

# ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT | DECEMBER 17, 2023

*Do not quench the Spirit.*

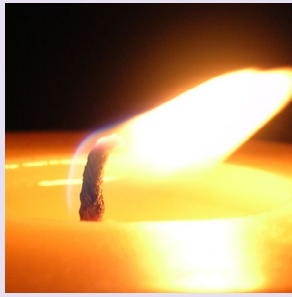
*1 Thessalonians 5:17*



*Reflection: Marilyn Wussler, SSND; Design: Joyelle Proot, SSND*

## LIGHT DAWNS

In today's Gospel we encounter John the Baptist again. He insists, "I am not the Christ." John's whole life is spent helping others find Christ. We follow John's example, testifying to the light who has come into the world, announcing with John and Isaiah the signs which accompany God's anointed: glad tidings for the poor, release of prisoners, and healing of the brokenhearted.



God's salvation is made known through love and forgiveness. John invites all people to seek Jesus by repenting of their sin and turning toward God to receive redeeming and healing love. God's love and mercy are poured out in all of creation, through the death and resurrection of Christ. All that remains is for creation to wake up to the depth of God's love, to the presence of God in every particle of creation, to the Spirit of Christ dwelling within each child of God. Today a new creation dawns.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you are with us.

– Father Mitch

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** This morning, December 17, there will be a pause in the 9:00 Mass offering the sacrament of Reconciliation to all. Visiting priests will celebrate this sacrament of peace and forgiveness with our community. This sacrament strengthens and heals the individual and the parish community.

**LWANGA CENTER BIBLE STUDY** resumes with exploration of and prayer with "The Book of Isaiah," 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, at the St. Nicholas Church Site, 701 N. 18th St., St. Louis 63103. Noon Mass precedes the session. Join us for 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 the St. Nicholas phone line, 314- 231-2860 ex. 24.

**ADVENT GIVING TREE:** Gifts are now waiting to be received by those whose tag you took. Thank you for your generosity in making Christmas happiness for someone.

**COLLECTION:** 12/10/23 - \$13,204.25      THANK YOU

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

**December 17**

**9:00am Most Holy Trinity**

*First Lector:* Tempa Bolden

*Second Read 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, Pam White

**December 24**

**9:00am Most Holy Trinity**

*First Lector:* Christine Trudell

*Second Lector:* Doris Speed

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Mike Freymuth, Brenda Tillman

**11:00am Sts. Teresa and Bridget**

*First Lector:* Adrian Stillman

*Second Lector:* Alice O'Bryant

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Toni Elston, Ella Scott, Valerie Howard

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## CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

**December 24, Sts. Teresa & Bridget, 8:30 pm**

**Christmas Concert, 9:00 pm Mass**

*First Lector:* Maris Boettcher

*Second Lector:* Dee White

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Alice O'Bryant, Brenda Tillman, Dominic Garland

**December 25, Most Holy Trinity, 11:30pm Carols,  
Mass at Midnight**

*First Lector:* Sister Gail

*Second Lector:* Mattie Patterson

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Donna Lindsay, Kenneth Patterson, Sister Janice

**December 25, St. Nicholas, 9:00am Mass**

*First Lector:* tbd

*Second Lector:* tbd

*Eucharistic Ministers:* tbd

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**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 includes Mass and the 17th Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Model of Justice Awards.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

The liturgical environment reflects the quiet and the dark where we often travel seeking Jesus. The image of *light in the night* persists throughout the Liturgy of the Word, revealing Jesus, Light come into the world. The wreath, the center focus, offers light in the winter darkness.

JOY – the third candle of the advent wreath reflects that as we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows deeper. The pink candle symbolizes joy. The third Sunday of Advent, “Gaudete Sunday” means rejoice or praise. We live in joyful expectation of the coming Light of the world, Jesus the Christ. We rejoice today as we recognize that our lives are enlivened by God’s redemptive love. We praise God “before all the nations.”



### PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The sacrament of Reconciliation readies us for the coming of our Light, our Christ mass. Following the homily there is an opportunity for all to celebrate the sacrament of forgiveness. We are invited to celebrate God’s gift of mercy and compassion, free and abundant. The celebration of reconciliation is more than an individual celebration, it strengthens our entire parish community.

#### A Simple Guide to the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

1. GREETING: The priest greets us and we pray the Sign of the Cross. We trust God’s healing love.
2. CONFESS: We name our sins. The priest listens.
3. PENANCE: Penance is an act of kindness or prayers to pray.
4. CONTRITION: The priest asks us to express our sorrow praying the following act of contrition or express contrition in our own words. Example of an Act of Contrition:  
*My God, I am sorry for my sin with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have failed to love you. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid evil.*
5. ABSOLUTION: The priest says, “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” We respond “Amen.”
6. GOING FORTH: “Go in peace and joy.”

**ASSISI HOUSE** was founded in 2014 by a dedicated group of volunteers involved in St. Louis Winter Outreach. What was meant to be a one-time, winter-long shelter turned into a volunteer-led organization providing affordable housing for the unhoused in the St. Louis region.

The former Sts. Teresa and Bridget rectory on 3636 N. Market has been repurposed as an Assisi House and ready to receive residents January 2024. St.

Josephine Bakhita parish offers support to the mission of Assisi House to offer quality housing. Everyone deserves a home.

Assisi House operates five homes in the city of St. Louis, housing 60 residents in small, communal settings of 10-12 individuals. Residents pay affordable rent & receive accompaniment and support from staff and volunteers who address resident self-identified goals.



## THE “O” ANTIPHONS

Beginning in the eighth century, each “O” antiphon became a prayer announcing the coming of the Messiah. Each antiphon begins with a biblical title and ends with an intercession. The antiphons proclaim the coming Christ as fulfillment of Old Testament hopes and the hopes of today. The word “Come” emphasizes the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. As we pray each day’s “O” antiphon, we celebrate the gift and presence of Jesus in our lives.

DECEMBER 17

**O WISDOM OF OUR GOD**, guiding all creation with your strong yet tender love:  
*Come and teach your people the path of knowledge*

DECEMBER 18

**O LEADER OF THE HOUSE ISRAEL**, giver of the commandments to Moses on Sinai:  
Come enfold us with your strength and guidance

DECEMBER 19

**O ROOT OF JESSE’S STEM**, sign of God’s love for all people:  
*Come, to protect and hold us without delay*

DECEMBER 20

**O KEY OF DAVID**, opening the gates of God’s eternal reign:  
*Come and free the captives of darkness.*

DECEMBER 21

**O RADIANT DAWN**, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:  
*Come, shine on all who dwell in darkness and the fear of death*

DECEMBER 22

**O KING OF ALL THE NATIONS**, joy of every human heart:  
*Come and embrace us whom you created in your image and likeness.*

DECEMBER 23

**O EMMANUEL**, desire of the nations and Savior of all people:  
*Come and set us free, Beloved God*

Begin with the last title and take the first letter of each – Emmanuel, Rex (King of all nations), Oriens (Radiant dawn), Clavis (Key of David), Radix, (Root of Jesse ) Adonai (Leader of the house of Isreal), Sapientai (Wisdom). Put together, these form the Latin phrase *ero cras*, which means “Tomorrow I come.” Jesus, now speaks to us: “Tomorrow, I come.” The O Antiphons accompany us throughout Advent and lead us to a joyful moment of celebration — Christmas.

### ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA PARISH

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