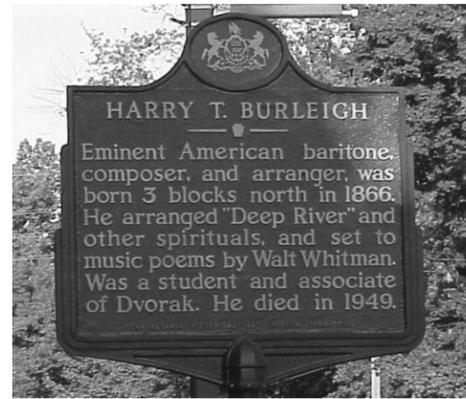


THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

HARRY THACKER BURLEIGH - COMPOSER



The late Harry T. Burleigh was the first African-American composer to gain wide critical acclaim in the United States. Harry Thacker Burleigh was born and raised in the town of Erie, Pennsylvania on December 2, 1866. He was taught the art of singing by his grandfather, a former slave, along with his brother. After learning the traditional “negro spirituals” and other African-American folk songs, Burleigh’s big baritone voice matured to the point where he began receiving classical training.

At 26, Burleigh was granted a scholarship to study at the National Conservatory of New York where he caught the attention of Czech instructor and director of the Conservatory, Antonin Dvořák. Under Dvořák’s guidance, Burleigh’s songs of his youth and cultural heritage were given a tweaking that made it palatable to wider audiences.

After leaving the Conservatory, Burleigh joined the choir as a baritone soloist for the St. George’s Episcopal Church as its first and only Black member at the time. In 1911, he turned away from singing and began composing works using the Negro spirituals that gained him notice and crafting them into art songs that were popular in that time.

In all, Burleigh composed between 200 and 300 works built on that song style, which earned him the Spingarn Achievement Medal in 1917 for his contributions to modern music. Burleigh passed at the age of 82 on September 12, 1949.

Sacraments

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

Saturdays 3:00 PM and by appointment.

BAPTISMS: To arrange and prepare for the celebration of Baptism, please call the Pastor to schedule an appointment. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Sunday afternoon.

FUNERAL: Please call the parish as soon as possible to make arrangements for the Mass of Christian Burial.

VISITING THE SICK: If you or a family member are sick or in the hospital, please call the parish so that a pastoral visit can be arranged. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated in the parish before hospitalization. Please call also to arrange for a Eucharistic minister to bring Communion to the sick. If you would like to request prayers for someone who is sick, please call the parish so that the name may be placed in the bulletin.

MARRIAGES: Preparation must begin at least six months prior to the wedding. **Please** make arrangements with the parish before scheduling the reception.

ANNULMENTS/CONVALIDATION: Please arrange a meeting with the Pastor to begin the process of celebrating your marriage in the Church.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Catholics who would like to be registered as parishioners of Immaculate Conception and receive stewardship envelopes should call the parish secretary or fill out a form in the vestibule of the church.

RCIA: Adults who desire to explore the possibility of becoming a member of the Catholic Church should contact the RCIA (Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults) team. Preparation usually begins in September and Baptism or Reception is celebrated at the next Easter Vigil.

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Some financial aid for tuition assistance to Catholic schools is available to registered members of the parish. This is a one time grant of no more than \$1,000.00 to needy families to assist them during a time of financial crisis. Eligible families should write a letter to the Pastor who will evaluate the request with the Financial Advisory Committee.

To Whom Do We Go

Adult Formation: Lovenia Watson.....	778-1977
Altar Servers: Bradley DeRouen	218-8292 / 284-5970
Child Protection Coord:.....	Andrea Toles
Eucharistic Ministers: Beulah Decuir.....	229-6076
Gospel Choir/Adult: Daphne Alex.....	936-4051
Gospel Choir/Youth: Tara Winder	428-5981
Hall Rental: Juliet Betts.....	775-7067
Ministry Council/Chair: Georgia Jenkins.....	775-5824
Ministry to the Sick: Gene Decuir.....	229-6076
Pantry/Food and Vouchers:	774-3661
Sacristan: Rogers Jackson, Jr.	362-0907
Traditional Choir: Theresa Carmen.....	921-7315
Usher’s Coordinator: Walter Ennis.....	775-7332

This Week’s Prayer

Lord, if we could see the future, it would be easy to have hope. Real hope is when we can’t see the end of the road, but still trust you to lead us there. Amen.





Father Thomas F. Clark, S. J.

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES - MINUTES

January 19, 2021

Members of the Parish Council of Ministries met via Zoom on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM. After an opening prayer and the review and acceptance of the minutes, Father Clark asked the council to reflect with him on the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on our parish church. The following reflections were shared: we miss greeting, talking with and embracing parish members at Mass. The Live Stream is very good and keeps everyone in touch but it is not as good as being there. Parishioners have been checking in on each other to see how they are doing. Eucharistic Ministers have been bringing Communion to parishioners. KPC has been sharing daily prayers by text messages. The Mass in the parking lot has been a very positive addition. On line giving has made it easy to continue to contribute to the church. The Book Club has continued to meet via conference call each month. The PSR and Rosary Group have continued to meet via Zoom and conference call. The Beautification Committee has regularly decorated the sanctuary for the feast days and change of seasons. Members of the Legion of Mary have kept up contact with each other. Saint Vincent de Paul has continued to provide food for the men's shelters. The Food Pantry has been distributing gift cards monthly. The Food Bank is distributing food to all those in 70807 on the first Tuesday of each month in front of the Activity Center. We are glad that we have embraced the many ways that technology has helped us to stay in contact with each other. Despite all these positive initiatives, we still miss being present in church and attending regularly. As good as the live stream is it is not the same as being there and being able to receive Holy Communion. We look forward to the day when we will be able to gather again with full participation of all the ministries. We are concerned about the elders of our church who do not have internet or access social media. We wish we could find a way to gather them in. The peaceful atmosphere of the church is a calming influence and a comfort to elders with memory loss. Relatives and friends from around the country and the world have been watching through Facebook.

Father Clark shared how much he misses seeing parishioners on a regular basis. He is grateful to Gerald Berzat for setting up the live stream technology. Communication in the parish is very difficult since everyone has their own preferred ways of communicating, e.g. phone, text, email, social media, etc. We need to find ways of improving communication. He is very concerned about elders without internet access. He is also looking forward to the time when we will be able to gather together in a more normal fashion. It will probably happen gradually as more and more people are vaccinated. He is looking for that to happen maybe sometime in the fall. We will need to have "refresher" sessions for altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers and all ministries. We are grateful to all the members of the parish who have contributed in any way to our continuing of ministry in challenging circumstances.

On June 20, 2021 at 2:00 PM, Father Clark will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to mark his 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood and 50th Anniversary as a Jesuit. He asks for a simple celebration consisting primarily of a Mass of Thanksgiving according to whatever Covid restrictions we are under at that time.

With no news and announcements, the meeting adjourned.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Please pray for our candidates for First Holy Communion who will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) for the first time on Saturday, January 30. Pray for our candidates for Confirmation who will be having their Confirmation interviews with Father Clark the week of January 25-29.



PREPARING FOR LENT

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Father Clark will appreciate any advice or ideas on how we will observe Lent with the continued Covid restrictions. Should we have an outdoor Mass on Ash Wednesday? How shall we give parishioners the opportunity for Confession? Small group faith communities by Zoom? Stations of the Cross on live stream? Please share your ideas.



Happy Birthday



Happy birthday!	GLORIA	BURRELL	1/24	Happy birthday!
	WALTER	ENNIS, IV	1/24	
	TONYA	STEWART	1/24	
	RODRICK	CLAIBORNE	1/25	
	PAULA	SAMUEL	1/25	
	KATIE	SMITH	1/25	
	ANNE GRACE	BALTAZAR	1/26	
	ADDYSON	FORT	1/26	
	GAIL	JOHNSON	1/26	
	JANICE	JOSEPH	1/26	
	DENITRA	PERKINS	1/26	
	MEGAN	WILTZ	1/26	
	BIZANNA	BEASLEY	1/27	
	ALVIN	FLEURY, JR.	1/27	
	FELESHA	JETT	1/27	
	NYRA	LANDRY	1/27	
	ANTHONY	LUMBARD	1/27	
	JONAHAN	SMITH	1/27	
	JACIEN	DOTSON	1/28	
	ABRAM	HAYNES	1/28	
SONIA	ALLISON	1/29		
ALRITA	FORD	1/29		
SENTORIA	FOSTER	1/29		
MILLIE	PRICE	1/29		
COURTNEY	ROBINSON	1/29		
RENITA JANE	BOUDREAUX	1/30		
CAROLYN	CARTER	1/30		
NICHOLAS	MONTGOMERY	1/30		

Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

LECTURE SERIES SPONSORED BY DIOCESAN RACIAL HARMONY COMMISSION

The Diocesan Racial Harmony Commission will host two lectures by notable Black Catholic speakers. On January 27, Dr. Shannen Dee Williams of Villanova University will present "Black Catholic Historic Truth Telling: An Essential Practice for Reparative Justice." On February 24, Ms. Gloria Purvis, formerly of EWTN Morning Glory radio program will present "What Can the Church Do about Racism?"

Both presentations will take place at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Details for accessing this presentation will be forthcoming.

You may register for the virtual experience via Zoom at [SULC.edu/racial healing](http://SULC.edu/racial_healing)



Mass Readings

January 24th - January 31st
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 25; 1 Cor 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Monday

Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul

Acts 22:3-16; Psalm 117
Gospel: Mark 16:15-18

Tuesday

2 Tim 1:1-8; Psalm 96
Gospel: Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday

Heb 10:11-18; Psalm 110
Gospel: Mark 4:1-20

Thursday

Heb 10:19-25; Psalm 24
Gospel: Mark 4:21-25

Friday

Heb 10:32-39; Psalm 37
Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Saturday

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Psalm 1
Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

Sunday

Dt 18:15-20; Psalm 95; 1 Cor 7:32-35
Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Forms for new parishioners or changes are located in the vestibule of the church.

