“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand.”
Frederick Douglass

October 2020

General Information
The next African American Catholic Community (AACC) mass will be held on October 25, 2020, 12:00 p.m., at St. Joseph’s on the Rio Grande Catholic Church, located at 5901 Saint Joseph’s Dr. NW (1 block west of Coors and St. Joseph). At this mass we celebrate The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Our celebrant is the Reverent Benjamin Onwumelu, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the AACC Spiritual Director. Please prepare for the upcoming mass by reviewing the liturgy for this mass.

Covid-19
The Pandemic, resulting from the Coronavirus, is alive and well. This mass will adhere to all the Archdiocese and State protocols associated with Covid-19. Please view the information on page 2.

Liturgy for October 25, 2020
(30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26 [Kindness to Others]
The Lord warns his people not to oppress foreigners nor to harm widows or orphans. Consideration for the poor and needy should be a prime concern.

Second Reading: 1 Thes 1:5c-10 [Imitating Christ]
You received the word of the Lord in spite of great hardships. You then became model Christians for your neighbors. You turned from idols to worship the true God.

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40 [The Greatest Commandments]
Jesus tells the scholar of the law that the greatest of all the commandments is love - to love God above all else and your neighbor as yourself. This sums up the whole law.

“The shall love the Lord, your God, with all you heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

The Mission Statement
In the context of our multicultural church, we support and reinforce the African American Catholic family and individuals. We invite, challenge and develop an appreciation of our African American culture through liturgy, social, spiritual and educational programs. We pray that our culture will enhance the universality of the Church and the cause of evangelization.

St Joseph on the Rio Grande Church follows the guidelines to mitigate the COVID Pandemic as outlined in the Directives given by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe dated May 14, 2020. Here are a few that emphasize those guidelines:

- **Face Masks** are required to enter the facility
- No congregating or socializing before or after mass.
- No singing during mass
- Sit in designated areas (those in the same household can sit together but limited)
- Regular liturgy (omission of offertory, sign of peace and processions)
- Eucharist follows the conclusion of mass
- Communicants receive host in their hand, and steps aside prior to lifting mask for consuming and then exit the building immediately
- No after-Mass assemblies. People encouraged to depart immediately after Mass

Also, please note that AACC will have a designated offering basket as you enter the church. Your donation will be much appreciated.

AACC On Line Giving Page

Anne Avellone, Director, Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, and Elizabeth Dominick, Stewardship Office, both of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, have activated an AACC On Line Giving Page. That’s right; One can donate electronically and still have the option of writing a check when donating to the AACC or the AACC Scholarship Fund. What a wonderful way to combat the effects of not being able to meet because of the Covid Pandemic.

The website for this easy to use site is: https://archdiocesesantafegiving.org/AACC

If you have any questions please call 505-836-3626

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St. Martin de Porres
(1579 - 1639)
Lima, Peru

St. Martin de Porres was born at Lima, Peru, in 1579. His father was a Spanish gentleman and his mother a colored freedwoman from Panama. At fifteen, he became a lay brother at the Dominican Friary at Lima and spent his whole life there-as a barber, farm laborer, almoner, and infirmaryman among other things.

Martin had a great desire to go off to some foreign mission and thus earn the palm of martyrdom. However, since this was not possible, he made a martyr out of his body, devoting himself to ceaseless and severe penances. In turn, God endowed him with many graces and wondrous gifts, such as, aerial flights and bilocation.

St. Martin's love was all-embracing, shown equally to humans and to animals, including vermin, and he maintained a cats and dogs hospital at his sister's house. He also possessed spiritual wisdom, demonstrated in his solving his sister's marriage problems, raising a dowry for his niece inside of three day's time, and resolving theological problems for the learned of his Order and for bishops.

In January of 1639, when Martin was 60-years-old, he became very ill with chills, fevers and tremors causing him agonizing pain. He would experience almost a year full of illness until he passed away on November 3, 1639. By the time he died, he was widely known and accepted. Talks of his miracles in medicine and caring for the sick were everywhere. After his death, the miracles received when he was invoked in such greatness that when he was exhumed 25 years later, his body exhaled a splendid fragrance and he was still intact.

St. Martin de Porres was beatified by Pope Gregory XVI on October 29, 1837 and canonized by Pope John XXIII on May 6, 1962.

He has become the patron saint of people of mixed race, innkeepers, barbers, public health workers and more.

His feast day is November 3.
Prayer for Venerable Augustus Tolton

O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in Heaven, Father Tolton’s suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son’s passion and death. If it be your Will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now request through his intercession (mention your request) so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever.

Amen

2010 Bishop Joseph N. Perry
Imprimatur
Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archdiocese of Chicago

Special Thanks
Special Thanks to Myriam Germain. Mariam has volunteered to join the AACC Steering Committee as the Courtesy Coordinator. She has graciously taken this task over from Valerie Branch. Her duties include hospitality (food & refreshments for various related events) and Care/Well Being (Acknowledgement card for sympathy, get well, graduations, achievements, etc.). Myriam is also the sister of Darly Barkley our AACC picnic coordinator. Thank you Myriam.
**The Feast of All Saints, (November 1)**
The Feast of All Saints is a holy day of the Church honoring all saints, known and unknown. While we have information about many saints, and we honor them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never been specifically honored. On All Saints Day, we celebrate these saints of the Lord, and ask for their prayers and intercessions. The whole concept of All Saints Day is tied in with the concept of the Communion of Saints. This is the belief that all of God's people, on heaven, earth, and in the state of purification (called Purgatory in the West), are connected in a communion. In other words, Catholic and Orthodox Christians believe that the saints of God are just as alive as you and I, and are constantly interceding on our behalf.

**We pray for St. Benedict the Moor, St. Antonio Vieria, St Moses the Black, St. Augustine, St. Monica, St Martin De Porres, St. Felicitas and Perpetua, St. Mary of Egypt, St. Anthony the Great, St. Maurice and St. Josephine Bakhita … just to name a few black saints.**

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**Josephite Calendar Fundraiser**
The AACC will be selling the 2021 Josephite Calendars starting this month. This very important fundraiser supports the various ministries of the AACC including the Fr. Rollin Lambert Scholarship Fund. The price of the calendar is $10.00. Please contact Brother Gordon Boykin, OFM at (505) 249-5774 or e-mail him at gordyboy45@aol.com. The Calendar is an evangelistic and educational tool as well as an excellent resource for important dates and events. Please support the AACC with this noble fund raiser. Thank You.

**The Josephite Mission**
The Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, The Josephites, is a religious community of Catholic priests and brothers, committed to serving the African American community through the proclamation of the Gospel and our personal witness. Our commitment is expressed through sacramental, educational and pastoral ministry, service to those in need and working for social justice.