

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY | JANUARY 7, 2024

*Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
Your light comes,
the glory of God shines upon you!*

Isaiah 60:1



Reflection: Charlene Zeisset, SSND; Design: Joyelle Proot, SSND

ONLY JESUS

On this Feast of the Epiphany, our hearts turn to the Wise Ones bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, for the newborn Jesus, Emmanuel, God always with us. This Feast is also connected to the Baptism of Jesus, which



we celebrate tomorrow. Both scenes draw us to the light of Christ which has come into the world. As we begin this New Year, we focus our attention on Jesus. We know how easily we become distracted; even the Wise Ones, who traveled halfway across the known world, lost track of the star at the last, most pivotal moment. John the Baptist points to the Christ in the River Jordan, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29)." We fix our gaze on Jesus and behold him, carrying him always in the front of our minds and in the depths of our hearts.

The light of Christ is entrusted to us to keep burning brightly, so all God's people come to trust the love of God which is everyone's in Christ Jesus. Together we stir that flame of faith in us; together we are a light for all the world to see. God blesses us.

St. Joesphine Bakhita, you are with us.

– Father Mitch

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE RADIANCE OF GOD'S POWERFUL PRESENCE.

After the 11:00 Mass, we travel with the Magi, on foot to the Rectory for gifts of coffee, doughnuts, time to visit and to share our Christmas stories. Come and enjoy these Epiphany moments together.

THE SEEK CONFERENCE this past week at America's Center in St. Louis was a collaboration with Focus missionary group which helps form missionary disciples. A team from St. Josephine Bakhita, Pam White, Aryn Bostic, Alice and Carlton Prince, and Father Mitch joined with 20,000 other disciples from all over the country. "It was a beautiful opportunity to be energized in faith and encouraged to spread the good news of the Gospel." –Father Mitch

COLLECTION: 12/24/24 & 12/31/24 - \$12,290.75
THANK YOU

MASS SCHEDULE

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

JANUARY 7

9:00 St. Nicholas

First Lector: Sharonda White

Second Lector: Alice O'Bryant

Eucharistic Ministers: Albert Washington, Jayne Thompson, Bill McHugh

11:00 Most Holy Trinity

First Lector: Sister Gail

Second Lector: Brenda Tillman

Eucharistic Ministers: Mike Freymuth, Mattie Patterson, S. Janice

January 14

9:00 St. Nicholas

First Lector: Alice Prince

Second Lector: Carlton Prince

Eucharistic Ministers: Don Elston, Darlene Elston, Alice O'Bryant

11:00 Most Holy Trinity

First Lector: Korky Buhr

Second Lector: Madonna Buhr

Eucharistic Ministers: Donna Lindsay, Brenda Tillman, Rochelle Jones

January 15: 9:00am Mass, Sts. Teresa and Bridget, Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Day

January 21: 9:00am Mass, St. Nicholas

11:00am Mass, Most Holy Trinity

January 28: 10:00am Unity Mass, Sts. Teresa and Bridget, Celebrating the feast of St. Bridget of Erin

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We pause to consecrate 2024, ourselves and our Common Home anew to our loving God. The abundant blessings of our awesome God are upon us each day of 2024. The love, joy and peace of this Christmas season are gifts to our resilient and suffering world. We are bearers of hope so that all we meet will be blessed and renewed.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: Today's solemnity continues the celebration of the mystery of God's Holy Presence manifested to all the earth. The visitors from the east proclaim God's loving salvation as it unfolds for people of every land. As they offer gifts, fitting for royalty, they announce to the world that an astonishing event had taken place; all peoples will experience the glory of God.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., VISIONARY OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY:

As his birthday and civil rights leadership are celebrated Monday, January 15, we reflect on Dr. King's vision of the Beloved community for our world today.

Dr. King, Jr. shared his vision for a better world in his speech, "Beloved Community." He envisioned a world in which all people share the wealth of the earth. Poverty, hunger and homelessness are not tolerated because international standards of human decency do not allow it. Racism, all forms of dis-

crimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024: The 48th Annual Archdiocesan Celebration on the Holiday Weekend Commemorating the birth and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice, 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Recognition at Mass of the 78th Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Model of Justice Honorees. For further information please call Rev. Cavitt at St. Nicholas Church Site (314)231-2860.



EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION: This afternoon, at 4:30 pm. we will process with the Blessed Sacrament while praying the Rosary, from St. Nicholas to the corner of 22nd Street and Cass, adjacent to the NGA, where we will offer prayers for peace and prosperity, before returning to St. Nicholas for Benediction. Those unable to walk in procession (about two miles roundtrip), may remain in Church and pray the Rosary until the others return.

LIVING THE EPIPHANY FEAST: The Epiphany story illustrates the gifts of being vulnerable and royal. Jesus, his family, and the visitors, are all journeying, following a star called hope. The people in Ukraine and in Gaza, those fleeing persecution in their homeland, and those experiencing adversity in their new home country, journey vulnerable and royal.

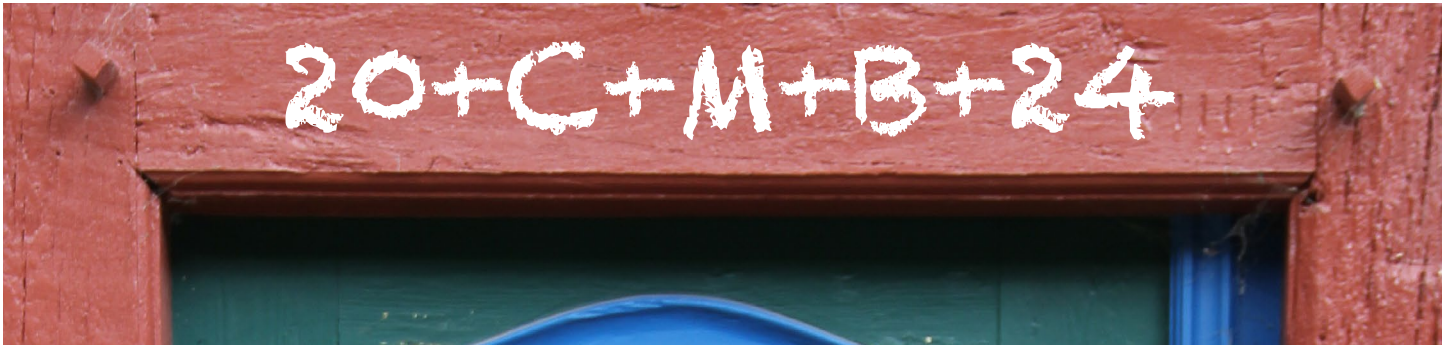
Greta Thunberg, a young and globally renowned climate activist from Sweden, also is on a journey

following a star called Hope. As a leader initiating the modern-day youth climate strike movement, she engages people and institutions to protect our holy common home. She asks us to ponder the decisive action we will take to nurture and honor our world and all people and creatures who live in it.

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

New Member Information & Orientation Session, Saturday, January 13, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, Sts. Teresa & Bridget Campus Parish Hall, 2401 North Grand Blvd.

All Conference members: Conference Strategic Planning Retreat, Saturday, January 20, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm society of SVdP Thrift Store, Cool Valley Outlet Training Room, 1225 S. Florissant Rd, St. Louis, MO 63121.



BLESSING OF DOORWAYS: This is the traditional day of blessing doorways by marking the main door of the church or home with chalk.

The markings are: 20 + C + M + B + 24

The letters represent the three initials of the Magi's names written between numbers of the year separated by four crosses. They are also Latin abbreviation for "Christus Mansionem Benedict," which means Christ bless this house.

CHURCH/HOME BLESSING

Let us praise God, who fills our hearts, church, home with peace.

Blessed be God forever.

We pray that Christ bless our church, our home with his presence.

Christ always here among us, nurture our love for each other, share in our joys, and comfort us in our sorrows.

Inspired by Christ's teachings and example, we seek to make our church, home a place of love, spreading far and wide the goodness of Christ.

Christ Jesus, dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever.

Amen.

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH

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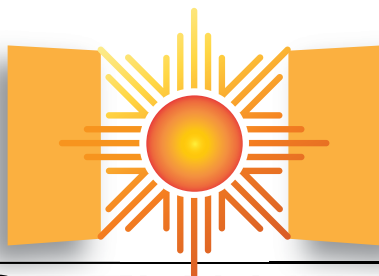
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**OPEN WIDE
OUR DOORS**

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 – 12:30
 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

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
 314.289.6106 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