

Church of St. Matthew - Bulletin Insert

February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

E-BOX VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE!

“E-Box” is our shorthand way of referring to the overdue replacement of our main electric panel. It’s the most important capital project planned for 2023.

Because of its importance, we’re focusing Lenten fundraising efforts on the E-Box. To help, several talented volunteers created the promotional video now available on our website. It’s good. Check it out!

As a new, easy way to give, we’ve set up a DonorBox campaign. The QR code will take you directly to our DonorBox site. Simply scan with your phone to make an electronic payment.



Donations to our E-Box fund are tax deductible. (*Previous bulletins had incorrect information.*)

OTHER CONTRIBUTION METHODS

Besides DonorBox, you can use the monthly Capital Needs envelope, or a Capital Needs envelope found at the back of the church, or an EFT dedicated to Capital Needs.

Many parishioners already use EFTs for operational support. More recently, some donors have added a Capital Needs component to their online giving. Call or email me for more information about EFTs.

Phil Grant
Pastoral Administrator



Don Leibl died on February 20, 2023. His funeral Mass will be held at St. Matthew at a later date.

Please remember Don and his family in your prayers.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL

CRS Rice Bowl is available in the back of the church. Please consider taking one for your family to participate in this Lenten journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

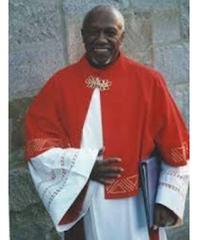
Your donation made through CRS Rice Bowl help provide lifesaving support globally and in our own community.

Thank you for your generosity.

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY

Fr. Clarence Joseph Rivers (1931-2004)

Father Clarence J. Rivers pioneered African American musical liturgy and an accompanying mindset for the benefit of Catholics across the nation and around the world.



Father Rivers said in an interview in 1977: “People are hungry and not being fed.” Obviously, in considering his life’s work, this sentiment permeated his soul and sparked his enduring pledge to nourish and enliven starving people of faith. This shy, insecure boy from Selma, Alabama, who began life as a non-Catholic, received his divine, priestly call through the early encouragement and nourishment of Catholic education and mentorship. He was the first black priest ordained in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

In music and in prose, this artist-priest transformed traditional Catholic liturgy by bringing the riches of African American culture to be appreciated and respected as a means of expressing one’s faith. He was a composer, liturgist, writer, editor, lecturer, educator, ecumenical leader, business owner, director, award recipient and a completely engaged creative force that helped strengthen the Black Catholic community during the days of pre and post-Vatican II and through a tumultuous time in American history.

Most importantly, Rivers was able to strike a balance between the beauty of earlier Catholic liturgy with the contemporary liturgy he composed that invigorated faith for all, especially those who struggled within a traditionally white European framework. He found a creative way to honor and preserve the traditions of the past while introducing more culturally meaningful ways of worship. This is a true testament to his brilliance and his lasting impact on Catholicism.

Known as a trailblazer and an iconic figure for the African American Catholic community, he performed his seminal hymn, “God is Love” in 1964 at the National Liturgical Conference, the first high Mass celebrated in English in the US Catholic Church.

Father Rivers brought parishioners closer to God through joyous celebratory worship. His mission was to share his gift of blackness with fellow Catholics and other denominations using his musical compositions as a vehicle.

Source: <https://stjosephcincinnati.org/our-team/>