



# OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SHREVEPORT

WEB: [www.dioshpt.org](http://www.dioshpt.org)

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Shreveport, LA 71101

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Parish e-mail: [olbschurchsport@gmail.com](mailto:olbschurchsport@gmail.com)

website: [www.olbschurchsport.org](http://www.olbschurchsport.org)



**Rev. Duane C Trombetta, Pastoral Administrator, Phone 221-5990, e-mail-[dtrombetta@holytrinity-shreveport.com](mailto:dtrombetta@holytrinity-shreveport.com)**

**Rev. Deacon Charles Thomas (Home – 631-7378) (cell 347-9226) [DeaCharles@olbschurchsport.org](mailto:DeaCharles@olbschurchsport.org)**

**Parish Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday**

### Welcome **NEWCOMERS!**

We invite you with great joy to become a member of our parish by filling out an enrollment form and census form located in the vestibule. You may put the completed forms in the collection basket or mail to the office. Thank you.



**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)  
Saturday @ 3:15, Sunday before mass & By Appointment**

**Questions about other Sacraments (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage)**

**Please contact Fr. Duane Trombetta**

### Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church, promise to abide by the commandments and will of God, which is nurtured in us by our prayer life and by our worshipping together. We will proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. In doing this, we will work to minister to the growth and needs of our neighbors and this community.

### Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.

Monday – Thursday ----- Holy Mass----- 5:00 p.m.

Holy Days ---- 9:00 a.m.

### *Faith* **Formation**

**Following 9AM Mass**

**Journey of Faith: Tuesday @ 5:30 pm**

**Soup & Scripture: Wednesdays @ 10 am – 2 pm**

**Christian Men's Group – Be A MAN - 2<sup>ND</sup> Saturday of the Month @ 10:00 AM**

**Third Order of the Secular Franciscans – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month 10:00 am \*\*\***

### PARISH CONTACTS:

Parish Secretary

DRE- email- [rere062450@yahoo.com](mailto:rere062450@yahoo.com)

Choir Dir.- email - [djiceman1977@yahoo.com](mailto:djiceman1977@yahoo.com)

Pastoral Coun. Pres.–email - [timford1955@gmail.com](mailto:timford1955@gmail.com)

Finance Coun. Pres.–email - [jwdsd@gmail.com](mailto:jwdsd@gmail.com)

Sylvia Williams

Nadalie Thomas

Jamie Washington

Tim Ford

Jerry W. Davis

The Office will be closed Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Holiday.

**January 16, 2022**



**Second Collection – Building Maintenance**

**Prayer for the Sanctification of illness:** Oh God the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers and grant to your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Please pray for the Sick and Homebound**




**January 16: Second Sunday in Ordinary time**



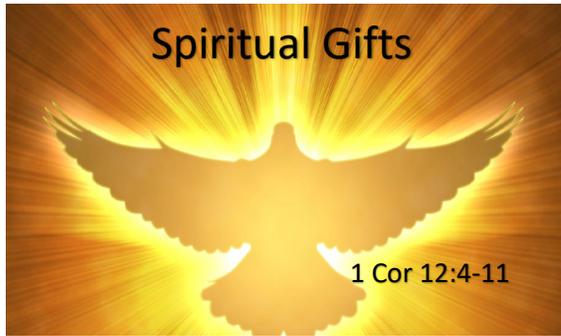
In the Gospel today, at the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus reveals himself to his disciples and they began to believe in him. Every day, God also gives us signs of his love and so we also can respond in faith and trust.

**Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul becomes a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and to trust.**

**First Reading**



**Second Reading**



**The Sanctuary Candle**  **at the Altar of the Blessed Sacrament burns:**

**January 15 – January 21**

**For: Patrick Harvey Jr.**

**From: David & Ophelia Hays**



# ACTS Prayer

## How To Pray:

A - Adoration	Tell God how wonderful He is; worship Him
C - Confession	Admit your sins, cry out your brokenness, ask for forgiveness
T - Thanksgiving	Say "thank you" for all God has done in your life
S - Supplication	Make your requests to God - for yourself and for others



Remember to offer Masses for: **Deceased relatives, deceased Birthdays, Anniversary of Marriages, Ann. of Deaths, Health and Healing for relatives, dads, moms, brothers, sisters, cousins, children, Special Intentions, Giving Thanks to God, etc. Need our supplications.**

*"Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them". Mt. 5:7*

Call the office or send in your intentions by mail. There are forms in the vestibule of church. Forms have also been sent to your email so you can send your requests to [olbschurchsport.com](mailto:olbschurchsport.com).

Please submit your requests to the office no later than noon on Thursdays. Thank you and God Bless!

I invite you to go to our Facebook Page at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church for our LIVE STREAM Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Nadalie & Deacon Charles will also lead us in the Divine Mercy Chaplet Daily 3:00 p.m.

We also encourage to attend Mass in person on Saturday and Sunday when you feel comfortable doing so.

--- **Fr. Duane Trombetta**

**Faith Formation:** Please contact Nadalie Thomas for information on faith formation during the COVID-19 CRISIS. You can email any questions you have to [rere062450@yahoo.com](mailto:rere062450@yahoo.com) subject: Faith Formation.

## Reserved Meetings & Events Schedule

ALL POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**The Community Center is reserved on:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday every month after mass (KPC)

Tuesday 5:30 pm. (Journey of Faith)

Wednesday 11 am – 2 pm (Soup & Scripture)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (Cookies, Coffee and Conversation) following mass

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10 am (Christian Men's Group - Be A Man)

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 10 am (Third Order of the Secular Franciscans)

Last Thursday of every month 12 noon (St. Vincent de Paul)

**Please call the office if you need to schedule an event or meeting anywhere on the church grounds.**

## Monthly Calendar

January 16 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 6	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Prayer to Overcome Indifference

All too often, Lord, we turn away from the world's many problems, which seem too big, too complex, or too far away. Forgive us our indifference.

It is easier, Lord, to see only what is around us: our lives, our homes, our challenges. Forgive us our isolation.

Help us to see with your eyes: eyes which notice one another and help us understand.

Help us to dream your dream: of communities that reach out and dialogue and where diverse people creatively cooperate.

Help us to be people of solidarity and action, so moved by prayer, encounter, and understanding that peace can become a reality. Amen.

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## The Baptism of the Lord – Year C

In last Sunday's gospel from Luke, we heard that heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Well, this Sunday we have John's gospel and the Virgin Mary telling the servants at the wedding at Cana to "To do whatever he tells you." These were the last words that the Virgin Mary spoke in the bible. It shows us God and Mary's total trust in the Word of God. Mary is a model Christian for us as she says, "Do whatever he tells you" In fact by those words she is showing us three things.

One she had an attitude of service. Though she was just an attendant at the wedding she notices a need. A need that they were running out of wine, and she didn't want the host to be embarrassed. She saw a disaster, and then she took the initiative to do something about it to help. By stepping up to the plate to assist she is an example to us on how we should keep our eyes open for opportunities to help others and have faith in the goodness and generosity of God, who is always thinking of us, providing for us, and watching over us.

The second was Mary had confidence in Jesus, once she noticed a problem, she wanted to do something about it. Just like in our lives we see problems and can't solve them on our own like Mary we know who we can go to. She goes to Jesus and says, "They have no wine." She does not tell Jesus what to do, she just puts the situation into his hands. In our Soup and Scripture meeting last Wednesday, we talked about how Jesus loves each one of us. And though sometimes he doesn't answer our prayers the way we would like him to, we can be certain that he knows what is best for us. We just have to have confidence in Jesus and trust in his love, power, and wisdom.

Third we like Mary have to have confidence in the Lord. She said, "Do whatever he tells you." That is the true test for us as Christians and followers of Christ to follow his will. If we believe that God is our Father, we will obey his commandments and teachings, we will do what he tells us through the Holy Spirit whom he gave to each of us. And we can be inspired by Mary's confidence and trust that she had in God through what she had experienced up until that time.

So, as we go forth this upcoming week, we can remember that in life's difficulties, temptations, and the pressures of the world we can trust in the Lord and follow what he tells us. Jesus came into the world in order to make his love touch our everyday lives. But it's up to us to let him in, to come to him. It's up to us though to speak to him in prayer and meditation. To spare a few moments each day to thank him for the blessings he has given to us. Take a break from the cell phone, the iPad, and the Internet. Turn the radio off for a minute or two and tune in to Christ. Find a way to remind yourself that he is walking by your side. Don't let a day go by without at least a few minutes of heartfelt conversation with him.

Mary's response to Jesus was to tell the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5) It shows us Mary's total trust in the Word of God. Let us ask Mary to help us to do whatever Jesus tells us. How many times each day we ask Mary to intercede before God for us, to be our Advocate, as we pray the "Hail Mary" and say, Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

----- *Deacon Charles*



**“Second Homily” by Fr. Duane Trombetta**

***Synodality: Parish Listening Sessions***

**Sunday, January 16, 2022**

In recent weeks I have been promoting – in our bulletin and from the pulpit – Pope Francis’ announcement of the 2021 – 2023 Synod on Synodality. The official name of this undertaking is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.” Now, the term “synod” derives from two Greek words which mean “walking together.” It simply refers to an ecclesial gathering whose goal is to discern what the Holy Spirit is asking of the Church at the time.

Today I announce the means by which our own parish will participate in this global initiative. In the coming weeks, all Catholic parishes will individually host a series of ten 90-minute listening sessions. In the spirit of collaboration, I will ask the people of Holy Trinity and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament hold these sessions jointly. Our goal will be for each session to be attended by individuals of diverse backgrounds, needs, and depths of faith.

Each 90-minute listening session will focus on two-to-three engaging questions. As moderator, I will guide the process so that we discern the presence of the Holy Spirit and so that all attendees’ voices are heard. Truly this will be a genuinely collaborative journey! All are invited including parishioners, parish staff, young adults, parents of children in Catholic Schools and religious education program, and those “missing” – who may have left because of the global coronavirus pandemic or for other reasons.

I ask that all parishioners of both parishes seize this opportunity to get involved. This process will help us all grow in areas of communion, participation, and mission. Your participation will help direct our own parishes’ pastoral planning, diocesan contributions, and key dialogue points for the bishops’ final synodal meeting in October 2023.

Our meetings will be held at the Catholic Center on Sunday afternoons and on selected weekday evenings. Dates will be announced once the restrictions on gatherings are eased. Please attend. It’s important. Blessings to all!

*Fr. Duane*



O my God, pour out in abundance Thy spirit of sacrifice upon Thy priests. It is both their glory and duty to become victims, to be burnt up for souls, to live without ordinary joys, to be often the objects of distrust, injustice, and persecution. The words they say every day at the altar, "This is my Body, this is my Blood", grant them to apply to themselves, "I am no longer myself, I am Jesus, Jesus crucified. I am, like the bread and wine, a substance no longer itself but by consecration another". O my God, I burn with the desire for the sanctification of Thy priests. I wish all the priestly hands which touch Thee were hands whose touch is gentle and pleasing to Thee, that all the mouths uttering such sublime words at the altar should never descend to speaking trivialities. Let priests in all their person stay at the level of their lofty functions, let every man find them simple and great, like the Holy Eucharist, accessible to all yet above the rest of men. O my God, grant them to carry with them from the Mass of today a thirst for the Mass of tomorrow, and grant them, laden themselves with gifts, to share these abundantly with their fellowmen. Amen.

## COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Next Sunday we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).



St Sebastian

Feast Day – January 20

According to the many legends surrounding Sebastian, he was born in Gaul and raised in Milan. Though a Christian, he joined the imperial army at Rome about 283. He made converts of officials and jailers, effected cures and urged Christian prisoners to stay strong in their faith. He was named captain of the praetorian guards, but the emperor, upon finding out that he was a Christian, ordered his execution. Shot with arrows and left for dead, Sebastian survived and was nursed back to life. Later, he denounced the emperor for his cruelty to Christians and the emperor had him beaten to death. A favorite subject of Renaissance artists, Sebastian is the patron saint of archers, soldiers, and athletes.

-----USCCB

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Weekly contributions needed--\$5,000.00

<b>Jan 2</b>	Weekly Col.:	<b>\$2,943.00</b>	
<b>Jan 9</b>	Weekly Col.:	<b>\$4,471.00</b>	
<b>Jan 16</b>	Weekly Col.:	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Jan 23</b>	Weekly Col.:	<b>\$</b>	
		<b>Income:</b>	<b>Expense:</b>
		<b>\$7,414.00</b>	<b>\$</b>

### Mass Attendance

January 8 ----- 19

January 9 ----- 55



Appeal 2021 - Please consider making your pledge **TODAY!** Update as of **Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

Donors	27
% Fam. Pledged	15%
2020 Goal	\$15,000.00
2020 Pledged	\$7,526.00
% Goal Pledged	50.17%
PAID	\$7,035.00
Pledged PAID	93.46%

### 2021 Assessments

Report as of January 13, 2022

**33 Families paid the full amount of \$200.00**

**4 Families paid a % of the \$200.00**

**Total for 2021- \$6,800.00**

The [Catechism](#) of the **Catholic Church** states that "**Adoration** is the acknowledgement of God as God, creator and savior, the Lord and master of everything that exists, as infinite and merciful love."

"**Adoration** is homage of the spirit to the King of glory, respectful silence in the presence of the ever-greater God."... [\\*\\*en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoration) Can **You Spend One Hour With Me**



**Saturday --- 4:00 P.M.**

**Sunday --- 9:00 A.M.**

**Weekday, Monday – Thursday --- 5:00 P.M.**



### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### JANUARY



### True Human Fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

### *Every Sunday the Holy Rosary is being said before Mass.*

Everyone is invited to join in for this special time with the Blessed Mother.



### *Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Academy*

has a history of excellence. In February 1951, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School was officially opened with a total of four hundred and twenty-eight students enrolled in the first five grades. *Sister Marguerite Barrett* was the first principal, and the school was staffed by the sisters of Mercy from Dallas, Pennsylvania.

---cont'd next week



## Faith Formation

Faith Formation instruction for the Sacraments for all ages have begun. Formation sessions are held on the second and the fourth Sunday of each month via Zoom. Parents if you have not registered your child for Faith Formation (sometimes called Catechism), please call Nadalie Thomas at 347-9219 at any time or Sylvia Williams at the church office between 9AM-2PM.

### *Lector Ministry Schedule*

*January 15 ----- Martha Coutee*  
*January 16 ----- Jerry Davis*  
*January 22 ----- Lois Davis*  
*January 23 ----- Sheliqua Woodard*

I will be scheduling all lectors who inform me that they are available to attend Mass. If you want to become a lector, please let me know.

Deacon Thomas

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament,  
Pray for Us.

Readings for Second Week in Ordinary Time

<i>Mon.</i>		1 Samuel 15: 16-23	Mark 2:18-22
<i>Tues.</i>		1 Samuel 16:1-13	Mark 2:23-28
<i>Wed.</i>		1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51	Mark 3:1-6
<i>Thur.</i>		1 Samuel 18:6-9: 19:1-7	Mark 3:7-12
<i>Fri.</i>		1 Samuel 24:3-21	Mark 3:13-19
<i>Sat.</i>		2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27	Mark 3:20-21
<i>Sun.</i>		<i>Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1</i> <i>Corinthian 12:12-30</i>	Luke 1:1-4: 4:14-21
<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	 Requested for:	<b>Requested by:</b>
<i>Sat.</i>	Jan 15	Nathaniel & Marion Bates (Rest in Peace)	Nadalie & Charles Thomas
<i>Sun.</i>	Jan 16	Roscoe & Marjorie Thomas (Rest in Peace) Jack Houston (Happy Birthday) Charlene Lyles (Happy Birthday)	Nadalie & Charles Thomas Grandmother, Mary Howell David & Odelia Hays
<i>Mon</i>	Jan 17	Deceased Members of O.L.B.S. Church (Rest in Peace)	O.L.B.S. Church
<i>Tue.</i>	Jan 18	Cortez Demery (Happy Birthday)	David & Odelia Hays
<i>Wed.</i>	Jan 19	Souls in Purgatory	O.L.B.S. Church
<i>Thur.</i>	Jan 20	Deceased Members of Holy Trinity Church (Rest in Peace)	O.L.B.S. Church
<i>Fri.</i>	Jan 21	Tiffani Houston (Happy Birthday)	Mom-Mary Howell
<i>Sat.</i>	Jan 22	Toni Anguiano (Rest in Peace)	Joyce Dixon
<i>Sun.</i>	Jan 23	Brazil & Laocadie LaCour (Rest in Peace)	Sylvia LaCour-Williams



The church will be open on  
Wednesday for Adoration!  
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 66

Reading I

Is 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent,  
for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her vindication shines forth like the dawn  
and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
you shall be called by a new name  
pronounced by the mouth of the LORD.

You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD,  
a royal diadem held by your God.

No more shall people call you "Forsaken,"  
or your land "Desolate,"

but you shall be called "My Delight,"  
and your land "Espoused."

For the LORD delights in you  
and makes your land his spouse.

As a young man marries a virgin,  
your Builder shall marry you;  
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride  
so shall your God rejoice in you.

Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10**

R. (3) Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to the LORD a new song;

    sing to the LORD, all you lands.

Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Announce his salvation, day after day.

Tell his glory among the nations;

    among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,

    give to the LORD glory and praise;

    give to the LORD the glory due his name!

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Worship the LORD in holy attire.

    Tremble before him, all the earth;

Say among the nations: The LORD is king.

    He governs the peoples with equity.

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Reading II

**1 Cor 12:4-11**

Brothers and sisters:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;  
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;  
there are different workings but the same God  
who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit  
is given for some benefit.

To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;  
to another, the expression of knowledge according to the  
same Spirit;

to another, faith by the same Spirit;

to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit;

to another, mighty deeds;

to another, prophecy;

to another, discernment of spirits;

to another, varieties of tongues;

to another, interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these,  
distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

Alleluia

**Cf. 2 Thes 2:14**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God has called us through the Gospel  
to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Jn 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

When the wine ran short,  
the mother of Jesus said to him,

“They have no wine.”

And Jesus said to her,

“Woman, how does your concern affect me?

My hour has not yet come.”

His mother said to the servers,

“Do whatever he tells you.”

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings,  
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus told them,

“Fill the jars with water.”

So they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them,

“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”

So they took it.

And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,  
without knowing where it came from

— although the servers who had drawn the water knew —,

the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,

“Everyone serves good wine first,

and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;

but you have kept the good wine until now.”

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee

and so revealed his glory,  
and his disciples began to believe in him.

# PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Directive from Bishop Malone

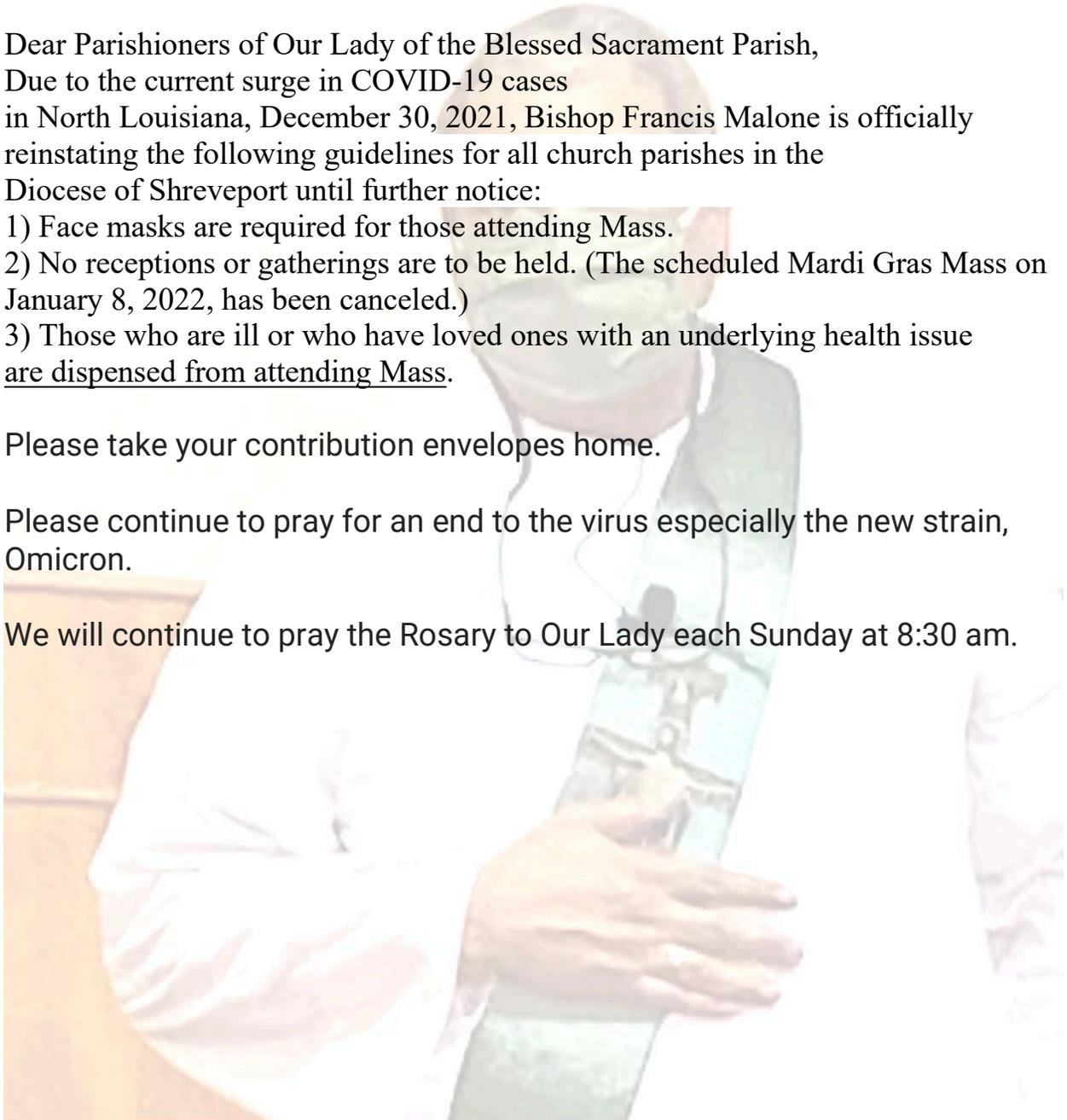
Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish,  
Due to the current surge in COVID-19 cases  
in North Louisiana, December 30, 2021, Bishop Francis Malone is officially  
reinstating the following guidelines for all church parishes in the  
Diocese of Shreveport until further notice:

- 1) Face masks are required for those attending Mass.
- 2) No receptions or gatherings are to be held. (The scheduled Mardi Gras Mass on January 8, 2022, has been canceled.)
- 3) Those who are ill or who have loved ones with an underlying health issue are dispensed from attending Mass.

Please take your contribution envelopes home.

Please continue to pray for an end to the virus especially the new strain, Omicron.

We will continue to pray the Rosary to Our Lady each Sunday at 8:30 am.



# 9 DAYS FOR LIFE

PRAY TO PROTECT  
HUMAN LIFE!

**JANUARY 21-29, 2021**

*9 Days for Life* is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!



3 WAYS TO JOIN



[9DaysforLife.com](http://9DaysforLife.com)

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month  
&  
Day of Prayer Toolkit  
2021



O ST. BAKHITA,  
ASSIST ALL THOSE  
WHO ARE TRAPPED  
IN A STATE OF SLAVERY;

INTERCEDE WITH GOD  
ON THEIR BEHALF  
SO THAT THEY WILL BE  
RELEASED FROM THEIR  
CHAINS OF CAPTIVITY.

THOSE WHOM MAN  
ENSLAVES,  
LET GOD SET FREE.

**Brought to you by:**



**Please find in this toolkit suggestions on how you can celebrate and educate others on National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and the annual World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action against Human Trafficking.**

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For questions about this toolkit, please contact:

[MRSTraff@usccb.org](mailto:MRSTraff@usccb.org)

# Important Dates

## National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

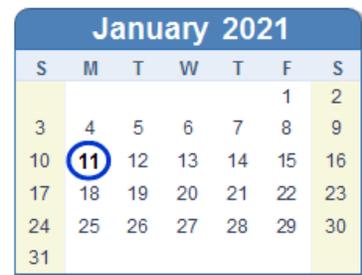
Since 2010, **January** has been declared *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* by presidential proclamation. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to raise awareness about human trafficking, particularly how this crime can be prevented.

In the upcoming weeks, we encourage you to undertake efforts to educate communities on human trafficking. In doing so, you can also promote promising practices to help advance anti-trafficking initiatives in your own neighborhood, town, or city.

### JANUARY 11

#### National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

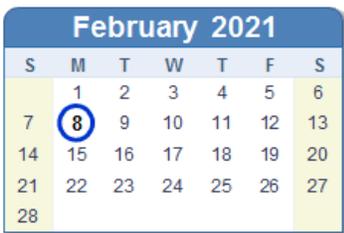
This day seeks to increase understanding among Americans that human trafficking happens in states and communities across the United States. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will.



January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### FEBRUARY 8

#### World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action against Human Trafficking & The Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita



February 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

With encouragement from Pope Francis, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General

designated February 8th as an annual day of prayer, reflection, and action against human trafficking. On this day, we remember and pray for survivors and victims of modern-day slavery. We pray that we may work together to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge that is present in all our cities and neighborhoods. This day is also one of awareness and action: our prayers are strengthened three-fold when we accompany them with a willingness to become aware of the problem and become involved in erasing this evil.

February 8th is also the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita. Born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869, St. Bakhita was kidnapped and enslaved as a child. Eventually she was sold to an Italian diplomat and taken to Italy, where she valiantly asserted her freedom with the help of the Cannossian Sisters of Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit. She lived out the rest of her life as a Cannossian sister, sharing her empowering testimony of human freedom and dignity. In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita, noting that in this saint, “we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation.”

## Important Dates Continued: February 8

On February 8th, Catholics around the world are encouraged to host or attend prayer services to generate greater awareness about human trafficking. Through prayer, we not only reflect on the experiences of those that have suffered through this affront to human dignity but also comfort, strengthen, and help empower survivors. As Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle stated, "On [February 8th], we will lift our voices loudly in prayer, hope, and love for trafficking victims and survivors. If just one person realizes from this day that they or someone they know is being trafficked, we will have made a difference."



CNS photo/Paul Haring

*"The Catholic Church intends to intervene in every phase of the trafficking of human beings; she wants to protect them from deception and solicitation; she wants to find them and free them when they are transported and reduced to slavery; she wants to assist them once they are freed."*

Pope Francis

Address to Participants in the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking, 2018

# Human Trafficking Background and Overview

## The Facts

- Calculated as a 150-billion-dollar industry, trafficking in persons has become the fastest growing source of illicit profit for criminals worldwide.
- There are an estimated *40.3 million* victims of **modern-day slavery worldwide**. Of these, *25 million* are victims of labor or sex trafficking and *15 million* are people trapped in forced marriages. Nearly 30% of all victims are men and boys, and an astounding *1 in 4 victims* are children.
- **Trafficking cases are increasing** under COVID-19, as traffickers prey upon people experiencing heightened vulnerabilities linked to pandemic-related lock downs, stay at home orders, and job loss.
- Two decades have passed since the United States adopted landmark legislation to combat trafficking. **The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)** of 2000, and its several reauthorizations, defines what constitutes trafficking in the U.S., establishes trafficking as a federal crime, and offers protection for victims and survivors. Last year, the U.S. State Department launched a **publication** to celebrate 20 years of progress to combat human trafficking.
- Every year, the State Department issues the **Trafficking in Persons Report**, a diplomatic tool used to hold accountable government efforts around the world to address human trafficking. The latest edition underscores the important role of **faith-based organizations** in eradicating trafficking.

## The Church's Position on Human Trafficking:

- The elimination of human trafficking is a priority issue for the Catholic Church. Because every life is a gift from God and is sacred, it deserves to be protected and nurtured. We each have a responsibility to fight against the violation and degradation of our brothers and sisters. The Vatican released a set of guidelines, or **pastoral orientations** to help the Catholic community eradicate trafficking.
- The Catechism of the Church forbids acts that cause the enslavement of humans. During the Second Vatican Council in 1965, the Church further stated “slavery, prostitution, the selling of women, and children, and disgraceful working conditions where people are treated as mere tools for profits rather than free and responsible persons are infamies and supreme dishonor to the creator.” (Gaudium et Spes, 1965).
- In 2014, Pope Francis stated during his Declaration on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: “[M]odern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labor and prostitution, and organ trafficking, is a crime against humanity. Its victims are from all walks of life but are most frequently among the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.”
- Men and women religious play an integral part in the battle against human trafficking. In 2001, 800 women leaders of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) passed a resolution dedicating one million members “to work in solidarity with one another within our own religious communities and in the countries in which we are located to address insistently at every level the abuse and sexual exploitation of women and children...” The **U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking** is the domestic response to this call.

## Anti-Trafficking Resources Great Ways to Educate Yourself!



The **Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking (CCOAH)**, convened by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS), consists of 35 + national and international agencies working to end human trafficking and support survivors. Together, CCOAH members advocate for stronger state and federal legislation, promote trauma-informed and survivor-centered services for victims, raise public consciousness through grass roots action, and press the private sector and consumers to prioritize slave-free supply chains. Many of our CCOAH members have online education and outreach resources to help you learn more about human trafficking and make a difference in your local communities. See below to get started:

### CCOAH EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

The **USCCB BECOME A SHEPHERD Program** (Stop Human Trafficking and Exploitation, Protect, Help, Empower and Restore Dignity) educates community members about human trafficking from a Catholic perspective, equipping them with needed knowledge and skills to combat forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation at the local level. You can also sign up for **USCCB's Anti-Trafficking newsletter**.

**U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT)** is a collaborative, faith-based national network that offers **education**, supports access to **survivor services**, and engages in **advocacy** in an effort to eradicate modern-day slavery. You can also access their **faith resources** and monthly **Stop Trafficking newsletter**.

**Catholic Health Association (CHA)** - Comprised of more than 600 hospitals and 1,600 health facilities in all 50 states, CHA is the largest group of nonprofit health care providers in the nation. Preventing human trafficking through the engagement and intervention of the health care sector is one of its priority areas. See their **human trafficking overview** for health professionals and the general public.

**National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd** educates and develops strategies to address social justice issues and advocates for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people. Check out their **human trafficking section**.

**Through God's Grace Ministry** - The mission of Through God's Grace Ministry is to empower the faith community to take action in the fight against trafficking in persons!

**The International Catholic Migration Commission** protects and serves uprooted people, including refugees, migrants and **victims of trafficking** - regardless of faith, race, ethnicity, or nationality.

**Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI)** - The Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation coordinates OMI's advocacy work on behalf of those who suffer marginalization. Learn about **Bakhita: A Novel of the Saint of Sudan** by reading a book review by OMI's very own Mary O'Herron.

**The Diocese of St. Petersburg** has partnered with the U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, to ask parishes and Catholic schools to declare themselves *Trafficking Free Zones*. To learn more, go to the **Diocese's Anti-Trafficking Page**.

## Talking Points

- As Catholics, we believe in the dignity of every human life and vehemently oppose human trafficking and modern-day slavery as it contravenes basic human dignity.
- As Pope Francis has stated: “Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ.”
- There are an estimated 40.3 million victims of human trafficking worldwide. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, including the United States.
- Human trafficking is connected to other issues of systemic oppression such as racism, endemic poverty, sexism, xenophobia, exploitative economic systems, and environmental degradation.
- Migrants and refugees are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. Thousands of individuals are trafficked across U.S. borders and forced into slavery each year.
- Although sex trafficking remains a serious problem, foreign victims are more often found in situations of labor trafficking. In fact, two of the largest trafficking cases in the United States involved labor trafficking in Guam and New York.
- In addition to working to eradicate human trafficking, our nation should ensure that victims have the services and support they need to heal, find affordable housing, earn a living wage, and obtain self-sufficiency.



CNS photo/Stringer, EPA

## Letters to the Editor Tips

Writing a letter to the editor (LTE) is the perfect way to offer your perspective or express your appreciation for an already-published article or commentary piece.

Please let us know if your letter to the editor is published! We will promote it on our social media platforms. Completing this final step in the LTE process helps ensure that your letter's impact is even greater. Email us at [MRSTraff@uscgb.org](mailto:MRSTraff@uscgb.org) with a link to your published LTE.

### Letter to the Editor Writing Tips

- *Keep it short* (150-250 words). If you do not edit your LTE, the news outlet might edit it for you. Since they could cut out your main point, it is best to write something both punchy and brief.
- *Speak in your own voice*. Explain why the article matters to you. Talk about your faith, professional experience, or knowledge of human trafficking. Be personal and authentic.
- *Get local*. Editors are generally more interested in letters that highlight local impacts. Can you relate the issues raised in a national piece on human trafficking to issues impacting your own community?
- *Follow these best practices:*

**Reference a recent article (if possible).** Your letter is most likely to be published if it responds directly to the newspaper's recent coverage of a specific trafficking issue. Mention the article you are responding to by its headline and date of publication.

**Send your LTE in the body of your email,** not as an attachment.

**Include contact information.** Include your full name, contact information, location, and profession or expertise (if relevant) in the email as well. (The paper will not print your contact information.)

**Be timely.** Try to get your LTE submitted within 1-3 days after the relevant article is published.

## Sample Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Your recent article, [name of article], discussing the issue of [labor/sex trafficking / supply chain transparency] expertly highlighted the existence of trafficking and human exploitation in our [community/country]. I found this piece particularly timely as January is the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Our [country/community] has a proud history of addressing human trafficking, but we can and must do more to ensure that victims are properly identified and assisted. This month serves as an opportunity to not only raise awareness of human trafficking but to commit to redoubling our engagement in meaningful prevention methods. And while we should make this commitment during the month of January, I urge us to remember that prevention and education efforts should be a focus every day of the year.

Sincerely,

---

**OR** (when responding to an article with a religious theme or that mentions a bishop or Church leader)

Dear Editor,

Your recent article, [*name of article*], discussing the issue of human trafficking and human exploitation was [*jarring/uplifting*]. As a Catholic, I understand that human trafficking undermines basic human dignity and inflicts harm upon human life. The prevention of human trafficking and misery is a moral issue and one that we must come together to advance. Our Catholic community believes that all humans are made in the image and likeness of God. As the Church prepares to celebrate the Day of Prayer for St. Josephine Bakhita on February 8th, I hope my fellow parishioners will take the opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking. Further, I hope that all Catholics will take the opportunity to educate themselves on this form of human suffering so that we can be better positioned to eradicate this terrible crime.

Sincerely,

## Social Media Samples

Leverage social media to amplify your anti-trafficking messages during January and February! We have several samples of posts and graphics to use and tailor to your local needs. You can also participate in existing social media campaigns – look for two great examples in blue.

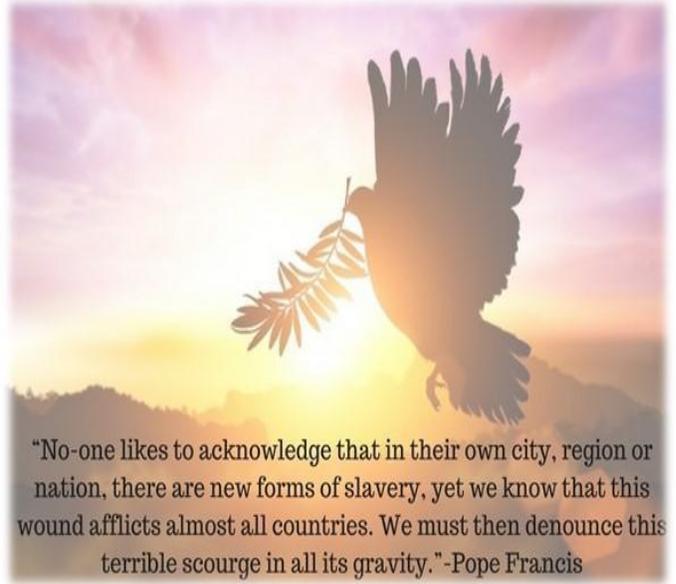
### Posts for National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month (all of January):

- January is national slavery & #humantrafficking prevention month. Learn about the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking at <https://bit.ly/36Q6riU>
- In January, we draw attention to #slavery & #humantrafficking. Learn how you can help victims of #trafficking by visiting <https://bit.ly/3andAJB> and <https://bit.ly/37oaOly>
- January has been designated as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. There are more than 40 million people who have been affected by human trafficking worldwide. To learn more about trafficking, visit Justice for Immigrant’s anti-trafficking page: <https://bit.ly/3afmGrU>
- In January, and throughout the year, the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOHT) works to eliminate the plight of trafficked victims. CCOHT advocates for stronger legislation, promotes survivor-centered services for victims, and raises public consciousness through grass roots action. Interested in becoming a member? Learn more at CCOHT: <https://bit.ly/3oVMehO>
- Join in the [@USCSAHTraffic (Twitter) @SistersAgainstTrafficking (Facebook)] campaign envisioning “An Economy Without Human Trafficking” by **downloading this sign**, writing in your vision, taking a picture with your message, and sharing on social media with #EconomyWithoutTrafficking and #EndHumanTrafficking.

## Social Media Samples Continued

### Posts for National Human Trafficking Awareness Day (January 11)

- Today is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. There are an estimated 40 million victims of human #trafficking and #slavery today. We pray for them and for an end to all forms of #slavery. #endtrafficking
- January 11th is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. We pray for all victims of trafficking and work to #endtrafficking and #stopslavery.
- January 11th has been designated as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Today, we pray for all survivors of trafficking and work to #endtrafficking and #stopslavery.



### Participate in #WearBlueDay (January 11)

Blue Campaign's #WearBlueDay raises awareness of human trafficking by inviting the public to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues donning blue clothing to share them on social media, along with the #WearBlueDay hashtag! **The Blue Campaign** is the Department of Homeland Security's national anti-trafficking public awareness campaign, designed to educate the public on how to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and safely report it.

### Posts for World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action against Human Trafficking (February 8):

Leading up to the Day of Prayer:

- A survivor of kidnapping and #slavery, we celebrate a Day of #Prayer for St. Josephine Bakhita, the Patron Saint of Sudan and victims of trafficking, on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Tomorrow, we will celebrate a Day of #Prayer for Saint Bakhita as we pray for survivors of #humantrafficking and #slavery.

## More Social Media

### On the Day of Prayer:

- Over 70 years ago, St. Bakhita, the Patron Saint of Sudan and victims of trafficking, passed away. Today, we pray for those who have been victims of #slavery & trafficking.
- Today, we celebrate a Day of #Prayer for victims of #humantrafficking & #slavery as we celebrate the incredible life of Saint Bakhita.
- St. Bakhita survived slavery and persevered. Once she gained freedom, Josephine became a Canossian sister. She dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. In her honor, we recognize today as a Day of #Prayer for victims of #humantrafficking.
- Many years ago, Josephine Bakhita lived as a slave. Years later, St. Bakhita was canonized and is now known as the patron Saint of Sudan. She is also uplifted as the patron saint of victims of trafficking. Today, in her honor, we pray for those who have been victims of modern-day slavery.



### **Participate in a day long prayer marathon for World Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking**

This virtual prayer service is sponsored by @TalithaKumRome featuring 50+ networks of Catholics and women religious around the world, working and praying to #endhumantrafficking. Follow [@USCSAHTraffic (Twitter) or @SistersAgainstTrafficking (Facebook)] for the links.]

# Downloadable Social Media Graphics

Download Here

**#HumanTrafficking**

Let us lift our voices loudly in prayer, hope, and love for trafficking victims and survivors.

BISHOP EUSEBIO ELIZONDO OF SEATTLE



**#HumanTrafficking**

**I CHALLENGE YOU** to find out how slavery touches your life and to do what you can to **REDUCE THE SUFFERING** of those who are enslaved.

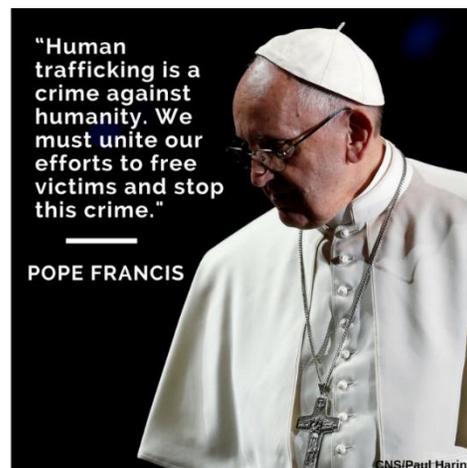
SISTER ANNE VICTORY, HM  
PRESIDENT, U.S. CATHOLIC SISTERS  
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



**#HumanTrafficking**

We cannot rest until **TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN PERSONS IS ELIMINATED** from the globe.

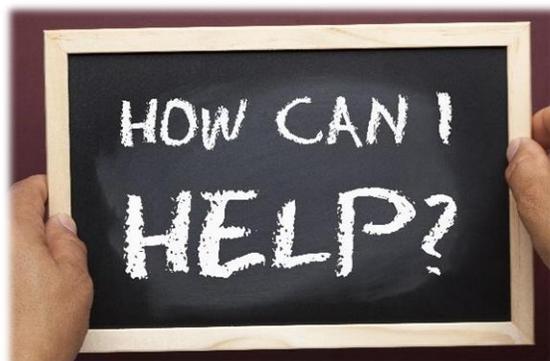
BISHOP THOMAS WENSKI OF MIAMI



## Community Engagement Ideas

### Become a Responsible Consumer

- Find out how many victims of forced labor were involved in producing the products you most commonly buy by visiting the [slavery footprint](#) website.
- Download the [Sweat & Toil app](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor. Use when shopping to know which products and countries contribute to child labor.
- Prefer to read about these products at the U.S. Department of Labor website? Check out their [List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#).
- Inquire if the hotel where you are staying has signed the [Tourism Child-Protective Code of Conduct](#). This set of principles requires code members to train their employees on how to identify & report trafficking cases. If your hotel has not signed, encourage them to do so.
- Educate yourself on how to better patronize businesses who are making serious efforts to keep their supply chains free of slave labor. Use [this handout](#) to learn how ethical trade equals just working conditions and wages, an antidote to labor trafficking!



### Sign the Safety Pledge - *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)*

Perpetrators increasingly are targeting children online. NCMEC has seen a 93.3.% increase in online child enticement since the outbreak of the pandemic. Help to safeguard children from becoming victims of child sex trafficking by [Signing the Safety Pledge](#) and encourage others to do the same.

### Host an Educational Event

Host a virtual movie night using zoom or your platform of preference. Screen one of the following films to further educate your community on human trafficking.

- **The Price of Free**  
Witness the reality of boys and girls across the world compelled to perform slave labor in decrepit factories – a phenomenon fueled by the growing demand for cheap products. Learn about the work of Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi as he and his team dedicate their lives to rescuing and rehabilitating trafficked children in India. This film – the winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize in 2018 - illustrates the link between consumer behavior in the United States with child trafficking abroad and what it will take from each of us to clean up supply chains. You can stream the film by going to the [Price of Free website](#).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. After watching the film, has your idea of who is responsible for child labor and child trafficking changed? How and why?
2. Kailash's nonprofit organization BBA works to rehabilitate rescued children, and to prevent their re-exploitation. What challenges did you notice about supporting these boys and girls?
3. Knowing that many of our goods are made with child labor, what can we do as individuals?  
*For more questions, download the [Price of Free discussion guide](#).*

## Community Engagement Ideas Continued

- **Bakhita: From Slave to Saint**

SYNOPSIS: We first meet Bakhita in a rural village of Sudan when she is captured by slave traders. After years of being beaten and abused, a white merchant Federico Marin buys her from her current owner and brings her to Italy. Once in the Marin household, the daughter of the master Aurora takes a strong liking to Bakhita and chooses her as her nanny. Bakhita is treated like an outsider and accused of being wicked by other servants because of her black skin. Despite this, Bakhita proves to be generous to everyone she encounters even if they have wronged her. Befriending a priest, she discovers a life of hope and religious support. The hardest hurdle Bakhita must overcome is that of acquiring her freedom. To learn more about the film, go to [Ignatius Press](#).

### BAKHITA DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. It is not always easy to help others who seem different than us. What can the Bible teach us about overcoming these prejudices based on fear?
2. How can we be more like Bakhita and work to forgive those who have victimized others and help them see a life of dignity and respect for others?
3. Sometimes we must make sacrifices to help others. What are some realistic sacrifices we can make in our daily lives to help the fight against human trafficking?

### Say a Daily Prayer

Download and print the [Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange's Prayer and Reflection Calendar](#), with special prayers for every day from January 11 (National Human Trafficking Awareness Day) to St. Josephine's Feast Day on February 8. It is available in [Spanish](#) as well!

## Join Us! Invitations to Virtual Events

**JANUARY 19, 2021 | 3:00 PM EST**

**Witness and Grace: A Conversation on Anti-Human Trafficking**

*Global Sisters Report*

**JANUARY 25, 2021 | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM EST**

**A Victim Centered Approach to Health Care for Survivors of Human Trafficking**

*The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy, St. Thomas University*

**FEBRUARY 8, 2021 | 10:00 AM - 1:45 PM EST**

**Prayer Service, Survivors Panel, and Mass Honoring the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking**

*The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy & the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking*

## Suggested Intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful

Please choose some of the following to be included among the intercessions in your parish during the February 8th World Day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action against Human Trafficking.

### **Response:**

We Pray to the Lord or God of Hope, Set us Free.

### **The Pope, Bishops, and Catholic Faithful**

For Pope Francis, that our Heavenly Father may gift him with wisdom as he calls the Church to reject the inherent evil of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For our bishop, *[name here]*, that he may be encouraged by our prayers to lead God's people in building a culture that respects human dignity, we pray to the Lord.

For the bishops, that they continue to be leaders in the fight against modern-day slavery, both domestically and abroad, we pray to the Lord.

For our priests and deacons, that they may boldly proclaim Church teaching on human dignity and the Church's teaching on human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For our religious sisters and brothers, that God inspire them with the continued commitment to fight the evil of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For all Catholics, that God inspire them to take action in their local communities to support and protect survivors of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

### **Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking**

For everyone who is trapped in a situation of slavery, that God will help to liberate them from their chains, we pray to the Lord.

For an end to human trafficking, that the dignity of all of God's children will be protected, we pray to the Lord.

For those caught up in a situation of human trafficking, that their perpetrators be brought to justice and that they might find a path to healing, we pray to the Lord.

For survivors of traffic, that God guide them to a path down which they might find wholeness and peace, we pray to the Lord.

For survivors of human trafficking, that they might find the support they need to start a new life, we pray to the Lord.



## Suggested Intercessions Continued

### Government Officials

For the President of the United States, and government leaders, that they continue to work tirelessly to end the slavery that continues to exist in our communities, we pray to the Lord.

For the President of the United States and all government officials, that they may support legislation that better protects vulnerable populations in our midst, we pray to the Lord.

For policy makers in our nation, that God grants them the wisdom to enact laws that provide greater protection for victims and survivors of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

### Additional Intercessions

For law enforcement, that God grants them the wisdom to recognize situations of forced labor and sexual slavery, while working to protect its victims and punish its perpetrators, we pray to the Lord.

For men and women who serve those exploited by human trafficking, that God will grant them the strength and commitment to accompany survivors on their path to healing and wholeness, we pray to the Lord.

For perpetrators of slavery, that they repent of their evil ways and turn to God for forgiveness, we pray to the Lord.

For all people of God and of good will, may we increase our courage to publicly address the systemic causes of human trafficking, we pray to the Lord.

For our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they may increase in their awareness of the problem of human trafficking and become a voice in the public square calling for its abolition, we pray to the Lord.



# Downloadable Prayer Card

[Download Here](#)

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA



ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

1869-1947

MEMORIAL: FEBRUARY 8

February 8th has been designated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8th is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. She learned from Canossian nuns that she was created in the image of God and possessed human dignity. Once she asserted herself and refused to be enslaved, Josephine became a Canossian sister and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering.

In October 2000, Josephine Bakhita was canonized by Pope John Paul II, at which point he noted that "in St. Josephine Bakhita we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights." (St. Bakhita's Canonization Mass, October 1, 2000)



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A Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.

Amen.

Oración a Santa Josefina Bakhita

Santa Josefina Bakhita, cuando niña, fuiste vendida como esclava y tuviste que pasar increíbles dificultades y sufrimiento. Una vez liberada de tu esclavitud física, hallaste la verdadera redención en tu encuentro con Cristo y su Iglesia.

Oh, Santa Bakhita, ayuda a todos aquellos que están atrapados en la esclavitud; en nombre de ellos, intercede ante Dios para que sean liberados de las cadenas de su cautiverio. Que Dios libere a todo aquel que ha sido esclavizado por el hombre.

Bríndales alivio a los que sobreviven la esclavitud y permite que ellos te vean como modelo de fe y esperanza. Ayuda a todos los sobrevivientes para que encuentren la sanación de sus heridas. Te suplicamos orar e interceder por los que se encuentran esclavizados entre nosotros.

Amén.

## Thank you from:

# Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking



Modern day slavery violates the sanctity, dignity & fundamental rights of the human person. Through coercion, deceit, and physical abuse, nearly 25 million adults and children are forced to perform backbreaking unpaid labor or commercial sex acts for the economic benefit of others. Many of the goods we buy may be tainted by slavery, found in global supply chains from cocoa to fish to cobalt.

To help end this dehumanizing practice and advocate for systemic change, 35 national and international agencies came together in 2003 to form the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking (CCOAH). CCOAH strives to answer Pope Francis' urgent call "to join forces to prevent the slave trade and guarantee protection and assistance to victims."

Our Coalition engages in and promotes a four-pronged approach to help eliminate the scourge of human trafficking: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, & Partnership.

### TOGETHER WE:

- Advocate for stronger state and federal anti-trafficking legislation
- Promote trauma informed and survivor centered services for trafficking survivors
- Raise public consciousness through education campaigns and grassroots action
- Press the private sector and consumers to prioritize slave-free supply chains

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Archdiocese of Atlanta, Office of Life, Dignity and Justice

Archdiocese of Hartford, Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry

Archdiocese of Indianapolis - Catholic Charities

Archdiocese of San Francisco, Office of Human Life & Dignity

Catholic Charities-Cleveland

Catholic Relief Services

Christian Brothers Investment Services

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

Daughters of Charity, USA

Dawn's Place

Diocese of Charlotte

Diocese of Orlando Human Trafficking Task Force

Diocese of St. Petersburg, Office of Life, Justice, & Advocacy

Felician Sisters of North America

Franciscan Action Network

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

Human Trafficking Academy, St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami

IL Women Religious Against Human Trafficking

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center

International Catholic Migration Commission

Justice Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Ladies of Charity USA

Leadership Conference of Women Religious

MACAMS

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Maryland Catholic Conference

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Notre Dame Sisters, Omaha

Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment

Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas — West Midwest Community

Sisters of the Divine Savior, North American Province

Sisters of the Humility of Mary, Villa Maria, PA

Society of the Holy Child Jesus

The Catholic Health Association of the United States

The Ladies of Charity of the United States of America

Through God's Grace Ministry

Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services

Join us!

For more information about becoming a member, contact [MRSTraff@uscbb.org](mailto:MRSTraff@uscbb.org).

# ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Josephine  
Bakhita



## A Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery  
as a child  
and endured untold hardship and suffering.  
Once liberated from your physical enslavement,  
you found true redemption in your encounter with  
Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a  
state of slavery;  
Intercede with God on their behalf  
so that they will be released from their chains  
of captivity.  
Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery  
and let them look to you as an example of hope  
and faith.  
Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.  
We ask for your prayers and intercessions for  
those enslaved among us.

Amen.



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