

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

Zora Neale Hurston



Zora Neale Hurston was a novelist, folklorist and anthropologist. She was most famous for her 1937 novel, “Their Eyes Were Watching God.” Hurston was born on January 7, 1891 in Notasulga, Alabama, to parents who were former slaves. Her parents uprooted the family and moved to Eatonville, Fla., one of the earliest all-black incorporated townships.

After the death of her mother in 1904, Hurston lived with several family members until she was sent off to boarding school in Jacksonville. Facing a variety of hardships while working odd jobs, Hurston eventually moved to Baltimore. Hurston attended the free Morgan College, which was the high school portion of Morgan State University.

After graduating, Hurston entered Howard University and earned an associate degree. It was then Hurston had some of her earliest works printed in the school’s newspaper. From there, she entered Barnard College in New York on a scholarship, graduating with a degree in anthropology in 1928 and continuing her anthropology studies at Columbia University for the next few years.

She counted Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and other great scribes as her friends. Her apartment became a popular hangout for the Renaissance writers and artists.

In 1934, Hurston released her first novel, “Jonah’s Gourd Vine.” Two years later, she received a Guggenheim fellowship and worked on anthropological research in Haiti and Jamaica. While writing her best known work, “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” Hurston studied voodoo. In 1942, she released her autobiography “Dust Tracks On A Road.” Though it was critically acclaimed, Hurston began to fall out of the limelight.

In 1948, she was unjustly accused of molesting a ten-year-old boy, but the scandal torpedoed her career. She continued to write until the last years of her life, but much of her work went unpublished. Hurston died poor and alone on January 28, 1960. Hurston’s work enjoyed a revival thanks to author Alice Walker, who wrote about the novelist in a 1975 essay for *Ms. Magazine*. Walker counted Hurston as an influence, and fought for new editions of her older works such as her short stories and essays.

Hurston was also an inspiration to Ralph Ellison and Toni Morrison, among other Black writers. Her legacy continues to influences Black writers to this day.

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 DeRouen218-8292 / 284-5970
Child Protection Coord:.....Andrea Toles
Eucharistic Ministers: Beulah Decuir.....229-6076
Gospel Choir/Adult: Daphne Alex.....936-4051
Gospel Choir/Youth: Tara Winder428-5981
Hall Rental: Juliet Betts.....775-7067
Ministry Council/Chair: Georgia Jenkins.....775-5824
Pantry/Food and Vouchers:774-3661
Sacristan: Rogers Jackson, Jr.362-0907
Traditional Choir: Theresa Carmen..... 921-7315
Usher's Coordinator: Walter Ennis.....(504)427-6459

This Week’s Prayer

Dear God, show me ways to help your hurting, needed world. I need to see that I am not helpless or hopeless but that all efforts, small as they might seem, can matter. Amen.





Father Thomas F. Clark, S. J.



ICCC PASTORAL COUNCIL



The ICCC Pastoral Council is currently in the process of developing an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for our Parish facilities. The Council is soliciting for parish members with expertise in emergency management planning, public safety, logistics, finance and administration to be a member of the EOP Committee. This committee chairperson is Reggie Berry. If you are interested in being a member of this committee, please contact Reggie at 225-773-5604 or email him at regipb@yahoo.com. This is an opportunity to fellowship with your fellow parishioners and to develop a safe environment for your church parishioners to worship and fellowship.

VOLUNTEER TUTORS AT REDEMPTORIST-ST. GERARD



Father Tat, Pastor of St. Gerard, is asking for volunteers tutors to provide academic support for elementary students at Redemptorist- St. Gerard. Please contact Father Clark or the parish office if you are interested in volunteering.

DONATION OF BOY BABY CLOTHES



If anyone has baby clothes for a three month old, fast growing, baby boy, would you consider donating them to help a family in our church. Please drop off donations to the parish office.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION



Our Black History Month celebration will take place during our 10:30 AM Sunday Mass on February 12. Youth from our Parish School of Religion will minister to us by serving as servers, ushers, lectors, participating in the Offertory procession, and sharing meditative readings about the gift of Black History. Please join with us as we celebrate Black History which is US History and Black Catholic History which is Catholic History.

CANDLE MASS AND ST. BLASE



February starts off with two liturgical celebrations. February 2 is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord which celebrates Jesus being brought to the temple by Mary and Joseph forty days after Christmas. We celebrate Jesus as the Light of All Nations by blessing candles on that day. On Friday, Feb 3 we will bless throats on the Feast of Saint Blase, a Bishop and martyr, who was known for healing. On February 3, there will be a 12:10 pm Mass at which throats will be blessed.

BEWARE OF PHISHING EMAILS AND SCAMS



Be suspicious of any email or text that is asking you for personal information or buying gift cards on behalf of anyone. Please know that Father Clark or any other priest will not ask you to buy gift cards via an email or text. Delete them asap. It is a scam!

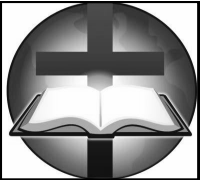
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE SURVEY #2



Please take a few moments and fill out a survey concerning the time for Christmas Mass during the Night. For those who would attend a Christmas Eve Mass after dark, celebrated in candlelight, would you be more apt to come at 8:00 PM or 10:00 PM. We will continue to have Mass at 4 PM and 10:30 AM.

Happy Birthday

SONIA	ALLISON	1/29
ALRITA	FORD	1/29
SENTORIA	FOSTER	1/29
LAWRENCE	PAYNE	1/29
MILLIE	PRICE	1/29
COURTNEY	ROBINSON	1/29
RENITA	BOUDREAUX	1/30
CAROLYN	CARTER	1/30
NICHOLAS	MONTGOMERY	1/30
CARRIE	CHRISTY	1/31
RAYLAND	CRAIG	1/31
BRENT	DEROUEN	1/31
TRISTYN	DEROUEN	1/31
WILLIE	SANDERS, JR.	1/31
SHARYN	WILCOX	1/31
THERESA	WILLIAMS	1/31
JACQUELYN	THOMAS	2/1
JOYCE	GARNER	2/1
EARL	MARCELLE	2/1
BRANDEN	PORCHE, JR.	2/1
ALTON	STATION, JR.	2/1
JOSEPH	CARMEN	2/2
DARREN	LONDON	2/2
CALVIN	THIERRY	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



Mass Readings

January 29th - February 5th

Sunday

Zep 2:3, 3:12-13; Psalms 146; 1 Cor 1:26-31

Gospel: Mt 5:1-12a

Monday

Heb 11:32-40; Psalms 31

Gospel: Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday

He 12:1-4; Psalms 22

Gospel: Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Psalm 103

Gospel: Mk 6:1-6

Thursday

Feast of The Presentation of The Lord

Mal 3:1-4; Psalm 24; Heb 2:14-18

Gospel: Lk 2:22-40

Friday

Heb 13:1-8; Psalms 27

Gospel: Mk 6:14-29

Saturday

Heb 13:1-8; Psalms 23

Gospel: Mk 6:30-34

Sunday

Is 58:7-10; Psalms 112; 1 Cor 2:1-5

Gospel: Mt 5:13-16

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

RECEIVING THE PRECIOUS BLOOD AT MASS



When Bishop Duca restored the sharing of the Cup at Mass in December, he also said that Communion by intinction (dipping the host in the Blood of Christ) was not allowed in the Diocese. Therefore, Father Clark asks that we not receive Communion by intinction. If you want to receive the Blood of Christ, you must drink from the chalice.

JESUS loves you!