

Juneteenth

June 2023



Juneteenth is the oldest celebration that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It is a celebration of continued societal progress and respect for all cultures and people. The core message of freedom for all continues to live on with the annual celebration of this historic day in United States history. It is a day of reflection, a day of renewal, a pride filled day. It is a moment in time taken to appreciate the African American experience. It is inclusive of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities. It is a day to build coalitions that enhance all communities. On Juneteenth, we come together young and old to listen, to learn and to refresh the drive to achieve. It is a day where we all take one step closer to better utilize the energy wasted on racism. Juneteenth is a day that we pray for peace and Liberty for all.



JUNETEENTH PRAYER We pray, O Lord, for change. Jesus you revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds, and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins. Guide us, through the love you revealed, to establish the justice you proclaimed, that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace, united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you. And most of all, Lord, change our routine worship and work into genuine encounter with you and our better selves so that our lives will be changed for the good of all. Amen Prayer adapted from Racial Healing and Liturgical Resources.

Resources

[What is Juneteenth?](#)

[How do you celebrate Juneteenth?](#)

[What to know about the holiday?](#)

[Grappling with America's legacy of slavery](#)

[So You Want to Learn About Juneteenth?](#)

[Celebration and Mourning](#)

Activity Books for Children

Juneteenth Book for Kids | Liberty & Justice for All !: On Juneteenth History and Activities Book for Children from 7 Years Old, Social Justice Books for Kids by Green Owl

The Ultimate Juneteenth Activity Book For Kids & Young Scholars - ELA, U.S. History, and Art Freedom Day Activities for Kids Grades 2 to 6 - Black History by K. S. Daniels (Author)

All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom Hardcover – Picture Book, by Angela Johnson (Author), E.B. Lewis (Illustrator)

Videos

[Racial Justice and Call to Action](#)

[Recognizing Juneteenth](#)

[Educational videos about Juneteenth for kids](#)

Adults

JUNETEENTH

A CALL TO ACTION

Before we can celebrate Juneteenth, we as a country must do better at living into its promise.

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from the inhumane and long-term effects of systemic racism.

We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

So, on Juneteenth, we recommit to the work that needs to be done for reconciliation to address and correct our participation in unjust structures. To fully embody our belief in the life and dignity of every human person.

And, while we persist in these endeavors, we do not forget our mission to meet our community's immediate needs in the Archdiocese of Seattle offering care, food, shelter and other services to all who require it.

Every day, let us honor the dignity in every person and work to fulfill the promise of Juneteenth.

Excerpts from Msgr. John J. Enzler, President and CEO of Catholic Charities

**Resources from the Archdiocese of Seattle BCAC Juneteenth Toolkit*