

VOL. 1 ISSUE 7

ICSB NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Parish

Please Pray For...

Safe elections:

The upcoming election will carry many emotions. Please pray for safety of those who will be expressing their voice as they vote. Please also pray for the physical safety of people as the locations may be packed with people.

Health and Safety

COVID-19 is showing to be rising again in different parts of the country. Please pray for the health and safety of those in our country and world. Also pray for strong recovery for those who have contracted the disease and for peace in their families and communities.

Peace and Unity

Please pray for peace and unity in our country. May we realize that there is more that binds us than there is that divides us. May we all have this realization and invest in the beauty of God's creations and not fall victim to any form of animosity.

Leadership

May God guide the leaders of our world in our country and our community. May the leaders be humble servants that lean on the wisdom of God to serve his people in the best way possible. May leaders be granted strength and healing in times of weakness.

Dearly Departed

Those who have left us in hopes to return to the kingdom of God—especially JoAnne Lessley.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14

JoAnne Lessley





Prayers for the Black Saints to Be

Cause for Cannonization

The path to sainthood or canonization, is often a long, arduous path—sometimes lasting a hundred years or more! Canonization begins with an individual, after death, being declared a “Servant of God” by the Church because of the person’s extraordinary faith and actions. After further investigation of the person’s life, the person may go on to become “Venerable.” If it can be determined that, through the intercession of this venerable person, a miracle can be confirmed, the person can be declared “Blessed.” Once it is determined that another miracle may be attributed to that person, they are then declared a “Saint.” This is, of course, an over-simplification of the process.

Six Black Catholics are on the pathway to canonization, but more must be accomplished before they actually achieve sainthood status. Sr. Thea Bowman, Mother Mary Lange and Julia Greely are all Servants of God. Henriette Delille, Pierre Toussaint and Fr. Augustus Tolton have all been declared “Venerable.” Let us continue to pray for their intercession and that their causes may be advanced.

Prayer for Fr. Augustus Tolton

O God, * we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, * who labored among us in times of contradiction,* times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. * His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time.* We stand in the shadow of his ministry.* May his life continue to inspire us * and imbue us with that confidence and hope * that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in Heaven, * Father Tolton’s suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; * we see them through the prism of your Son’s passion and death.* If it be your Will, O God,* glorify your servant, Father Tolton, * by granting the favor I now request through his intercession * (mention your request) *so that all may know the goodness of this priest* whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us * that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom.* Not to us the glory,* but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son* and our Lord; * Father, Son and Holy Spirit,* you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever.

Amen

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3

Fr. Augustus Tolton





Prayers for the Black Saints to Be

Prayer for Sr. Thea Bowman

"Olde Folks Child", from your elders you learned values, survival skills and how to face pain, life, and death.

You turned life's experiences into teaching moments, refusing to be overwhelmed by problems you encountered.

Thea, you prayed, sang, danced and preached your way into places where few people of color dared to go.

You saw beauty in the magnificent mosaic of the various cultures and had the gift of bringing others to a profound sense of their own dignity.

Thea "olde folks child", pray for us before almighty God for the graces we need to hand on your legacy, knowing that the only way we can build the kingdom of God is by working together to build faith and strengthen community.

A Prayer to Venerable Pierre Toussaint

O virtuous Pierre Toussaint, son of Haiti, pray for all the poor and afflicted. Pray especially for your brothers and sisters in Haiti as they seek freedom from the oppression of poverty and calamity. Through your powerful intercession, strengthen the weak, enrich the poor, comfort the downcast and inspire courage and hope among all those who struggle each day. Amen.

A Prayer for Henriette Delille

O good and gracious God, You called Henriette Delille to give herself in service and in love to the slaves and the sick, to the orphan and the aged, to the forgotten and the despised. Grant that inspired by her life, we might be renewed in heart and in mind. If it be Your will may she one day be raised to the honor of sainthood. By her prayers, may we live in harmony and peace, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Blessed are the
peacemakers, for they
will be called
children of God.

Matthew 5:9

Sr. Thea Bowman





Prayers for the Black Saints to Be

Prayer for Mother Lange

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endowed her with humility, courage, holiness and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and sick. You enabled her to found the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provide educational, social and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision. Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and a more fervent love of You. Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favour (here mention your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange. - Amen

A Prayer for Julia Greeley

Heavenly Father, your servant Julia Greeley dedicated her life to honoring the Sacred Heart of your Son and to the humble service of the poor. Grant to me a generous heart like your Son's, and if it be in accordance with your holy will, please grant this favor I now ask through Julia's intercession (insert intention)... I pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for Cardinal-Elect Gregory

Please pray for the new Cardinal-Elect Gregory. He is the first African American appointed into this position and we pray that God guides his mind, heart, and spirit to be a servant truly reflective of the love of God.



I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:13

Mother Mary Lange





Black Catholic History Month

Black Catholic history can be traced back to the Acts of the Apostles (8:26-40) when St. Philip the Deacon converted the Ethiopian eunuch- one of the first moves the Apostles made to evangelize outside Jerusalem and thus sowed the seeds for the universal Church. Christianity spread throughout North Africa, and the region featured prominently in the early Church as the birthplace of saints, popes and Western monasticism.

Between 1565 and 1899, Blacks, both slave and free, helped to found and build St. Augustine, Florida, one of the oldest towns in the United States. In 1693, the Spanish offered freedom to the slaves who converted to Catholicism. In the 1700's, Maryland's black Catholic population grew to over 3,000 as a result of Jesuit evangelization.

On July 24, 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics. Two commemorative dates fall within this month, Saint Augustine's Birthday (November 13) and Saint Martin de Porres' Feast Day (November 3).



May the God of hope
fill you with all joy
and peace as you
trust in him, so that
you may overflow
with hope by the
power of the Holy
Spirit.

Romans 15:13





Meet the Newsletter Team

The idea for a newsletter was born out of a desire to keep the Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's family connected when our Church was closed at the end of March. We would have no bulletin and no secretary to keep the news on the Church flowing, so a small band of parishioners decided to take on the task—Joanne Gordon, Ramona Moore, Kevin O'Hagan, and Chibueze Onwunaka.

The ICSB Newsletter was born the first week of May and was published every week for that month. Chibueze (Chib) was the visual arts creative force that brought to life the articles written by Ramona, Joanne, Kevin, Deacon Rick, Jean Pryor, Harry Pierre-Philippe and Myrtle Fontenette. Critical information on COVID-19 resources, online Mass opportunities, Church collection reports, Bible study reflections, religious education resources for children and articles on Church ministries and Church family members were featured in the Newsletter as well as requests for prayers and celebration of birthdays, anniversaries and graduations.

When our secretary, Tracy Jordan, returned in June, the Newsletter stopped as the bulletin was restarted, but there were still requests that the Newsletter be continued. Knowing that not all of our church family have returned to Church since the re-opening, we felt that we would publish the Newsletter on a limited basis still with the desire to keep our family connected. We hope you enjoy our special interest articles!



**Joanne
Gordon**



**Ramona
Moore**



**Kevin
O'Hagan**



**Chibueze
Onwunaka**

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Mark 9:35



Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church

Black Catholic History Month

November 18 & 19, 2020

7:00-8:30 pm (each night)



“A CALL TO ACTION”

THEME: LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 ~ HISTORY

How the Internal Structure of the Catholic Church Functions

Thursday, November 19, 2020 ~ LEADERSHIP

Go Into The Vineyard and Do The Work That God Calls Us To Do

This year, due to the Coronavirus we will be observing Black Catholic History Month as a Virtual Event. Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's invites you to join our guest facilitator Fr. John T. Judie from the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky for this virtual event.



Fr. John T. Judie is an ordained priest in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland with a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree and a Master of Divinity degree. Fr. Judie was ordained to the priesthood on August 1, 1987. He is now retired from active ministry in the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Please go to www.immaculateconceptionrochester.org then to Events and follow instructions to register for one or both nights. Please join us!