

# *Immaculate Conception / St. Bridget's Church*

*A Roman Catholic Community of African American Tradition*

*"We've Come This Far By Faith"*



445 Frederick Douglass Street, Rochester, NY 14608  
(585) 325-3893 ~ (585) 325-2082 Fax  
[www.immaculateconceptionrochester.org](http://www.immaculateconceptionrochester.org)  
[rillacul@dor.org](mailto:rillacul@dor.org)

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
8:30 am — 4:00 pm

## Parish Staff

Pastor	Rev. Raymond Fleming <a href="mailto:fr.ray.fleming@dor.org">fr.ray.fleming@dor.org</a>
Assisting Priest	Rev. Robert Bradler
Deacon	Richard Rall
Religious Education Coordinators	Myrtle Fontenette <a href="mailto:myrtle.fontenette@dor.org">myrtle.fontenette@dor.org</a> Harry Pierre-Philippe <a href="mailto:harry.pierre-philippe@dor.org">harry.pierre-philippe@dor.org</a>
Director of Finance & Administration	Carol Wynne <a href="mailto:carol.wynne@dor.org">carol.wynne@dor.org</a>
Regional Business Manager	Mark Shevlin <a href="mailto:mark.shevlin@dor.org">mark.shevlin@dor.org</a>
Parish Secretary	Tracy Jordan <a href="mailto:tracy.jordan@dor.org">tracy.jordan@dor.org</a>

**Pastoral Council Chair** Chib Onwunaka

**Finance Council Chair** William Castle

**Mission Statement:** The Parish of Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's is a Roman Catholic faith community whose worship reflects and celebrates the cultural gifts and diversity of its members. We welcome all believers to worship God, love one another, evangelize the good news of Jesus Christ and serve those in need.

*February 21, 2021*

*First Sunday of Lent*



*If we go into the desert with Jesus this Lent, his grace will move us forward in our life of faith.*

*Lent isn't an end unto itself; we go into the desert with Jesus in order to advance in holiness and in our spiritual life. All the blessings and trails in our lives are not closed events. They're precursors to more: greater trust in God, deeper union with him, and a greater sense of our mission to proclaim the kingdom of God.*

*We worship every Sunday at 10 am*

**Holy Days:** Consult bulletin or call church office.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** By Appointment.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Pre-Cana is a Diocesan Requirement. Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

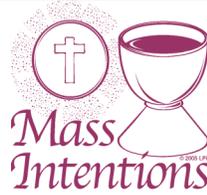
**Baptism:** Please call the church office to make arrangements.

**Catechumenate:** Adults interested in joining the Roman Catholic Church, please call the parish office.

**Sunday, February 21, 2021**

**Tallam Nguti**

**Requested by the Nguti Family**



**Offerings for February 14, 2021**

**Offerings: \$1,531      Online Giving: \$440**

**Attendance: 42**

**Thank you for your generous support.**



*Please pray for the sick of the parish and for family and friends of parishioners: Earl & Phyllis Barnes, Julie Coe, Fr. Giles Conwill, Sarah Gordon, Denise McGowan, Alice Walters*



## **BIBLE STUDY CORNER**

*God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations. I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*

*Genesis 9:12-13*

**Reflection:** God takes the initiative to enter into a covenant with humanity, with every living creature, and with the earth. In this covenant, God promises to be faithful to us, love us, watch over us, and care for us. In this covenant, we promise to be faithful, loving partners with God. The covenant simply reminds us that we are always in relationship with God, each other, and the earth.

We break covenant when we ignore our relationship with God and try to make progress in life without acknowledging God as the source and foundation of our lives. We break covenant when we refuse to love our brothers and sisters and show compassion to those who are poor, oppressed, suffering, and in pain. We break covenant when we exploit the resources of the earth to satisfy our greedy tendencies, pollute the air and water, and destroy the environment.

It is time to take another look at the covenant we have with God, with humanity, and with the earth. It is time for us to recommit as an individual and a community to spending quality time with God in prayer and meditation, to being more compassionate to the needs and concerns of others, and to being more attentive to the ways we use the earth and its resources.

**Ponder:** What does it mean to live a covenantal life?

**Prayer:** Lord, strengthen my resolve to be faithful to your covenant of love and be more compassionate and generous toward all people.

**Practice:** Today I will pray for understanding; I will fast from selfishness and self-centeredness; I will spend time doing community service and advocating for care for creation.

## **Bible Readings for Sunday, February 21, 2021**

*Genesis 9:8-15*

*1 Peter 3:18-22*

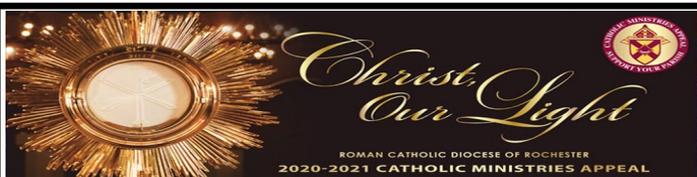
*Mark 1:12-15*

## **Bible Readings for Sunday, February 28, 2021**

*Genesis 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18*

*Romans 8:31b-34*

*Mark 9:2-10*



**Parish Goal: \$9,910**  
**We've Surpassed our CMA Goal!**

Congratulations and thank you! As of this date, we have raised \$9,955 (100.457% of our goal) with 30 families contributing to the CMA. We thank everyone who responded to Father Ray's rally and our year-end appeal. It is not too late to join the effort - 50¢ of every dollar raised over our goal will come back to our parish in a check. Please contact George Fontenette or Colleen Brade ([Colleen.Brade@dor.org](mailto:Colleen.Brade@dor.org)) if you would like to make your pledge today.

## **February Birthdays**

**Jaidi Bouphavong, Rosalie Bouphavong,  
Jonathan Dingwall, Andre Fontenette,  
Leslie Pierre-Philippe, Bing Reaves,  
Lily Tatum, Gail Whitcraft**



**Bessie Coleman**—Despite being the first licensed Black pilot in the world, Coleman wasn't recognized as a pioneer in aviation until after her death. Though history has favored Amelia Earhart or the Wright brothers, Coleman—who went to flight school in France in 1919—paved the way for a new generation of diverse fliers like the Tuskegee airmen, Blackbirds, and Flying Hobos.



### Amaza Lee Meredith (1895-1984)

This week we highlight the life and legacy of VSU Alumna Amaza Lee Meredith (1895-1984), one of the nation's first documented African-American female architects, who designed

and built [Azurest South](#), the official Virginia State University Alumni Association House/Office.

Amaza was born in Lynchburg, VA on August 14, 1895. She was the eldest daughter of Emma P. Kenney and Samuel P. Meredith, a respected carpenter. Because her father was white and her mother black, Amaza's parents could not be legally married in Virginia. The two traveled to Washington, DC, in racially segregated railroad cars to tie the knot. But Samuel Meredith lost much of his business as a result of the controversial marriage and took his life in 1915. Despite this family tragedy, Amaza graduated from high school the same year at the top of her class, and enrolled at the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute, now Virginia State University.

After college, Amaza taught in Botetourt County and then moved to Brooklyn, New York in 1926 and enrolled in the Teacher's College of Columbia University, New York where she majored in fine arts. There she received a bachelor's degree with honors in 1930 and a master's degree in 1934. Amaza soon returned to Virginia State to teach art and was appointed chair of the Art Department a year later, where she remained until her retirement in 1958. She is credited for establishing Virginia State's School of Fine Arts Department.

Beyond her career at Virginia State, Amaza's life was also rich in contributions. Her artistic self spilled over into many other facets of her life. For example, she exhibited her art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and in galleries in New York and North Carolina. Some works were acquired by groups, such as the Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA, where they are still displayed; while many others hang in the homes of area residents. Amaza also developed interior decorating and design skills and in the field of business coordinated color schemes for campus buildings. She also pursued architectural interests, though she had no known formal architectural training.

In 1939, Amaza completed her own home, which she fully designed and built adjacent to the campus of Virginia State. Her home, which she named "Azurest South," was considered to be "one of the most advanced residential designs in the state in its day" and a bold investigation of the International Style, a style that espoused a complete break with architectural traditions.

### Amaza Lee Meredith Cont.

Though Amaza was never a registered architect, in her time, she was one of only a handful of black architects in practice and one of the nation's few female black architects. In the ensuing decades, Amaza enjoyed a limited architectural career designing for friends and family in Virginia, Texas, and Sag Harbor, a Long Island (NY) resort for wealthy whites, including the Roosevelt family, where she and her sister, Maude Kenney Meredith Terry, worked together to create an enclave of vacation homes for middle-class blacks they named "Azurest North." They worked with others to establish the "Azurest Syndicate, Inc." where lots were sold to individual investors, who built summer, or year-round cottages on the land.

Amaza was also an active member of the Virginia State University Alumni Association. In 1943, she was one of the architects of the first "Capital Campaign" for the Association, with the goal to build an Alumni House. In 1949, she provided several sets of blueprints for the proposed Alumni House however, plans fell through by 1962. Undaunted, Ms. Meredith tried another approach: she willed half of Azurest South to the Alumni Association in the hopes that the dream for which she had worked so long would become a reality following her death in 1984. The Association purchased the remaining interest in the property from the estate of Dr. Edna Colson, another retired University faculty member and joint owner of Azurest South, following her death in 1986. This marked Azurest South as the official "Alumni House" for the Association, making Ms. Meredith's dream a reality.

*"If you judge people,  
you have no time to love them."*

*~Mother Teresa*

### Black History Month Events

**FEBRUARY 21 | 7 PM EST**

**"THE BLACK CHURCH: This is our Story, This is our Song"** Film Screening on PBS – register at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DS6P6ovsT\\_m\\_utl\\_xrHXpQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DS6P6ovsT_m_utl_xrHXpQ)

**FEBRUARY 21 | 3-5 PM EST**

For Young Adults Ages 18-39 years old

**Journeying Together African American Catholic Young Adult Gathering** hosted by the African American family, sponsored by the USCCB. Register at <https://forms.gle/stN3W2pWYujgS2fJ9>

**FEBRUARY 24 | 8 PM EST**

**"What Can the Church Do about Racism"** presented by Gloria Purvis – [www.sulc.edu/racialhealin](http://www.sulc.edu/racialhealin)

**FEBRUARY 27 | 4:00 PM EST**

**"Sharing our Story: An Enduring Faith"**  
[www.eventbrite.com/e/134671105903](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/134671105903)

*If you are interested in advertising or including a Memorial*

*Please call the Parish Office – 325-3893*

<p><b>St. Joseph's House of Hospitality</b> A Rochester, NY Catholic Worker Community 402 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607 585-232-3262</p>	<p><b>BUCKMAN'S PLAZA</b> 2590 W. Ridge Road, Rochester  Visit our many stores including City Mattress, Visionworks, Pino's Deli, Megan Nail Spa, Red Cross, Hair Finale Morgan School of Driving, Orville's Appliances and many more.</p>	
<p><b>CORN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION</b> 133 S. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14608 www.cornill.org</p>	<p><b>Mileage Master Center of Rochester</b> 2488 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester, NY 14625 585-586-1870 <i>The perfect place for all of your grilling needs</i></p>	<p><b>TOM ZUBERT, REALTOR</b> RE/MAX REALTY GROUP 585-721-1313 zubert.tom@gmail.com (ICS Graduate)</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of the <b>QUAMINA &amp; HARPER FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of My Wife <b>ILONA WHITE</b> <i>Alphonse White</i></p>	<p><b>Skips on the Ridge</b> 640 West Ridge Road Rochester, NY 14615 585-865-3896</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>HENRY FAISON JR.</b> <i>Love your Mom, George, Adrian, Andre</i></p>	<p>Prayerful Remembrance of the Gordons <b>ARTHUR, SARAH, PEGGY, BUD, BOB, NANCY, GARY</b> <i>Blessings Bill &amp; Family</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JOE HAUSER</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>DR. NATHANIEL HURST</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>DAVID MILES</b> <i>Love your Wife &amp; Children</i></p>	<p>In Prayerful Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the <b>CULLEN &amp; CORRAL FAMILIES</b></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES STOKES</b> <i>The Stokes Family</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES WALTERS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JEFFREY WALTERS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>DOUGLAS SIMMONS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>ADA FULLWOOD</b> <i>The Augustine/Fullwood Families</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>RITA VIOLET AUGUSTINE</b> <i>The Augustine Family</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>CREÓLE MON'AE FONTENETTE</b> <i>Love your Grandparents</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JOSEPH RONALD WEBER</b> <i>Roxana C. Weber</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>HENRY BELL SR. &amp; DONALD GORDON</b> <i>The Bell/Gordon Families</i></p>
<p>For all the Deceased Families, Friends &amp; Parishioners of Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church <i>Love Rose Stokes</i></p>	<p><b>SPACE AVAILABLE</b></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>MARY JACKSON</b> <i>Thomas &amp; Nellie Bostick</i></p>