: Anita Thomas

Second Lector: Maureen Nolan

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Nolan, Harold Bailey, S. Janice

11:00am Mass

First Lector: Alice OBryant

Second Lector: Ella Scott

Eucharistic Ministers: Dominic Garland, Rochelle Jones, William McHugh

February 25:

10:00am Unity Mass, Cardinal Ritter College Prep

First Lector: Sister Gail

Second Lector: Valerie Dowdy

Eucharistic Ministers: Dee White, Don Elston and S. Janice

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH ASSEMBLY,

Sunday, February 25, Cardinal Ritter College Prep, 701 North Spring Avenue is the site for our gathering. We will begin with a Unity Mass in the High School Commons at 10:00 a.m., followed by a brief time of fellowship, with coffee and doughnuts, then we will come together in assembly. Our moderator will be Joyce Jones, the Program Director of Racial Harmony, Archdiocese of St. Louis. As we make our final discernment regarding a primary worship site, and as we continue to grow in love for one another, this Parish Assembly is a moment of grace along this path which God invites us as St. Josephine Catholic Parish. One part of the Assembly offers the opportunity for all who wish to have two minutes to speak. All who wish to speak write remarks on one 5/8 card.

I am grateful to you for your generosity of spirit as we make our way together. Perseverance in faith and your love for one another are truly bringing the Kingdom present in our midst. God blesses us.

– Father Mitch

RICE BOWLS: Today, many Christians choose to fast. Many people around the world will have no choice in the matter. Nearly 10 percent of people globally are affected by hunger. As we fast, we keep people who struggle with hunger in prayer and donate to CRS Rice Bowl.



WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND ART

“In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to nurture history, community memory and empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by those of African descent and set the standard for trends around the world. In 2024, we examine the history and life of African American arts and artisans.”

– ASALH 2024 Statement on the Theme of Black History Month

AFRICAN AMERICAN SCULPTOR, ED WRIGHT

A bas relief sculpture seen Sept. 17, 2022, on the wall of the Our Mother of Africa Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington depicts the African American experience from slavery to emancipation and the civil rights movement. The figures are guided by the Holy Spirit, seen above in the form of a dove, as they marched toward Jesus, ultimate freedom. (CNS photo/Patrick Ryan for the National Black Catholic

The chapel was a gift to the national shrine on behalf of the congress.

Dwight shares his method of using bronze and molding faces when sculpting. The artist talks about how his work is influenced by his Catholic



faith and his mother, who made sure he went to church and Catholic school in Kansas City, Kansas.

Dwight, now 89, has completed about 130 public art and large-scale memorial installations, and more than 18,000 gallery sculptures.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN BOLDEN AND MARSHALL BRAUN as they celebrate the Rite of Election. Their sponsors, Kenneth Patterson and the Missionary Sisters of Charity affirm their readiness to celebrate the Easter sacraments.

On the First Sunday of Lent, the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis gather in the Cathedral Basilica, with those seeking Baptism. With the Community of Faith, Archbishop Rozanski welcomes them into the Church.

This Rite is called election because in the rite the Church elects the choice of the catechumens, who are preparing to celebrate the sacraments of initiation, baptism, confirmation and eucharist.

At the enrollment of names Kevin and Marshall will enter their names in the Book of the Elect as their pledge to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Initiation.

The archbishop stretches his hands over the elect and prays “Creator of all Life, bless all these chosen ones. As daughters and sons of the promise, may they rejoice in eternal life through the mystery of Your grace.”

Kevin and Marshall witness a longing for communion with our God. We pray daily for Kevin and Marshall and each of us so that we, too, will be renewed in our baptismal call.

THE HEITHAUS HOMILY: On February 11, 1941, Father Claude Heithaus, S.J., began his homily with words that would change the course of Saint Louis University’s history, opening its doors to African American women and men who had previously found SLU, closed by racism and segregation. The message is again stated by Father Brian Massingale, professor of theology and social ethics at Fordham University in New York.

Father Bryan Massingale, a black, gay, Catholic priest working for an inclusive Catholic church is a leader in the Catholic Church working for racial and LGBTQ justice. He says, “My whole ministry, in some way, has been to help the Church catch up to God, to help the Church understand that God has already gifted people of color with dignity and value and worth, and God has already gifted LGBTQ people with dignity, value, and worth.” (Source: National Catholic Reporter, June 2020 issue)

We strive to live our Catholic faith in its core belief that all people are created in God’s image. We affirm the dignity of all people.



ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH (Most Holy Trinity Church site)

3519 North 14th Street • St. Louis, MO 63107 • 314-241-9165

February 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22 • 12:00 noon – 6:00 pm

Fried Cod, Catfish Nuggets & Baked Tilapia with choice of 2 sides (Pasta, Green Beans, Slaw)
Fish Plates: \$15 • Fish Sandwiches: \$10 • Mac & Cheese bites & Hush Puppies: \$2
HOMEMADE DESSERTS ARE INCLUDED WITH ALL ORDERS

Carry Out and Dine-In until 6 pm.

For all pick up orders, call 314-517-3004 when you arrive. Deliveries from noon thru 4:30 pm available upon request.

PRE-ORDER on Thursday or Friday by 4:00 pm
Call the Rectory at 314-241-9165

RAFFLE Ticket for only \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20
Winners will be announced on March 22nd.

WITH JESUS: Stations of the Cross. FRIDAYS, Feb.23, March 1,8,15,22, Most Holy Trinity Church, 6:30pm. In praying the stations, we embrace more deeply, the final hours of Jesus’s earthly life and his great love. To read the reflection for a station, please let S. Janice know after Mass this morning.

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. Join us for liturgy. Please bring a Bible, New American Edition preferred. There is no charge for the sessions. Free will offerings are welcomed. For additional information, please call the St. Nicholas Site phone line 314.231.2860 ex. 24.

MAGAZINE RACK: The magazine rack in the back of the church has flyers placed there for the following events.

Lenten Revival: February 19-21, St. Alphonsus “Rock” Church

Mardi Gras Masquerade Party, Saturday, March 2, St. Nicholas Parish Hall,

Stations of the Cross, Fridays in Lent, Most Holy Trinity, 6:30 pm

Women’s Conference, March 9, “Catholic Women for Christ.”



**OPEN WIDE
OUR DOORS**

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

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH

Pastor

Reverend Mitchell Doyen
MitchellDoyen@archstl.org
314.371.1190

Senior Associate Pastor

Reverend Arthur Cavitt
arthurcavitt@archstl.org
314.231.2860

Pastoral Associate

S. Janice Munier, SSND
sjanice@mhtstl.org
314.241.9165

Mission Coordinator

S. Gail Guelker, SSND
gail@mhtstl.org
314.241.9165

Director of Maintenance

Rodney Jones

Office Support

Val Dowdy
valdowdy@ststb.org
314.371.1190

Weekly Publication Staff:

Ms. Jean Lopez
S. Janice Munier, SSND
S. Joyelle Proot, SSND

PARISH EMAIL:

info@stbakhitastl.org

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