

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

Millie and Christine McCoy: Siamese Twins



Millie and Christine McCoy, Siamese twins, were born in Welches Creek Township near Whiteville, the daughters of Jacob and Monemia, enslaved people under the ownership of Jabez McCoy, a local farmer. Their potential value was recognized early, and between 1852 and 1860 they passed through several hands. Their first real promoter was W. J. L. Millar, a professor turned showman, who picked them up in Boston when they were four and took them to Canada, Great Britain, and the Continent. Their last manager and legal owner was Joseph Pearson Smith, and sometimes the twins were known as Millie and Christine Smith. Smith reportedly paid \$30,000 for them. The twins were abducted twice before they were ten. During this period, Smith's father and Monemia searched for them for three years, the trail leading from New Orleans to Scotland and England.

Having regained possession of them, the elder Smith brought them back to America about 1860 and later hid them in the countryside near Spartanburg, S.C., to prevent their being taken by Union troops during the Civil War. Freed after the war, the twins embarked on their major tours and were seen by "the crowned heads" of Europe. Queen Victoria presented them with matching brooches. Millie and Christine appeared in forty-six of the American states and traveled widely around the world. They were presented primarily as medical curiosities and were frequently examined by local physicians. In conversation the twins referred to themselves as "I." Their native intelligence, cheerful nature, and vocal talents presented the more human side of their personalities. They often were billed as the "Carolina Nightingale," with Christine singing soprano and Millie alto. Prosperity enabled Millie and Christine to buy the original McCoy property and on it they built a ten-room house where they lived between tours. After 1900, they left it only occasionally to appear at county fairs. The house burned down in 1909, destroying treasures from the far corners of the world. Three years later Millie succumbed to tuberculosis, and Christine died the next day. The twins were buried in a double coffin. The grave marker is inscribed: "A soul with two thoughts. Two hearts that beat as one." In 1969 the Columbus County Historical Society moved the grave from an overgrown, almost forgotten plot to the nearby Welches Creek community cemetery.

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

Thank you, Lord, for being there for me and allowing me to cry out to you in my times of need. It is amazing to me that the Lord of the Universe would take time to listen to me and to care about what I say. God, things are happening around me right now that I do not understand. Some of these things make me feel weak, helpless, and afraid. Even in this, I know that you are the Lord. I know the situation is in Your hands, and I trust You. I beseech you for strength and wisdom that I would be able to endure this situation and handle it in a way that would bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name. Amen.



October 8, 2023

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes". Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

Matthew 21:42-43

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary

The servants in this parable worked the land, but they treated the land as if it was their own. Somehow they forgot that it never belonged to them, they forgot, or rejected their covenant with the landowner. They owed something to the landowner that they were unwilling to give. The same is true for us. It is clear that we owe something back to God. There is something expected of those who are in the kingdom, namely living under the authority of the Owner, and produce and giving back the proper fruit. These wicked tenants forgot that they were merely stewards or managers. We sometimes forget too. We are under the delusion of ownership.

We think we own things, when in reality God is the owner of all things. All we have belongs to God. We are stewards.



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

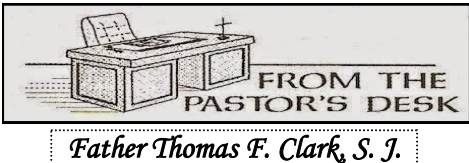
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel

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

Holy Day Masses:

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



WE CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH FAMILY



This weekend, we celebrate our parish family with our annual picnic. The weather forecast as we write the bulletin is for a perfect day! Please join us after the 10:30 AM Mass for delicious food, games, activities, fellowship, and fun! Thank you to all our sponsors who have donated toward our celebration. Thank you to the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, the Hospitality Committee, and the Picnic Planning Committee for all your work to make our day successful.

WE RECOGNIZE OUR YOUTH



This weekend at 10:30 AM Mass we are recognizing our youth and celebrating their accomplishments, awards, and recognitions. As we celebrate our parish family, we lift our youth and all the positive things they are doing. We encourage them to continue to strive for excellence and never tire of doing what is right! A shout out to parents who support them along the way.

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES



There will be a Parish Council of Ministries meeting on Tuesday, October 17 at 6:30 PM. All chairpersons of parish ministries and organizations are asked to make this meeting a priority. If you cannot be there, please ask a member of your group to represent you. The minutes of the last meeting and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out next week. All interested members of the parish are invited to attend.

NEXT WEEKEND IS SU HOMECOMING



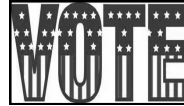
Next Saturday, October 14 is the Southern University Homecoming. The Knights of Peter Claver will be selling parking spots in our parking lots for the parade and for the game. Due to the use of the parking lot and the traffic in the area, there will be **NO VIGIL MASS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14**. We will have Mass on Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:30 AM.

LADIES AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER FOR HOMECOMING



The Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor "Garden of Eatin'" Sausage Po-Boy sale on Homecoming Day, October 14 from 8:00 AM to 12 noon at both the Curtis Street and Harding Blvd. parking lots. The menu will be hot or mild sausage po-boy, bag of potato chips and a can of cold Coke or Sprite. All sales support the scholarship program of the ladies Auxiliary. The cost is \$10.00.

BE SURE TO VOTE BY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14



Election Day is Saturday, October 14. The polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Since Election Day is the same day as the SU Homecoming, be sure to make plans for how and when you will vote, considering the traffic and festivities of the day. Early voting ended on Saturday, October 7. Mail in ballots must be requested by October 10 and must be returned by the end of day October 13.

OPEN HOUSE AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Sacred Heart School will be hosting an open house on Thursday, October 19, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. All interested students and their families are welcome to attend.

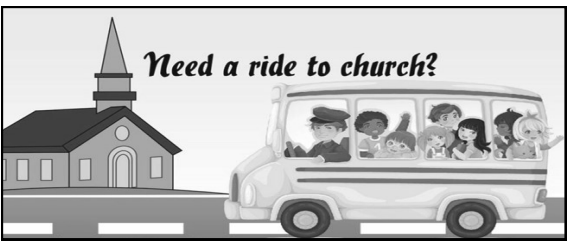
GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIORS



Are you 50+ years old or do you know someone who would benefit from spending time with other adults? Ochsner Health has a wonderful program called Golden Opportunity designed exclusively for men and women who want to lead more active and healthier lives. This lifestyle program will provide opportunities to create a healthier spirit, mind, and body, meet people in the same stage of life who want to be active and healthy. And participate in educational seminars, wellness sessions, monthly meetings, luncheons, day trips, overnight travel and so much more. Although the usual cost is \$25 per member or \$40 per member and spouse, it is NOW FREE until the end of the year. For more information contact: goldenopportunity@ochsner.org or visit Ochsner.org/go.

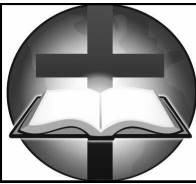
Happy Birthday

MIA	BOURGEOIS	11/8
DENNIS	JARRETT	11/8
MICHAEL	JARRETT	11/8
NAOMI	FACEY	11/8
KOREY	PATTY	11/8
FRANK	RICHARDSON	11/8
ELREN	WADDELL	11/8
EARL	WHITE	11/8
WENDY	GRAY	11/9
PAULETTE	BRADFORD	11/9
TAYLOR	WILLIAMS	11/9
RUSSELL	BALTAZAR	11/10
MATTHEW	LISTACH	11/10
ROSALIND	MORGAN	11/11
RAYON	SELLERS	11/11
ZARRIAN	WRIGHT	11/11
ZARRIUS	WRIGHT	11/11
JORDAIN	DUPLECHAIN	11/12
SKYLER	LEDOUX	11/13
BRITTANY	SMITH	11/13
SANDRA	CLAIBORNE	11/14
SAMUELLA	FRAZIER	11/14
KEYCHA	GIVENS	11/14
JASMINE	JOHNSON	11/14
CAMIEL	WILKINS	11/14



CHURCH BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to drive the church bus. Drivers will transport parishioners to and from the daily 12:10 Mass at the MLK Chapel (Mon. - Thurs.) from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. If you can help, please call Rogers Jackson at (225)362-0907.



Mass Readings

October 8th - October 15th

Sunday

Is 5:1-7; Psalm 80; Phil 4:6-9

Gospel: Mt 21:33-43

Monday

Jon 1:1-2; 1-2, 11; Jonah 2

Gospel: Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday

Jon 3:1-10; Psalm 130

Gospel Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday

Jon 4:1-11; Psalm 86

Gospel: Lk 11:1-4

Thursday

Mal 3:13-20b; Psalm 1

Gospel: Lk 11:5-13

Friday

Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Psalm 9

Gospel: Lk 11:15-26

Saturday

Joel 4:12-21; Psalm 97

Gospel: Lk 11:27-28

Sunday

Is 25:6-10a; Psalm 23; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Mt 22:1-14

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

