

Liturgy Schedule

8:30 Morning Prayer, Rosary, Monday through Friday

Monday, January 2 Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

8:00 Joseph Arko

Tuesday, January 3 Christmas Weekday

8:00 Helen Bykiewicz

Wednesday, January 4 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,

Religious

8:00 Joe Klir

Thursday, January 5 Saint John Neumann, Bishop

8:00 Fr. Jerome Lukachinsky

First Friday, January 6 Christmas Weekday

8:00 Andrea Kolo

First Saturday, January 7 Christmas Weekday

3:15 Confessions

4:00 Frank & Henrietta Pelletiere

Sunday, January 8 The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 People of the Parish

10:00 George Kaczmarek

12:00 Joselena DeLuca

2:30 Divine Mercy



the following members of our Parish community: **Lynda Petit, Thomas Obojski, Betty Jacob, Fr. David Woost, Richard Rosberil, Theresa Grimshaw, Frank Hrovat, Joann Reddinger, Karen Styler, Dolores Elias, Mary Ann Dorazewski, Janet Loeffler, Rosemary Kern, Stephen Rapsik, Sarah Burket and Mark Pennington.** The names will remain in the bulletin for two weeks. Please call the Parish office for more information. If you have a special intention you would like remembered in prayer, please call Lillian Neptune @ 216.662.5464.



Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and friends of **Mary Ann Battaglia** who was buried this past week. May she and all our dearly departed, rest in peace.



Please join us **next Sunday, January 8th** after 8:00 and 10:00am masses. Hosting will be the Athletic Association.

Religion Question of the Week

Why does the Catholic Church require that when a child is Baptized at least one of the names chosen for the child be a Saint's name?

Did You Know?

Did you know that in Nigeria New Year's Day begins with a Solemn Mass by all the Catholics at Midnight ?

One Liner

"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me...."
(St. Francis of Assisi)

Answer to the Religion question of the week located on page 4 of this bulletin, under the collections.

2 weeks until Winterfest !



If you or a loved one have recently moved to a Nursing Facility please call the Parish Office 216.662.8685 so we can put you (them) on our Nursing Home Visitor's Schedule.

A Good New Year's Resolution

Every New Year's Day many of us look for a resolution that will help make an improvement in our lives. Some we keep, and others don't fare so well. I would like to suggest in this article a resolution which can make a big difference in our spiritual lives if we keep it. It involves keeping the Precepts of the Church. These are the minimum standards of considering oneself to be a Practicing Catholic.

"Precepts of the Church": (1) Worship God on all Sundays (Saturday evenings) and Holy Days of Obligation. (2) Receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter Season. (3) Receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once each year. (4) Be married in the Catholic Church. (5) Fast and abstain on the days appointed. (6) Support the Parish Church and School.

Hopefully we will do much more than practice these precepts to grow in our Catholic Faith. The greatest precept of all is to Love God and to Love our Neighbor. Practicing these precepts are a good beginning though.

Fr. Thomas Haren



The next Baptism Class will be held **Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30pm in the St. Joseph Meeting Room in the lower level of the Parish Office.** If you are interested in having your child baptized please call the Parish Office at 216.662.8685 to register.

Divine Mercy

Please join us for a special hour of adoration and thanksgiving to the Divine Mercy of Jesus **next Sunday, January 8th, at 2:30 in St. Monica Church.** There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and prayers for families, our youth, and our country. **All are welcome to join us.**



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 2 and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 3 at 8:00am. Happy New Year!!

Pastoral Scene

Family Matters

I recently celebrated my 17th anniversary of employment here at St. Monica Parish. As many of you know, I originally planned on being here interim - until a new music director could be hired. Within weeks, the parish endeared itself to me - I wanted to stay and be part of this wonderful family. It was (and still is) the atmosphere of community and family, of gratitude and hospitality, of prayer and support - not just toward me - but toward each other in a way that very few parishes can boast. St. Monica Parish is a very unique place. Sometimes I think we take for granted just how fortunate we all are.

I'm sure that many of us will take some time over this Christmas Season (if we haven't already) to spend with our families. But what kind of time are we truly spending? Is everything just a big rush, or is there truly some quality time being spent? Over the course of this coming year, let's challenge ourselves to slow down a little, and really spend some quality time....not just doing things, or watching television together, but really getting to know each other. I think that many will be amazed at how little we know about our closest family members - their likes and dislikes, their views and opinions, their trials and accomplishments. It's sad that our society has become so caught up in day-in-day-out struggles and interests that we overlook one of the most important things in our lives - our families.

Friday (Dec. 30th) was the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - and so we honor them as the true model of family life. This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God - a beautiful example upholding the value and dignity of motherhood in all aspects.

Through these models we see attentiveness, patience, discipline and unconditional love. So how can we begin to more fully implement these virtues in our family lives? One way might be to take some time to pray together. Nothing real formal or extravagant. Maybe it could just be a short prayer together in the morning, asking for God's guidance and protection throughout the day - or maybe a prayer in the evening just to thank God for the gifts and blessings of the day. Another idea might be to gather with your family for just a moment each week at our Holy Family Shrine in the gathering area of the church for a quick prayer before or after Mass.

"The family that prays together stays together" is an old adage, but it contains a great deal of truth. May all of our families here at St. Monica Parish find peace, joy and comfort during this Christmas Season.

Bob Soeder

ST. MONICA SENIOR GROUP

Happy New Year! Come join the Senior's on JAN. 10TH in the **Augustine Room** of the School for the first meeting of the New Year beginning at **2PM**. Join in with friends for a FUN-filled afternoon with refreshments and FUN & Games! New members are ALWAYS welcome SO bring a friend! Hope to see you in the New Year!



St. Mary of Bedford Church along with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, United States Secret Service presents "Identity Theft and Fraud Scams" on Monday, January 9, 2017 in the church, located at 300 Union Street, Bedford. Special Agent Williamson will enlighten us from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Please register for this important free presentation by calling St Mary's Church @ 440. 359.8205 by Jan 2, so we may better prepare for the event. Be sure not to miss this presentation!

On a regular basis we would like to mention and honor one of the over 30 organizations here at St. Monica's. This week we have:

Respect Life: A group that protects life through prayer, fasting, community outreach, education and more.

If you would like more information, or would be interested in joining this group please call the parish office.

Winterfest Donation Request

The Winterfest Chinese Raffle Committee is looking for any and all donations to help make this year's Winterfest a success. If anyone has any items they would like to donate; sporting event tickets, movie tickets, certificates of any kind that you might not be able to use we would be happy to take them off your hands! We are also in need of any handmade items from our wonderful crafters. While getting ready for the holidays if you come across any white elephant items we could certainly use them. If you have any empty baskets you will not be needing we would appreciate them as well. **You can drop them off at the parish office or call Bill Noyes to arrange for pick-up. 216-912-8679.**



The last incentive drawing will be held January 8th -the winner will receive a \$25 Gift Card. Congratulations 2nd Incentive Drawing Winners: Mr & Mrs Dallas Jones. Thank you for all your help to make this year's Winterfest a success!

Winterfest is looking for volunteers to help make the weekend a success. If you can help out even for a few hours that would be appreciated. **Please call our Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Moczulski 216-407-9732.**

There will also be a meeting for volunteers on Thursday, January 12th in the cafeteria if you decide to help at the last minute!

SANDWICH SATURDAY

All are invited to join us on Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 am in the Parish Office as we begin another year of helping those on the streets and in a shelter.



There always is a great need for clean, gently used - or new - blankets to be passed out to those on the streets. We will be collecting these for St. Ignatius to pass out to the homeless. If you can help with this, please bring with you to Sandwich Saturday or turn them in at the Parish Office. Thank you in advance for your help.



Stewardship

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Dec. 24 / Dec. 25

Due to the early bulletin deadline the information for the Dec 24th / Dec 25 collection will appear in the Jan. 8 bulletin. Happy New Year!

Answer to This Week's Question

Why does the Catholic Church require that for Baptism one of the child's name be that of a Saint?

Answer: Because Saints are among the best role models in Heaven for children.

On Sunday January 8, 2017 at 6pm our Garfield Heights Council in conjunction with the Maple Hts. Council will hold its Basketball Free Throw Championship at St. Benedict's gym. All boys and girls ages 9 -14 are welcome to participate. Please, if you can, bring a donation of canned goods, dry food products, bathroom supplies, or paper products. We will be collecting for the St. Vincent DePaul Society. For further information please contact:: Ben Welich 216-410-2150 & Ed Kuilder.



To help build an endowment fund, please consider remembering St. Monica Church in your Will.



The student council sponsored two Christmas drives during the holiday season. First, the students collected toys for the Ronald McDonald House in Cleveland. Every year, the Ronald McDonald House gives children and their families a place to stay while they are getting treatment in the nearby hospitals. Second, the student council sold candy grams. Students were able to send a special messages to their friends along with a candy cane. Blankets, gloves, and hats will be purchased for the homeless for the Labre ministry with the money raised.



Parish Activities

MONDAY, January 2

8:00 Holy Name Mtg. (c)

TUESDAY, January 3

2:00 Senior Board Mtg (F)
4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
6:00 Bible Group (p.o. kitchen)
6:45 Troop 389 Mtg (c)
7:00 Guild Board Mtg (J)
7:00 MH K of C (AR)

WEDNESDAY, January 4

4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
6:30 GOF (SLL)

THURSDAY, January 5

4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
7:00 Pastoral Council Mtg (CC)

Friday, January 6

4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
8:00 MHCC Mtg (AR)

SATURDAY, January 7

9:00 Sandwich Saturday (J)

SUNDAY, January 8

8:00 / 10:00 Coffee & Donuts (c)
2:30 Divine Mercy (+)

YOUTH MINISTRY

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It's never too late to join youth group. We welcome all teens grades 6-12 for monthly faith-filled activities. This year we will continue to explore our theme "Walking with Jesus." For up to date information about meetings, go to our web page (www.saintmonicachurch.net) or join REMIND for text messages updates, schedule changes and impromptu events. To join REMIND, text 81010 with the message: @youth412 you will be asked to confirm with your name.



HOSPITAL VISITS: Did you Know?

Due to a Federal law it is nearly impossible to visit you when you are hospitalized. Unless YOU call us or request the hospital call us to let us know you are in the in there, we won't know. Every hospital in the diocese has a priest chaplain assigned who will bring Communion and administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick while you are in the hospital. Also, if you know you will be having major surgery you can talk to one of the priests at any time about being anointed following one of the Masses.

The Pastoral Staff and your parish family here at St. Monica's sincerely care about you and your wellbeing ... both physical and spiritual. We would be happy to visit you at home while you are recovering from your illness or just call by phone to see how you are doing. Once a month on First Friday the priests and several dedicated Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist visit those who can no longer make it to Mass on the weekend; bringing Holy Communion and praying with you in your home. **Please call the Parish Office to schedule a visit. 216.662.8685.**

Readings for the Week of January 1, 2017**Sunday Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21**Monday Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday The Most Holy Name of Jesus

1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday Saint John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51

Friday Saint André Bessette, Religious1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20;
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

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Saturday Saint Raymond of Penyafort1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b;
Jn 2:1-11**Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord**Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Week-**
end will be held in **Hudson at the Clarion Inn and**
Conference Center on February 17-19,

2017. Applications and further info available online:

www.GreatMarriagesOhio.org or call **330-305-****9963.** Call today and make your good marriage a great marriage!