

## 2017 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Prayer Service Planning Committee Members

Armitta Kilgore, Chair, St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church

Kathy Knoepfel, St. Mary of the Hill Catholic Church, Hubertus, WI

Carl Carby, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Jolie Zimmer, All Saints Catholic Church

Fr. Paul Kelly SCJ, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

Dan Dorau, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

Margaret Lee, St. Martin de Porres and All Saints Catholic Churches

Minnie Linyear, St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

Sr. Callista Robinson OSF, St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

Thank you for your participation.  
Black Catholic Ministry Commission-  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

# *“The Strength To Love”*



## **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**26th Annual Memorial Prayer Service**

**Fr. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R. -Keynote Speaker**

**Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies**

**Xavier University, New Orleans, LA**

**All Saints Catholic Church**

**January 14, 2017**

# *Lift Every Voice and Sing* James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise,  
high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea  
sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the day when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,  
come to the place on which our fathers sighed?  
we have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who has by thy might,  
led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray  
lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,  
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,  
shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
may we forever stand,  
true to our God,  
true to our native land.

## The History of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Prayer Service

This annual Memorial Prayer Service in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was initiated January of 1991 at the Sacred Heart School of Theology by the Rev. Patrick Wells then a seminarian for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. Fr. Wells envisioned a service celebrating Dr. King's life and work and at the same time providing an opportunity for candidates for Roman Catholic ministry to experience African-American music and preaching.

From the beginning, the Office of African-American Ministry joined in sponsoring this event. In 1995, in order to open this prayer service to a wider Catholic community, the Cathedral of St. John and St. Francis Seminary joined the sponsorship.

Speakers have included Most Reverend Joseph Perry, D.D., Chicago; Rev. Joseph M. Davis, SM, Cleveland; Rev. Bryan Massingale, Milwaukee; Sr. Patricia Haley, SCN, St. Petersburg; Dr. Giles Conwill, Atlanta; Dr. Shawn Copeland, Marquette University, Milwaukee; Professor Phoebe Weaver, J.D. Marquette University Law School, Milwaukee; Rev. Jesse de Porres Cox, OP. Chicago, IL.; Rev. Kenneth Hamilton, SVD, Rev. Kenneth Wheeler, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Celia Jackson, Archbishop's Delegate for Community Service, Milwaukee Archdiocese; Rev. John Calicott, Holy Angels Parish, Chicago; Sr. Anita Baird, DHM, Archdiocese of Chicago; Rev. Trinette McCray, Cardinal Stritch University, Msgr. Patrick Wells, Houston Archdiocese, Dr. Sr. Shawnee Sykes, SSND, Milwaukee, WI; Bro. Bob Smith, OFM Cap.; Dr. C. Vanessa White, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Illinois; Msgr. Patrick Wells, Houston Archdiocese; Fr. David Jones, St. Benedict the African East Catholic Church, Chicago, IL.; Br. Roy Smith, CSC., South Bend, IN.; Fr. Thomas Jackson, OP., Chicago, IL. Celia Jackson, Director International & Intercultural Center, Alverno College, Milwaukee

### **26th Annual Sponsorship**

**Black Catholic Ministry Commission-  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee**

**Black and Indian Mission Grant**

**Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology**

**All Saints Catholic Church**

**2017 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial  
Prayer Service Planning Committee**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKi

Fr. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.

Special thanks to Fr. Robert Stiefvater  
All Saints Catholic Staff and Parish Family

Community Choir - Sheila Bost

Students of the Brother Booker Ashe Lay Ministry Program

Students from Marquette University High School

Eva Diaz, Director of Inter-Cultural Ministry  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee-Resource Person

ShanEDra Johnson, Chair  
Black Catholic Ministry Commission-  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Lift Every Voice and Sing was publicly performed first as a poem as part of a celebration of Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 1900 by 500 school children at the segregated Scanton School, in Jacksonville, Florida. The principal, James Weldon Johnson, wrote the words to introduce its honored guest, Booker T. Washington.

The poem was later set to music by Mr. Johnson's brother, John in 1905. Singing this song quickly became a way for African Americans to demonstrate their patriotism and hope for the future. In calling for the earth and heaven to "ring with the harmonies of Liberty," they could speak out subtly against racism and Jim Crow Laws --especially the large number of lynchings accompanying the rise of the Ku Klux Klan at the turn of the century. In 1919, the NAACP adopted it as the Negro National Anthem. By the 1920s, copies could be found in black churches across the country, often pasted into the hymnals.

## Order of Service

### Music Prelude

Community Choir

### Call to Worship

ShanEDra Johnson  
St. Michael and St. Rose Catholic Congregations

### Processional Hymn

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

### Greeting and Welcome

Fr. Robert Stiefvater  
Pastor, All Saints and  
St. Martin de Porres Catholic Churches

### Welcome from Archdiocese of Milwaukee

The Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKi  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

## Dialogue-----“A Knock at Midnight”

This dialogue came from Dr. King’ book, The Strength to Love, published in 1963, Chapter 6, titled “A Knock at Midnight.”

“Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. For a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him.” Luke 11:5-6

Although this parable is concerned with the power of persistent prayer, it may also serve as a basis for our thought concerning contemporary problems and the role of the church in grappling with them. It is midnight in the parable; it is also midnight in our world, and the darkness is so deep that we can hardly see which way to turn.

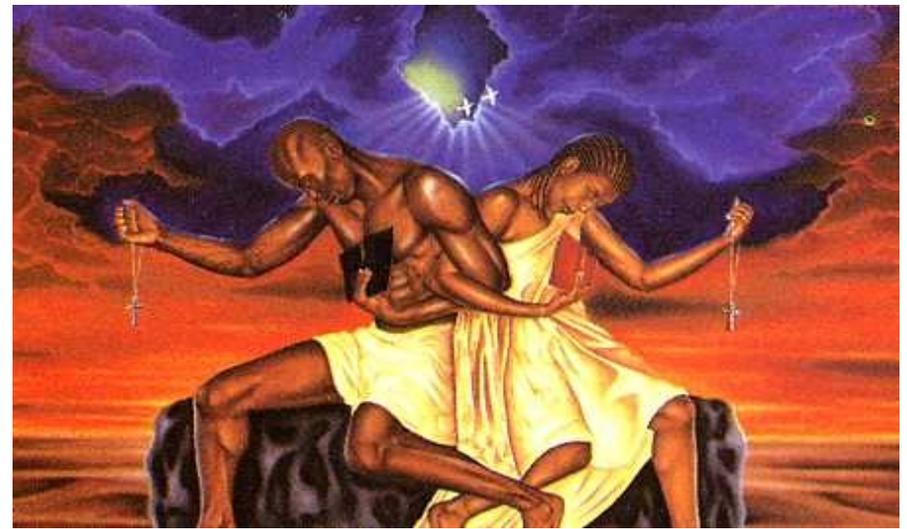
**Leader:** The traveler asks for three loaves of bread.

**All:** He wants the bread of faith.

**Leader:** In a generation of so many colossal disappointments, men have lost faith in God.

**All:** And men have lost faith in the future.

**Leader:** There is also a deep longing for the bread of hope.



**(Please be seated)**

### Announcements

Fr. Bob Stiefvater  
Pastor, All Saints and  
St. Martin de Porres Catholic Churches

### Closing Remarks

Armitta Kilgore, Chair  
St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church

### Concluding Prayer and Blessing

The Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKi  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

### Recessional Song

Community Choir

**Please join us in the church hall for refreshments.**



**(Please Stand)**

Pledge to acknowledge the “Sacredness of All Life”

**Led by:** Carl Carby, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
**(Read by All)**

I pledge myself this day to the Gospel call of Jesus  
to recognize the presence of God in everyone  
and in all that is around me.

I make a fundamental, conscious choice  
to choose life and not death;  
to choose light and not darkness;  
to choose good and not evil;  
to choose peace and not discord.

I pledge myself to respect the life and dignity of every human person:  
of the unborn, of the aged, of the imprisoned.

In imitation of Jesus,  
I pledge to work on behalf of the poor and the vulnerable,  
the homeless and the hungry,  
the widow and the orphan,  
the lesser ones in our midst,  
the powerless and those without influence in our society.

After the example of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
I pledge to live justly, in a non-violent manner, so as to promote peace.  
I pledge to work for the well-being of all people of color,  
of the immigrant and the disenfranchised,  
and of those barred from full participation in the governing of our society.

Like the prophet Micah, I make this pledge  
to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with my God-  
a God who makes a way where there is no way,  
especially in the temptations and challenges that life presents to me.

**All:** For so many people, young and old, the light of hope went out, and they roamed wearily in the dark chambers of pessimism.

**Leader:** And there is the deep longing for the bread of love. Everybody wishes to love and be loved.

**All:** Living in a world which has become oppressively impersonal many of us have come to feel that we are little more than numbers. Bewildered by this tendency to reduce man to a card in a vast index, man desperately searches for the bread of love.

**Leader:** The church today is challenged to proclaim God’s Son, Jesus Christ, to be the hope of all men in all their complex personal and social problems.

**All:** Many will continue to come in quest of answers to life’s problems.

**Leaders:** Faith in the dawn arises from the faith that God is good.

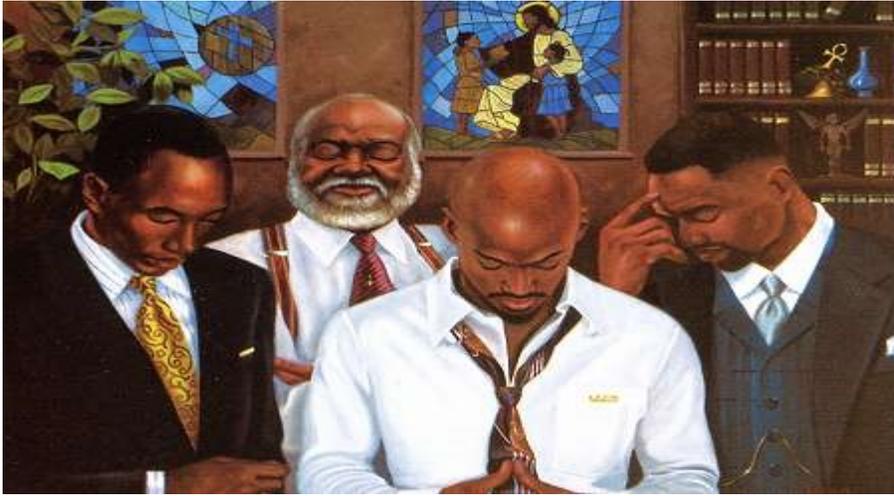
**All:** Dawn will come. Disappointment, sorrow and despair are borne at midnight, but morning follows.

**Leader:** “Weeping may endure for a night,” says the Psalmist, “but joy cometh in the morning.”

**All:** This faith adjourns the assemblies of hopelessness and brings new light into the dark chambers of pessimism.

**All: Amen, Amen, Amen.**





**(Please Stand)**

**Opening Prayer**

Fr. Robert Stiefvater  
Pastor, All Saints and  
St. Martin de Porres Catholic Churches

**First Reading** Luke 11:5-8

**Musical Response**

Community Choir

**Second Reading** Matthew 14:13-21

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Sr. Callista Robinson, OSF  
St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church

**Address--- “A Knock at Midnight”**

Fr. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.

**(Please Stand)**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

Brother Booker Ashe Lay Ministry Students

Response Sung:

*O Lord, O Lord, O Lord bear our prayer*

**The Lord’s Prayer (sung)**

**Sign of Peace**

