

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

TIME FOR A CHANGE

The killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis fill us with horror and disgust for the inhumane and unjust enforcement of immigration policies by the Administration. The response by the citizens of Minneapolis is heartening as they march, sing and oppose ICE. I have been waiting for a tipping point in the nation's response to the Administration. I wonder if this is it? I thought we had reached it many times before and we did not. So, I am holding my breath and my judgement.

The events in Minneapolis remind us of Birmingham in May of 1963 when the children's marches for voting rights met with the firehouses and dogs of Bull Connor. The videos and photos that appeared on the TV news and on the front pages of the newspapers brought the gravity of the situation to the forefront of the nation's attention. People were shocked at the violence done to children in the name of law and order. The cause of African Americans in the South was placed squarely in the nation's eye. President Kennedy could not longer ignore it. On June 11, he announced his intention to bring federal civil rights legislation to Congress which would be passed by Congress in 1964 under President Johnson.

Americans may be shocked to see innocent citizens being killed by federal agents. However, this has been going on for a very long time. Black Americans have been the victims of violence for centuries. From the brutal violence of slavery to mob violence of lynching to police involved shootings that escalated from simple traffic stops to death, this violence is a part of United States history. Many of the race riots in the US were instigated by white people against Black people.

The perennial problem in America is that we have short attention spans. We get all worked up about injustice and then promptly move on to other things when the news cycle ends. The response to the killing of George Floyd in 2020 is a good example. People marched in cities all over the country and then it stopped. May it will be different this time! May this be the beginning of the end!

Gloria Purvis, a renowned Black Catholic scholar, speaker, and journalist, as well as a special advisor for Integral Human Development at Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island, wrote recently on a Facebook post:

"I believe there are more good people in our country than are depraved sycophants. Do not give into despair. I come from a people who not only survived under seemingly impossible conditions but thrived in ways I believe only God created for them."

You may be new to the reality that your life is disposable and inconsequential to some and their perverted ideologies, but I am not. The devil has many children but even all of them together cannot defeat what God planned.

Psalm 34: 18 The righteous cry out, the LORD hears and he rescues them from all their afflictions. Romans 8:28 We know that all things work out for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

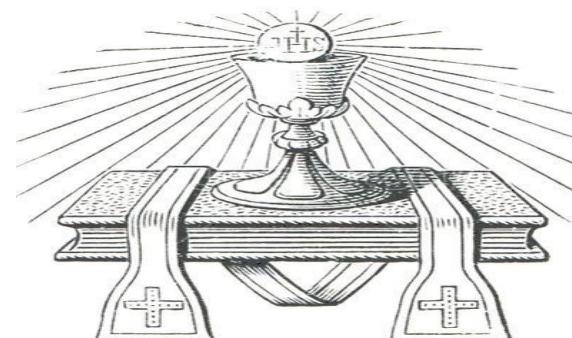
-Father Thomas Clark SJ



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ February 1, 2026

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*Immaculate Conception Church is a Black Catholic Church**

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Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM

Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel 12:10 PM

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.



Weekly Announcements

WELCOME, FATHER DAVID ALLEN

Welcome, Father David Allen, who will be celebrating the 8:00 and 10:30 AM Masses this weekend while Father Clark attends a meeting in New Orleans. We are grateful to Father David for his availability and look forward to his message.

PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY

Rev. James Goode, OFM, a beloved African American priest and renowned preacher, instituted the first Sunday of February as the Day of Prayer for the African American Family. We will pray the prayer today after Communion.

THANK YOU FROM MLK CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER

Thank you, the Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, for your continued support for Martin Luther King Catholic Student Center and our programs, and for all that you do to support the students. You made our Mardi Gras Ball a grand success. A shout out to all our volunteers: Aretha Hunt, Dennette Welch, Bertha Beard, Jessica Ned, Marie Matthews, Renae Welsh, Andrea Toles, Shelia DeRouen, Brad DeRouen, Patrick Berzat, Tiara Johnson, Quiana Wright, Claudia Griffin, Lindsey Jones, Brittany Melancon, Pamela Thomas, and Bridgette Melancon and the Millenium Band, led by Patrick Berzat. Thank You!

TUTORING MINISTRY ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

Our Tutoring Ministry has begun. Students of Immaculate Conception Church who are in K-12 are welcome to come for tutoring on Monday and Wednesday evening at the Activity Center from 5:30-6:30 PM. Teachers of our church are welcome to serve as volunteers and help our young people to excel!

BLESSING OF THROATS ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3

The Blessing of Throats will take place on Tuesday, February 3, the feast of Saint Blaise, after the 12:10 PM Mass at the MLK chapel.

WELCOMING NEW PARISHIONERS

We want to welcome new parishioners and those who are worshipping with us as they search for a church home. You are invited to a social hour after the Masses next weekend, February 7-8. Father Clark would like to greet you and get to know you. Most of all, he wants to learn your name. The social hour for the 4 PM and 10:30 AM Masses will be in the Activity Center. For the 8:00 AM Mass will be in the Ministry Building (office).

CALLING THOSE WHO WANT TO BE ALTAR SERVERS

Any youth who have made their First Holy Communion and would like to be an altar server, please contact Father Clark. We will plan some practices and then you will be able to serve Mass. This is an important ministry that helps us to celebrate Mass with reverence. Please come forward and serve!



JACQUELYN	THOMAS	2/1
EARL	MARCELLE	2/1
BRANDEN	PORCHE, JR.	2/1
ALTON	STATION, JR.	2/1
JOSEPH	CARMEN	2/2
DARREN	LONDON	2/2
TYLER	NAVARRE	2/2
MAYA	URBINA	2/2
STEPHEN	ANDERSON	2/3
PHYLLIS	BROUSSARD	2/3
HOWARD	JOHNSON	2/3
CALVIN	MCCLINTON	2/3
BETTY	McGEE	2/3
JENNIFER	MONTGOMERY	2/3
SHERONDA	SOLOMON	2/3
EVANGELYN	CLARK	2/4
JANICE	DUPUY	2/4
STELLA	LOCKMAN	2/4
RICHARD	MATTHEW, JR.	2/4
GLORIA	PATIN	2/4
JANET	RAMI	2/4
MARIE	BROWN	2/5
ASHLEIGH	BUTLER	2/5
LANDEN	GREGORY	2/5
CHRISTINA	HAYNES	2/5
LATASHA	JACKSON	2/5
AUDREY	MORRIS	2/5
EDWARD	SAMUEL	2/5
TAKIYAH	BEARD	2/6
CANDICE	BELLARD	2/6
JOYCE	COSEY	2/6
CHARLOTTE	FINLEY	2/6
GEORGE	FLOYD	2/6
CARLA	JONES	2/6
PAUL	LAVIGNE	2/6
FREDERICK	LEVY	2/6
MARY	NORWOOD	2/6
GERALD	THOMAS	2/6
BELLA	CRAIG	2/7
KORY	VAUGHN	2/7

Weekly Mass Readings
February 1st—February 8

Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13
1 Corinthians 1: 26-31
Matthew 5: 1-12a

Monday

Feast of the Presentation of the

Lord
Malachi 3: 1-4
Hebrews 2: 14-18
Luke 2: 22-40

Tuesday

2 Samuel 18: 9-10, 14b, 24-25a,
30—19:3
Mark 5: 21-43

Wednesday

2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17
Mark 6: 1-6

Thursday

Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

1 Kings 2: 1-4, 10-12
Mark 6: 7-13

Friday

Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Sirach 47: 2-11
Mark 6:14-29

Saturday

1 Kings 3: 4-13
Mark 6: 30-34

Sunday

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 58: 7-10
1 Corinthians 2: 1-5
Matthew 5: 13-16