

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA
Eighteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time
July 31, 2022



Josephite Fathers and Brothers
1401 Fidelity St Houston, TX 77029
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PARISH STAFF

Rev. Thomas R. Frank, SSJ, Pastor

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Daisy Fields

Coordinator of Religious Education: Ms. Scharee King

Phone: 832-264-5488 Email: Scharee3@gmail.com

Mass Schedule

9 AM Sunday Masses

7:30 AM Weekday Masses followed by Morning Prayer

Confessions

30 minutes before Mass or by appointment.

Novena to St. Joseph

The Rosary

BULLETIN ITEMS/INSERTS:

(ALL MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PASTOR)

Email to Mrs. Daisy Fields Email: _____ or call 713 -674-9206 by
MONDAY of the week prior to publication.

Notify Mrs. Fields of any printed flyers you want in the bulletin.
They must be received by Thursday morning.

**Birthdays/Anniversaries submit two weeks before the
1st of the month in which the event falls.**

Samaritan Newsletter (published for the first of each month):
items are due **two weeks** prior to publication.

Sunday School

October-May

Sacraments

Baptism: Is celebrated periodically, but not during Lent. For information on Parent Information Sessions, contact the rectory for required attendance. Adults who desire Baptism receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil, following a period of participation in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Call Fr. Frank.

Confirmation: Available to our youth, thirteen years of age or older, through the religious education process with activities involving parents and sponsors. Adults are prepared through the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

First Communion: Preparation through the Sunday School Classes.

Funerals: Please contact the priest before confirming any arrangements with your funeral home.

Matrimony: Couples thinking about marriage should contact the parish priest prior to engagement or at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date. The church desires to help couples prepare a good foundation for a lifelong commitment to this sacred marriage vocation.

Newcomers & Visitors: Welcome to Our Lady Star of the Sea

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. May you be blessed with hope, joy, love and peace while here!
Should you want to join our parish family please contact a Minister of Hospitality, Priest,
or call the Rectory. Again, Welcome!*

Mission of OLSOS

We, the faithful parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church believe that our mission is to spread the good news of the Love and Mercy of God to the communities that we serve and beyond. Our mission is realized through sacramental living and serving others through works of mercy in the inspirit of our patron, The Blessed Virgin Mary. Our CORE VALUES are Forgiveness, Charity, Unity, Mercy, and Prayer.

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For 17th Sunday of OT 7/24/22

Mass Attendance: In person= 66 OnLine=

Collections contributed at Mass= \$ 714 Avg Online= 140

Budget need per week= \$3365

CALENDAR DATES IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST

T-Shirt Sunday is coming!- *Do you have a shirt with a positive message of Faith, Family, Educational Heritage, or Cultural Encouragement? Get ready to wear it and share its significance to you one on one.*

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From the Pastor's Desk: Yes, I made it back to OLSOS safe and sound and well rested and ready to catch up. It seems that there is some catching up to do. Let us be grateful that all of our parishioners who have been suffering from attacks of Covid even after shots and booster shots, are recovering. It is quite apparent that although we may be through with Covid, Covid is not through with us. So let us be cautious and wear masks if you so desire. Pray for those still recovering and pray for those being hospitalized around the world and for the health care workers caring for them. ... Plans for **Bazaar and Raffle** continue to move forward. I appreciate the Fundraising Committee's enthusiasm to get to organized and get the raffle books out to the members of the parish. I want to encourage all of our parishioners to step up and assist in any way you can with your time, talent and yes your treasure. Let us see this coming Bazaar as a Post Covid Parish Family Reunion. Please start inviting your children, grandchildren and friends who grew up in the nurturing arms of the OLSOS Church and Community to come back for a visit, and perhaps even to rejoin, since all of us are in need of God's Word and Sacraments and Our Faith Community. Currently, two major efforts occupy our parish attention, **One:** Getting everyone involved in ministry, parish organizations and parish events open to the public beyond Sunday Worship to be certified under the umbrella of child protection protocols as described on the next page which has been promoted in the bulletin now for three Sundays. You can do so on your own or take advantage of the generous assistance offered by our Child Protection Coordinator, Ms. Marie Ledet. We have to get this done as we truly break out of our "Covid Hibernation." Not only is this essential for a successful bazaar, but also to build up our faith community, and for our future ministry and organizational efforts. **Two:** We are distributing our Raffle books and we need you to pick them up on Sunday or from the office during the week, help distribute them to Shut-ins, or sell additional tickets to friends and family who have asked you to support their raffle ticket efforts in recent months. I want to thank you in advance. Such help will enable us to foster community spirit and pay for the upcoming roof replacement on the Church(yes, the flat roofs are leaking and windows need to be sealed, and the A/C units have to be disconnected lifted off the roof and then re-connected.... Please don't forget that we are planning a **Parish Town Hall Meeting**(This is not a public press conference for the Pastor and the Parish Leadership, nor a time for concerns or complaints to be lodged). It is a meeting to be educated about the state of the parish, the synod listening session from this last April, and to brainstorm about the directions and priorities we want to have to fulfill our Mission and Ministry of Jesus Christ and grow the witness, invitation and presence of OLSOS as we approach our 75th Anniversary. Remember that if you have

concerns or complaints you don't have to wait for a meeting. Our Parish Council has been meeting Monthly and there is ample opportunity to share or ask questions.

All volunteers for the Bazaar and ministries must complete training ASAP!!!!

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Safe Environment Compliance Training and Renewal
There will be a group that will be here in August TBA

If you are able to do it online,

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL PROMPTS

Here is the link: <https://galvestonhouston.cmgconnect.org>

OR

Go to Our Lady Star of The Sea Church Website

<https://www.olsoshoustontx.com>

click on Resources and you will see link to the left of page.

CMG connect is a new web-based platform that will assist us to ensure that all employees and parish ministers, members of parish organizations and any other volunteers who are in a position of trust with children and vulnerable adults within our schools and parishes are trained to recognize behavior patterns of potential abusers and provide pro-active measures for preventing abuse in any context.

“**Safe Haven-It’s Up to You**” is a three-part video which provides vignettes of real-life situations to educate the viewer about methods of grooming, desensitization, bullying and neglect, all of which can lead to abuse. Each part of the video is immediately followed by a brief questionnaire to further develop understanding. A criminal background check will be the last step after the video. It will take 24 hours after you complete the program to clear you as a volunteer.

Participating now means that your will not have to renew for another 5 YEARS.

Any additional questions please contact Marie Ledet – 713.305.4764.

Any other concerns please contact Fr. Frank.

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Black nuns fought to make the church truly Catholic

Catholics have neglected the history of Black women religious for far too long, says historian Shannen Dee Williams in US Catholic July 26, 2022.

Historian Shannen Dee Williams had never seen a Black nun until she stumbled across a 1968 news story about the founding of the National Black Sisters’ Conference. Williams writes in the preface of her new book, *Subversive Habits* (Duke University Press) that the realization that she wasn’t alone in this—that in fact very few U.S. Catholics, even Black Catholics, were aware of the existence of Black sisters—inspired her to embark on a decades-long research project to “understand the roots of the invisibility of Black Catholic sisters in our lives.” *Subversive Habits*, the result of over 13 years of archival research and interviews with the Black Catholic community, provides the first full history of Black Catholic nuns in the United States ever written. The book spans the time from 1819, with the first documented examples of women of color who sought to enter religious life, to 2018, the 50th anniversary of the National Black Sisters’ Conference. The legacy of these Black sisters who fought for inclusion over the past 200 years is a reminder “that racism and sexism have no place within the Catholic Church,” Williams says. “We’re not going to get anywhere until we

understand . . . that white supremacy threatens us all, not just people of color. "Far more than a history book, *Subversive Habits* is a call to honor the ongoing struggles of Black Catholic women in the face of white supremacy and racism within the Catholic Church. It shines a powerful spotlight on stories that have far too often been allowed to remain untold and forgotten. And it provides an important stepping stone toward proclaiming as a church that Black lives matter. For me it was an epiphany to think about what it means that Catholicism was the first Black articulation of Christianity in what becomes the United States. So much of early African American history takes place within Catholic boundaries. The first recorded Christian marriage on land that became the United States is between a free Black Catholic woman from Spain and a Spanish soldier. Although we do not have Black sisters until the early 19th century, they were among the earliest Catholic sisters to minister in the early church. They led Black sisterhoods and at least two white sisterhoods. So many of them were the descendants of some of the earliest Catholics in our nation. Black Catholics have never been anomalies in our church. They are not footnotes in the story of American Catholicism. When we tell Black sisters' stories, we are able to see the richness and the diversity of the American Catholic experience from the very beginning and the importance of Black women's faithfulness and spiritual leadership even when they were not allowed to go into religious life. **This book has been in process for a long time. Has the scope changed over the years that you've been doing your research?** When I began the project, I thought I would write about Black nuns and Black power. Then I interviewed Dr. Patricia Grey, formerly Sister of Mercy M. Martín de Porres, who was the chief architect of the National Black Sisters' Conference, which was founded in 1968. In my conversations with her, as well as in some of the initial interviews I conducted, I realized that the project had to tell a more comprehensive story. Grey was very adamant that I write a book not just about her or the National Black Sisters' Conference or Black sisters and Black power. She was very adamant that I write a full history of Black sisters in the United States. She said something to me that really stood out: "We were not the first sisters to revolt in the church. If you can, try to tell all our stories." She was very invested in me turning my attention to the history of the nation's Black sisterhoods. She told me, "Our foremothers in the church went through struggles that we have yet to really understand." She was adamant that you couldn't understand the formation of the National Black Sisters' Conference without first understanding the labors of those pioneering generations of Black sisters. After talking to her, almost instinctively I knew that I would write the first full history of Black Catholic sisters in the United States. It has taken me nearly 14 years to be able to do that. Once I began doing interviews and digging into the archives of the Oblate Sisters of Providence and the Sisters of the Holy Family, I encountered this forgotten chapter in the history of the Black freedom struggle. Many archival sources and Black sisters' dissertations document their respective orders' histories and desegregation triumphs, but most often these feats were not written about anywhere else. Many Black sisters were also modest about their accomplishments. When I asked the sisters why nothing was written down, they would tell me, "Well, we know what we did. It's not necessary for us to toot our own horns." Even though very small circles of Black Catholics knew what these women had done, it was not something that had been incorporated into our dominant narratives of the American Catholic experience. And it was very important for me to make sure that was done. So *Subversive Habits* begins in 1819, with the first documented women of color who sought to enter religious life. It ends with the 50th anniversary of the National Black Sisters' Conference in 2018. The earliest documentation we have of Black women wanting to go into religious life is 1819. But if you look at that earliest generation, many of them have roots in the earliest days of the church. Many of them can trace their lineage to free and enslaved people in Maryland, Florida, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Missouri—these cradles of American Catholicism. What became clear to me very quickly was that when we talk about American Catholicism, we have to remember that there are two trans-Atlantic stories of American

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 31st, 2022

Catholicism. One begins in Europe, and the other begins with Africans and African-descended people living in Europe and Africa. *Part II will be in next weeks bulletin.*