

# ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME | JANUARY 28, 2024

*If today you hear the Holy One's voice  
Soften your hearts.*

*Psalm 95:8*



softened ground



**GROW ONE WORLD**

*Reflection: Joan Penzenstadler, SSND; Design: Joyelle Proot, SSND*

## SAINT BRIDGET OF IRELAND

Today we celebrate the Feast of Saint Bridget. She is one of the most famous saints of Ireland; her feast is a national holiday in Ireland. We ask her intercession as we continue to grow into St. Josephine Bakhita



Parish. Saint Bridget dedicated her life to Christ in the fifth century, foundress of the Monastery of Kildare. She is the patroness of poetry, learning, healing, blacksmithing and dairy farming. She is an example for us because of her profound commitment to caring for the poor. A story is widely told that as a young child, she gave her mother's entire store of butter to the poor.

There are several sources which connect the life of Bridget to the life of Josephine Bakhita. Bridget too was born a slave and sent away from home as an infant. She was poor and spent her childhood working on a farm.

We connect today with the spirit of Saint Bridget of Ireland, trusting that God will guide us in her footsteps of holiness and love for the poor.

Saint Bridget of Erin, you are with us.

– Father Mitch

**ASH WEDNESDAY: February 14, Mass 12:00 pm, noon at St. Nicholas, 6:00 pm at Most Holy Trinity.**

“Rend your hearts and not your garments,” is proclaimed to the assembly. Lent is intensely personal with its core disciplines of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. During Lent we are called to deepen our individual heart and soul life. Lent is also a time to deepen the heart and soul life of the community. How will our prayer, fasting and giving alms contribute to the reign of God in the world?

**WEEKLY PHONE MESSAGE:** If you would like to be in touch by phone each week with the happenings of our parish, please write your name and phone number on the forms which are in the back of the church. Please put your paper in the collection basket. Thank You.

**COLLECTION: 1/14/24/- \$2,578.00 THANK YOU!**

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

**January 28:**

**10:00am 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

**February 4:**

**10:00am Unity Mass, Sts. Teresa and Bridget  
Celebrating St. Josephine Bakhita**

*First Lector:* Francis Warren

*Second Lector:* Korky Buhr

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Brenda Tillman, Toni Elston,  
Ella Scott

**February 11:**

**9:00am, Sts. Teresa and Bridget**

*First Lector:* Tom Nolan

*Second Lector:* Walter Milner

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Harold Bailey, Maureen Nolan,  
Anita Thomas

**11:00 Mass**

*First Lector:* Ingrid Clark Jackson

*Second Lector:* Rochelle Jones

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Alice O'Bryant, Toni Elston,  
Albert Washington

**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.

**RICE BOWLS:** Today, many will choose to fast — but 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 today, we keep those who struggle with hunger in prayer. We donate to Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl during Lent.





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WHAT A  
GRACE  
IT IS TO KNOW  
GOD.

– St. Josephine Bakhita

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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.

### **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.

### **ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA FEAST DAY**

is February 8. At the 10:00 unity Mass at St. Teresa and Bridget on February 4, we will celebrate her. Father Mitch reminds us, “Right now, we are called to become St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, where we open wide the doors and our hearts to worship, evangelize and serve all God’s people. To that end, each one of us is called by name; each one of us is beloved of God; each one of us is holy.”

We follow St. Josephine Bakhita in her great work of peace, unity and reconciliation. The new image of her in the meeting room reveals her desire to break the chains of oppression.



**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!

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING: *Looking beneath the Surface: Does Human Trafficking Happen in Your Backyard?***

Kimberly Ritter presents an informative evening on the issue of human trafficking, **Thursday, February 8, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Mercy Retreat Center** 2039 N. Geyer Rd., \$25 in person, \$15 live stream. Register by Feb. 2, at [www.mercycenterstl.org](http://www.mercycenterstl.org)

St. Louis is a target city for human trafficking because of its diverse community that includes many immigrants. St. Louis is a part of a trafficking circuit that linked to Chicago, Indianapolis, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Kansas City. St. Josephine Bakhita is the patron of ending human trafficking and slavery. She was seized at an early age and sold three times before receiving her freedom. She dedicated her life to giving hope to others who are oppressed. The Caritas Bakhita House in London accommodates and supports victims of human trafficking and is named in her honor.

**BEGINNING BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** Designed to coincide with Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass' celebratory birthdays, Carter G. Woodson launched negro History Week in February of 1926 as a coordinated effort to develop lessons and encourage the teaching of Black history across the nation's communities and public schools. Woodson, the son of former slaves became the second black American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University. He recognized the importance of establishing an initiative that would be celebrated annually and nationally.

*"Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."* –Carter G. Woodson

**RESILIENCE UNVIELED:** Celebrate Faith, Courage and Sacrifice of Black Catholics. The Sisters of St. Joseph invite all to a commemoration of Black History Month with a prayer celebration and light reception. Immerse yourself in African drumming and listen to the words of famous Black Catholic civil rights figures such as Julia Greeley, Sister Thea Bowman, Father Augustus Tolton, Ugandan Martyrs and more. **Sunday, February 11 from 2 – 4 pm,** Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Motherhouse, 6400 Minnesota Ave, St. Louis, Mo 63111. The event is free. Registration required by January 28. Register at [scjst.org/events](http://scjst.org/events).

**ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH**

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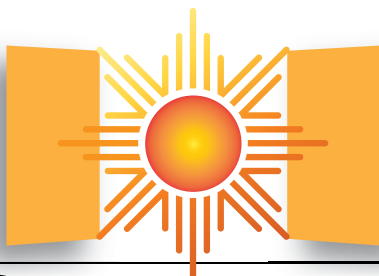
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**OPEN WIDE  
OUR DOORS**

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 – 12:00  
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