

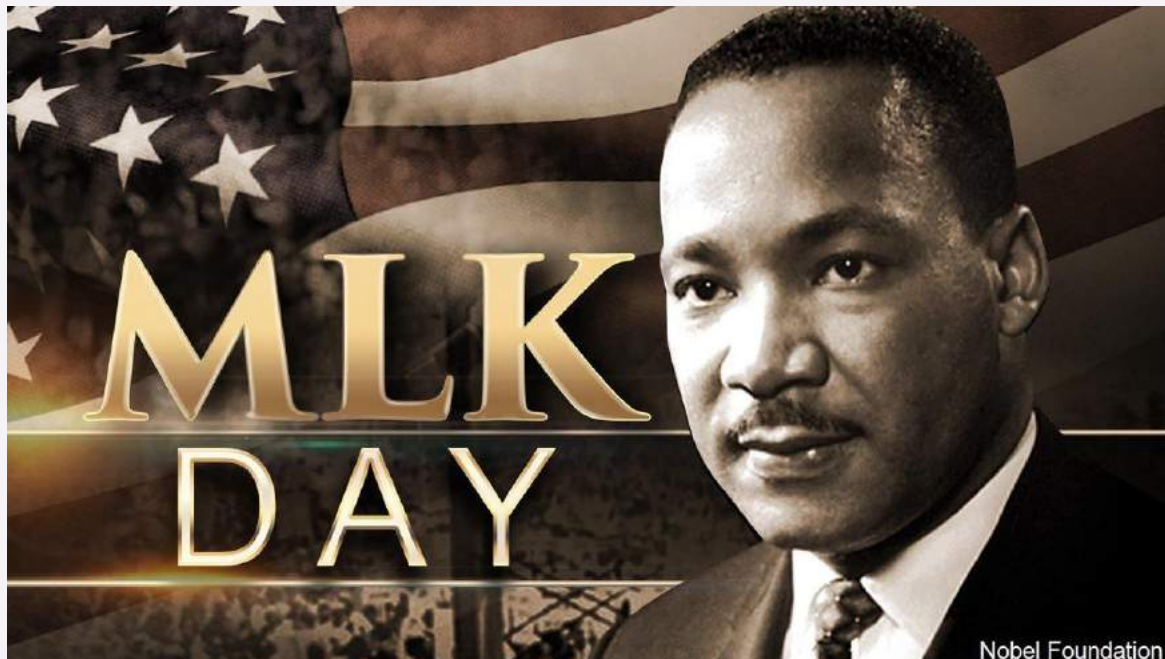


# Office for Black Catholics

## ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA



*Sharing the Good News*



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### *My Brothers & Sisters*

Happy New Year! Every January we pause to remember a great man who became the most visible spokesman and leader in the civil rights movement. He preached social justice and nonviolent methods of achieving social change. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream that one day, one's race would not matter and we would all be treated as equals. Unfortunately, almost 50 years later, that dream still hasn't come true. Nevertheless, we still have hope and we pray for equality. Equality is about ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents. It is also the belief that no one should have poorer life chances because of the way they were born, where they come from, what they believe, or whether they have a disability. Now that would be "Good News"!



James E Andrews, Director Office for Black Catholics

# REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE

Date: January 17, 2022

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Miraculous Medal Shrine  
500 East Cheltenham Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19144



People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other.

## Our Speakers:

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**MOST REVEREND  
NELSON J. PÉREZ, D.D.  
ARCHBISHOP**



**PASTOR  
DONALD D. MOORE  
MT. CARMEL BAPTIST**



**RABBI  
SUE LEVI ELWELL  
WASHINGTON  
HEBREW  
CONGREGATION**



**AMIR  
QASIM RASHAD  
UNITED MUSLIM  
MASJID**



Office for Black Catholics  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA





# **THE PHILADELPHIA CATHOLIC GOSPEL MASS CHOIR – A REASON TO SING**

## **BY TONYA TAYLOR-DORSEY, CHOIR DIRECTOR**

I am happy to report that the Philadelphia Catholic Gospel Mass Choir is back to singing, fully masked, with zero reports of anyone testing positive for Covid-19. We will continue all safety practices. The Philadelphia Catholic Gospel Mass Choir is accepting new voices; now is the time to join.

Not only does it feel good being back to singing, studies show that, “Music is powerful. It affects our brains, our bodies, and our social connections. And there’s no doubt that many people have relied on music to get through the pandemic.” That said, we will be singing in 2022, safely, and we have some exciting events to sing about. Here are three events:

On Monday, January 17, 2022, the choir will provide the music for the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Service.

On Saturday, February 26, 2022 SMDP the choir will provide the music for a Mass in Celebration of Black History Month with special guest priest, Father Anthony Bozeman, SSJ.

On Sunday, February 27, 2022, all singers associated with the Archdiocesan Choirs will be in concert, collectively, as one mass choir. This event, sponsored by the Archbishop’s Racial Healing Commission will show just how music can bring all cultures together for the purpose of honoring God.

The choir’s rehearsal dates are listed below; if you are interested in singing with the Philadelphia Catholic Gospel Mass Choir, simply attend the first rehearsal.

Unless otherwise indicated, all rehearsals take place at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Drexel Hall, with secure onsite parking: 1723 Race St. Philadelphia, PA

SEE YOU SOON!

### **REHEARSALS**

- Sunday, January 16, 2022, 1:30pm to 3:30pm, LOCATION: Miraculous Medal Shrine 500 E. Cheltenham Ave, Phila., PA 19144
- Tuesday, February 1, 6pm to 8pm (LOCATION: Cathedral)
- Tuesday, February 8, 6pm to 8pm (LOCATION: Cathedral)
- Sunday, February 13, 1:30pm to 3:30pm (LOCATION: Cathedral)
- Tuesday, February 15, 6pm to 8pm (LOCATION: Cathedral)
- Tuesday, February 22, 6pm to 8pm (LOCATION: Cathedral)

If you have any questions, call, text, or email, the choir secretary, Mr. Doug Stanford, (267)688.8337  
guardian6843257464@gmail.com





*We spread  
wisdom and the  
Gospel of Christ  
through  
education.*

**Please Register at:**

**worship@archphila.org**

Please include Name & Home Parish  
in email when registering  
Male & Female Servers Welcome

## **Altar Server Workshop**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2022  
9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.**

Learn how to assist the  
Celebrant in a Liturgical Service

CATHEDRAL CHAPEL  
18TH ST. & BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PKWY  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103



## *Congratulations*



**Please join the Office for Black Catholics in  
Congratulating Mr. Joshua Brooks on being  
accepted into the seminary. Mr. Brooks is  
an altar server at St. Martin de Porres  
Parish. He is currently a senior at Monsignor  
Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast Catholic  
High School. He will make a great  
contribution to St. Charles Borromeo  
Seminary.**

**May the Lord smile upon Joshua and be  
gracious to him!**





**colorectal  
cancer  
alliance**

**Tomorrow can't wait**

Colorectal cancer is on the rise in young people, and African Americans are at higher risk. That's why the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's office for Black Catholics is partnering with @ccalliance (@colorectalcanceralliance on Facebook and Instagram) to give you a free, personalized #CRC screening recommendation at [quiz.getscreened.org](https://quiz.getscreened.org). Most people have screening options! Go to the link above or call 877-422-2030 **TODAY!**



**Black History Month**

**Holy Eucharist Celebration**

**Saturday, February 26 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**St Martin de Porres Parish**

**2340 West Lehigh Ave.**

**Fr. Anthony D. Bozeman**

**Celebrant & Homilist**



## MONSIGNOR JOHN T. MITCHELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Monsignor John Mitchell Memorial Scholarship Fund supports Catholic African American students with exceptional academic ability who are in need of financial assistance. Scholarship(s) are awarded annually based upon the determination of the selection committee.

For this scholarship, students must be:

- Catholic and African American
- in good academic standing with at least a cumulative B average at the time of the scholarship award
- eligible for financial assistance as determined by a completed FACTS Grant and Aid application (online)
- committed to serving his/her community
- interested in or currently attending an AOPS high school

The 2022-23 Application is now available online.

The deadline to apply is **April 30, 2022**

**<https://aopcatholicschools.org/financial-aid/>**



### MEN OF FAITH

### Retreat



**02 / 19 / 2022**



**MASS @ 9 A.M.**

**Discussion & Sharing**

**LUNCH**

**ST. MARTIN DE PORRES  
2340 WEST LEHIGH AVE**

Everyone is welcome • Free entry  
Please register at:  
[jandrews@archphila.org](mailto:jandrews@archphila.org)

# HOW DO I ANSWER THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS ?

by Fr. Addisalem Mekonnen

Everyone is called to holiness; to bear witness to Jesus Christ with our whole being through our daily words and actions. The Holy Spirit guides us to mature in our faith and love for Jesus with our Lady who is 'Mediatrix of All Graces.' There are many spiritualities that help Christians become fully mature in Christ. St. Louis de Montfort's **"True Devotion to Mary"** is a spirituality in which one learns to have an intimate relationship with the Blessed Mother and the Cross of Christ, living out in practical ways our baptismal promises.

Holiness is a pilgrimage toward heaven. Just as the Israelites journeyed towards the Promised Land, we follow our Lord to Calvary and then onward toward the empty tomb. This pilgrimage is truly a family affair because it gathers us together as one family so we may constantly encounter Jesus through the Sacraments and through each other.

Holiness is having an intimate relationship based on the sacrificial love of the Blessed Trinity which we can imitate because we are relational beings. Holy Scriptures especially the Gospels reveal that this sacrificial love, imitated by surrounding our will to His, is pleasing to God.

In St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori's book **"Uniformity with God's Will"** he wrote: "Perfection is founded entirely on the love of God: 'Charity is the bond of perfection;' and perfect love of God means the complete union of our will with God's."

St Francis de Sales in **"Introduction to the Devout Life"** explains how everyone is called to holiness and that doing the will of our Father within the context of our particular vocation is life itself. The Will of the Father is to be faithful to our duties in life within our particular vocation. The Legion of Mary is a lay organization that helps the laity serve Jesus through the spirit of Mary in everyone we meet.

I love the Legion of Mary because it is based upon St Louis de Montfort's spirituality through which I heard the call to the priesthood. The Legion of Mary has greatly helped me grow in my maturity as a Catholic and has added significantly to my seminary formation. It has been truly a miracle of God. The Legion of Mary is a "lay apostolic association of Catholics who, with the sanction of the Church and under the powerful leadership of Mary Immaculate, we serve the Church through our neighbors on a voluntary basis in about 170 countries." The mission of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members by a formation of prayer and active cooperation in Mary's and the Church's work. The unit of the Legion of Mary is called a Praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is integrated with reports and discussions. Persons who wish to join the Legion must apply for membership in a Praesidium. The Legion perceives as its main concerns the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish. Every legionary is required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary.

The Legion of Mary is active in many parishes throughout the Archdiocese and beyond. If you want additional information, contact

**Fr. Addisalem Mekonnen at [fathermekonnen@gmail.com](mailto:fathermekonnen@gmail.com)**



# Knights of Peter Claver

## WHO WE ARE

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary is the largest and oldest continually existent, predominantly African-American lay Catholic organization.

Founded more than 100 years ago, it was formed to provide opportunities for Catholic Action to men of color to be actively involved in their faith by living the Gospel message. The Knights of Peter Claver membership now includes the entire family and offers opportunities to engage in a variety of church and community service projects, and support national and international charitable appeals.

By continuing the work of our patron saint, Father Peter Claver, members are led to deeper spirituality and a greater sense of purpose for their parish and community. The volunteer-powered Knights, Ladies and Juniors aim to provide support to the local community through service work and charitable endeavors.



## THE ORDER

Founded November 7, 1909, the Knights of Peter Claver delivered spiritual direction and fellowship at a time when the black populace was growing in the Catholic Church, yet struggling for acceptance. Four Josephite fathers and three laymen founded the Knights of Peter Claver in Mobile, Alabama and, at the time, the group was termed "the most important movement for colored Catholics that has taken place for many a day."

Soon after the organization's founding, the Knights became a more inclusive group with the establishment of a Junior Knights program in 1917. Women then joined the group, beginning with the Ladies Auxiliary in 1922 and the Junior Daughters in 1930.

Headquartered in New Orleans, the Knights of Peter Claver currently has units — Councils (men), Courts (women), as well as Junior Branches and Courts (youth boys and girls) operating in Archdioceses and Dioceses across the United States and on San Andres Island in Colombia, South America.



## OUR GOALS

- To be ardent supporters of local parishes and to the Church Hierarchy
- To foster vocations and promote the goals of the Catholic Church
- To promote social justice and the sanctity of all human life
- To support parish and community activities
- To encourage lay apostolic and Catholic action
- To provide charitable support to worthwhile causes
- To award scholarships and support education
- To develop youth in a positive, nurturing environment
- To provide social and intellectual fellowship for our membership





The logo for the Amen app, featuring the word "Amen" in a stylized, golden-yellow font with a slight shadow effect, set against a solid dark blue rectangular background.

Amen

Daily Mass Readings: Enjoy listening to daily Gospel readings from the RSV-2CE Bible; praying alongside Old and New Testament passages; and meditating through guided Lectio Divina.

The Amen app is the free Catholic prayer app that inspires your daily conversation with God through faithful meditations and nourishing Scripture. Please enjoy this latest offering from the Augustine Institute.

Free prayer app available for iOS and Android devices that can be downloaded on the App Store and Google Play Store



#### **SPIRITUAL READING**

**AS HE WALKED BY THE SEA OF GALILEE, HE SAW TWO BROTHERS, SIMON WHO IS CALLED PETER AND ANDREW HIS BROTHER, CASTING A NET INTO THE SEA; FOR THEY WERE FISHERMEN. AND HE SAID TO THEM, "FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN." IMMEDIATELY THEY LEFT THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM.**

**MATTHEW 4:18-20**

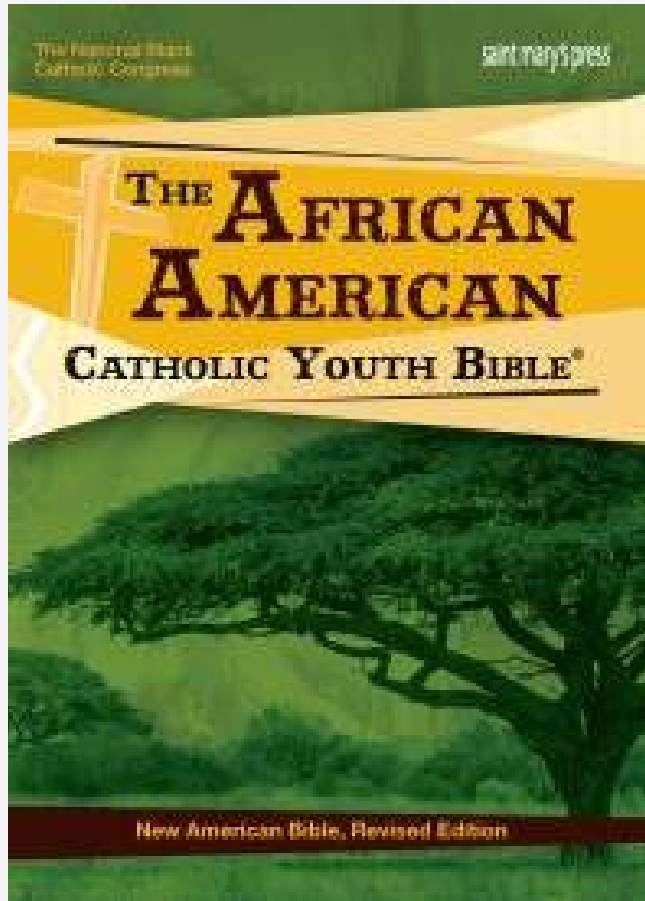


## **THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC YOUTH BIBLE®**

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AVAILABLE IN E-BOOK FORMAT!  
THE COST FOR THIS WONDERFUL  
BIBLE IS \$21.99**



**<https://www.smp.org/product/4146INT/>**



**HOW MANY BOOKS ARE IN THE BIBLE? ALTHOUGH THE WORD BIBLE MEANS "BOOK," THE BIBLE IS ACTUALLY A LIBRARY OF BOOKS GATHERED TOGETHER INTO ONE SACRED VOLUME. THE BIBLE CONSISTS OF 73 BOOKS — 46 IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND 27 IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. AS YOU MAY KNOW, PROTESTANT BIBLES ONLY INCLUDE 39 OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS.**

**WHAT IS THEOLOGY? THEOLOGY IS THE SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF THE NATURE OF THE DIVINE AND, MORE BROADLY, OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF. IT IS TAUGHT AS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE, TYPICALLY IN UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES.**

**WHAT LANGUAGE WAS THE NEW TESTAMENT ORIGINALLY WRITTEN? THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN HEBREW AND THE NEW TESTAMENT IN GREEK.**

**WHAT IS THE SHORTEST BOOK OF THE BIBLE? 2 JOHN IS THE SHORTEST BOOK IN THE BIBLE BY VERSE COUNT WITH ONLY 13 VERSES.**

**WHO CUT SAMSON'S HAIR? A SERVANT - THE STORY OF SAMSON AND DELILAH IS FOUND IN JUDGES 16. EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DELILAH'S IDEA TO CUT SAMSON'S HAIR, SHE HAD A MALE SERVANT SHAVE SAMSON'S HEAD.**





**January 17** - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Interfaith Prayer Service 6 p.m. Miraculous Medal Shriner

**February 12** - Altar Servers Workshop Cathedral Chapel

**February 19** - Men's Retreat starts with 9:00 a.m. Mass  
St. Martin de Porres Parish 24th & Lehigh Ave

**February 26** - Black History Month Mass 10:00 a.m. St. Martin de  
Porres Church

**March 2** - the first day of Lent (details on Lenten Bible Camp TBD)

Please share this newsletter with others. If you know  
someone who would like to be added to our database  
have them to text the word "**Black**" to **84576**.

**The Office for Black Catholics serves African American Catholics within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in collaboration with local parishes to evangelize and celebrate the contributions of the Black Catholic community. The Office of Black Catholics is committed to evangelization and building a faith community that is truly Black, authentically Catholic, and an integral part of the Universal Church.**