

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

As we celebrate the memory, the legacy, and the prophetic witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I want to share with you one of the events in his life that I find very inspiring. Too often Dr. King's life is reduced to the phrase, "I Have a Dream." Dr. King was so much more than that.

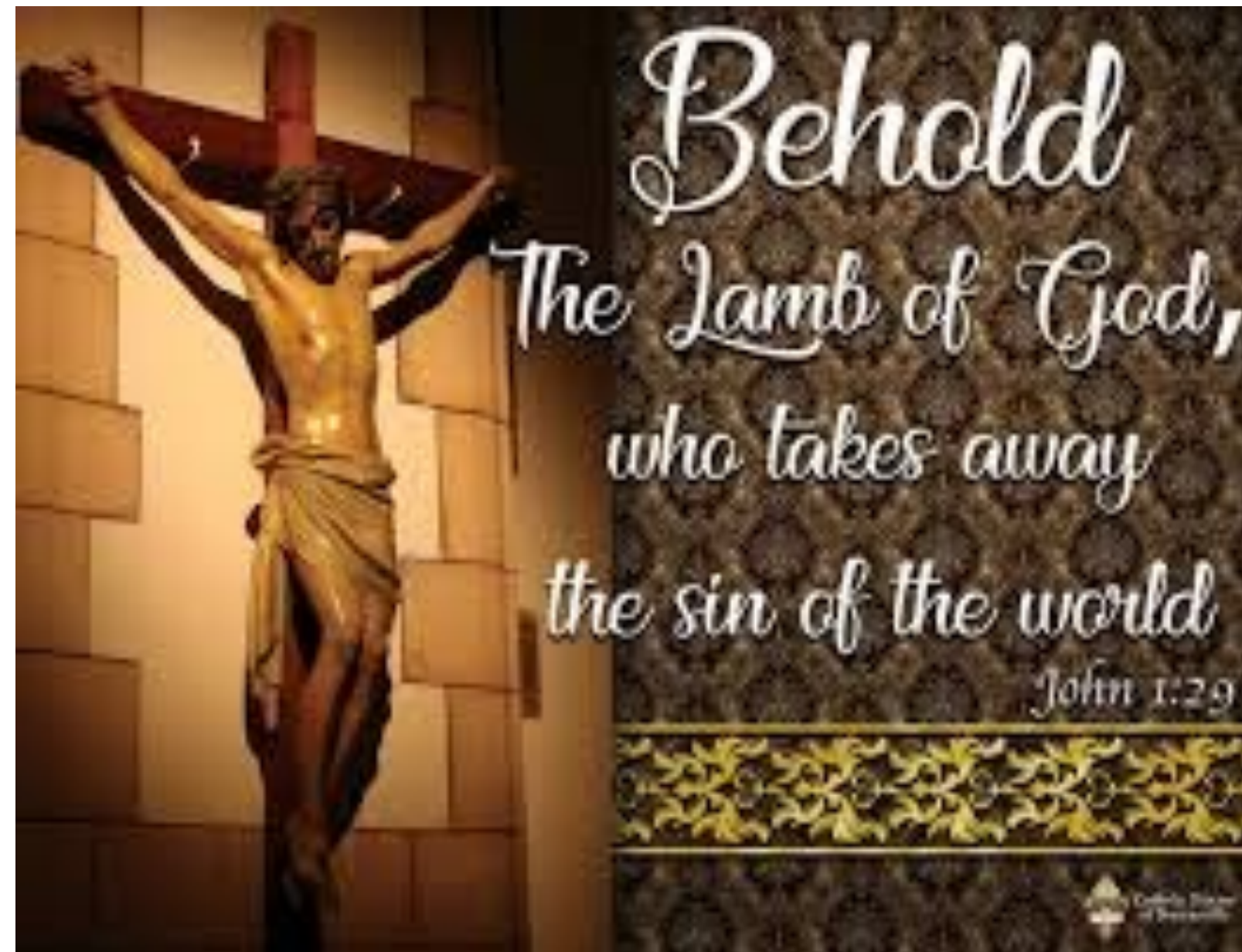
A pivotal moment in Dr. King's life is referred to as "Midnight in the Kitchen." On a January night in 1956 Dr. King was awakened in the middle of the night by a phone call. The voice at the other end of the call told him to get out of Montgomery or they would blow up his house. Usually, Dr. King could shake these calls off and go back to sleep. This night, he could not. He got up, went to the kitchen, and made coffee. Sitting at the kitchen table, he began to pray.

The words I spoke to God that midnight are still vivid in my memory. 'I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But now I am afraid. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I've come to the point where I can't face it alone.'

At that moment, I experienced the presence of the Divine as I had never experienced God before. It seemed as though I could hear the quiet assurance of an inner voice saying: 'Stand up for justice, stand up for truth; and God will be at your side forever.' Almost at once my fears began to go. My uncertainty disappeared. I was ready to face anything. (Stride toward Freedom, pp. 134-135)

On the second last day of his life, on April 3, 1968, once again Dr. King was deep in depression after the Sanitation Workers March in Memphis turned violent. He was scheduled to speak to the workers that evening. He told Rev. Abernathy to speak for him because he was not able. Dr. Abernathy came back to his motel room and told him that the crowd wanted him and not a substitute. Dr. King dragged himself from the bed and went to the union hall and delivered one of his most famous addresses, "I've Been to the Mountaintop." At the end of the speech, Dr. King had a mystical experience of being swept up into the Spirit like Moses looking over to the Promised Land but not entering it. At the most challenging moments of Dr. King's life, God made himself known to him and "strengthened his drooping hands and weak knees." (Hebrews 12:12). May God come to our rescue in our midnight hour!

-Father Clark, SJ



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ January 18, 2026

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
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Immaculate Conception Church is a Black Catholic Church
serving the family of God and feeding the soul of the Community.

PASTOR: Father Thomas F. Clark, S.J.(225) 775-7067/(225) 773-2036

IN RESIDENCE: Father Fred Kammer, S.J.(225) 774-3241

SECRETARY: Renae Welsh/John Edwards.....(225) 775-7067

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:

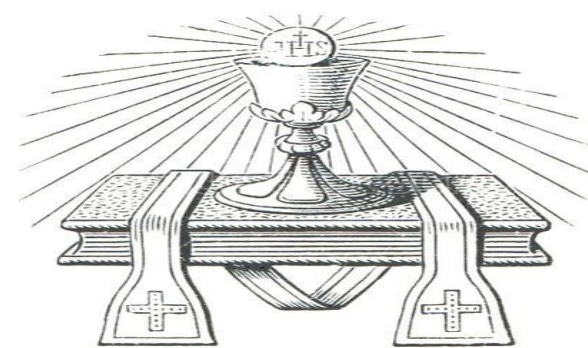
COORDINATOR: Gloria DeRouen(225) 936-8162

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MLK/SU CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER:

Joyce Johnson - Wilfred Johnson(225) 775-8691



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.



MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

This weekend we are celebrating the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. We will celebrate Mass at 9:00 AM on Monday, January 19, followed by breakfast in the Parish Activity Center. Now more than ever, how important it is to remember, reflect, and celebrate the legacy of Dr. King. As some try to deny or rewrite history, we cannot let them. We must make sure that we tell the true truth. I encourage everyone to read Dr. King's *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* as a way of reflecting on Dr. King's wisdom. You can find it by searching on Google.

RETURN TO ORDINARY TIME IN OUR WORSHIP

Having completed the season of Christmas on January 11 with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we are now in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. It is called "Ordinary Time" because the Sundays are numbered by ordinal numerals. This Sunday is the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is marked by the return to green vestments. Green is a symbol of life and growth. We celebrate our new life and our continued growth in Christ. We return to reading the Gospel of Matthew in sequential order until we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 18.

MLK CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER MARDI GRAS PARTY ON JAN 24

MLK Catholic Student Center invites you to a Mardi Gras party on Saturday, January 24 from 8 PM to 11 PM at 586 Harding Blvd. There will be dinner, dancing, door prizes, and all sorts of merriment. Tickets are \$30 per person and \$180 for a table of six. Tickets may be purchased after the weekend Masses. The party will benefit the ministry to the SU students at MLK.

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES ON TUESDAY, JAN 20

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council of Ministries on Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. An agenda and minutes will be sent out before the meeting. We ask all chairpersons of parish ministries and organizations to make it a priority to attend.

TUTORING MINISRY AT ICCC

Great News! A new tutoring ministry will begin on January 26 and January 28 at 5:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. Our first meetings will be organizational and assessing student needs. Tutoring sessions will continue Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Tutoring will be offered to students in need from kindergarten to 12th Grade. Thank you to the teachers of our church who are volunteering their time to this important ministry!



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| ROBERT | PRESTON | 1/19 |
| LEONARD | SCOTT | 1/19 |
| MICHELLE | BEASLEY | 1/20 |
| LEO | BORNE | 1/20 |
| CHRISTINE | JONES | 1/20 |
| EDWARD | LEWIS | 1/20 |
| MARGEAUX | WALKER | 1/20 |
| BRANDY | COLEMAN | 1/21 |
| DENA | CHRISTY | 1/21 |
| ERIN D. | DURLEY | 1/21 |
| BRADLEY | LEWIS | 1/21 |
| LAWRENCE | NAVARRE, SR. | 1/21 |
| CARMEN | PATRICK | 1/21 |
| DANIEL | BARNES | 1/22 |
| RAFFEAL | BENNETT | 1/22 |
| STEPHANIE | ROSAYA | 1/22 |
| DONALD | BALTAZAR | 1/23 |
| JAYDE | ENCALADE | 1/23 |
| CHRYSTYLE | JONES | 1/23 |
| HORACE | LEWIS | 1/23 |
| THOMAS | WALKER, JR. | 1/23 |
| STEPHANIE | CARPENTER | 1/24 |
| WALTER | ENNIS, IV | 1/24 |
| TONYA | STEWART | 1/24 |
| RODRICK | CLAIBORNE | 1/25 |
| PAULA | SAMUEL | 1/25 |
| KATIE | SMITH | 1/25 |



ADULT CONFIRMATION

If there is anyone over the age of eighteen who has not had the opportunity to make their Confirmation, please see Father Clark. You might be able to be confirmed at our parish Confirmation ceremony or at the adult confirmation at the Cathedral on Pentecost.

If you have been worshipping with us and are not officially a Catholic and would like to become a Catholic, please see Father Clark to plan for your reception into the Church, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Weekly Mass Readings January 18th-January 25th

Sunday The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6
1 Corinthians 1: 1-3
John 1: 29-34

Monday
1 Samuel 15: 16-23
Mark 2: 18-22

Tuesday
1 Samuel 16: 1-13
Mark 2: 23-28

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

1 Samuel 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51
Mark 3: 1-6

Thursday Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

1 Samuel 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7
Mark 3: 7-12

Friday
1 Samuel 24: 3-21
Mark 3: 13-19

Saturday Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

2 Samuel 1: 1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27
Mark 3: 20-21

Sunday
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 8: 23– 9:3
1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17
Matthew 4: 12-23