

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH MOMENT



Mary Lou Williams (born **Mary Elfrieda Scruggs**); was an American jazz pianist, arranger, and composer. She wrote hundreds of compositions and arrangements and recorded more than one hundred records (in 78, 45, and LP versions). Williams wrote and arranged for Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman, and she was friend, mentor, and teacher to Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Tadd Dameron, Bud Powell, and Dizzy Gillespie.

The second of eleven children, Williams was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and grew up in the East Liberty neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A musical prodigy, at the age of three, she taught herself to play the piano. Mary Lou Williams played piano out of necessity at a very young age; her white neighbors were throwing bricks into her house until Williams began playing the piano in their homes. At the age of six, she supported her ten half-brothers and sisters by playing at parties. She began performing publicly at the age of seven when she became known admiringly in Pittsburgh as "The Little Piano Girl". She became a professional musician at the age of 15, citing Lovie Austin as her greatest influence. She married jazz saxophonist John Williams in November 1926.

A three-year hiatus from performing began when she suddenly backed away from the piano during a performance in Paris in 1954. She returned to the United States, converting in 1954 to Catholicism alongside Dizzy Gillespie's wife Lorraine. In addition to spending several hours at Mass, her energies were then devoted mainly to the Bel Canto Foundation, an effort she initiated using her savings as well as help from friends to turn her apartment in Hamilton Heights into a halfway house for the poor as well as musicians who were grappling with addiction; she also made money over a longer period of time for the halfway house by way of a thrift store in Harlem.

Her hiatus may have been triggered by the death of her long-time friend and student Charlie Parker in 1955 who also struggled with addiction for the majority of his life. Father John Crowley and Father Anthony aided in persuading Williams to go back to playing music. They told her that she could continue to serve God and the Catholic Church by utilizing her exceptional gift of creating music. Moreover, Dizzy convinced her to return to playing, which she did at the 1957 Newport Jazz Festival with Dizzy's band.

Father Peter O'Brien, a Catholic priest, became her close friend and manager in the 1960s. Dizzy also introduced her to Pittsburgh's Bishop John Wright. O'Brien helped her found new venues for jazz performance at a time when no more than two clubs in Manhattan offered jazz full-time. She her teach at Seton High School on the city's North Side. It was there that she wrote her first Mass, called *The Pittsburgh Mass*. Williams eventually became the first jazz composer commissioned by the church to compose liturgical music in the jazz idiom.



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MASS SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY - 8:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M. • TUESDAY - 5:00 P.M. • SATURDAY - 5:00 P.M.

Saturday, November 26th & Sunday, November 27th 2022

First Sunday of Advent

This Week's

Mass Intentions



Saturday, November 26, 2022

Rosa Lee and Arthur Parker by Denise Parker (5 p.m.)

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Special Intention of Yvonne Royster
by Sacred Heart Parish Family (8 a. m.)

For Sacred Heart Parish Family (10 a.m.)

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Walter and Dorothy Norwood - Happy 62nd Anniversary
(5 p.m.)

Saturday, December 3, 2022

Charles Clark, Jr. by Sacred Heart Parish Family (5 p.m.)

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Deborah Kleckley - 1st Anniversary
by Sacred Heart Parish Family (8 a. m.)

Clarence and Mary Wilson, Jane Austin by Michael Wilson
(10 a.m.)

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

Sacred Heart is a diverse parish rooted primarily in the Gospel of Jesus and in the heart of the community of Detroit. We strive to let our lives be an extension of our daily worship. We walk in the steps of Christ through love and concern for our brothers and sisters and continuously call upon the Holy Spirit for strength and power.

This Week's Readings

Scripture for Saturday November 26 /Sunday, November 27, 2022...

- 1) [Isaiah 2: 1-5](#) 2) [Romans 13: 11-14](#) 3) [Matthew 24: 37-44](#)

Scripture for Tuesday, November 29, 2022

- 1) [Isiah 11: 1-10](#) 2) [Luke 10: 21-24](#)

Scripture for Saturday November 26 /Sunday, November 27, 2022...

- 1) [Isaiah 11: 1-10](#) 2) [Romans 15: 4-9](#) 3) [Matthew 3: 1-12](#)

1)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK...

Sunday, November 27th

*Alumni 11:45 a.m.

Garden Club 11:45 a.m.

*Bible Study 11:45 a.m.

*A.A. 3:00p.m.

*Primetime Bible Study 7:00p.m. (ZOOM)

Wednesday, November 30th

*Bible Study 10 a.m.

*SVdP 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

A.A. Mtg. 11 a.m.

Monday, November 28th

*N.A. 6 p.m. (Parlor)

*Ministers Meeting 6:00p.m. (ZOOM)

Saturday, December 3rd

*MASS 5 p.m. (Church)

Tuesday, November 29th

*Mass 5 p.m. (Church)

*Choir Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. (Church)

NOTEWORTHY

.... **Sacred Heart Ministers Meeting** - Monday, November 28, 2022 via ZOOM @ 6:00pm.

.... **First Sunday of Advent Reflection:** Action heroes, credit cards and Christmas Day. What do these three things have in common? They provide instant gratification for our chronic desire to see results. Our action hero will knock his teeth in, pronto. Our swipe or tap of the card and it's ours. We want to open gifts right now.

So why wait if we don't have to? The way we live in the 21st century brings the whole purpose of Advent into question. Hikers are familiar with the saying: The journey is the destination. In the same way, Advent becomes a trail we travel, not simply to make it

to Christmas but for its own sake. Anticipation makes us wakeful and watchful. Advent reminds us that time is also fertile time. We can learn who we are and what parts of ourselves need attention. The waiting season enlivens our perceptions, sharpens our focus, delights us along the journey, and admits the possibility of reflection. If we take the work of Advent seriously, we can clear some space within ourselves for a fresh perspective. We may find ourselves climbing Isaiah's Mountain and beating old weapons into new and powerful tools that lead us to a harvest of peace and joy.

...**Children's Christmas Giving Program 2022** Thanks to the generosity of so many we were able to adopt 250 kids at the Brewster Homes as well as taking care of our own young people here at the parish. Since we are unable to host our Annual Children's Christmas Party, we need your help more than ever this year. This year we will host our 2nd Children's Christmas Giving Program. As a sponsor we will match you with a child(ren) for you to purchase a gift card for **no more than \$20.00-25.00 for each child**. We encourage our church groups to adopt multiple children, if possible. Gift cards due no later than December 11, 2022. For more contact John Thorne 313.418.3607.

...**Giving Tree** is located in the rear of the Church and is loaded with red and green envelopes which can be used to make a contribution to help someone in need this holiday season. Everyone can participate; no gift will be turned away. These contributions can be monetary or gift cards to local stores like Meijer's, Target, Walgreens or CVS etc. Please return the envelopes in the offering basket or to an usher.

.... **Sacred Heart Book Club's** December Reading Choice is ***The Unoriginal Sinner and the Ice Cream God by John R. Powers***: Synopsis: Tim Conroy, a failed idealist with a chip on his shoulder, is unable to find a secure place for himself in 1960s South Side Chicago. He narrates his bittersweet struggles with God, career, and education. This poignant, skillfully told tale concludes John R. Powers' memorable coming-of-age trilogy. The book can be purchased on Amazon for \$5.49 in paperback or Kindle for \$12.95 The book club meets the second Saturday of the month. For more information, Please text or call: Monica Crutchfield at 248-321-2814.

.... **Advent Morning Retreat - "Finding Peace in the Waiting"**, Saturday, December 10, 2022 9a.m. until 2p.m. Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit. Presenter is John Thorne. Cost is \$20.00 at Eventbrite no later than December 6. Call Sally McCuen at 313-579-2100x1149 for questions and more information.