



Cares, Prayers, and Current Affairs

**January and February
2023**

Dear Church Family and Friends,

To all our family and friends, whom we are blessed to have in our lives, may this year bring love to your heart, health to your body, and peace and joy to your home throughout this new year!

Prior to this coming year, a dream was conceived by our Senior Warden. The dream was to begin telling our own story beginning with the month of January of 2023. We will tell our history as we recall the events told to us by our parents and grandparents. We are fortunate that among our parishioners we have three such persons whose families grew up in St. Joseph's Episcopal Church as did their ancestors before them. People whose families formed a community of business owners, educators, doctors, lawyers, nurses, cosmetologist, and morticians. Some of our history was never recorded within the archives of Fayetteville, North Carolina's history.

It is of the utmost importance that we pass our stories down to the next generation.

These families include the Ferguson's, the Smith's and the LaHuffman's.

It was decided that each first Sunday of the month will be devoted to telling our story during a prayer breakfast hosted by various organizations or groups within the church.

The men of the church will kick off the first celebration. A traditional breakfast was served consisting of both turkey and pork sausages and bacon, scrambled eggs, pancakes and syrup, biscuits, doughnuts, and a medley of fruits and yogurt. An assortment of juices, hot chocolate, coffee and port wine was also available.

I am honored to share with our beloved family and friends, the history as it was told to us.

Our Historian, Mrs. Vernell Hamilton, calls herself a foreigner in that her family hails from New Bern, NC. She came to St. Joseph's through her military husband, Mr. Robert Hamilton who is a lifetime Episcopalian.

Here is a summary of St. Joseph's History as it was told.

The black congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church on Green Street in downtown Fayetteville separated from St. John's to form their own church under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Caldwell Husk . The church was chartered in May of 1873 just eight years following the Emancipation Proclamation. The present church located on the corner of Moore and Ramsey Streets is the third and final location of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church.

Through the aide of our benefactor Mrs. Eva Cochran from Yonkers NY, A beautiful Sanctuary, Rectory and Parish Hall became a reality. A black woman, member of St. John's, Mrs. Charlotte McNeil was Mrs. Cochran's beloved friend and seamstress. Mrs. McNeil was a distant cousin to Mr. LaHuffman's mother. Being from up North, Mrs. Cochran was not pleased with the divide and lack of service of the black communicants. She used her wealth and position to purchase the property on the corner of Ramsey and Moore Street. The church was built in 1896 and was consecrated by the Right Reverend Alfred A. Watson in May 1897, the first Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina.

Mrs. Cochran spared no expense in the construction of this grand campus which consist of three buildings connected by a breezeway. A

newspaper article written and now located in the archives of St. John's states that the construction of St. Joseph's elegance is comparable to that of "The Biltmore Estate" in Asheville NC.

The five-piece set of exquisite Tiffany Resurrection Windows were the last constructed by Tiffany's of NY. They were first displayed at the World's Fair in California in 1890. This is the focal point upon entering the sanctuary. The large Fleur-de-lis design in the rear window of the church represents the Holy Trinity and the Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary. This window serves as beautiful backdrop to the Baptismal Font purchased by the parishioners to honor Dr. Joseph Caldwell Huske.

The beautiful pipe organ was first owned by St. John's and was purchased by St. Joseph's for \$100. One of the pipes bears the signature of Henry Erben of NY. We are told that our organ is one of two such organs that still exist.... making it a royal gem.

The beautiful gold plaques that line the walls of the sanctuary represent the lives of people whose shoulders we now stand upon. They represent lives to whom we are indebted. They are lives who have entrusted us with this great legacy to keep, care, cherish and to pass on to the next generation.

St. Joseph's has suffered three fires. The first in 1917 which destroyed the rectory and parish hall. They were rebuilt under the direction of Eva Cochran's son. Please note that the Rectory was once one level and when it was rebuilt, it became a two-story home for the use of the Rector. Father Augustine Joseph was the last priest to live at the rectory. It was later rented out for the coalition for the homeless. The building suffered much damage over the years. It is our hope and plan to restore the building for use and to convert it into museum of history for the community and the city of Fayetteville.

The second fire was in 2005 destroying the gazebo. The third fire was in 2015 which partially destroyed the front of the church veranda. The entire sanctuary suffered water and chemical damage in putting out the fire. The antique pipe organ had to be dismantled and taken out of state to be repaired following this damage.

The founding members of the church formed the Howard School, one of the first schools for people of African descent.

Twenty ministers have served as rectors for St. Joseph's, the most recent being Rev. Ralph Clark a retired Military Chaplain. The only female to

ever serve as Priest-in-Charge was Rev. Teddra Smith who served prior to Rev. Clark.

St. Joseph's continues being the Hub of the community. It has made itself available to the USO, NAACP, the Fayetteville Senior Ensemble, the Breakfast Ministry and many other programs and organizations.

In June 1982, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church entered the National Registry of Historic Places.

BEREAVEMENT: Gene Graham, a beloved lifelong member of St. Joseph's went home to his eternal home and was laid to rest on January 6, 2023. His beautiful smile and witty jokes will be sorely missed. May he rest in Peace and rise in Glory.

The Ferguson Family

By Tony Ferguson

The story of the Ferguson family reads like a beautiful love story. The matriarch of the Ferguson Family was Mrs. Enid Delores Ferguson. She was born in 1925 in Nassau Bahamas to Vincent and Vera Marshall. The family was prospering in the Bahamas. Mrs. Enid's father ran his own business while her mother was the Director of Nursing in the Bahamas General Hospital. All was well until the

Great Depression hit and the family lost everything. Mrs. Enid's father had to move to the states as a migrant worker. Tony's father, though born in Miami FL moved to the Bahamas where both parents attended Western Senior High in the Bahamas. Both found themselves enrolled in the School of Nursing.

One fateful day, both Enid and Tommy were working on the psychiatric ward, she... on the female side of the ward while he worked on the male side.

The emergency alarm sounded. This was a "Call for Help!" Tommy ran towards the area where help was needed only to find a patient had a female worker in a choke hold. This woman, he would one day wed! Needless to say, Enid was the victim in dire need of rescuing that day. That makes Tommy, her Prince Charming! They fell hopelessly in love and after a brief courtship, they did marry. Upon his graduation, a year ahead of Enid... he was drafted into the US Army during the Korean War. As it still happens to young brides even today, Enid was left in Fayetteville, far from home. Arrangements were made for Enid, having no relatives near, to stay with a longtime member of St. Joseph', Mrs. Henderson. Enid and Tommy wed in 1949 and became members of St. Joseph's.

(Here is the tear dropping moment. Get your box of Kleenex in hand.)

Tommy said to his beloved Enid.... “All I have to offer to you now is my love but I promise to make you the envy of most women and I will always be here for you.”

It was here in the city of Fayetteville, Enid for the first time was confronted with the Jim Crow Laws. She would see the signs... White Bathroom’ and Colored Bathroom’. Remember, Enid was from a place where black people were the majority and she always identified as black so in making the decision as to which restroom she would choose...she chose the white restroom. What a commotion she caused that day! As soon as she began to speak it was evident that by her accent she was not a local and could not have known what the signs meant.

Enid’s first job was at High-Smith Rainey Hospital as a nurse. She was one of the first six black nurses to be hired. In 1956 five other nurses to include our own Mary McCullum were assigned to the second floor of Cape Fear Valley Hospital. Being excluded from the white club for nurses, these brave pioneers formed their own club and became known as the Lamp Lighters.

At this time, working conditions were under duress with little to no respect as a black person. Black patients were assigned to the second floor while women giving birth were sent to the basement, often without the direction of a doctor. Mrs. Enid was a certified mid-wife. She delivered 6-7 babies on her own. In 1960 Mrs. Enid joined the Womack Army Hospital Staff.

Mrs. Enid had a passion for helping the migrant farm workers since her father after the depression became one such workers. She was asked to be a representative for the Episcopal Farm Workers. She also became a member of the Church Women United who started the program along with Mrs. Thompson to gather donations for the workers. This still goes on today. St. Joseph's has become the drop site for these donations each year.

Mrs. Enid's last accomplishment was to see a chapter of the Daughters of the King Chapter at St. Joseph's. Shortly after becoming a Daughter, she was called to her Eternal Home.

I'm blessed to have known Mrs. Enid. She walked with the presence of a queen, straight and upright with a bit of swagger. With her head held high, she spoke with such eloquence and proper English which

in itself commanded attention. She always spoke with the confidence of a queen. Some may have thought it intimidating but I loved it. She is responsible for my involvement of the Farm Workers ministry and the Church Women United today. One whose shoulders I stand.

Mr. Ferguson was a member of the Famed 555 Infantry Battalion. He was also A Black Hat Jump Master. He Spearheaded the Combat Medical School for the Special Forces. There is a plaque erected in his name at Fort Bragg. He served for 21 years. Upon retirement he attended Shaw University and Fayetteville State University. He worked for 11 years for the Fayetteville Housing Authority. He started his own Real - Estate business. The Ferguson Family became one of the first 24 families to form the Broadell Community of affluent black members of society. He was a vestry member and a longtime member of St. Joseph's for 54 years. Words of wisdom passed on to his children was quote,

“A man is judged by how he provides for his family.”

The Smith Family

The story of the Smith family was told by the youngest daughter of Mrs. Ernestine and Lee Smith, the most talented Sharon McNair who is now our Minister of Music.

The Smith Family was and is a household of vast musical talent, the arts and education. I dare to say there are more people in the Fayetteville area that know Mrs. Ernestine Smith than not. She touched the hearts of so many. She loved all things musical and all things children. She truly had the love of God and the spirit of the Lord in her heart which shined through her beautiful smile. Mrs. Ernestine Smith attended FSU of Fayetteville NC earning her Bachelor's Degree and completed her Masters of Education at NC State University. She became lovingly known as Mamatine. She lived to be 100 years old and truly was a bright light at St. Joseph's. Teaching and singing were her passion. When St. Joseph's became the school for children of color, she taught Kindergarten. Her longest stent of employment was at Plain View Elementary in Bladen County where she taught 2nd grade. Mamatine also formed many children choirs as well as the Senior Ensemble which included women and men from various churches and the community. She also conducted a Men's choir at St. Josephs. She taught Sunday School

and for as long as she was able to attend service, she was a lector. Mamatine was the only child of Dr. and Mrs. Wayman Williams. Her father was a pharmacist.

She later met and married her beloved husband, Leonidas (Lee) Smith. He was from a family of 12 children. A story shared by Mrs. McNair, was the shocking difference between quiet family dinners of 3 to which her mother was accustomed and the of sounds of the 11 siblings being called to dinner at the home of her beloved Lee was indeed something to behold!

The LaHuffman Family

Mr. Donald Waddell LaHuffman began his story by admitting that St. Joseph's and Moore St. was all he knew growing up. It was his whole world. The church, the school and many shops were all in walking distance. This was during the best of times, while enduring the worst of times living in the Jim Crow era in the heart of Fayetteville North Carolina located next door to Fort Bragg. Mr. LaHuffman shared a story in Bible study of how he and his black friends would meet in a field with their white friends to play ball. No matter who won, the game would always end in a fury of name calling. As you may guess each team were hurling racial slurs at one another. Both sides would return to their

respective sides of town only to show up the next day to play again!

Free blacks in the Moore Street area were building nice homes. Many had college degrees and operated their own businesses. There were doctors, lawyers, dentist, teachers, and preachers. Donald 's father owned three beauty salons aside from being the first black postal worker in Fayetteville. The area in which they lived was considered the "Red-Bone" area.

There was a time when some of our brothers and sisters of color had the advantage of "Passing." That is, looking white while being black, having hair that was straight or curly as opposed to nappy or kinky... with smaller noses and thinner lips. It had its advantages in a white world.

Unlike today, many of the two story and single-family homes are gone now...the beautiful lawns have been replaced with littered remnants of the signs of the times in which we now live. The drug addicts, homeless, vagrants, destitute and unemployed roam the streets now and they trample over yards that were once beautiful gardens and well-groomed lawns.

Donald recalls a time of prosperity for black owned businesses in the downtown area of Hay Street. Unfortunately, many of these businesses

dried up due to the Jim Crow laws. He shared a horrifying story of the traffic pattern in the downtown area was changed by the city council so that our people who patronized the black businesses could not park their cars near their businesses making it impossible for them to thrive.

I was appalled at the degree which people will go to prevent someone from prospering due to the color of their skin...but this is not my story.

Though Donald is 80, his story still moves forth on a good note. All his siblings and many of his buddies growing up, attended college, survived the sit-ins and walk-outs of the 60's. They are now retired from great jobs. Mr. La Huffman's children in kind are successful and the legacy shall continue on. Just think.... it all started on Moore St. of Fayetteville NC.

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I sincerely hope you have enjoyed these stories as told by the long-time members of St. Joseph's. Please join us each first Sunday of each month as we continue to tell our stories.

## What' been Happening at St. Joseph's

On December the 18th we had our annual Christmas Social. Members of the cantata choir were invited. The Butler Parrish Hall was decked out in colors of red, green, gold and silver. The tree was dressed in red and gold decorations. We had a variety of different foods with all sorts of deserts. Christmas music played in the background as we fellowshiped with one another.

The Cantata 2022 was fabulous! St. Joseph's choir members joined forces with members of St. James Lutheran Church and other singers from churches around the city.

The house was packed! Spirits were High! Mrs. McNair worked the choir with every fiber of her being! The musicians were great. How does she do it!

Each year is greater than the year before! Every singer gives their all to the Glory of the Lord. This year's theme was "The Perfect Tree." One of the highlights of each cantata is always the Temptation's rendition of 'Merry Christmas' ! We look forward to this event each year! It is an honor to bear witness to this great choir under the direction of Mrs. Sharon McNair.

The tree in the sanctuary was very special this year! Under the request of Deacon Mary Shields, the Crafters Guild and Mrs. Vikki Clark, cross stitched Chrismons all of which are religious symbols. Deacon Shields put each one in gold frames. It was so very beautiful.

### **Christmas Eve Service**

Our Christmas Eve service was very special. This night we lit the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath. Rev. Ralph Clark was our celebrant. As many of you know Rev. Clark is spending his days working to complete his Doctorates in Psychology.

The service put me in mind of a home coming. Rev. Clark's sermons are always engaging and thought provoking. This night as we parted ways, wishing each other a Merry Christmas, had a warm fulfilling meaning.

The Annual Absalom Jones service will take place on Feb. 19 at St. Andrew's in Goldsboro at 4:00. Members of St. Joseph's will carpool from the church to this event.

On Sunday, February 26, following service we will travel to the museum of History to bear

witness to the 150 years of History that will be featured for the entire year.

Our Annual Convention for the Diocese of East Carolina will take place at the Greenville Convention Center on February 10 and 11. Our Delegates are Mr. Tyrone Francis, and our alternate is Ms. Bernice Motley. Also attending is our own Rev. Deacon Mary Moore Shields.

The Crafters Guild meetings have moved to Wednesdays at 1:00.

### **Welcome**

We are blessed to have **MS. Mary Langston** worshipping with us!

**Congrats** to Mr. and Mr. Donald LaHuffman who welcomed their 3rd. great grandson. Baby Avery Bishop weighed in at 7 lbs!

**Congrats** are in order to Ms. Bernice Motley! She DID NOT have a baby but has the cutest new truck! YOU GO GIRL!



### January Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> Harry Carswell  
9<sup>th</sup> Samuel Lloyd  
25<sup>th</sup> Monique Braxton

### February Birthdays

Avery Bishop  
7<sup>th</sup> Robert Hamilton  
22<sup>nd</sup> Whitney Nebolisa  
25<sup>th</sup> Fredrick Ferguson  
Vikki Clark



**From Mr. Donald W.  
LaHuffman**

Greetings to all St Joseph's Family.  
Let us be thankful and prayerful for Gods  
blessings to us. Also be mindful of the  
challenges that we will face in 2023 as our  
150th Anniversary draws near in the spring.  
Our church needs the collective support of  
each and every member to help out.  
A few people cannot do it alone. Everybody  
Is important in this church.

I urge each person to resolve in your heart to do all that you can to support our church.

Your support does is not limited to money, although we need it if you have it. Equally important your prayers and moral support is needed. Bring a friend to church or a relative.

Donald LaHuffman  
Senior Warden Emeritus



### Chandra's Prayer Corner

Dear God, thank You for what You have done this year in my life. It hasn't been easy, but I trust that even in the hard moments, You have been making a way. In 2023, remind me to continue trusting in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

: There are times when you feel invisible, unappreciated, and uncared for. But, know that what really matters is that I not only see you but appreciate and care for you. My love for you is unrivaled. Find your worth and comfort in Me. Rise up in that realization and take your rightful position, says the Lord. 1 John 4:8-10 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through

Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

### **February's Prayer Breakfast**

St. Joseph's kicked off the month of February honoring Black History Month as well as honoring our own history. We dined in the magnificent Mae Butler Parrish Hall. Our gracious host was none other than our own Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

In keeping with our culture, the tables were a combination of red (for the blood that continues to be shed today) green (for growth) and black, (our ethnicity and culture). Each centerpiece was black sculpted art figures representing our roots and people. On the walls we featured artwork from St. Joseph's young brother, Olu-Orondava Mumford, whose lineage has been traced to Madagascar.

The menu consisted of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, fruits and cheese, hash browns, muffins and croissants. The beverage consisted of a variety of juices, coffee, water and wine.

Our Sr. Warden Emeritus, Mr. Donald LaHuffman filled in for our church historian,

Mrs. Vernell Hamilton, as the Master of Ceremony.

Our Guest speaker was the Associate Professor of History from Fayetteville State University, Dr. Kelli Walsh.

She began by stating that our own archives of registries over the years is a treasure trove of St. Joseph's history.

She decided to focus her talk on two families that were instrumental in making the freed slave community a booming place within the city of Fayetteville. The early freed slaves had two specific habits. One was that families named their children after past members of their families. So, as you look at the family line, we see generations of John's and Mary's and so on. I see this as a way one keeps their story going. Siblings would name each of their children after one of their own siblings, parents or grandparents and so on. The second habit was to make sure their children learned a trade.

Dr. Walsh chose to focus on the Perry and Leary families. Both families were educated. These two families merged through marriage and were both affluent members of the community. There were two Victorian style homes on the lot across from St. Joseph's that is now the site where a Funeral

Home is located today. These were the homes of the Leary's and the Perry's.

Back in the day families taught their children a trade that could sustain them economically and therefore support a family. Education was the Key to prosperity. One of these two Powerhouses was a skilled builder, another was a skilled saddle maker. For those who had the means, families would send their children probably up north to be educated.

Upon returning home they would strive to teach others. Among them were doctors and nurses. Out of these households a school for training women to be nurses was built. Down the street from the church which still stands is a white two story home that was once a maternity hospital for women of color. It is now a group home for the homeless.

Dr. Walsh told a story of a woman who was called French Mary. Her family was tri-racial. French Mary could speak French fluently as did her mother. French Mary was taught to cook French cuisine. On such occasion, The Marquis De Lafayette of France made a visit to what is now Fayetteville North Carolina. Because of her background, French Mary was called upon to entertain him and because she knew his language. She cooked for him foods to which he

was accustomed making a wonderful experience here in Fayetteville.

Dr. Walsh, being a historian, she is constantly looking for facts and documentations. This passion for history takes Dr. Walsh to all sorts of places including the cemetery. Upon a visit to one of Fayetteville's oldest cemeteries she happened upon two women. A woman sitting in a car was quite up in age. The woman she approached was her caretaker. Dr. Walsh asked if she knew any Leary's and she pointed to the woman sitting in the car. WHAT A Find! I'm sure this had to be like hitting the lottery! This woman was most likely the last living great granddaughter of the Leary's! She was invited to her home where she shared with her as much history as she could recall which included photographs.

Between these great families, the Normal School for people of color was built. This school became Fayetteville State University. The Howard School was also built for children of color. Charles Waddell Chesnutt, a prominent member who served as a vestry member at St. Joseph's. He was its third principal.

We are so thankful to have this rich history shared with us.

*Please join us on the first Sunday of March for more of our great history !*



## **Brotherhood of St. Andrew**

The BofStA attended a plaque presentation where we were given a plaque to



thank us for our contribution to the purchase of uniforms for the girls' basketball team of Spring Lake Middle School. The Brotherhood meets every Saturday at 11:00 am.



## Bible Trivia

How many words are in the Bible?

- A. Over 200,000
- B. Over 559,000

- C. Over 770,000
- D. Over 1,000.000

Answer: 770,00

Hebrews 12:2 says that,  
Jesus is the author and the  
perfector of what?

- A. Our Life
- B. Our Faith
- C. Our love
- D. Our honor

Answer: Our Faith

Bible Humor

Who was the first Canning factory run by?

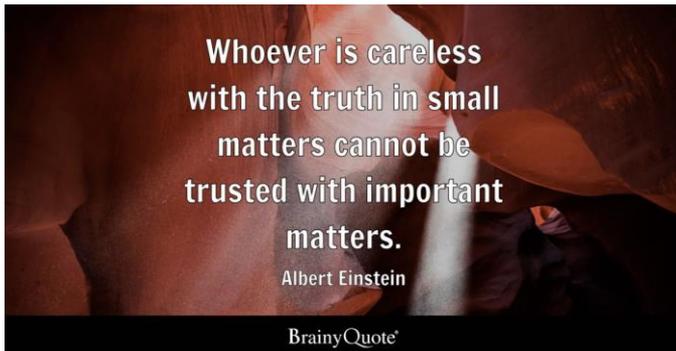
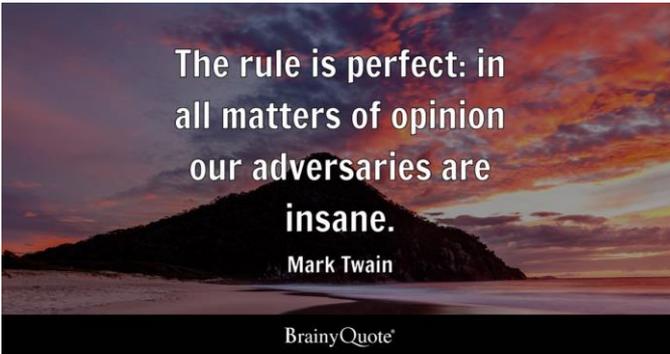
Answer (Noah, he had a boatful of preserved  
pairs.)

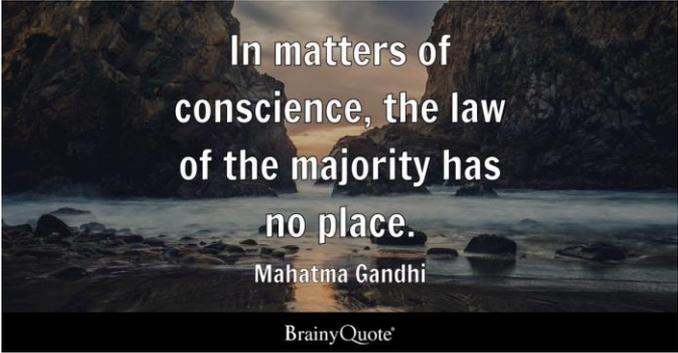
Looking for a Knight in shining armor?  
I know someone wearing the full armor of God.



## Words of Wisdom

shared by our Sr. Warden  
Mr. Tyrone Frances

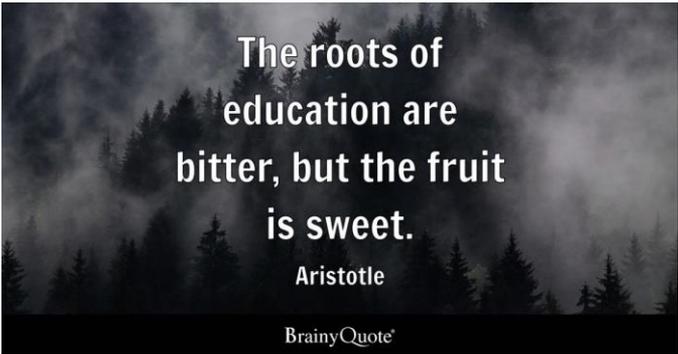




In matters of  
conscience, the law  
of the majority has  
no place.

Mahatma Gandhi

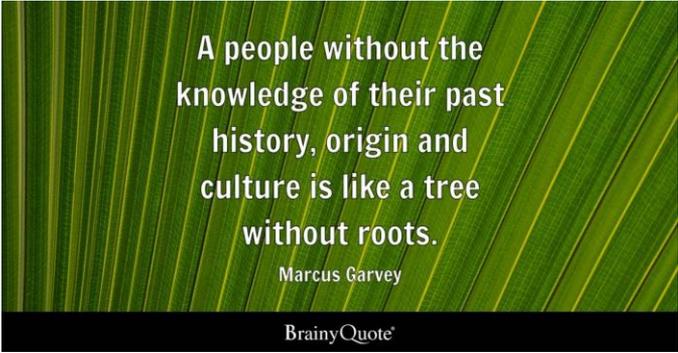
BrainyQuote



The roots of  
education are  
bitter, but the fruit  
is sweet.

Aristotle

BrainyQuote



A people without the  
knowledge of their past  
history, origin and  
culture is like a tree  
without roots.

Marcus Garvey

BrainyQuote



## Health News

By Dr. Stella Nebolisa

### 3 Fried Foods that wreak havoc on your health

Fried foods are dangerously delicious and hard to resist. But they're also the worst foods you can eat if you're trying to lose weight. Although tasty, your favorite fried foods are typically packed with unhealthy ingredients like trans fats, processed carbs, and a whole lot of empty calories.

According to Catherine Gervacio, Lisa Richards and Katelyn Brockmiller, registered dietitians, French fries, mozzarella sticks, and onion rings can often lead to stomach inflammation because of the oils that they are usually fried in. These oils have a high concentration of inflammatory fat, omega-6, and are low in anti-inflammatory fats.

#### French Fires

As you probably already know, those delectable French fries from your favorite fast-food place are horrible for your health. Gervacio warns that this fan-favorite fried treat can cause serious inflammation in the

stomach, they are high in trans-fat content, which means they don't contain substantial nutrients, but can cause and worsen inflammation.

### Mozzarella Stick

Mozzarella sticks are not only fried, but they contain high-fat cheese as well which can lead to an inflamed stomach. This appetizer is one of the worst for your metabolism because it contains a significant number of calories and fat along with the inflammatory nature of the ingredients.

Fried foods integrate an excessive amount of saturated fat and calories, Mozzarella sticks are not worth the damage they do to your body over time.

### Onion Rings

Onion rings are just as bad for you as a side of fries. Onion rings are on average 400 calories, 22 grams of fat, 8 grams of saturated fat, and 726 milligrams of sodium. And, even worse, Outback Steakhouse's Bloomin' Onion, packs 1,953 calories, 161 grams of fat, and 3,700 milligrams of sodium. Onions usually consist of one large onion, cut to resemble a flower, battered, and deep-fried, often served with dipping sauce. The dipping

sauce usually contains mayonnaise, ketchup, and horseradish.

According to a study by CNBC, 18,080 people found that a diet high in fried foods was linked to lower scores in learning and memory. The likely reason: These guilty pleasures cause inflammation, which can damage the blood vessels that supply the brain with blood."

Instead of French fries, mozzarella sticks, and onion rings, you are better off eating food that is not fried with inflammatory oils. Instead opt for unprocessed foods like whole grains, nuts, seeds, legumes, fruits, and vegetables. These foods are anti-inflammatory, not harmful to our metabolism, high in fiber, and great for weight loss.

But, if you are still craving a crispy snack without ruining your body, we recommend cooking up your own version of French fries, mozzarella sticks, and onion rings at home. "Bake your own potatoes and make them crispy. Air fryers can also be considered to lessen fat intake. It may be even better than fast-food French fries, Just using an air fryer, healthier oil (like Avocado or Olive oil) with

whole wheat breadcrumbs can make a massive difference in inflammation in the stomach.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Stella C. Nebolisa, PharmD, Rph



### **Deacon's Ponderings and Prayers**

By Rev. Deacon Mary Mac Shields

The American Red Cross is grateful for the Parish of St. Joseph's holding a blood drive on December 13, 2022. The goal for our drive was twenty donations. The results of our drive were twenty-four donations.

This is the first blood drive where we reached and exceeded our goal. Our parish continues to be asked to host blood drive. Several of our members signed up to donate. Thank you one and all.

Of course, we have those who always provide their assistance when we schedule events. Thank you to Carlos Flores, Tony Ferguson, Jan and Olu Mumford for providing hospitality and organization on behalf of the church.

Visitors and the staff of the Red Cross always show an interest in our church. Jan was gracious

and gave them an opportunity to see the sanctuary. She shared the history of St. Joseph's and told them about the upcoming one hundred and fiftieth anniversary to be celebrated in May.

Outreach throughout the community is all of the members of the church part as we continue to share when the celebration will be held.

Prayer-

Holy God, be in my mind that I might let go of all that diminishes the movement of your Spirit with me.

Discerning God, be in my eyes that I might see you in all the busyness that fills my life.

Loving God, be in my heart that I can be open to those I love, to those with whom I share ministry and to the whole human family.

Gracious God, be in that grace-filled silence that lies deep within me, that I might live in Christ as Christ lives in me. Amen

Newsletter written by: Jan Mumford

Newsletter edited by: Sam Lloyd