

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT | DECEMBER 10, 2023

*Behold, I send my messenger ahead of you,
who prepares your way.*

Mark 1:2



Reflection and Design: Joyelle Proot, SSND

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

We long to recognize coming of Jesus in our every day. We are drawn to John the Baptist's cry in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of God's Son... I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In



Advent, we prepare our hearts for an encounter with Jesus. The fountain of life-giving water heals suffering, refreshes a thirsting world. The wellspring of life within cleanses. We again realize new life in the flow of fresh lifegiving waters. Advent is a season of repentance and reconciliation, a time to live our God call, our yes .

We join John the Baptist in the desert, to hear again the cries for justice, for peace and for wild mercy. We return to the crowded places with clarity of vision, with confident faith, ready to echo the Baptist's cry with our own distinct voice: "Prepare the way of our God..."

St. Josephine Bakhita, you are with us.

– Father Mitch

ADVENT GIVING TREE: Remember to bring your gifts next Sunday, December 17. Thank you for your generous response.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: During Advent we examine our lives and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All Sundays of Advent, confessions are heard from 8:00 am – 8:45 am before 9:00 am Mass at Most Holy Trinity. Next Sunday, December 17, there will be a pause in the 9:00am Mass offering the sacrament of Reconciliation to all. Visiting priests will help us celebrate the sacrament of peace and forgiveness. Participation in this sacrament strengthens and heals the individual and the parish faith community.

WEEKLY PUBLICATION: Please email any item to be considered for our church Sunday publication, to S. Janice at sjanice@mhtstl.org by the previous Friday, 3:00 pm

COLLECTION: 12/3/23 - \$4,901.80 THANK YOU

EMAIL FOR OUR PARISH: info@stbakhitastl.org

MASS SCHEDULE

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

December 10

10:00am Unity Mass, St. Nicholas

First Lector: Kalila Jackson

Second Lector: Ella Scott

Eucharistic Ministers: Bill McHugh, Eloise Grimes, Alice Prince

December 17

9:00am Most Holy Trinity

First Lector: Tempa Bolden

Second Lector: Meg Reask

Eucharistic Ministers: Kenneth Patterson, Doris Speed, Christine Trudell

11:00am Sts. Teresa and Bridget

First Lector: Sister Georgene

Second Lector: Anita Thomas

Eucharistic Ministers: Dominic Garland, Rochelle Jones, Eloise Grimes

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Saturday, December 16, 8:30 am – 11:00 am. Doors open at 8:15 am. The event is at St. Nicholas site, 1805 Lucas Ave. The morning features Bob the Magician, picture with Santa, hot delicious breakfast, games and more. Start the day in a merry way by joining Santa, his elves, and maybe a few reindeer for a hot breakfast perfect for the whole family. Tickets/Reservation required: Adults \$10/Children \$7 and 2 and under Free. Contact Dee White 314.374.7135 or diwhite7435@gmail.com Proceeds benefit the Youth Ministry of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish.

FUTURE DATES: Sunday, January 14, 2024 48th Annual Archdiocesan Celebration on the Holiday Weekend Commemorating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. This celebration includes Mass and the 17th Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Model of Justice Awards.

RITE OF WELCOME AND ACCEPTANCE: We welcome our candidates, Marshall Braun, Shantina Johnson, and Reggie Tolbert as they prepare for entrance into the Catholic Church, together with one of our children, Penelope, who will be baptized during Mass.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS OPPORTUNITY: Share an hour or two between 9-noon on a Monday, helping deliver food from St. Nicholas Food Pantry to home-bound neighbors within the city limits. Contact Doris: 517.673.6003

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

The liturgical environment reflects the quiet and the dark where we wait vigilant for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The image of *light in the night* shines in the Liturgy of the Word, revealing Jesus, Light of the world. The Advent wreath is decorated with greens and lights, offers radiance in winter darkness.

Pope Francis calls for “a common, supportive, and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance. In lighting our candle this week “may we be a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the heart of all.” – Pope Francis



CONGRATULATIONS NEW PARISH COUNCIL:

Valerie Gill, Eloise Grimes, Mike Freymuth, Carmen Jones, Dr. Ingrid Clark-Jackson, Dee White, Frances Warren, Madonna Buhr, Don Elston, Barbara Bowman, Pat Smith Thurman, Linda Nash, and Helen Gill.

NEW FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Dominic Garland, Brenda Tillman, Gail Milner, Walter Milner, Beverly Smith, Tom Lyons, Kenneth Patterson and Cheryl Jones. Let us pray for them as they guide our next steps as St. Josephine Bakhita Parish.

LWANGA CENTER: Bible Study resumes with exploration of and prayer with “The Book of Isaiah,” 1:00 p.m. at the St. Nicholas site, located at 701 N. 18th St., St. Louis 63103. Noon Mass precedes the session. All 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 welcome. For additional information, please call St. Nicholas phone line at 314- 231-2860 ex. 24.

CELEBRATING ST. NICHOLAS

(March 15, 270 – 6 December 6, 343)

Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (now Turkey). Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students in various cities and countries around Europe. His reputation evolved. His legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the tradition of Santa Claus.



OPEN WIDE OUR DOORS

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

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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), PREPARATIONS FOR BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, MARRIAGE: Contact Sister Janice at 314.241.9165