



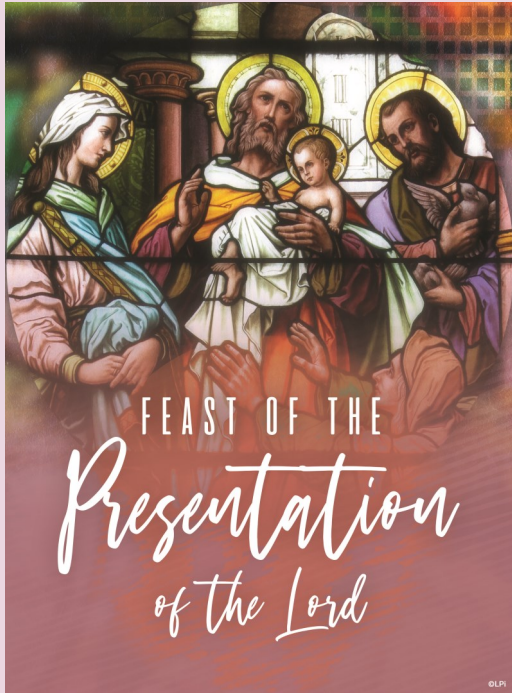
# Corpus Christi Parish

*"Building the Body of Christ"*

We strive to radiate the presence of Jesus Christ  
In our parish and community and invite **others**  
to join us on our journey.



February 2, 2025



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

There is so much to share with you this weekend. I pray I can write it all in one page.

First, on behalf of Corpus Christi Parish, I give thanks to God for the blessing Fr. John Vandenaeker has been to the Corpus Christi Family. I would not have been able to manage two parishes without his faithfulness and dedication. He has served well and has shared much experience and wisdom. As many of you know, I am no longer serving at both St. Scholastica and Corpus Christi. A new community of priests called *Pro Ecclesia Sancta* has been assigned to St. Scholastica. I am now full-time at Corpus Christi. As a result, I will be celebrating all three Masses at Corpus Christi every weekend. Fr. John will be celebrating weekend Masses at another Family of Parishes. Please keep Fr. John in your prayers.

Second, as you know, this month is Black History Month. Over the next three weekends, we will be highlighting the heroic virtue of the six Black Catholic men and women who are being considered by the Catholic church to be officially canonized as Saints. These men and

women lived extraordinarily virtuous lives. They demonstrated the power of the love of God in all circumstances. Each of them faced hardships that could have led to discouragement, or even despair. They overcame these hardships by faithfully living out their Catholic faith. Their pictures will be on display in the entrance of the church as well as information about their lives.

Third, this weekend we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. As a result, we pray for and recognize the men and women who have chosen the vocation to consecrate themselves to the Lord by choosing a religious vocation. Those who choose this life freely choose to live together, pray together, and share life together with brothers or sisters in community. Our community, the Companions of the Cross, is an example of this. I make a commitment to share life with my brothers. We encourage, support, and challenge one another for the good of the mission of loving God and His people. To choose a religious vocation is a response to a specific call from God.

Finally, I wish to remind all of us that there is so much good the Lord is doing in the world around us. We are invited to allow the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to see His blessings. We are encouraged to give thanks in all circumstances. It is my prayer in this new year that each of us will grow in faith, hope, and love. I pray that we will see the good in one another and love each other with the love Christ showed us when he freely offered Himself on the cross. This is what these six Black Catholic men and women did.

***There is no greater love than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends.***

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Jim Lowe, CC

**Corpus Christi Catholic Church**

19800 Pembroke Ave

Detroit MI 48219-2145

313-537-5770

[www.corpuschristi-detroit.org](http://www.corpuschristi-detroit.org)**Fr. Jim Lowe, CC**, Priest in Solidum

Jim.Lowe@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Deacon Paul Mueller**, Pastoral Associate

Paul.Mueller@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Shanita Brown**, Bookkeeper, Shanita.Brown@corpuschristi-detroit.org**Gregory Spight**, Maintenance Coordinator

Gregory.Spight@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Lori Subelsky**, Bulletin Editor, Lori.subelsky@corpuschristi-detroit.org**Sheila Finch**, Liturgy / Worship Director

Sheila.finch@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Sr. Therese MacKinnon**, Discipleship Formation Director

Therese.MacKinnon@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Curtis Simpson Jr.**, Evangelical Charity Director

Curtis.Simpson,Jr@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Pat Tillery**, Evangelical Charity Administration Assistant

Patricia.Tillery@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Cathy Long**, Finance/Faith/Website Support

Catherine.Long@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Mary Davis**, Events Coordinator, Mary.Davis@corpuschristi-detroit.org**Maria Dickerson**, New Parishioners & Volunteer Coordinator

maria.dickerson@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Ashlie Jones**, Youth Ministry Coordinator,

Ashlie.jones@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Michelle Baines**, Music Ministry,

Michelle.Baines@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Fannie Larkins**, Music Ministry,

Fannie.Larkins@corpuschristi-detroit.org

**Family Pastoral Council Representatives:****Christeena Livingston-Long**, christeena04@gmail.com**Valerie Berry**, valerieberry04@gmail.com**Parish Office Hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9 am - 4 pm****Saturday Mass 4 pm Sunday Masses 9 am and 11 am****Daily / Holy Day Masses** See weekly parish schedule**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm;**  
during Penance services; by appointment (call the Parish Office)**Sick Calls/Prayer Requests:** Please call the Parish Office to  
schedule or visit or add someone to parish prayer list**Funerals:** Please call the Parish Office before making arrangements  
with the funeral home.**Sacrament of Baptism:** Please call the Parish Office for more  
information.**Sacrament of Marriage:** Please call the Parish Office at least six  
months before the wedding date.**The Week Ahead****Sunday, February 2, 2025****Presentation of the Lord**

Coffee and Donuts after both Masses

9:00 am Ladies of Peter Claver - Black History Month-  
announcement (CC Church)

9:00 am CGS Level 2 (Atrium)

**9:00 am MASS - Fr. Jim Lowe, CC****Fr. John Vandenakker, CC**

9:30 am OCIA (Rectory Dining Room)

**11:00 am MASS - Fr. Jim Lowe, CC****Fr. John Vandenakker, CC**

11:00 am CLOW (Rectory Basement)

11:00 am CGS Level 1 (Atrium)

12:15 pm RISE Gathering (Activities Center)

4:00 pm BMO meeting (Rainbow Room &amp; Gym)

**Monday, February 3, 2025****8:45 am - NO MASS**

12:00 pm New St. Paul Head Start Agency (Rain. Rm.)

1:30 pm Crochet Class (Rainbow Room)

7:00 pm Bible Study (Rainbow Room)

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025****8:45 am MASS - Fr. Jim Lowe, CC**

10:00 am Emergency Food Pantry (Rain. Rm. Annex)

12:00 pm New St. Paul Head Start Agency (Rain. Rm.)

**6:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration (CC Church)**6:30 pm Evangelization Committee meeting—'Eat & Meet'  
(Rainbow Room)**Wednesday, February 5, 2025****Church Offices Closed****8:45 am MASS - Fr. Jim Lowe, CC**

11:00 am Prayer Meeting to Praise God (Reconciliation Rm)

12:00 pm New St. Paul Head Start Agency (Rain. Rm.)

2:30 pm O'Hair Park Reading Programs (Rain. Rm.)

**Thursday, February 6, 2025****8:45 am MASS - Fr. Jim Lowe, CC****9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration (CC Church)**

10:00 am Emergency Food Pantry (Rain. Rm. Annex)

10:30 am All Staff Meeting (Rectory Basement)

11:00 am SVDP Meeting (Rainbow Room)

12:00 pm New St. Paul Head Start Agency (Rain. Rm.)

1:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting (Rectory Living Rm.)

6:00 pm Evangelical Charity Meeting (Rectory Living Rm.)

**Friday, February 7, 2025****8:45 am MASS - Fr. Jim Lowe, CC**

12:00 pm New St. Paul Head Start Agency (RR)

6:00 pm Movie Night - Acts of Apostles part 2 (Rainbow Rm.)

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

10:00 am Image of God Crisis Pregnancy Center

10:00 am First Communion Class (Atrium, Classroom 4)

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Recovery (Rectory Basement)

**4:00 pm MASS - Fr. Jim Lowe, CC****Sunday, February 9, 2025****5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Coffee and Donuts after both Masses

9:00 am Ladies of Peter Claver - Black History Month-  
announcement (CC Church)

9:00 am CGS Level 2 (Atrium)

**9:00 am MASS - Fr. Jim Lowe, CC**

9:30 am OCIA (Rectory Dining Room)

10:00 am Ladies of St. Peter Claver meeting (Rainbow Rm -back)

**11:00 am MASS - Fr. Jim Lowe, CC**

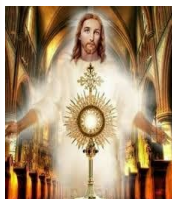
11:00 am CLOW (Rectory Basement)

11:00 am CGS Level 1 (Atrium)

12:15 pm Confirmation Class (Activities Center)

12:30 pm Movies (Classroom 3)

4:00 pm BMO meeting (Rainbow Room &amp; Gym)

**Who is this king of glory?****It is the Lord!**

(Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10)

**Eucharistic Adoration at  
Corpus Christi****Tuesday: 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm****Thursday: 9:30 am - 10:30 am**One of the greatest treasures of the Catholic faith is the  
Eucharist. Ever since the Last Supper, the Catholic  
Church has believed that the Eucharist is truly the  
Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



## February 02, 2025 – February 09, 2025

Sunday	9:00 am	Intentions of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
	11:00 am +	In Memory of Phil Warunek Req. by Pat & Paul Mueller
Monday	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>
Tuesday	8:45 am	Intentions of All Families
Wednesday	8:45 am	Peace for our cities, counties and the world.
Thursday	8:45 am	All the Sick, their caregivers and the Homebound.
Friday	8:45 am	For the legal Protection of the Unborn and the Corpus Christi Crisis Pregnancy Center
Saturday	4:00 pm	Intentions of our Parishioners
Sunday	9:00 am	Intentions of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
	11:00 am	Intentions of our Parishioners

### Please Remember the Sick in your Prayers

#### Members of our Parish Family...

Cleo Anthony, Shermia Anding, Paul Billion, Jane Breslin, Ernie Buckner, Michael Busby, Jr., Ruth Chapman, Mary Ann Cosgriff, Roy Ford, Winnie Gayle, Connie Gant, Camille Graves-Douglas, Michael Lanton, Nancy & David Loper, Yve Nemeth, Vernard Plain, Sean Ross, Shirley Sands, Lois Shepherd, Charlotte Turner

#### Friends and Family of Parishioners...

Sheila Adams, Kevin Byrne, Larson Conway, Jr., Philip Conway, Kelly Davis, Lucius Davis, Agnes Holt, Greg Hynes, Robert Jarey, Ronald Lunney, Harold McRae, Tiffani Pittman, Carole Powell, Arlene Rosenau, Pam Smale, Steve Smale, Emily de St. Aubin, Marilyn Waddell, Sara Nell Wallace, Deonie Young

#### Please Remember the Homebound in your Prayers...

Joseph Cagle, Michelle Cagle, Sue Deeds, Irma Horton, Beatrice Hunter, Beverley Brown-Johnson, Homer Matthews, Thelma Polley, Joyce Wilson

### Did You Lose a Hearing Aide?

Last Sunday at Generations of Faith a hearing aide was found on the gym floor. If it is yours, please contact Sr. Therese at (414)801-0100.



## AOD Fund Raising for “Wildfire Relief in California”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As wildfires continue to devastate communities across California, we are called to respond with the compassion and generosity that defines our Catholic faith. Families have lost their homes, their livelihoods, and their sense of stability. In these moments of great need, Catholic Charities USA is providing lifesaving resources to those directly impacted by these tragic events.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has made a contribution to aid in this effort, and now we humbly ask you to join us in supporting our brothers and sisters in need.

**100% of your donation will go directly toward wildfire relief efforts.** Your gift will help provide essential resources such as food, water, shelter, and long-term recovery assistance for those most affected by this disaster.

Please consider making an emergency donation today by Going to Catholic Charities USA website at: [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org) click the give now button under deadly L.A. Wildfires. You can also donate by mail:  
2050 Ballenger Ave., #400; Alexandria, VA 22314 or  
Calling: (800) 919-9338.

Together, as a community of faith here in southeast Michigan, we can make a meaningful difference. Let us unite in prayer and action to bring hope and healing to those who are suffering.

Thank you for your generosity and care for those in need.





## Readings for the Week of February 02, 2025

### Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life

Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/  
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

### Monday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20

### Tuesday:

Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/  
Mk 5:21-43

### Wednesday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/  
Mk 6:1-6

### Thursday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11//  
Mk 6:7-13

### Friday:

Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29

### Saturday: St. Jerome Emiliani;

### St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin; BVM

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/  
Mk 6:30-34

### Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/  
1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

©LPi

## Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (February)

### For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



## The Church is on the move!

...powered by Jesus & the Spirit!  
...led by the examples of the  
Apostles!

Last Sunday about 65 adults, 21 teens, and 9 children continued their journey through the *Book of Acts*.

Adult catechist, Elaine O'Neill, reintroduced us to **Steven**, martyred for preaching about Jesus; **Saul** (aka Paul) who encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus and filled with the Spirit began evangelizing Jews and Gentiles; and **Peter** who reluctantly visited the home **Cornelius**, a gentile, and converted his whole household.

We listened, learned, sang, discussed, and shared.

By the end of Acts chapter 12, the Good News of Jesus Christ had spread from Jerusalem north into Samaria and Judea, and then, through the preaching of St. Paul, into Syria – Damascus and Antioch. It was in Antioch that the followers of Jesus began to be called Christian.

You can watch a five-and-a-half-minute video that summarizes Chapters 8-12 by going to the parish website, <https://www.corpuschristi-detroit.org>. Click on the Generations of Faith button to find the video for Session Three.

**Thank you** to the middle school students who shared the Pentecost story with all of us.

**Congratulations** to Samuel Fooks who won the raffle – a beautiful plaque!

Save the date for Part Four of:

## The Church is on the move!

**Sunday, March 2, 2025, 12:30 - 3 pm.**

**Topic:** *The Church Embraces All Peoples, chapters 13-20*

**Adult Facilitator:** John Lajiness from The Catholic Biblical School of Michigan

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

**Please send bulletin articles and any additional information to:**

**([cc.bulletin@corpuschristi-detroit.org](mailto:cc.bulletin@corpuschristi-detroit.org)) by 12:00 pm on Tuesday** for consideration in the Sunday bulletin.

## Stewardship Thoughts Cycle C



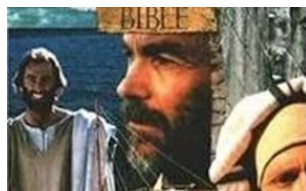
### February 2, 2025 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Scripture passages today speak to God's promise to send a Savior to mankind. The prophet Malachi likens God's messenger to refined precious metals. The Letter to the Hebrews explains how Jesus came to help not angels, but mankind. In St. Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph take the baby Jesus to the Temple. In accordance with the law, He is consecrated to the Lord. Simeon, a just man, and Anne, a prophetess, witness in the presence of the infant Jesus the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies. We, as faithful stewards, strive to build a deeper relationship with the Lord — to consecrate our lives to His will. May this feast day inspire us to embrace Christ's will to accomplish His work in our parish communion and the greater community..



Come see the movie, The Acts of the Apostles, part. 2. On Friday, February 7, in the Rainbow Room. We will begin with a light supper at

6:00 p.m. and begin the movie at 6:30. Narrating the story and acting out the scriptures is both entertaining and informative. Please sign up in the back of church or on line so we know how many people to expect. All are welcome!



## Lent Begins in March, but We Began Last Saturday!



Last Saturday about 20 parishioners gathered in the Rainbow Room to "retreat" into Lent and enjoy a delicious continental breakfast. Many thanks to everyone who contributed!

During the morning, we sang Lenten songs, refreshed our understanding of Lent, read the scriptures from five of the Lenten weekends, and reflected on the message for us today in this time and in this place. Our conclusion: **You are Chosen!** Listen and Live in Hope!

Next, we discussed how Lent 2025 at Corpus Christi will be celebrated.

Yes, there will be Stations of the Cross on Fridays.

Yes, there will be Emmaus reflection groups.

Yes, there will be Little Black Books to take home for prayer.

Yes, the color purple will abound!

There is still more that you will experience beginning March 5, Ash Wednesday.

Next time we will reflect on the **Easter Season**. That retreat and planning session is on Saturday, March 15 at 9:30 in the Rainbow Room. Mark your calendar! All are welcome.

## Senior Adult Fellowship

**NEXT GATHERING FEBRUARY 21, 2025: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm.** We will each bring our own lunch.

For further details, please contact Cheryl Hill at 313-534-4707.

## Offertory Report

Weekly Offertory Budget 2024/25	\$ 6,500.00
Offertory Sunday January 26, 2025	\$ 4,437.10
<b>Over/Under for the Budget Year</b>	<b>\$ 19,308.48</b>

**Many Thanks for your ongoing donations!**



# GOD OF MERCY AND LOVE

we place our African American and African Families before You today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us.

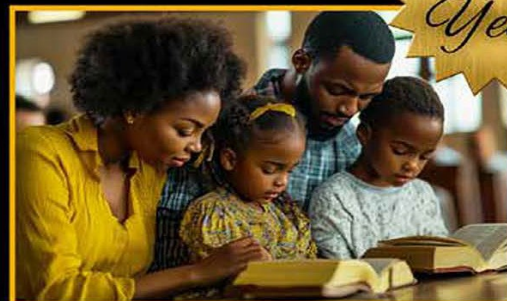
Prayer composed by FR. JIM GOODE, OFM, who in 1989 founded this National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family

Produced by The National Black Catholic Congress, 2025



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY

36th  
Year



*Bless Our Families  
Heal Our Land*

**FEBRUARY 2, 2025**  
FIRST SUNDAY OF  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## BLESS OUR FAMILIES. HEAL OUR LAND...THIS WE PRAY

**By Therese Wilson Favors**

Today we take pause to give God the glory for Family. We pause to take note of the divine beauty of God's creation called Family and we seek God's blessings on our Families. Some say that Family is God's way of giving us a love hug. Generation after generation we have seen God's hug of love manifest itself. It shows that God moves through and within our human affairs called Family. Family is not only a collection of people... it is a continued journey of a people's connection with God and an expression of the values of that family. In this, we realize that our deepest hopes and dreams are never singular... not just for one person. Rather, they are always connected to others. It is a journey of Us! That is why we pause to pray for our Families and to seek God's blessing and governance over our Family. God is "Our Father".



Here's some spiritual wisdom as we pray for our Family. Always be on the ready to place God in the middle of the Family, especially when serious decisions need to be made. God is our shelter and our strength, always ready to help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1). Always step back and look at what Jesus would do when relationships among the Family are fragile and weary. Remember that Jesus instituted Christianity as a culture of reconciliation rather than a cancellation of a person or a people. Wounds can fester when disagreements, challenges and broken relationships show up. In these

situations ... go get some supernatural help from God. He moves through human affairs. We all know that invisible wounds are the hardest to heal. Their closure depends on God's grace and the love of others with patience, understanding and justice. Jesus says that the golden rule of life is Do to others whatever you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12).

This same strategy of healing is warranted in these times within our land. Wounds are festering and there is a lot of pain out there. Let's look to God's Word and God's Ways to find a healing ointment. In places that are in need of healing...Work towards reconciliation with love, patience and true justice. Do all your work in love (1 Corinthians 16:14) and remember that God never stops working (John 5:17). Let us therefore lean on the Lord, for great is God's faithfulness and His mercies endure forever.



FAMILY/RVCULABACSSR



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY

On this National Day of Prayer, take a moment to initiate a family tradition that fosters deeper connections and strengthens your bonds.

- Gather your family around the dinner table and take turns sharing something positive about each person. This simple practice of giving affirmations can lift everyone's spirits and create a loving, appreciative atmosphere.
- Plan a family walk or outing to embrace the beauty of nature together. Use this time to reflect on the blessings in your lives and express gratitude for one another.
- Set up a family prayer or gratitude jar. Encourage every family member to write down their hopes, prayers, or things they are thankful for and place them in the jar. At Sunday dinner, open the jar and read the messages, and pray for the intentions.
- Arrange for a mass to be said for your family. This can typically be done through your parish and usually involves a small donation.
- Establish a "Family Prayer Call" for families that are spread out. Choose a specific day and time, whether weekly or monthly, and commit to it!



*Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NABRE

Produced by The National Black Catholic Congress, 2025

## Consecrated Life Sunday

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day for women and men in consecrated life. The global celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2. The day is also known as Candlemas Day, the day when candles are blessed. The candles symbolize Christ as the Light of the World. Consecrated persons are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to the world.

There are many Communities of Consecrated life each with a unique spirit and mission in the church. Some of these communities' minister at Corpus Christi.

Sr. Ellen Schmitz, OP's congregation is called the Adrian Dominicans. They trace their roots to St. Dominic in the 13th Century. Dominicans, Order of Preachers. Adrian in the title refers to where their congregation was established in the United States. Their ministries include education, health care, pastoral and retreat ministry, the arts, social work, ecology, and peace and justice advocacy—they strive to live out their Vision: to seek truth, make peace, reverence life. The Sisters along with their Associates and Co-workers, and with the other members of the Dominican family throughout the world, continue the Dominican tradition of preaching through prayer, study, common life, and ministry.

Sr. Ellen volunteers in various ministries at Corpus Christi. She and three other Dominican Sisters live in the convent on the Corpus Christi grounds.

Sr. Therese MacKinnon, D.C. belongs to the Company of the Daughters of Charity. The Daughters of Charity were founded by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac in 1633 with the mission and spirit of honoring Our Lord Jesus Christ and serving those most in need. They are a community of women who devote their lives to serving the marginalized, the poorest and most abandoned individuals in today's society. The Sisters form a community that lives, prays, and works together. Their life is characterized by a spirit of humility, simplicity and dedication to charity. The Daughters of Charity are part of the Vincentian Family that includes: The St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Ladies of Charity, the Vincentian Marian Youth, and the Vincentian priests, the Congregation of the Mission.

Sr. Therese is the Discipleship Formation Director at Corpus Christi and lives with three other Daughters of Charity in a convent in Farmington Hills. The Sisters minister in various places in the Detroit area.

Sr. Frances Gehard, RSM is a Sister of Mercy. Sr. Frances ministers in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program at Corpus Christi. The Sisters of Mercy take a life-long vow of prayer, service, advocate for justice and systemic change on behalf of marginalized people and serve people in need.

In their ministries the sisters and associates live the spirit and rich heritage of their roots in Mercy as established by their founder, Catherine McAuley. They are also guided by five Critical Concerns: care for the Earth, immigration, nonviolence, racism, and the rights and needs of women and children.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY

Your family can engage in several meaningful activities to serve your neighbors and exemplify love and charity for your children. These actions not only provide tangible help but also instill valuable lessons of compassion and empathy in your children.

- As a family or within your neighborhood, hold a small gathering to come together to pray for those affected by recent natural disasters and discuss ways to offer support.
- Start a "Blanket Ministry" by accepting donations of blankets for the homeless. Contact your local Catholic Charities office for information about its Caring Connections Program.
- Prepare care packages with essential items such as non-perishable food, toiletries, and clean clothing in good condition, and distribute them to local shelters or directly to families in need. Catholic Charities accepts donations to assist the homeless and those impacted by natural disasters.
- Encourage your children to participate by making heartfelt cards or drawings to accompany the care packages, spreading messages of hope and solidarity.
- Clean out closets and drawers for donations. Kids can help go through their clothing, shoes, and toys, selecting things that are clean and gently-used to give away. Sort through kitchen utensil drawers and donate duplicate items.
- Make/send Valentine's Cards and messages to those people you know who are facing challenges. Kids will especially love doing this! Walmart and Target Gift Cards are always welcomed.
- Donate children's and youth books to those in evacuation centers. The Red Cross lists shelters by impacted area, and you can find the addresses [here](#).
- Volunteer as a family at a local food bank or community center to provide hands-on assistance and foster a spirit of giving.



*'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

Matthew 25:40 NABRE



*the*  
**JUBILEE  
OF HOPE**

2025

Learn more about the Jubilee and how  
you can participate at [aod.org/jubilee](https://aod.org/jubilee)

## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

## THE JUBILEE OF HOPE

For more than 700 years, the Church's Jubilee Years have marked the passage of years and centuries and served as holy times to pause, pray, seek the Lord's pardon, and praise him for his merciful grace.

One of the most important observances of a Jubilee Year is the pilgrimage, making our way through the world so as to appreciate the beauty of creation, recall the need for silence and recollection, form friendships with fellow travelers, and seek Christ, who is the way (John 14:6) and the gateway (John 10:9) to eternal life, in every encounter and situation.

Knowing that very few of us can travel to Rome to pass through the jubilee's Holy Doors in the Eternal City, Archbishop Vigneron has [designated several pilgrimage sites throughout the Archdiocese](#) where the faithful will be able to pray the official prayer for Jubilee Year 2025 and unite themselves spiritually with all who will journey as pilgrims to Rome.

## PILGRIMAGE SITES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

- Basilica of Ste. Anne, Detroit
- Blessed Solanus Casey Center, Detroit
- Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Detroit
- Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield
- National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, Royal Oak
- Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Riverview
- Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Brownstown
- Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel, Madonna University, Livonia
- Shrine of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, Clinton Township
- Shrine of St. John Paul II, Orchard Lake
- Shrine of St. Joseph, Detroit
- Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pontiac

## What is the meaning of the theme for this Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope?"

The Scriptures envision hope as "an anchor for our soul" (Heb 6:19) by which we "hold fast" to the promise of eternal life "that lies before us" (Heb 6:18). Those who have hope—a desire for heaven and trust in God's promise of eternal life—are pilgrims journeying in confidence toward their true home in Heaven.

In [Spes non confundit](#), the document officially announcing the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis tells us that our witness as a pilgrim Church is like "leaven of authentic hope" in the world:

*"The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God ... May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth (cf. 2 Pet 3:13), where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfillment of the Lord's promises."*

...More to come over the next several weeks



# Black Catholic Saints

As members of the universal Church, Catholics celebrate and follow the example of ordinary persons who lived extraordinary lives in the face of challenging or life-threatening realities.

Saints come from every race, ethnicity, and culture. Each enriches the faith, as is seen by the lives of just a few of the Black saints shown here.



St. Benedict the Moor



**St. Charles Lwanga**, the patron saint of African youth and Catholic action, was a chief of the royal pages and a Ugandan martyr. St. Charles lost his life for refusing to violate the teachings of his faith and for protecting his friends from a threatening ruler.



**St. Josephine Bakhita**, the patron saint of human trafficking victims, was kidnapped and sold into slavery at age seven. Later in life, St. Josephine felt drawn to Catholicism. After receiving her freedom, she joined the Canossian Sisters and devoted her life to the faith.



**St. Benedict the Moor** (left), the son of African slaves in Sicily, is the patron saint of African-Americans. St. Benedict's patience in the face of a racist incident drew the attention of Franciscan hermits. He went on to lead their community and later joined a Franciscan friary.



**St. Martin de Porres** is the patron saint of social justice and race relations. St. Martin was known for his tenderness. As a Dominican brother, he established an orphanage, a hospital for poor children, and an animal shelter.



**St. Perpetua** and **St. Felicity** were martyrs during the Roman persecution of Christians. St. Perpetua was a noblewoman, and St. Felicity was her pregnant maidservant. Each stayed steadfast to their faith amid torture, imprisonment, and death.

Several saints of European ancestry dedicated their lives to working with other races. **St. Katharine Drexel**, the foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, used family wealth to address the needs of Native and African-Americans. She created the first U.S. Catholic institution of higher education for African-Americans, Xavier University in New Orleans. **St. Peter Claver, SJ**, a Spanish missionary provided care to slaves in Cartagena and preached about the dignity of every person.



## Open Sainthood Causes

There are several open causes for sainthood among African-American Catholics, “a treasury of inspiring holy men and women” who demonstrate the way forward “toward racial reconciliation.”<sup>8</sup> To become a saint, the Church closely dissects, researches, and examines a candidate’s life. At least two miracles must result from personal intercession to that person. Each of the following individuals is in the early stages of investigation for sainthood. They faced difficulties because of their race, including within the Church, yet they persevered and highlighted Christ in all they did.



**Venerable Pierre Toussaint** (1776–1853) came to America as a slave from Haiti. There, he learned to read and write and served as a hairdresser’s apprentice. Pierre lived a life of devout faith, helping people of all races during his servitude and upon receiving his freedom. He became a successful entrepreneur and donated generously to local charities while also caring for those with yellow fever.<sup>9</sup>



**Venerable Henriette Delille** (1812–1862) was born a free woman of color in New Orleans who experienced a religious conversion at age twenty-four. She later founded the Sisters of the Holy Family, a religious order dedicated to serving and educating the enslaved, the sick, and the poor. Henriette is the first U.S. native born African-American whose cause for canonization has been officially opened by the Church.<sup>10</sup>



**Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton** (1854–1897) was born into slavery and later escaped North with his mother and siblings. As he grew, Fr. Tolton expressed interest in the priesthood. After several U.S. seminaries refused to accept him because of his skin color, he studied at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome and was ordained a priest on the Easter Vigil of 1886. Upon his return, Fr. Tolton served as the first Black priest in the U.S. and established a “national parish” for Black Catholics. Fr. Tolton was granted the title “Venerable” by Pope Francis in 2019.<sup>11,12</sup>



**Servant of God Mother Mary Lange** (1784–1882) was born in Cuba and later moved to Maryland. Since free public education was not available for African-American children, she opened a school in her home. Mother Lange founded the first congregation of African-American women religious in the Church, the Oblate Sisters of Providence. Today, the order takes special care of those suffering from poverty, racism, and injustice.<sup>13</sup>



**Servant of God Julia Greeley** (between 1833 and 1848–1918) was born into slavery in Hannibal, Missouri. Once freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, Julia worked for families across several states. She used whatever money she had to help poorer families in her neighborhood. Julia enthusiastically promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and later joined the Secular Franciscan Order.<sup>14</sup>



**Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA** (1937–1990) was a granddaughter of African slaves who became a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration. She used her talents and love for God as a teacher, writer, singer, and evangelizer. Throughout her life, Thea sought to break down racial and cultural barriers, promoting greater communication among people of all backgrounds.<sup>15</sup>

The life of Fr. Augustus Tolton provides an historical reminder of how faith can overcome tremendous adversity, even within one’s own religious tradition. While the personal faith of each Catholic is unique, it is instructive for the wider Church to examine the inspiring perseverance practiced by African-American Catholics and continue to foster vocations within the community. Today, there are some 800 parishes, 250 priests, 5 bishops, 400 religious sisters, 50 religious brothers and 437 deacons of African-American heritage; 75 men are in seminary formation for the priesthood across the country. In 2020, Most Rev. Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, became the first African-American member of the College of Cardinals.<sup>16</sup> ■



# A Pastoral Note to Migrants from the Catholic Bishops in Michigan

February 2025



## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We, the Roman Catholic Bishops in Michigan, write to offer our continued pastoral and prayerful support for migrant individuals and families who over the course of time have entered the country and today are making a living in this state. Our fraternal closeness to you and other immigrants, refugees, and those seeking humanitarian asylum is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, where we find *"I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me... Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me"* (Matthew 25:35,40).

We hear and empathize with families across the state who express anxiety and fear over mass deportations and harmful rhetoric that broadly demeans our immigrant brothers and sisters. As shepherds of our flocks, we pledge amid such uncertainty to promote through the Michigan Catholic Conference and in our respective dioceses unyielding support and respect for the human dignity of all migrant people in our midst.

We urge our elected officials to support policies that keep immigrant and undocumented families safe and united, and to protect those who arrived as children. We call on the Michigan congressional delegation to work for a humane immigration system that welcomes refugees and immigrants by providing a fair pathway to citizenship; one that also keeps borders safe and secure from criminal activity, including human trafficking and the smuggling of illegal drugs.

Mindful of the dire conditions from which many travel, oftentimes with children through great difficulty and despair, we encourage you, our migrant brothers and sisters, to be strengthened by our Lord's words *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you... Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid"* (John 14:27). Never fail to keep your faith and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, who promises a divine kingdom that we strive to inherit and together call our true home.

With abundant love and trust, we ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to hear the cries of the suffering and offer to her maternal compassion and protection all who seek her heavenly intercession.

## In Christ,



Most Rev. Allen H. Vigneron  
Archbishop of Detroit



Most Rev. Earl Boyea  
Bishop of Lansing



Most Rev. Arturo Cepeda  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit



Most Rev. John F. Doerfler  
Bishop of Marquette



Most Rev. Robert Fisher  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit



Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Saginaw



Most Rev. Edward M. Lohse  
Bishop of Kalamazoo



Most Rev. Jeffrey Monforton  
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit



Most Rev. David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids



Most Rev. Jeffrey J. Walsh  
Bishop of Gaylord

# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Catholic Teaching on Immigration



February 2025

## What does the Church say about illegal immigration and undocumented migrants?

The Catholic Church affirms the rule of law and encourages the use of lawful immigration pathways. The Church does not encourage unnecessary or irregular migration. “Ideally, unnecessary migration ought to be avoided; this entails creating in countries of origin the conditions needed for a dignified life and integral development” (*Fratelli tutti*, no. 129). The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that “immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens” (No. 2241).

## Does the Catholic Church advocate for “open borders”?

No. The Catechism clearly states that political authorities “may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions” (No. 2241). This includes a sovereign country’s right to regulate and secure its borders. The Church does maintain, however, that this right must always be balanced with the duty to welcome newcomers with charity and respect for the human person, as well as the rights to life and religious liberty.

## What is the Church’s perspective on federal immigration reform and “mass deportations”?

As recognized by the Church for decades, the current immigration system is inadequate to address the needs of American families, employers, and communities, as well as immigrants themselves. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has consistently supported increased opportunities for legal immigration and the protection for immigrants’ due process rights, while opposing an enforcement-only approach to immigration. Further, enforcement actions should be targeted, proportionate, and humane, and deportations and other enforcement actions should always be carried out with due regard for families, community ties, and religious liberty interests. In its most recent message on immigration, the USCCB stated that the country’s immigration system should be one that:

- Offers fair and generous pathways to full citizenship for immigrants living and working for many years within this country.
- Keeps borders safe and secure, with enforcement policies that focus on those who present dangers to society, particularly efforts to reduce gang activity, stem the flow of drugs, and end human trafficking.
- Provides permanent relief for childhood arrivals, helps families stay together, and welcomes refugees.
- Serves as an effective asylum system for those fleeing persecution and protects vulnerable migrants and their families, many of whom have already been victimized by criminal actors.

## Why do Catholic organizations serve people who enter the U.S. without authorization?

Faithful to Jesus’ mandate to “welcome the stranger,” Catholic-affiliated organizations provide basic human needs to migrants because all people are made in God’s image and likeness and inherently possess human dignity. There is no evidence or research indicating that the humanitarian and religious services provided by Catholic organizations incentivize unlawful migration, as there are varied and often complex factors that influence a person’s decision to migrate from their home country, including war, persecution, violence, lack of jobs, famines, and natural disasters.

Visit [usccb.org/migrationministries](https://usccb.org/migrationministries) for more FAQs and to learn how the Church serves migrants.