

November 22, 2020

CELEBRATING BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH

Over the last five years, we have been celebrating Black Catholic History Month (November) at our parish. Because of the restrictions imposed by the on-going pandemic, our celebration this year will be much simpler. There will not be any celebration with special presentations in the Father Martin Hall. Our focus will be on individual prayer while also remembering Black Catholic Saints. At the end of each Mass this coming weekend (November 21-22nd), Prayer Cards will be available in the Narthex. We are inviting you to pray together with three great Black Catholics and imitate their powerful virtues: St Benedict the Moor (1526-1589) (April 4 Feast Day), St Martin de Porres (1579 -1639) (November 3rd Feast Day), and Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Co-foundress of Oblate Sisters of Providence (1784-1882).

I already wrote to you about St Martin de Porres (weekly bulletin of November 8) as we celebrated his Feast Day on November 3rd. St Martin, who lived 400 years ago in Peru, was fully committed to help people in need, whether poor or sick. He also displayed the virtue of humility in challenging circumstances. He had a very difficult childhood. He was born out of wedlock. His mother was a former slave and his father a Spanish nobleman who abandoned his young son Martin right after the birth of his sister. He joined a Dominican convent as a servant and did all kinds of menial jobs with great humility and love (cooking, cleaning), while also feeding the unwanted and the abandoned. All of us can be inspired by such a humble and loving Saint!

St Benedict the Moor was born about 50 years before St Martin de Porres. His parents were African slaves who converted to Catholicism and were granted freedom before the birth of Benedict in San Fratello, Sicily. As a young adult, Benedict joined a small community of hermits and served as a cook before becoming their leader. He then joined a Franciscan friary, starting again as a cook and later becoming the Master of Novices, while remaining a lay brother. Benedict is well-known for his humility and cheerfulness.

Servant of God Mother Mary Lange was born in a Haitian community in Cuba at the end of the 18th century. In the early 1800s, she immigrated to the United States and settled in Baltimore around 1813. I have a special devotion to Mother Lange as she can be connected to our local hero Father Narcisse Martin. Though Mother Lange died one year before Fr. Martin began to teach at St Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, both of them prayed in the same Lower Chapel of the Seminary at Paca Street. The Sulpicians had used the Lower Chapel as a parish to serve the French-speaking congregation of black refugees from Haiti. Mary Lange belonged to that congregation and this is how she met the Sulpician priest Fr. Joubert who was in charge of teaching the children who attended the Lower Chapel parish. Together with Fr. Joubert, Mary Lange founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, primarily to provide Catholic education for girls of African descent. Mother Lange's heart was always open to those who are poor, widowed, orphaned, sick, elderly and those needing education.

The latest Catholic Standard (November 12) has a full-page article on another famous American Black Catholic: Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, the first recognized US diocesan priest of African descent (you can read the full article at cathstan.org). Many of you may recall the live play " TOLTON from Slave to Priest ", which was performed in the Father Martin Hall last winter. This live production brought a message of HOPE for inter-cultural unity in our country in general and in the Catholic Church in particular as Fr. Tolton can be seen as a model for persevering in the faith in challenging times. Fr. Tolton was ordained a priest in Rome in 1886 and returned the same year to the US to serve at the parish level. He died in 1897. In that way, he was a contemporary priest of Fr. Narcisse Martin who became pastor in Waldorf in 1894 and served for 29 years till his death in 1923. Like Fr. Tolton, Fr. Martin can be seen as a model of inter-cultural unity as he devoted much of his pastoral work to the evangelization of a large number of African Americans (in addition to Native Americans and recent immigrants from Germany and Austria). You can also find a display about Fr. Narcisse Martin in the Narthex this weekend.

As we celebrate Black Catholic History Month, we can also celebrate both the cultural diversity and inter-cultural unity of our own parish, including : European Americans, African Americans, Native Americans , Asian Americans (Philippinos, Indians, Vietnamese), Hispanic Americans (Puerto Rico, Mexico, Central and South America), as well as recent immigrants from Haiti and Africa (both English-speaking and French-speaking).

May all our parishioners be inspired by the rich heritage of Black Catholics in our country and may we all continue to persevere "United in our Catholic Faith" despite the many challenges we all currently face.

May God help us to follow the examples of St Martin de Porres , St Benedict the Moor, Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Venerated Fr. Tolton and Father Marcisse Martin: perseverant in faith , loving everyone, evangelizers, always humble, and reaching out to those most in need . AMEN!

One in Christ,

Fr. Alain



Religious Education News

We are off this week for the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have any questions, please contact Nereida Tellechea at (301)645-7112, or email cre@olhoc.org

Community Outreach

The “Holiday House” remains in the Narthex for monetary donations to our Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. We also are collecting food for these baskets- stuffing, gravy, boxed potatoes, canned corn and green beans, yams and cranberry sauce. Thank you, in advance, to all OLHOC parishioners who have always been so generous!

Our next Outreach meeting will be December 2nd at 7 p. m.

Thank you for volunteering to deliver Thanksgiving baskets to those less fortunate.

*****REMINDER*****

-Sanitize your hands before coming into church

-Masks are mandatory

-Maintain at least a 6 ft distance

-If you feel ill, stay home and watch Mass on www.olhoc.com -10 am on Sundays

Youth Mass Sunday

At 2:30 PM

Please join us!

**Save the Date!
Christmas Novena
Masses**

**December 15-23 at 7 PM
“Prepare the Way of the
Lord. Come Lord Jesus”**

CA/RCIA

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? Classes meet on Wednesday, from 7 pm –9 pm. You may chose to come to the Father Martin Hall or virtually via Zoom. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Deacon Rich at deacon@olhoc.org or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com

We hope you will join us!

The Youth Support Team is an integral part of our Youth ministry at OLHOC. It consists of different components utilizing diverse gifts and time commitments of parents and other interested volunteers from our parish. These volunteer opportunities can range from assisting with special events (hospitality, chaperones, fundraisers, prayer team..), confirmation mentors, or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website www.olhoc.org/ymteam or talk to Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org



**Blessing of Thanksgiving
food**

Wednesday, November 26 following the 7 pm Mass.

Mass on Thanksgiving day is at 9 am

We are asked to pray for:

Julissa Bariantos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Joseph Albrittlian
 Sid and Suszanna Marcus
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Ann Marie Hobart
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Julie Davis
 David DeMarr
 Dunnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 Lorraine Celijewski
 Lorrin Green

Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathy Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren
 Marie Marie Bottorf
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Billy Dexter
 Trenia Price
 Erick M. Knapp
 Norm Green

The Dixons
 Grace Albrittain
 Elaine Moses
 Yvonne Buford
 Karen Zimmerman
 Steve Wyloge
 Terri Elizabeth McAllister Burnette
 Joanne Johnson
 Gloria Snyder
 John Hoza
 Mike Spurgeon
 Mary A. Dyson
 Kevin Viel Sr.

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, November 21, 9:00AM: Alain Thomas Etammane
 Saturday, November 22, 5:00 PM: Madelene Fracer (+)
 Sunday, November 22, 8:30 AM: Dennis Forgash (+)
 Sunday, November 22, 10:00 AM: Agnes Moussi (+)
 Sunday, November 22, 11:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
 Sunday, November 22, 7:00 PM: Ejiro Idedevo
 Monday, November 23, 9:00 AM: Rose Willy (+)
 Tuesday, November 24, 9:00 AM: Marlen Coles
 Wednesday, November 25, 9:00 AM: Clifford Sofield Jr (+)
 Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 PM: Sr. Rosario
 Thursday, November 26, 9:00 AM: AnnaMarie & Jose Gonzales & family
 Friday, November 27, 9:00 AM: Editha L. Abuan

Mass intentions

If you would like to have a Mass said in 2021, the calendar is open in the office. Sign up for the Mass you would like so as to assure the date you want is available. Suggested stipend is \$10

Tuesday Scripture Study- Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Friday Scripture Study- The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

First Friday- The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

First Saturday-Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

Divine Mercy- Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

OLHOC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email to office@olhoc.org.

Mass Readings for November 29, 2020

1st Sunday of Advent

***First Reading**

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 64:2-7

***Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

***Gospel**

Mark 13:33-37

www.usccb.org





OLHOC Youth

Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation will continue on Sunday, November 22nd. This is the parish sacramental preparation for Confirmation for students (who are in catholic school, public school or homeschooled), parent(s), and mentors, (sponsors are always welcome). For Year 2, we will be offering the option to attend in person. The workshop will be from 1-2:30 pm followed by 2:30 pm Mass and All Youth Night activities from 3:30 - 5pm. Students in Year 1, please check your email for the instructions on how to join the virtual gathering. For more details and questions, visit www.olhoc.com/confirmation-1 or contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org.

All Youth Night is Back!

Join us on November 22nd for Mass at 2:30 pm followed by Youth Ministry for youth in EDGE (middle school) and Life Teen (high school) from 3:30 pm-5 pm. Invite some friends to join you for some faith, fun and fellowship. Unfortunately at this time, we will not be offering FIAT (elementary) after Mass, we will keep you posted when FIAT will resume. Please visit www.olhoc.org/ymevents and signup to join us.

Life Teen (High School) Youth Ministry meets in-person on most Sunday's from 1pm - 2:30 pm. We will also offer some virtual opportunities to gather. Please visit our website to stay informed of our dates and for other upcoming youth events.

Time to Request Spots for Camp Covecrest - August 1-7, 2020 in Tiger, Georgia

We plan to attend Camp Covecrest this coming summer 2021. We will continue to monitor the current pandemic and keep you posted if anything changes. For more details and a video on this transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith visit www.olhoc.org/camp2021 Questions, please contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

Youth Core Team

If you are interested in joining our Youth Core team, be a Confirmation Mentor, or learn more about ways to volunteer with the youth, please visit www.olhoc.org/ymteam or talk to Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org

For more Youth Ministry events both in person and virtually, please visit www.olhoc.org/ym or contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org