

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

Charles Blockson



Scholar and historian **Charles Blockson** has become one of the foremost experts on Black history, culture and the Underground Railroad. He was born in Norristown, Pa. on December 16, 1933. Blockson, the oldest of eight, was raised in Norristown by his parents, Annie and Charles Blockson. He became interested in African history from an early age, due to an exchange with a substitute teacher in fourth grade that he recounted for a Penn State documentary. When he asked about African-American history, the teacher told young Blockson that Black people were here simply to serve the needs of whites.

Charles Blockson was also interested in sports. He played football while attending Pennsylvania State University, where he played with future Pittsburgh Steelers star Rosey Grier. After Blockson's graduation in 1956, he went on to teach history as a human relations advisor for the Norristown Area School District. Through his extensive travels, Blockson amassed a collection of African-American historical artifacts including slave narratives, books, audio recordings, sheet music, letters and audio for a total of over 500,000 items detailing the Black experience. His collection, the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, is now held at Philadelphia's Temple University where he donated it in 1984.

A noted expert on the Underground Railroad, Blockson has written more than a dozen books. His family history is irretrievably tied to the Underground Railroad, as his ancestor, Jacob Blockson, was one of the enslaved people that ran to freedom with the iconic emancipator Harriet Tubman.

A co-founder of The African-American Museum of Philadelphia, Blockson donated 39 items belonging to Tubman to the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Among other accolades, Blockson was awarded the prestigious Philadelphia Award, which recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the community. Blockson died on June 14, 2023, at the age of 89.

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
Child Protection Coord: Andrea Toles.....(504)491-6556
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: Deadra James Mackie.....772-3401
Usher's Coordinator: Walter Ennis.....(504)427-6459

This Week's Prayer

○ Mighty God, I thank You for Your Word that says that You do not see people in the same way that other people do. You see that we have been created in Your image and likeness. You see that there are no racial differences, because with You, Lord, what is beneath the surface is who we are. What is on the outside is our temporary earthly body. It is our shell. So, I thank You, that I no longer need to be concerned about external judgment, because You, Father, look inside me and know who I am. You know my heart, my God. I am Yours and in You I find my strength! I declare healing in Jesus' name. Amen.

What is the Greatest Commandment?



“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

Jesus, Matt 22:37

October 29, 2023

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Matthew 22:34-36

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus was saying in the first commandment, that if we put God first, everything else will naturally follow. If we truly love God with all that we have, we should want to follow the other Laws, because we genuinely love Him. All of the other Commandments and rules rest on loving God. The “second commandment” Jesus gave is that we love our neighbor. Who is this? Not just people that we like, or people in the house next door to us. Our neighbors are all of the people God created. We love them by showing kindness and respect, and remembering that Jesus loves them and died for them. We don't always see that care and love demonstrated in people around us today, do we? But we can make a difference when we show God's love by sharing it. We can prove that we care for one another and recognize that Jesus loves them, too. We can look for ways to be considerate and loving to those around us every day!

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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Web Site Address: www.immaculateconceptionbr.org

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: Juliet Betts(225) 775-7067

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:

COORDINATOR: Gloria DeRouen(225) 936-8162

ASSISTANT TO COORDINATOR: Stephanie Yearby(214) 881-5663

RCIA COORDINATOR: Cathy Glover(225) 772-6099

MLK/SU CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER:

Joyce Johnson - Wilfred Johnson(225) 775-8691



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM

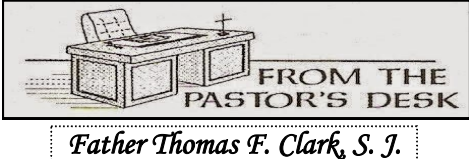
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., 12:10 PM

Holy Day Masses:

Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM and 12:10 PM



ALL HALLOWS/ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS CELEBRATIONS
BLESSING OF THE GRAVES AT SOUTHERN MEMORIAL: Today, October 29, 2 PM
Gather near the office for prayer service, visit grave privately, reception to follow.
TRUNK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN PARTY: Today, Sunday, October 29 from 3-6 PM
In the Parish Activity Center and Parking Lot
ALL SAINTS VIGIL MASS: Tuesday, October 31, 7:00 PM in the church
ALL SAINTS DAY MASS: Wednesday, November 1 at 12:10 PM at MLK Catholic Student Center Hall
BLESSING OF GRAVES AT HEAVENLY GATES: Sunday, November 5 at 1:00 PM



**THIS WEEKEND WE WEAR PINK
TO RAISE AWARENESS OF BREAST CANCER**



This weekend we wear pink to raise awareness of breast cancer. Felicia Brumfield Gathe will share her experience with breast cancer at the 10:30 AM Mass. Remember, early detection is key! Please keep up with all appointments and tests!

MISSIONARY VISIT AND COLLECTION



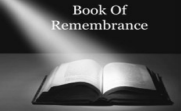
Next weekend we will have a visit from a missionary priest from India who will speak to us about the needs of his local church. The second collection will be for the benefit of their ministries. Please be generous as we remember that we are a worldwide church connected to our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world.

**WERE YOU OR ARE YOU A SMOKER?
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW YOUR RISK FOR LUNG CANCER?**



If you were once a smoker or are currently a smoker, Our Lady of the Lake offers a lung cancer screening for those who are between 50-80 years with a history of tobacco smoking or are currently a smoker. Early detection of lung cancer in its earliest stages can mean more tomorrows for you and your loved ones. Call 225-765-3030 or visit olormc.com/cancer for more information.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH TO REMEMBER OUR BELOVED DEAD



During the month of November, we remember our loved one who have gone home to God. The Book of the Remembrance of the Dead will be available near the Baptismal pool. You may enter the names of your deceased family and friends. The book will be placed on the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer as we pray for all who names are contained in it.

On **Wednesday, November 8, at 7:00 PM**, we will have a special Mass to remember all the deceased members of our church and all the deceased members of the families of our church. We will remember in a special way those who have died in the past year.



Happy Birthday

NICOLE	MARTIN	10/29
JOYCE	PATIN	10/29
DYLAN	RICHARD	10/29
MARY	HANEY	10/30
ALBERT	HERD	10/30
NORMA	LEWIS	10/30
CHINWE	AGHADINUNO	10/31
GERALDINE	CHAVIS	10/31
WALTER	LEDOUX	10/31
STEPHEN	LLORENS	10/31
KEMBERLY	ALLADA	10/31
CAROLYN	DAIGRE	11/1
PAULINE	DARJEAN	11/1
MONICA	WILTZ	11/1
QUIARA	COLLOR	11/2
ROBERT	GREIG	11/2
JANICE	HIGGINBOTTHAM	11/2
BELVA	ROBERTSON	11/2
MARY	WASHINGTON	11/2
JACQUES	COLEMAN	11/3
CLIFTON	BELL, JR.	11/3
KIMBERLY	MARSAW	11/3
JOYCE	STAFFORD	11/3
DEBORAH	ANDERSON	11/4
VERNA	BROWN	11/4
KIMBERLY	LOCKETT	11/4
CHELSEA	WILSON	11/4



FALL BACK

We return to Central Standard Time at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 5, 2023



Mass Readings

October 29th - November 5th

Sunday

Ex 22:20-26; Psalm 18; 1 Thes 1:1-5c-10
Gospel: Mt 22:34-40

Monday

Rom 8:12-17; Psalm 68
Gospel: Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday

Rom 8:18-25; Psalm 126
Gospel Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday

Solemnity of All Saints

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Psalm 24; 1 Jn 3:1-3
Gospel: Mt 5:1-12a

Thursday

**The Commemoration of
All The Faithful Departed (All Souls)**

Wis 3:1-9; Psalm 23; Rom 6:3-9
Gospel: Jn 6:37-40

Friday

Rom 9:1-5; Psalm 147
Gospel: Lk 14:1-6

Saturday

Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Psalm 94
Gospel: Lk 14:1, 7-11

Sunday

Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; Psalm 131; 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13
Gospel: Mt 23:1-12



**AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC
HISTORY MONTH MASS**

A Mass celebrating African American Catholic History Month will take place on Saturday, November 4 at 10:00 AM at saint Gerard Church. Bishop Duca will be the celebrant and Father Clark will be the homilist. Everyone is welcome. Let's turn out and celebrate the rich and important contributions of Black Catholics to the Church in the US. Remember, Black Catholic History is US Catholic History!