

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | MARCH 10, 2024

*...so the blind person went off to wash in the pool of Siloam
and returned able to see.*

John 9: 6, 7



Reflection: Frances Wessel, SSND; Design: Joyelle Proot, SSND

MERCY IS A BLINDING LIGHT

In today's Gospel we encounter a blind person seeking healing. As the story unfolds, we learn that no one in the story see. Fear and darkness prevent everyone in the story from recognizing the light who is Jesus. The disciples assume someone has sinned; sin causes blindness. Jesus says, "no one has sinned," revealing the abundance of God's healing mercy already flowing from the healing heart of Jesus. The neighbors realize the blind one is healed. Instead of seeking Jesus, they turn to the pharisees, who are worried about the sabbath and unable to see God's mercy flowing from the heart of Jesus. Even the parents are worried about what others will think; instead of celebrating the new freedom, questions for fear of being thrown out of the synagogue take over.

How are we blinded by fear? How do we open our hearts to the abundance of God's mercy which is poured out upon the whole world? May our eyes recognize the light and life of God which is in the world.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you are with us.



– Father Mitch

COMING EVENTS:

March 12, North Deanery Lenten Reconciliation Service, 6:00 pm, Alphonsus Liguori "Rock" Church, 1118 North Grand, 63106. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

March 15, Fish Fry, Noon until 6:00 pm, Most Holy Trinity site

March 15, Stations of the Cross: Overcoming Racism, 6:30 pm, Most Holy Trinity site

March 20, Racial Unity Mass, 7:00 pm, Sts. Teresa and Bridget site

CELEBRATING ST. JOSEPH AND ST. PATRICK,

March 17 and 19. St. Joseph, husband of Mary and adoptive father of Jesus, has no spoken lines in any of the gospels. We can only imagine his conversations with pregnant Mary and the infant Jesus while lulling him to sleep. Surely Joseph spoke — yet his silence in Scripture offers a profound invitation to each of us to grow quiet and give full attention to Christ in our midst. Saint Patrick's Day is a religious and cultural holiday held on 17 March, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland. Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17th century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Lutheran Church.

MASS SCHEDULE

Noon Mass, Monday through Friday, St. Nicholas

March 10: Most Holy Trinity

10:00am Unity Mass

First Lector: Madonna Buhr

Second Lector: Dee White

Eucharistic Ministers: Donna Lindsay, Valerie Howard, Brenda Tillman

The blind one: Korky Buhr

Parent: Alice O'Bryant

Narrator: Mattie Patterson

March 17

10:00am Unity Mass at St. Nicholas

First Lector: Sharonda White

Second Lector: Sr. Georgene Schumacher

Eucharistic Ministers: Brenda Tillman, Toni Elston, Eloise Grimes

Martha: Nicky Hoxworth

Narrator: Pam White

COLLECTION: 3/3/24 - \$8,938.49 THANK YOU!

WE HOLD IN HEART AND PRAYER: An updated list of those who have asked our prayers is on the table in the back of church.

BOXES OF MERCY is a service initiative for the National Eucharistic Revival, July 17-21 in Indianapolis, Indiana. As pilgrims make the National Eucharistic pilgrimage from the West Coast and process through the Archdiocese of St. Louis, they will deliver these boxes to the refugees in the St. Louis area. See list of desired items on the donation boxes in our church sites.

CELEBRATION OF THE THREE SCRUTINIES: The Scrutinies are celebrated with the Elect on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. The Scrutinies reveal areas for personal growth and strengthen goodness. The celebrations of the Scrutinies also remind the parish community to reflect on our personal weakness and the presence of God's help. Kevin Bolden and Marshall Brown are before us. We pray for them on their journey.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: OVERCOMING RACISM, Friday, March 15, 6:30 pm, Most Holy Trinity church. People today suffer unjustly simply because of the color of their skin or their national origin. We acknowledge the sin of racism and work to create just social structures, institutions, and hearts. – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

THANK YOU for a delightful celebration of Mardi Gras at the St. Nicholas Site. Friendship, delicious food, dancing, and chatter filled the purple, green and gold decorated hall. We are grateful to the Ladies Sodality and the volunteers who prepared this event. The fun and dancing made participants want to come again.