Who are the Chaldeans?

**HISTORY**
- Chaldeans are indigenous to Iraq
- History spanning 5,500 years dating back to Mesopotamia, the land between two rivers
- Predate the Arabs, Turks and Kurds
- From the Arab world but are not Arabs
- The Chaldean King Nebuchadnezzar created the Hanging Gardens of Babylon (one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World) for his wife
- Abraham, the Father of three Faiths, was from Ur of Chaldeans
- The King of Ur created Hammurabi’s Stele, one of the first known codes of law, currently on display at the Louvre

**RELIGION**
- Chaldeans are Eastern-rite Catholic, converted by the Apostle St. Thomas
- The Chaldean Church is led by the Patriarch of Babylon for the Chaldeans, currently Mar Luis Sako
- The Chaldean Catholic Church is in full Union with the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope is the highest authority
- Two Chaldean Catholic Bishops in the U.S. Francis Kalabat in Michigan and Emanuel Shaleta in California

**DEMOGRAPHICS**
- Estimated 2,000,000 Chaldean/Assyrian/Syriac people in the World
- Estimated 500,000 Chaldeans in the U.S.
- There are 160,000 Chaldeans living in Southeast Michigan, mostly in Macomb and Oakland Counties
- Since the United States’ invasion of Iraq in 2003, more than three fourths (1,000,000+) of Iraq’s Christian population have fled due to religious persecution and remain displaced as refugees throughout the world.
- Since 2007, more than 40,000 Iraqi refugees have migrated to Michigan.
- Nearly 60% of Chaldean households own one business
- Chaldean businesses contribute nearly $11 billion to the economy of Southeast Michigan

**LANGUAGE**
- The Chaldean language—called Syriac—is the oldest continuously spoken language in the world and a dialect of Aramaic
- Aramaic, Arabic and Hebrew all share the same alphabet and are all Semitic languages
- Aramaic is the oldest continuously spoken language and the language spoken by Jesus Christ.

**1750 BC Hammurabi introduces his Code of Laws**

**3000 BC Sumerians invent writing**