“Nothing that God ever made is the same thing to more than one person. That is natural. There is no single face in nature, because every eye that looks upon it, sees it from its own angle. So every man's spice-box seasons his own food.”  Zora Neale Hurston (Love)

April 2022

General Information
The Archdiocese of Santa Fe African American Catholic Community
Cordially Invites All to the
30th Anniversary Mass
Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

Presider: Most Rev. John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe
Homily/History: Fr. Gene Gries, O. Praem.

Refreshments after Mass in the Outdoor Portico

Join us in person at St. Joseph on the Rio Grande, located at 5901 Saint Joseph’s Dr NW (1block west of Coors and St. Joseph).

Mask are optional for attendees. Note: This may change if restrictions are changed by the state of New Mexico. Or join us virtually. Mass will be live -streamed and recorded:

https://www.facebook.com/Masses-from-St-Joseph-on-the-Rio-Grande112836890430507

Donations can be mailed to the AACC at 4000 St. Joseph Pl. NW ABQ, NM 87120 with AACC on memo line or made securely online at:
https://archdiocesesantafegiving.org/AACC

For more information, please call 505-401-8983
Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Social Justice and Respect Life 505-831-8167

LITURGY FOR APRIL 24, 2022
(2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER)

First Reading: Acts 5:12-6 [Signs and Wonders]
Through signs and wonders - miracles - the Lord supports the work of the Apostles and leads people to the Faith.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118 [The Lord's Goodness]
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Second Reading: Revelations 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 [The First and the Last]
In symbol and allegory the glory of the Lord is depicted.

Gospel: John 20:19-31 [Living Faith]
Jesus is risen; he comes and stands before his disciples. He encourages them and strengthens their faith.

By Brenda Dabney

“We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord…” and Letting Our Little Light Shine…” These two songs encapsulate our journey. It is through our Lord’s guidance that the African American Catholic Community was started and now celebrates its 30th anniversary. It had been a longtime dream and desire of many local African American Catholics to come together and celebrate the Mass in an Afrocentric way. It came together when Brenda Dabney and Steven Woodbury found out that the Archdiocese was discontinuing its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass in Santa Fe and asked permission for the Mass to be held in Albuquerque. Permission was granted. The Mass was held in the small chapel at the Catholic Center. The response was overwhelming and encouraging. Archbishop Robert Sanchez celebrated the Mass and Reverend Albert McCoin, a local Baptist Minister, gave the reflection. The Holy Spirit was at work, the chapel was full of an overflowing crowd.

Inspired by the enthusiastic response, it was decided to have Mass again in April. Following that, the Steering Committee was formed with Dr. Clarence Kirby as the director, assisted by Brenda Dabney. Others serving on the Steering Committee were Fr. Rollins Lambert, Ethel Davis, Dorothy Howard, Larry and Tina Stevenson, Joanne Kirby, Lauren Moore, Steven Woodbury, Bill and Luanne Slough, Deacon John and Joan Leahigh, and the support of Joseph F. Dabney, husband to Brenda Dabney, who is not on the Steering Committee but is a longtime supporter of the AACC. A choir was formed under the direction of Steven Woodbury, who also became our liturgist. A mission statement developed. The Lord sent some very talented and giving people to lead the AACC.

In 1993 when Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan became a part of the Archdiocese, Joan Leaigh, Director of the Office of Social Justice, became our liaison to the Archdiocese. Joan also led us to Fr. Rollins Lambert, our first Spiritual Director and to St. Josephine Bakhita, who became our patron saint. As the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a community" and many others both African Americans and non-African Americans came together to help build and support the AACC in its infancy. We started at the Catholic Center, then worshipped at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church at the invitation of the pastor, Rev. Joel Garner, Opraem and moved back to the Catholic Center. Now we reside at St. Joseph on the Rio Grande Catholic Church, at the invitation of the former pastor Rev. Frank Prieto and parish council member, Ernest Chavez. We continue there and now serve with Rev. Msgr. Lambert J. Luna, present pastor and whose family has been longtime active members of the AACC. Our Afro-centric mass is held five times a year, at 12 noon in January, April, June, August, and October on the last Sunday of those months except for our Dr. King Mass which is held on the third Sunday of January.

Over the years God continues to send us very talented and generous people to lead the AACC. We have been blessed with the Fr. Rollins Lambert Scholarship for Catholic elementary school children, under the direction of Dr. Gerry Harge and committee and a school supply drive headed by Louise Davis. We now have an official Constitution and By-Laws and serve under Archbishop John C. Wester.

Members serving on the current AACC Steering Committee are Gabrielle Pierre-Louis, Coordinator, Brenda Dabney, Asst. Coordinator, Rev. Benjamin Onwumelu, Spiritual Director, Elizabeth Slimak, Secretary, Gabrielle also serves with Veronica Lewis on the Financial Committee, Louise Davis, Choir Director, Larry Stevenson, Newsletter Editor, Veronica Lewis, Publicity Chair, Darly Barkley, Hospitality Chair, and members-at-large are Patrick Ballou, Bro. Gordon Boykin, OFM, Sean Cardinalli, Deacon Leon Jones, Uche Ohiri, and Olivia Oyinatumba. At the request of our Archbishop Wester, we have an Ad Hoc Committee on Racism, served by Steering Committee members. They have sponsored several webinars on racism.
African American Catholic Community History Continued

We are blessed to have the support of the Archdiocese liaison, Anne Avellone, Director of Social Justice and Respect Life and her Secretary, Maria Garcia, and our Media Director is MacKensie Lewis. Also serving on the Scholarship Committee are Ernest Dorko, Brenda Dabney, Tina Stevenson, and Anne Avellone. Choir members are Patrick Ballou, Larry and Tina Stevenson, Brenda and J. Frank Dabney, Ingrid Nelson, and musician, Annandra McCorkle. We have enjoyed an Afrocentric drumming unit as well.

The Lord has truly blessed us these past 30 years and we look to Him for our future. “We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord..., and Letting our Little Light Shine....”

The Griot tells our story.

Congratulations to Maryah Burrell
Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Award

Maryah Burrell has been awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. scholarship award from Saint Louis University. The $3,000 MLK award together with the merit-based Jesuit Transfer scholarship comes to a total of $21,000. Congratulations!!

Maryah is a three time recipient of the Fr. Rollins Lambert Scholarship while attending San Felipe De Neri Catholic School. She was a member of the Sandia Preparatory Schools chapter of the National Honor Society and co-founder of the Black Student Union.

Fr. Lambert would be proud to know that his mustard seed has blossomed into a colossal fruit.

Please Join Us For
OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS
“Looking Back and Looking Forward: Shining Our Light for All!”

This is our seventh webinar in the series based on the Pastoral Letter “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love” by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, exploring healing racism in our Church and Community.

Monday, April 25, 2022
6:00pm-8:00pm (MST)
Presenter: Msgr. Raymond East
Pastor, St. Teresa of Avila Church
Former Director, Office of Black Catholics and Vicar for Evangelization in Washington DC

This event is free. Pre-registration required
Click here (or copy into browser) to pre-register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvc2oqj4uHdPfgGUdUjiqxs2xnZogpiuK

Contact: Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, Archdiocese of Santa Fe
justice3@archdiosf.org or 505-831-8205

Sponsored by:
Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, African American Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Archdiocese of Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee on Racism, with support from The Catholic Foundation.
Ketanji Brown Jackson
Supreme Court Justice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a 53-47 vote, the U.S. Senate April 7 confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman to fill that role.

Jackson will fill the vacancy that will be left by Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer when he retires this summer at the end of the current term. She will be sworn in at that time.

Her approval only needed a simple majority of 51 votes, which had been expected when all the Democrats announced they would support her and three Republican senators — Mitt Romney of Utah, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska — said she would have their vote, which she got.

She said she hoped her love of this country and the Constitution would inspire future generations of Americans.

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.

African American Catholic Community
4000 St. Joseph’s Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

umoja
UNITY