

## OLQP MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church is dedicated to witnessing the teachings of Jesus Christ, especially the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25:31-46. Our mission is to nurture the spirit and to encourage the potential of those we serve through liturgical celebration, educational endeavors and social ministries. The parish will continue to identify with its origin as a Black parish. As a multi-ethnic congregation we will seek to promote racial harmony and social justice. While our primary focus is within the immediate community, we will also work to provide for the well-being of the downtrodden everywhere. In this we strive for our parish community to be a caring, sharing, and loving family.



# OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 8, 2026

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Welcome to OLQP Catholic Church!**

**¡Bienvenidos a OLQP iglesia católica!**

**Contact / Contacto:**

**2700 19th St S, Arlington VA 22204**

**703-979-5580, office@olqpva.org**

**Office Hours**

**Horas de oficina**

**Monday-Friday — 8:30am to 4:30pm**

**Lunes a viernes — 8:30am a 4:30pm**

**Website / sitioweb:**

**www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org**

**Live Stream Mass Schedule:**

**Horario de Misas de transmisión en directo:**

February 7-8 5:30pm and 1pm in Spanish

7-8 febrero 5:30pm y 1pm en español

**MASSES / MISAS:**

Weekdays / *Días laborables:*

Mon-Fri. 12pm / *lunes a viernes 12pm*

Weekend Mass Schedule /

*Horario de Misas de fin de semana:*

**Saturday Vigil — 5:30pm**

*Misa de vigilia sábados - 5:30 pm*

**Sundays — 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am,  
1:00pm (Spanish) & 6:00pm (Young Adult)**

*Domingos — 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am,  
1:00 pm (español) y 6:00 pm (Misa de  
jóvenes adultos)*

### DECLARACIÓN DE MISIÓN DE OLQP

La parroquia de la iglesia católica Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz se dedica a dar testimonio de las enseñanzas de Jesucristo, especialmente el Evangelio de San Mateo, Capítulo 25:31-46. Nuestra misión es nutrir el espíritu y alentar el potencial de aquellos a quienes servimos a través de la celebración litúrgica, labores educativas y ministerios sociales. La parroquia continuará identificándose con su origen como una comunidad afro-americana, pero reflejando una congregación multi-étnica y continuará promoviendo la armonía racial y la justicia social. Si bien es cierto que nuestro enfoque principal es la vecindad comunitaria, continuaremos trabajando para proveer por el bienestar de los más necesitados en general. Es así como nos esforzamos para hacer de nuestra comunidad parroquial una familia que comparte y se preocupa por sus miembros.

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES AND SERVICES FEBRUARY 18

Outdoor Prayer Service with

Distribution of Ashes:

8:00am and 5:00pm

Mass with Distribution of Ashes:

12noon

Bilingual Mass with Distribution

of Ashes: 7:00pm

Prayer Service with Distribution

of Ashes: 9:00pm

*(Services outdoors only if weather  
permit; otherwise, in church.)*



### MIÉRCOLES DE CENIZA MISAS Y SERVICIOS 18 de febrero

Servicio de oración al aire libre con  
distribución de las cenizas:

8:00am y 5:00pm

Misa con distribución de las cenizas:

12 del mediodía

Misa bilingüe con distribución de las

cenizas: 7:00pm

Servicio de oración con distribución de  
las cenizas: 9:00pm

*(El servicio al aire libre tendrá  
lugar en la iglesia si hay mal tiempo.)*

**“Your light must shine  
before others.”**

*Matthew 5:16*



**Que de igual manera brille la  
luz de ustedes ante los hombres.**

*Mateo 15,16*

**Iglesia Católica Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz**

**8 de febrero de 2026**

**Quinto domingo en el tiempo ordinario**

## A Consistent Ethic of Life Catholic Community

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION / PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL

#### **Baptism / Bautizo:**

Please email Baptism Coordinator Mary Ann Suhocki, baptism@olqpva.org.  
Por favor mande un correo electrónico a la coordinadora de los bautizos, Mary Ann Suhocki, baptism@olqpva.org.

#### **Marriage Preparation/ Preparación para el matrimonio:**

Please contact the parish office at least six months before your wedding date to complete requirements.  
Por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia seis meses antes de su matrimonio para completar todos los requisitos.

#### **Reconciliation / Reconciliación—Confesión:**

Fr. Ray Hall Library  
*Biblioteca Fr. Ray Hall*  
Sat, 4:45-5:15 pm & by appointment.  
Los sábados: 4:45-5:15 pm, y por cita previa.

### SUNDAY COLLECTIONS / COLECTAS DEL DOMINGO

Sunday Collections / Colectas del domingo: \$10,882  
Arlington Catholic Herald / Periódico Diocesano Herald: \$1,151  
ParishSoft Giving - weekly avg.: \$15,099

#### Word & Eucharist Missalette/ Misal Palabra y Eucaristía

Today's readings can be found on page 304  
Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 305

### BULLETIN DEADLINE / PLAZO PARA EL BOLETÍN

Wednesday 9am — office@olqpva.org

### OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND STRENGTHEN US /

### NUESTROS ENFERMOS Y CONFINADOS NOS FORTALECEN

**PLEASE PRAY FOR / POR FAVOR OREMOS POR:** Christiana Achebe, Suri Barahona, Grace Bialecki, Cindy Bianga, Francis Bilgera, Joseph Leopold Bissonnette, Precious Bowens, April Brassard, Dave Brassard, Evie Brown, Lynne Burgh, Chris Bruns, Mary Callow, Brody Carroll, Louise Chambers, Fred Clarke, Carmen Rosa Claire, Chris Comer, Jeff Cory, Adele Crump, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Donna Davis, Jim Davis, Adrienne DiCerbo, Calista Downey, Tim Felker, Elizabeth (Bunny) Foster, Yvette Francois, Anne Fullerton, Joseph Funk, Iva Futrell, Judy Francia-Reyes, Trishann Ganley, Francine Gemmill, Fred Gladbach, Jo Marie Griesgraber, Melanie Guitreaux, Joe Harrington, Harris Family, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Pamela Hoeft, Jan Hyland, Patrick Hynes, Pat Johnson, Sharon Jourdan, William Kahl, Gus Karns, Janie J. Key, Ruth Klarman, Carmen Andrea Lara, Alexa LaRue, Patrick Lawrey, John Lawyer, Linda Lipari, Lidia Montero Lopez, Olga MacKenzie, Wil McBride, Stefan McGuigan, Martha Gladys Medina, Maria Magdalena Medrano de Ventura, Dick Melia, Eileen Melia, Frances Mierzwa, Arthur Miller, Mary Miller, Betty Mills, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Rosemary Morrisey, Luis R. Muñoz, Zoe A. Muñoz, Chelsea Murray, Connie Murray, Paul Murray, Dorothy Myrtle, Mario Amel Najarro, Karen Newman, Stephen Nutter, Julie O'Brien, Peggy O'Brien, Patrick Ogden, Carol Pacello, Roy Paco, Neil Parent, Catherine Parr, Mary Pasquarella, Mark Pazich, Minnie Pazich, Hazel Pulliam, Paul Ramirez, Santos Ramirez, Jacob and Jaxson Rivera, Maritza Roldan, Marco Cristiaan Rufolo-Roger, Josefina Salgado, Carolyn Santos, Jane Shepard, Donna Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Lora Smolenski, Suzie Snedgen Warner, Eva Souza, Grace Starbird, George Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Nancy Urquizo, Alma Reyes Valentin, Carina Vaquez, Robin Vogel, Robert & Maureen Wallace, Jim Webster, Al Williams, Kate Witkowski, Lauren Wolfe, Mary Woods

### **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **QUINTO DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

Isaiah 58:7-10 (73A); 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16  
Isaías 58,7-10 (73A); 1 Corintios 2,1-5; Mateo 5,13-16

### **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **SEXTO DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

Sirach 15:15-20 (76A); 1 Corinthians 2:6-10;  
Matthew 5:17-37 or Matthew 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37  
Sirácides 15,15-20 (76A); 1 Corintios 2,6-10;  
Mateo 5,17-37 o Mateo 5,20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

### **MASS INTENTIONS, FEBRUARY 7-13**

#### **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS, 7-13 FEBRERO**

#### **QUINTO DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

##### **Saturday, February 7th**

5:30 pm Jason Thomas Jenkins & Delores Newton (D) by Jenkins family

##### **Sunday, February 8th**

8:00 am Nancy & Glenn Hettterscheidt (D) by John & Nikki Clifford

9:30 am Dan Wilson (D) by the Moran family

11:15 am Alice Hunt Francia (D) by Judy Francia-Reyes

1:00 pm Aurelio & Isabel Bravo (Anniversary) (D) by María Teresa Laguna

6:00 pm For The Parish

##### **Monday, February 9th**

12:00 pm Mary J. & James Kearney (Anniversary) (D)  
by Francesca "Fran" Kearney

##### **Tuesday, February 10th**

12:00 pm Hilda Mmkika (D) by Donatus Fondzeyuf Bamjo

##### **Wednesday, February 11th**

12:00 pm CC Jenkins (D) by the Lovo family

##### **Thursday, February 12th**

12:00 pm John Christensen (D) by Allison Shely

##### **Friday, February 13th**

12:00 pm Christensen Family (Special Intention) (D) by Allison Shely

### OLQP PARISH STAFF / PERSONAL DE LA PARROQUIA

*Pastor / Párroco:* **Fr. Tim Hickey, CSSp**, thickey@olqpva.org

*Parochial Vicar / Párroco Asociado:* **Fr. Martin Vu, CSSp**,  
mvu@olqpva.org

*Parochial Vicar / Párroco Asociado:* **Fr. Pontien Kenfack, CSSp**,  
pkenfack@olqpva.org

*Deacon / Diácono:* **Dcn. Tony Remedios**, tremedios@olqpva.org

#### Parish Office / Oficina parroquial

*Business Manager / Gerente de Negocios:* **Christina Kozyn**,  
ckozyn@olqpva.org

*Social Justice & Outreach Minister / Ministro de Justicia Social y  
Acercamiento (bilingüe):* **Sally Díaz-Wells**, sdiazwells@olqpva.org  
*Youth & Young Adult Minister / Ministro de Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adul-  
tos:* **Rebecca Grant Jenkins**, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org

*Faith Formation Director / Director de Formación de Fe (bilingüe):*

**Cecilia López Oetgen**, clopez@olqpva.org

*Faith Formation Assistant:* **Carly Onopa**, conopa@olqpva.org

*Office Manager (bilingüe):* **Ligia Loza**, lloza@olqpva.org

*Administrative Support:*

**Jeannette Gantz Daly**, jgantzdaly@olqpva.org

**Mike Leahy**, mleahy@olqpva.org

*Maintenance Department Support (bilingüe):*

**Mel Cabrera**, mlvncabrera@gmail.com

**Michael Hill**, mgdvet53155@yahoo.com

**Zulema Ramallo and Henry Nguyen**

## JUST A THOUGHT... or two...

In the first reading the prophet Isiah proclaims: "Thus says the Lord: share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless."

Psalms 112 says that the just person is a light in the darkness!

In the Gospel, Jesus challenges his disciples to let their light shine, to be like beacons lighting a city on a hillside! And by allowing their light to shine they will lead others to see their good deeds and thus see the glory of God. So, through doing good we both give glory to God and show forth the glory of God to others.

Jesus also uses the metaphor of salt for the lives of the disciples and challenges them to be sure to not let their lives "lose their flavor" and become tasteless. It is interesting to note that in the ancient world, a world without refrigeration, salt was the only way to preserve fish and meat.

Just as light is essential for life to exist, so too salt was crucial for human survival! So, comparing the disciple's lives to salt had multiple layers of understanding and significance.

What is clear is that Jesus is calling the disciples to be on guard to make sure that the manner in which they live their lives "shine" with the "light of the Gospel values," that their lives were to be lived in such a manner that they have the "flavor of the Gospel."

So, we too, as disciples of Jesus, are called to the same, to let our lives "shine" and to be sure that our lives "taste" of the values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As is so often said, the call to discipleship is no easy call; it is

difficult and challenging. But we do not respond alone because by virtue of our Baptism we are strengthened by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and by the community of believers.

It is this Spirit, the Spirit of God, living within each one of us, that emboldens us and impels us to go forth into the darkness and chaos of our world and to let our light shine, to share our bread with the hungry and to shelter the homeless, the oppressed, the immigrant and refugee.

Filled with the holy Spirit, let us to stand up and call out systemic racism *in all its forms* and in all the places it dwells and creates and allows for violence against the lives and bodies of our black and brown sisters and brothers, against our immigrant and refugee sisters and brothers! And may we all fight to create freedom from violence and poverty, let us raise our voices together, that all may live like children of the Light!

As I have asked for in the past, please write to Congress, both Republicans and Democrats. As American citizens, they are "OUR" federal legislative body and we all have a right to make our voices heard as they legislate and make laws and as they fail to legislate and make laws! We must call for fair and just immigration reform and an immediate end to the cruel and brutal ICE actions against our immigrant sisters and brothers.

As his disciples, Jesus Christ has called us to welcome the stranger, to house the homeless, to feed the hungry and to love our neighbor as ourselves. These were not suggestions but rather the hallmarks of how we, as his disciples, are to live our lives!

May the peace and light of the Risen Christ be upon you all!

Fr. Tim

### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Evening and weekend activities (except scheduled Masses): OLQP follows the decision of Arlington Public Schools for cancellation of evening and weekend activities. Those traveling outside the local school district should use their best judgment. For the most up-to-date information for Arlington Public Schools, please call 1-866-322-4277 or visit:

[www.apsva.us/post/inclement-weather-announcements/Parish Office Staff and Weekday Activities](http://www.apsva.us/post/inclement-weather-announcements/Parish%20Office%20Staff%20and%20Weekday%20Activities), 8:30am-4:30pm: Office and weekday activities follow the decision of the Federal Government. Tune in to your local radio and tv stations for updated information or visit:

[www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/](http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/)

Masses: The decision to cancel Masses within the Diocese of Arlington is made by Bishop Burbidge and broadcast on local radio and tv stations.

*To the extent it's possible, notice will be placed on the parish website and recorded on the phone message. Please use your best judgement when traveling outside the immediate area.*

### NORMAS ANTE LA INCLEMENCIA DEL CLIMA

Las actividades nocturnas y de fin de semana (con excepción de las misas programadas): OLQP sigue la decisión de las Escuelas Públicas de Arlington para la cancelación de actividades nocturnas y de fin de semana. Las personas que estuvieran fuera del sistema escolar local deben utilizar su mejor juicio. Para obtener la información más actualizada sobre las Escuelas Públicas de Arlington, por favor llame al 1-866-322-4277.


Personal de la Oficina Parroquial: las actividades de la Oficina y del día siguen la decisión del Gobierno Federal. Sintonice las emisoras de radio y televisión locales para obtener información actualizada.

Misas: La decisión de cancelar las misas dentro de la Diócesis de Arlington es hecha por el obispo Burbidge y transmitida por las estaciones de radio y televisión locales. En la medida de lo posible, el aviso será colocado en el sitio web de la parroquia y en el mensaje telefónico.

## 2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Please watch for your 2025 contribution statement in the mail. Statements detailing your 2025 donations have been mailed. Please note: USPS service in our area has been sporadic so please be patient; however, if you have not received your statement by the second week in February please email or call Christina, [ckozy@olqpva.org](mailto:ckozy@olqpva.org), 703-979-5580, to have a copy emailed or resent. Thank you.

## YOUTH MINISTRY:

- **CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP** is scheduled for July 19 - 24, 2026, for rising 8th - 12th graders. There will be a Zoom information meeting, Sunday, February 8th, at 4:00pm. To join the meeting, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQVACHWC2027>. Applications are now open: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVACHWC2026>. Please see the flyer in the back of church for details. Adult Volunteers - Get involved with Work Camp! This week-long service program relies on parishes making a community effort. Join us!
- **GOT SOME TIME ON YOUR HANDS?** Adult volunteers needed to accompany our youth at our weekly gatherings, retreats, and work camps. No experience is necessary! Virtus training and background checks are required. If interested, please complete the interested form here, <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVAYMVOL>. For more information, please contact Rebecca Grant Jenkins, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, [rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org](mailto:rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org).
- **YOU BUY, WE FRY FELLOWSHIP FISH FRY Take Out Lenten Fish Fry** - Join us Friday, February 20 at 6:00pm for Fr. Martin's fish, shrimp, or combo dinner with fries and coleslaw. \$15.00 per order. Proceeds go to support the Youth & Young Adult Ministries work camp mission and pilgrimage trips. Pre-order today - <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVAFISHFRY> or scan here:  Or for more details, contact Rebecca Grant Jenkins, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, [rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org](mailto:rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org). To pay in advance, please go to Parishsoft Giving: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-271?tab=home> then choose "Fellowship Fundraiser" in the drop-down box.

**MATTHEW 25 is looking for sorters.** They work to get the store restocked and sort and store items. The days are Monday through Thursday from 9am until 12noon in the Ministry Center. Volunteer one day a week or four; we just need help. Interested, please contact Sally Diaz-Wells at [sdiazwells@olqpva.org](mailto:sdiazwells@olqpva.org)

**FOOD PANTRY** is looking for help with picking up bread on Thursday mornings. The bread is donated to us, but we need to pick it up in Lorton. Interested? Please contact Sally Diaz-Wells at [sdiazwells@olqpva.org](mailto:sdiazwells@olqpva.org).

## DINNER & FAITH SHARING - All Are Welcome!

Are you looking for community? Interested to share your faith with new friends? Join the Arlington Cursillo community and fellow parishioners on Saturday, Feb 14 at 6:45pm (after the 5:30pm mass) in the Founders Room of the Ministry Center. Together we will pray, eat, and share personal stories of God's Grace. Dinner is a potluck, so bring food or drinks to share. Questions - contact Jennifer & Linda at [OLQP.Ultreya@gmail.com](mailto:OLQP.Ultreya@gmail.com).

## RESÚMENES DE CONTRIBUCIONES DEL 2025

Esperamos el resumen sus contribuciones de donaciones del 2025 a la parroquia por correo. Los resúmenes detallando sus donaciones se están enviando hasta finales de mes. Por favor tome nota: el servicio de correo en nuestra área ha estado esporádico así que por favor tenga paciencia, pero si no ha recibido la certificación para la segunda semana de febrero por favor mándele un correo electrónico o llame a Christina, [ckozy@olqpva.org](mailto:ckozy@olqpva.org), 703-979-5580 para recibir una copia por correo electrónico o para volver a recibirla. Gracias.

## MINISTERIO PARA ADOLESCENTES:

- **EL CATHOLIC WORK CAMP** es del 19 al 24 de julio para futuros estudiantes de los grados 8 al 12. Va a haber una reunión informativa por Zoom el domingo, 8 de febrero, a las 4:00pm. Para participar en la reunión, ve a: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQVACHWC2027>. Ya pueden llenar una solicitud en: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVACHWC2026>. Por favor vean el volante en la parte de atrás de la iglesia para obtener detalles. ¡Personas adultas voluntarias, participen en el Campamento de trabajo! Este programa de servicio de una semana confía en parroquias que se comprometen a hacer un esfuerzo comunitario. ¡Únanse a nosotros!
- **¿TIENE TIEMPO EXTRA?** Se necesitan personas adultas para ser voluntarias y acompañar a nuestros jóvenes en nuestras reuniones semanales, retiros y campamentos de trabajo. ¡No necesita tener experiencia! Se requiere entrenamiento Virtus y una verificación de antecedentes. Si está interesada/o, por favor complete el formulario de interés aquí, <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVAYMVOL>. Para obtener más información, por favor contacte a Rebecca Grant Jenkins, Directora de los ministerios para adolescentes y jóvenes adultos, [rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org](mailto:rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org).
- **USTED COMPRA, NOSOTROS FREÍMOS Pescado frito para llevar** - Únase a nosotros el viernes, 20 de febrero a las 6:00pm. El Padre Martin va a freír pescado, camarones o una cena combinada con papas fritas y ensalada de col. El costo es de \$15 por pedido. Los ingresos van a apoyar el campamento de trabajo y las peregrinaciones. Para ordenar por adelantado, vaya a: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVAFISHFRY> o escanee aquí:  O para obtener más detalles contacte a Rebecca Grant Jenkins, Directora de los Ministerios de adolescentes y jóvenes adultos, [rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org](mailto:rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org). Para pagar por adelantado, por favor vaya a: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-271?tab=home> y escoja "Fellowship Fundraiser" en el cuadro desplegable.

**MATEO 25 busca personas para clasificar ropa.** Trabajan para reponer ropa, clasificar y guardar los artículos. Los días son de lunes a jueves de 9am hasta las 12 del mediodía en el Ministry Center. Sea voluntaria/o un día o cuatro a la semana. Necesitamos ayuda. Si está interesada/o, por favor contacte a Sally Diaz-Wells: [sdiazwells@olqpva.org](mailto:sdiazwells@olqpva.org)

**LA DESPensa DE ALIMENTOS** está buscando ayuda para recoger el pan los jueves por la mañana. El pan es donado, pero tenemos que ir a Lorton para recogerlo. ¿Está interesada/o? Por favor contacte a Sally Díaz-Wells: [sdiazwells@olqpva.org](mailto:sdiazwells@olqpva.org).

## CENAR Y COMPARTIR LA FE

### ¡Todas las personas son bienvenidas!

¿Busca una comunidad? ¿Está interesada/o en compartir su fe con nuevas amistades? Únase a la comunidad de Cursillo de Arlington y otros feligreses el domingo, 14 de febrero a las 6:45pm (después de la Misa de las 5:30pm) en el Founders Room del Ministry Center. Rezaremos, comeremos y compartiremos historias personales de la gracia de Dios. La cena es compartida (potluck), así que traiga comida o bebidas para compartir. Si tiene preguntas contacte a Jennifer y Linda: [OLQP.Ultreya@gmail.com](mailto:OLQP.Ultreya@gmail.com).

**ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY SHELTER,  
Wednesday, February 11**

Join us Wednesday, February 11, for our dinner service at the Alexandria Community Shelter. Together, we'll support our unhoused neighbors and show them they are valued members of our community. You may drop off donations at the parish office kitchen from Monday to Wednesday, between 8:30am and 4:30pm. On the day of the dinner, donations can also be brought directly to the Fr. Ray Hall kitchen from 4:00pm to 4:30pm. Please ensure pasta bakes are fully cooked and assembled, requiring only reheating. Label all food items with your name, "ACS," the date (February 11), and a brief description.

Volunteers should arrive at the Alexandria Community Shelter (2355-B Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314) by 5:30pm for food preparation. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm and will last about 45 minutes, including clean-up. If you have any questions about this opportunity, please reach out to Emily Porterfield at [bellefontebarbelle@gmail.com](mailto:bellefontebarbelle@gmail.com)

Use this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054BABA2BA7F49-62059182-acsdinnerfebruary>

**CARPENTER'S SHELTER DINNER,  
Thursday, February 19**

Our dinner this month is lasagna, broccoli, salad, brownies & lemonade. Your food can be delivered to the parish office kitchen Tuesday through Thursday (Feb 17-19; office is closed Monday), during their office hours, 8:30-4:30, or to Fr. Ray Hall kitchen on the day of dinner, 4:30-5:00pm. Please label food with date and description and place it in the refrigerator, freezer or counter. Note, if you're delivering directly to the Shelter (930 N. Henry Street in Alexandria), label food the same and add our church name & "dinner." Susan Bruns is coordinating this month's meal. If you are a new contributor or have a question, please contact her at [mumbruns@gmail.com](mailto:mumbruns@gmail.com).

**FEEL THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL, February 21**

Join Arlington County Parks & Recreation for our annual Feel the Heritage, a vibrant community festival celebrating the rich cultural traditions, history, and creativity that shape our community. This year's Festival will celebrate the 2026 national Black History Month theme, "A Century of Black History Commemoration". The event takes place Saturday, February 21, from 12–5 pm at [Charles Drew Community Center](#), and is free and open to all ages! Feel the Heritage brings together live performances, interactive activities, local vendors, and engaging cultural experiences designed for the whole family. While the event is free to attend and walk-ins are welcome, registration is encouraged. [RSVP here](#) to let us know you are coming!

**GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION:** Neither rain, nor snow, nor heat nor cold are barriers to our *Discipleship in Christ*. Our witness for peace and our commitment to safety from violence inspire our persistence to stand for *GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION*. For more than a decade, on the 14th of every month [Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence](#) witness to that commitment in front of the National Rifle Association headquarters, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. If your discipleship moves you to act, join other concerned NoVA residents for 1 hour on Saturday, February 14 at 10:00 am at the NRA as we remember the 17 victims on the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjorie Stoneman High School in Parkland FL.

**REFUGIO COMUNITARIO DE ALEXANDRIA –  
miércoles, 11 de febrero**

Únase a nosotros el miércoles, 11 de febrero para nuestra comida en el Refugio comunitario de Alexandria cuando nos reunimos para apoyar a nuestras vecinas y vecinos sin hogar y demostrarles que nos importan. Se pueden traer donaciones a la cocina de la oficina parroquial de lunes a miércoles entre las 8:30am y las 4:30pm. El día de la comida puede traer las donaciones directamente a la cocina de Fr. Ray Hall de 4:00 a 4:30pm. Por favor asegúrese de que los platos de pasta horneados estén completamente cocinados y preparados y solo requieran recalentarse. Identifique las donaciones con su nombre, "ACS", la fecha (11 de febrero) y una descripción breve del artículo.

Las personas voluntarias deben llegar al Refugio comunitario de Alexandria (2355-B Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314) para las 5:30pm para preparar la comida. La cena se va a servir a las 6:00pm y durará unos 45 minutos, incluyendo la limpieza.

Si tiene alguna pregunta acerca de esta oportunidad, por favor contacte a Emily Porterfield: [bellefontebarbelle@gmail.com](mailto:bellefontebarbelle@gmail.com).

Use este enlace para apuntarse: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054BABA2BA7F49-62059182-acsdinnerfebruary>

**LA CENA REFUGIO DEL CARPINTERO,  
el jueves, 19 de febrero**

Este mes nuestra cena consiste de lasaña, brócoli, ensalada, brownies y limonada. Puede llevar las contribuciones a la cocina de la oficina de la parroquia de martes a jueves (17-19 de febrero porque la oficina está cerrada el lunes) durante las horas de trabajo, de 8:30am a 4:30pm o a la cocina de Fr. Ray Hall el día de la comida de 4:30 a 5:00pm. Por favor, identifique la comida con la fecha, la descripción y póngala en el refrigerador, congelador o el mostrador. Atención, si va a llevar la comida directamente al refugio (930 N. Henry Street in Alexandria), identifique la comida de la misma manera y añada el nombre de nuestra iglesia y "dinner". Este mes Susan Bruns es la coordinadora de la cena. Si es la primera vez que contribuye o tiene alguna pregunta, por favor contacte a Susan: [mumbruns@gmail.com](mailto:mumbruns@gmail.com).

**SIENTA EL FESTIVAL DEL PATRIMONIO, el 21 de febrero**

Únase a Arlington County Parks and Recreation para celebrar nuestro Festival anual del patrimonio, un festival de una comunidad dinámica que celebra las ricas tradiciones, historia y creatividad que dan forma a nuestra comunidad. Este año el festival celebra el tema del Mes nacional de la historia afroamericana del 2026, "Un siglo de conmemoración de la historia afroamericana". ¡El evento tendrá lugar el sábado, 21 de febrero, de 12 a 5 p.m. en el [Charles Drew Community Center](#), es gratis y para personas de todas las edades! Sienta el patrimonio trae actuaciones en directo, actividades interactivas, vendedores locales y experiencias culturales atractivas diseñadas para toda la familia. Aunque el evento es gratis y se da la bienvenida a todas las personas, se recomienda inscribirse. [¡Responda aquí](#) para dejarnos saber que va a venir!

**PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA CAUSADA CON ARMAS DE FUEGO** – Ni la lluvia, ni la nieve, ni el calor ni el frío son barreras para nuestro *Discipulado en Cristo*. Nuestro testimonio por la paz y nuestro compromiso con la seguridad frente a la violencia inspiran nuestra persistencia en defender la *PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA CON ARMAS DE FUEGO*. Por más de una década, el 14 de cada mes, el grupo [Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence](#) dan testimonio de ese compromiso frente a la sede de la National Rifle Association (NRA) en 11250 Waples Mill Rd., Fairfax. Si su discipulado le impulsa a actuar, únase por una hora a otras personas preocupadas, residentes de NoVa, el sábado, 14 de febrero a las 10:00 am en la NRA al recordar a 17 víctimas en el octavo aniversario del tiroteo masivo en la escuela superior Marjorie Stoneman en Parkland, FL.

## PARISH ADVISORY BOARD – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

Did you know OLQP has elected lay leadership that supports Fr. Tim and parish activities? Parish Advisory Board (PAB) members commit to attend bimonthly meetings (currently 2nd Thursday of the month), serve on committees as needed, and listen to and present parishioners' views. The PAB strives to represent the many backgrounds, ages, mass cohorts, and ministry groups of the parish. Six (6) seats are up for election, with new members serving a two-year term. Registered parishioners who have been active for at least two years are eligible and encouraged to consider the PAB – nominate yourself or a fellow parishioner. Nomination slips are available in the sanctuary, or you may submit nominations via email to [olqpelection@gmail.com](mailto:olqpelection@gmail.com). (Please include the nominee's full name, phone number, and email address). The nomination period closes at the end of the day on Sunday, February 8.

## EVENING HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE

At the urging of the president of the US Catholic Conference of Bishops, all Catholics throughout the U.S. are asked to offer a holy hour for peace in the coming days. With that in mind, please join us Friday, February 13 from 7:00pm-8:00pm in the church for this opportunity to make your personal holy hour pleading to God to bring peace and unity to our divided nation. We are hopeful for a strong turnout especially in the midst of all the division and violence in our country at this moment.

## IN CHRIST, WE ARE ONE

BLA Commitment Weekend is here! Every family's participation strengthens our parish and our diocese - all gifts are vital. Large or small, your gift unites us in supporting ministries serving tens of thousands: seminarian formation, Catholic Charities, youth programs, religious education, and more. Let's reach 100% participation together. Give at Mass or online at [arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://arlingtondiocese.org/bla), or scan the QR code:



Scan Me

**CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE to Fátima, Lourdes, Zaragoza, Madrid with Fr. Pontien Kenfack ZOOM Meeting or In-person** – Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 17, 6-8pm. Contact Fr. Pontien for the zoom link if that's your preference: [pkenfack@olqpva.org](mailto:pkenfack@olqpva.org). All pilgrims preparing for the trip to Fátima, Lourdes, Madrid, and Zaragoza with Fr. Pontien this year are invited to a meeting either in person in the Ministry Center, Founders Room or via Zoom. All who are interested and who would like to learn more are encouraged to attend. Please contact Fr. Pontien for the zoom link or come in person.

## JUNTA CONSULTORA DE LA PARROQUIA – ¡SOLICITANDO NOMINACIONES!

¿Sabía que OLQP ha elegido un liderazgo laico que apoya al Padre Tim y las actividades de la parroquia? Las personas que forman parte de la Junta Consultora de la parroquia (PAB por sus siglas en inglés) se comprometen a asistir a reuniones bimestrales (actualmente el segundo jueves del mes), a servir en comités según sea necesario y escuchar las opiniones de los feligreses actuales. La PAB se esmera por representar los diversos orígenes, edades, cohortes de Misas y grupos ministeriales. Hay 6 plazas para esta elección y las personas nuevas servirán un mandato de dos años. Personas inscritas en la parroquia que han estado activas por un mínimo de dos años son elegibles y se les anima a considerar la PAB. Puede nominarse o nominar a otra persona que pertenece a la parroquia. Las papeletas de nominación están disponibles en el santuario o puede someter nominaciones por correo electrónico a [olqpelection@gmail.com](mailto:olqpelection@gmail.com). (Por favor incluya el nombre completo de la persona nominada, su número de teléfono y dirección del correo electrónico). El período de nominación termina al final del día el domingo, 8 de febrero.

## HORA SANTA POR LA NOCHE POR LA PAZ

A instancias del presidente de la Conferencia de obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos, todas las parroquias por los Estados Unidos se les pide que ofrezcan una hora santa por la paz en los próximos días. Teniendo esto en cuenta, por favor únase a nosotros el viernes, 13 de febrero de 7:00pm a 8:00pm en la iglesia para tener esta oportunidad de hacer su hora santa personal, rogándole a Dios que traiga paz y unidad a nuestra nación dividida. Esperamos que vengan muchas personas especialmente en medio de toda la división y violencia en nuestro país en este momento.

## ¡EN CRISTO SOMOS UNO!

¡Llegó el fin de semana del compromiso con la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo! La participación de cada familia fortalece nuestra parroquia y nuestra diócesis – todas las contribuciones son vitales. Grande o pequeña, su donación nos une en el apoyo de ministerios que sirven a decenas de miles de personas: la formación de seminaristas, Caridades Católicas, programas juveniles, educación religiosa y muchos más. Alcancemos juntos el 100% de participación. Done en Misa, en línea en [arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://arlingtondiocese.org/bla) o escanee el código QR.



Escanéame

**PEREGRINACIÓN CATÓLICA a Fátima, Lourdes, Zaragoza y Madrid con el Padre Pontien Kenfack. Reunión por ZOOM o en persona** – Por favor marquen sus calendarios para el martes, 17 de febrero, de 6 a 8pm. Contacte al Padre Pontien para obtener el enlace para el zoom si eso es lo que prefiere: [pkenfack@olqpva.org](mailto:pkenfack@olqpva.org). Se invita a todas las personas peregrinas que se preparan para el viaje este año a Fátima, Lourdes, Zaragoza y Madrid con el Padre Pontien a una reunión en persona en el Founders Room del Ministry Center o por Zoom. Se anima a todas las personas interesadas y las que quisieran saber más a asistir. Por favor contacte al Padre Pontien para obtener el enlace para el zoom o venga a la reunión.

**Programs that are open to the entire community, but offered in English only.**  
**Programas que le dan la bienvenida a toda la comunidad, pero que solo se ofrecen en inglés.**

**ADVOCATES for JUSTICE (2/8/26)**

We are, or think we are, or seek to be, people of love! People of love extend that love to a wounded world. Indeed, we don't have to look far to see that our world is wounded. In a previous message, there was encouragement to open our eyes and SEE the injustices in our Commonwealth of Virginia — the wounds. Eyes of love witness the wounds, but unlike the apostle Thomas who got to put his finger on the wounds, many Virginians seldom touch the wounds of others. Without witnessing, touching and trying to understand the nature of the wounds, our love can be challenging to put into action that God's disciples are called to do.

Ask yourself what are some of the wounds you see here in the state of Virginia: inaccessible housing? a broken criminal legal system? a seriously wounded environment? quality healthcare that is inaccessible because of cost and racial bias? gun violence? lack of respect for and protection of human life? and the list of wounds goes on.

Touch the wounds you see with loving prayer. Go deeper in learning about one or more of these and other wounds. Engage in dialogue with others, and discern what ACTION you as an individual and what our community might mobilize to do to work for compassionate and just solutions to heal these societal wounds for ourselves, our neighbors and the most vulnerable in our Commonwealth of Virginia. Have you connected with your state representatives ([vga.virginia.gov](http://vga.virginia.gov)) about any of these problem issues or other wounds that you observe? The legislative information system ([lis.virginia.gov](http://lis.virginia.gov)) is a source for tracking proposed legislation.

Let us stand with each other, asking God to grant us the courage to take the actions that will contribute to healing wounds and make us instruments of God's justice. Pope Paul VI reminds us that "If we want peace, work for justice!"

**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A LAY DOMINICAN?**

You are invited to join the St. Mary Magdalene Lay Dominicans for prayer, fellowship, and discussion on Sunday, February 15, from 5:00–6:45 pm in the Parish House of St. James Catholic Church: 913 Park Avenue, Falls Church VA 22046 (use small adjacent parking lot).

Lay Dominicans are single or married members of the Dominican Order who have responded to a call to live the Dominican way of life in their own families and occupations.

The Dominican charism is one of prayer, study, community, and apostolate. Of these, study is perhaps the most distinctive element. We are life-long learners, who put that thirst for Truth at the service of our apostolic efforts. For more information, contact Rose Folsom at [InquiryVeritas519@gmail.com](mailto:InquiryVeritas519@gmail.com).

**THE 8 AM MASS WAKEUP CHOIR** is looking for new members. We are a friendly, flexible, and low-key group. Prayerfully consider joining us -- as we assist at Mass through music and in making a joyful noise. We are especially looking for sopranos, but all vocal types (altos, tenors, basses), ages, and abilities are welcome. We will train! Rehearsals are Friday from 5:30 to 6:30pm and call time Sunday morning is 7:30am. Contact Janice Toney at [Janice.toney@yahoo.com](mailto:Janice.toney@yahoo.com) for more information.

**MEDOR'S GROWING LEGACY OF EDUCATION AND FAITH**

Our twin parish, St. Joseph in Medor, Haiti, continues to flourish through education and faith. Today, the community's secondary school alumni include 48 university graduates, 18 students currently enrolled in university, and a vibrant group of faith leaders—3 priests, 2 seminarians, 3 nuns, and 1 novice. Medor's first high school graduation was in 2011 and all of the above achievements have occurred since then. Medor's secondary school is a true beacon of hope, empowering young men and women to serve their community and live out their faith in transformative ways. Your support for Medor's schools is working wonders. Thank you!

Please pray for peace and security in Haiti.

**AM I TOO OLD TO SAVE THE PLANET?**

**Book discussion with the author**

The Integrity of Creation ministry invites all parishioners to join us in the Parish Library on Wednesday, Feb 11, at 7:00pm for a discussion of the book "Am I too old to save the planet: A boomer's guide to climate action." Lawrence Macdonald, the book's author, will be joining us to discuss this timely work. All are welcome to join us even if you have not read/finished the book. Email Dan Herrera ([herrerawildlife@gmail.com](mailto:herrerawildlife@gmail.com)) for more information.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY:**

**COMPASSIONATE LISTENING WORKSHOP**

**March 8, Fr. Ray Hall, 3:00-5:00pm**

**When you learn to *listen* and speak from the heart...**

As a parent: you increase your child's sense of value and worth  
As a spouse: you nurture bonds of love and respect  
As an adult: you deepen relationships with friends and family we treasure  
In the workplace: you understand how to communicate effectively, even with those we find difficult  
In our community groups: we strengthen commitment to peace and advocacy.  
Led by Dr. Alvarado, a clinical psychologist (30 years' experience), we will learn the principles of compassionate listening. In dyads and small groups, we will have the opportunity to practice new listening skills. Join other community members in what will be an informative and fun learning experience.  
Space is limited; please pre-register: [smolqp@gmail.com](mailto:smolqp@gmail.com);  
Louise Drucker: 703-635-0469



**Happy Birthday**  
**To our beloved clergy!!**

**Fr. Martin Vu**  
**February 8th**

**Fr. Tim Hickey**  
**February 12th**

# February 2nd – The Feast Day of Venerable Father Francis Libermann, CSSp

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated the feast day of Venerable Fr. Francis Libermann, CSSp, considered the 2<sup>nd</sup> founder of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, The Spiritans.

Francis Libermann was a pioneer of strategies now recognized as a blueprint for modern missionary activity. Over 150 years ago he urged the Spiritans to "become one with the people" so that each group received

**"become one with the people"** and understood the Gospel in the context of their own traditions. He told his missionaries to "leave the church of Europe on the shores of France" and to go and discover how God was already present in the peoples of Africa to whom they were being sent.

Fr. Libermann's zeal was so inspiring that when young Spiritan priests in France heard of the deaths of almost all of the first missionaries to East Africa, they lined up at his door to volunteer as replacements, aware that they too would very likely die well before their natural time.

He exhausted himself in the process of leading his great enterprise, and died on February 2nd, 1852 before his 50th birthday. Surprisingly, Fr. Libermann himself never went overseas. Yet he inspired and empowered literally tens of thousands of missionaries around the globe.

... he inspired and empowered literally  
tens of thousands of missionaries around the globe.



Today his spiritual descendants serve in sixty-two countries on five continents, with over 3000 vowed and lay members. In Europe a dozen Provinces of the Congregation emerged to provide and finance the manpower for Libermann's vision. While the Spiritans first landed in what is now the United States as early as 1732 to work with the Micmac Indians, the largest contingency came to North America, to Canada, and to the United States in 1872 to minister especially to the poor, recently freed slaves, immigrants, minorities, and other ethnic groups. For decades the "Holy Ghost Fathers" worked closely with St. Katherine Drexel and her Blessed Sacrament Sisters in the apostolate to African Americans in the urban North and in small towns and cities of the South and Southwest.

Fr. Francis Libermann is hailed as the second founder of the Spiritans  
and "re-energizer" of the ... Spiritans.

Fr. Francis Libermann is hailed as the second founder of the Spiritans and "re-energizer" of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, the Spiritans, both vowed religious as well as Lay Associates who work with us in our works throughout the world in a whole host of ways, sharing their gifts and talents with the people we serve.

As we recall his death 173 years ago we give thanks for his dedication to the Gospel and his openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit which lead him to move beyond the narrow confines of the contemporary understandings of missiology to develop a new vision which recognized the fullness of the human dignity of the people to whom he was sending his men on mission. And calling them to recognize the truth that the land to which they were going was already sacred, made so by God's presence among the peoples they were about to encounter. An operational missiology model that would take over 150 years to take root in main-line Christian practice.

If it were not for Francis Libermann's vision formed by his insistence on availability to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the Spiritans may very well not exist as we do today, and in fact may not exist at all. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to our "re-animator" Fr. Francis Libermann, C.S.Sp.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church | Nuestra Señora de la Paz

**You Buy, We Fry | Usted compra, nosotros freímos**

**Lenten Take-out | De Cuaresma - Para llevar a casa**

**Fish Fry Fridays | Viernes de pescado frito**

FEB 20 ~ MAR 6 ~ MAR 20 ~ MAR 27

20 de FEB ~ 6 de MAR ~ 20 de MAR ~ 27 de MAR

Founders Room, Ministry Center

Sala de los Fundadores, Centro del Ministerio

6:00pm—8:00pm



Choice of | Opción de:

Fish (2 pieces) | Pescado (2 pedazos)

Shrimp (8) | Camarones (8)

Combo (1 piece of fish & 4 shrimp)

1 Pedazo de Pescado y 4 Camarones

WITH | CON:

Coleslaw | Ensalada de Col

Fries | Papas Fritas

Condiments | Condimentos

\$15.00 per order | por perdido



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<https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVAFISHFRY> or scan here | o escanee aquí:

\*Walk-ins welcome—Cash, check or credit card accepted

\*Se aceptan órdenes en el momento—Se acepta pago en efectivo, cheque o tarjeta de crédito

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<https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVAPARISHSOFT>

or scan here | o escanee aquí:



For more information, contact | Para más información,  
contacte a : Rebecca

[rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org](mailto:rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org)

# ***Bishop Tyson: Not all are called to be martyrs like Alex Pretti. But we can be witnesses.***

by [Joseph J. Tyson](#)

(RNS) — It is hard to watch the video footage of Alex Pretti's death. We see him attempt to record federal immigration enforcement agents on his mobile phone. We see him try to help two women pushed to the ground by the officers. Then we see a brutal horror unfold.

Jesus said to tend the sick, visit the prisoner, welcome the stranger. He said whatever we do to the most vulnerable of our people, we do to him. Whom do we see as Alex Pretti is shot to death?

Whom do we see in the photo of Liam Ramos, a 5-year-old Minneapolis resident detained along with his father?

There are no photos or videos for most of the 3,800 children that the Department of Homeland Security has detained, according to [the Marshall Project](#). Who will bear witness for them? We saw the image of federal agents forcing an elderly U.S. citizen into the snow barely clothed, after reportedly beating his door down without a warrant and holding him at gunpoint. A citizen! What is happening when no one is recording?

We were told that the government's mass deportation effort would focus on deporting violent criminals. So why is Immigration and Customs Enforcement targeting churches and school pickups? Why is ICE arresting people at immigration court hearings before their cases have even been heard? These people are following the law to earn legal status. In fact, the percentage of detainees with violent criminal records is around 5% or 7%, according to recent analyses from the Cato Institute and The New York Times, respectively.

The government is also revoking the legal status of thousands of people so they can

be pushed out of our country. This may impact more than 1.5 million immigrants. The federal government is ripping families apart and abusing human dignity.

This is an affront to our moral consciences as Catholic bishops. "We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people," the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said. "We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence." In [a sermon](#) last September, Cardinal Robert McElroy of the Archdiocese of Washington clearly named what is happening: a "governmental assault designed to produce fear and terror among millions of men and women."

The governmental assault is not just happening in Los Angeles and Chicago. It is happening all across our country, including in my rural diocese of central Washington state.

We would never know about these assaults on our morality if not for witnesses like Alex Pretti. His example reminds me to check on parishioners and neighbors. I still do not know the whereabouts of my parishioner José López, who was mistakenly apprehended in September. How hard this long silence must be for his loved ones.

I thank God for witnesses. It can be dangerous to shine a light on that which the powerful would hide. The Greek word "martyr" literally means "witness." The tragic deaths of witnesses like Alex Pretti and Renee Good reveal the darkness around them.

If you are understandably afraid to bear physical witness to those suffering from ICE's tactics, stay informed. Pray with your voice and your feet. This week, Congress is considering more funding for the

Department of Homeland Security after ICE's budget was increased tenfold last year. I echo my brother bishop, Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, who recently spoke to grassroots leaders: "Will you contact your congressional representatives? We ask them, for the love of God and the love of human beings — which can't be separated — to vote against renewing funding for such a lawless organization."

Though we are not all called to be martyrs, we are all called to be witnesses. If you are a person of faith, it is more important than ever to view politics through the lens of that faith, and not the other way around.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see." I pray that each of us has the courage to keep our eyes open.

(The Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson serves as bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Yakima in Washington state. The views expressed in this commentary do not necessarily reflect those of Religion News Service.)

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**Americamagazine.org**

**February 5, 2026**

**America**  
THE JESUIT REVIEW

# FEBRUARY 2026 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS



*The Little Rock Nine Study Group, 1959 1/*

**By: Veronica Dabney**

Week one of the OLQP Black History month series, featured the life of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Negro History Week, which eventually became Black History Month. He was also the lead in founding the Association for the Study of African American History (ASALH), which was originally named the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). 2/ Every year, OLQP has adopted the yearly ASALH themes for our Black History Month articles.

This article will “examine” how Woodson’s Negro History Week/Black History Month themes contribute to and add context to annual Black history celebrations. His designation of specific days to commemorate, organize, and produce publications chronicling the contributions, as well as the hardships faced by Blacks in this country, contributed greatly to the progress of Black people in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The benefits derived from the study of Black history, are not disputed at the national level, but the affects at the micro level, in cities and towns, in schools and community centers, churches and town halls are even more transformative. But most importantly, it was revealed that the sharing of Black history facts were the subject of choice in the cabins of enslaved Blacks, in the living rooms and at kitchen tables in farmworker as well as union households, and at dining room tables of the well off--Sad stories, triumphant stories, humorous stories, and occasionally stories so painful that they would break hearts into little pieces. Youngsters would ask, “how did you survive that? why didn’t you fight back”, at the same time knowing that fighting back was never an option a

few generations back. It’s really not much of an option today, when you are in the minority.

In this time there are very public proposals and actual actions to end diversity and inclusion: book bans, removing books from libraries and book stores; erasure of the teaching of slavery and Black history in American schools; suing colleges and universities who have sought diversity in the past; defunding public media, like PBS, who have featured not only excellent programming on Black history, but compelling information about many other transformative events in American history. There are even suggestions that holidays and other tributes to Black Americans be ended.

But recent attempts to purge Black history from America’s memory and culture, 1950s style, will be fruitless. That train cannot be turned around. In fact, Black history is set in stone as one of the basics of true American history, as is history of Native Americans, Hispanics and other populations currently under threat. They can no more be written out of American history than the Europeans who fled to this country, many of them to escape tyranny, poverty and religious persecution. Most arrived many centuries after foundational Native Americans and Hispanics—who were already here--and after those who were enslaved, who arrived with the first settlers.

The value in knowing Black history, is to know that for many years, there has been an “industry” in this country, at least since the end of the civil war, to deny or to at least minimize, the reality of slavery in America, and the post emancipation de jure segregation and discrimination which was meant to destroy the spirits of Blacks and others who are considered to be “less than”. It’s hard to know or understand

people who think like that. But, for the past 100 years, I don’t think many Black people dwelled on that very much.

It has been a century of planning annual celebrations; producing study materials for teachers based on ASALH’s annual themes; opening and funding Black history museums throughout the country, including the historic National Museum of African American History and Culture, on the Mall; establishment of Negro History Clubs in high schools; continuing to establish chapters of ASNLH around the country; and over the years, Governor, Mayoral and Presidential Black History Month proclamations and celebrations. ( In fact, in this 100<sup>th</sup> year since the founding of Negro History Week /Black History Month, Arlington County marked the 50<sup>th</sup> year of sponsoring a celebration to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.)

So, in the last 100 years, visionaries like Dr. Woodson and his co-founders, and the outstanding men and women who followed them, began their work with ANAHL/ASAHL and other related organizations, to chronicle, compile, publish and disseminate the story of the struggle of an often despised and maligned people--who rose despite their hardships. Much is owed to the men and women who dedicated their lives to learning and enlightenment, and then handed that legacy to others. They knew and firmly believed that the parts of Black people that were meant to be destroyed, could be brought back to life, and preserved for future generations.

1/ <https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/little-rock-nine>

2/ <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>