

Liturgy Schedule

8:30 Morning Prayer, Rosary, Monday through Friday

Monday, January 8 The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 Thomas Horobowicz

Tuesday, January 9 Weekday

8:00 Joan Billings

Wednesday, January 10 Weekday

8:00 Frances Weiskopf

Thursday, January 11 Weekday

8:00 Margaret & Tom Miller

Friday, January 12 Weekday

8:00 Diane Fargo

Saturday, January 13 Weekday

3:15 Confessions

4:00 Alphonse & Alice Prusinski

Sunday, January 14 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 Ann Spirka

10:00 Joseph J. Tomcik Jr.

12:00 People of the Parish

2:30 Divine Mercy



the following members of our Parish community: the following members of our Parish community: **Linda Right, Bob Rafal, Kathy Zarycki, Joan Hrovat, John Rozmarynowski, Albert Marotta Sr., Jack Pekar, Lynda Petit, Joan Kaczmarczyk, Bill Exton, Dolores Nose, Taryn, Marie Sabol, Robert Govang, Bernie Nenadovich, George Cooke, Thom Machar, Larry Piechowiak, John Rozmarynowski, Robert Phipps, Marie DiCola, Joann Reddinger, Baby Ryan Martin, Sheila Sillasen, Richard Rosberil, Karen Styler, 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 **Josephine Alexander** who was buried this past week. May she and all our dearly departed, rest in peace.



Congratulations to our newly baptized Christian: Layla Celia Sanchez and her family.



Please join us for coffee & donuts after the 8:00 and 10:00 am masses. **Hosting will be members of the Athletics Assoc.** There will be **NO social** next week due to Winterfest.

Religion Question of the Week

In the Bible, what is the number of "Kings" who presented gifts to the child, Jesus?

Did You Know?

Did you know that in both 2016 and 2017 there were exactly 616 Christmas envelopes that were received on the 4th Sunday of Advent and on Christmas Day?

One Liner

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". (The Golden Rule)

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

The Parish Office will be close Tuesday, January 9th at 4:00pm and will reopen on Wednesday, January 10th at 8:00am. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

There will be no sale of gift cards in church in January. Gift cards are always available in the Parish Office during regular Office hours. Thank you for your continued support.

Divine Mercy

Please join us for a special hour of adoration and thanksgiving to the Divine Mercy of Jesus **next Sunday, January 14th, 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.**



Winterfest Community Dinner

Back by popular demand! On Saturday, January 13th, once again we will be serving up a delicious homemade pork roast dinner. The dinner will include pork roast, spaetzle, sauerkraut, vegetable, salad, roll, butter and dessert. **Cost for Adult's \$10.00 and Child's portion \$7.00. No Reservations required. Dinner will be first come, first served from 5pm - 7pm or until we run out.** Take out will be available since so many of you enjoyed it last year.



St. Monica \$1000 Raffle

\$500 Winner - Mike Nenadovich

Ticket - #1199

Seller - Mike Nenadovich

Captain- Bob Rafal

\$500 Winner - St Vincent DePaul Society

Ticket—#466

Seller - Ticket donated by the Holy Name Society. SVDP does not purchase tickets for this raffle.

Captain — Bob Rafal

Pastoral Scene

Reflecting on Pope Francis

Recent months have seen Pope Francis embroiled in controversy over his Apostolic Exhortation, 'Amoris Laetitia', or The Joy of Love. In response, critics issued a 'Correctio filialis'. While this critical response stops short of directly accusing the Pope of being a heretic, it lists seven alleged heresies - some explicit and others implied. In order to grasp the full understanding of this situation, it's important to read both documents in their entirety.

It's at times like this that many of us recall the interactions between Jesus and the Pharisees. Just in the Gospel of Matthew alone, Jesus is accused on a number of counts. Again, for the sake of brevity in this article, I would suggest that the following citations be read and considered: Matt 9: 2-3, 11; Matt 12:2, 10; Matt 12:24; Matt 15:1-2; Matt 26:60-61, 63-65. In these cases, I think that the old adage, "familiarity breeds contempt," may come into play:

"Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then *did* this man *get* all these things?" And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his *own* household." (Matt 13:55-57)

In hindsight, it's easy for us to think badly of the Pharisees for their doubtfulness. Understand that I'm not here to defend them (plotting to kill or sacrifice anyone for any reason is by no means noble), but if we were to walk a mile in their shoes - given their life circumstances and the political climate of the day, I'm not sure that many of us would have reacted much differently. Even Nicodemus (Pharisee) and Joseph of Arimathea (Sadducee) were mostly passive supporters of Jesus at best.

In this day and age, we live in a world of soundbytes and tweets - all very short and with little or no supporting detail - which makes it even easier to become judgmental and opinionated without knowing most of the facts.

While it's true that the Church is run by men, we need to always remember that she's guided by the Holy Spirit - and somehow things will eventually work out for the best. Jesus rattles cages and makes us face the realities of who we are and whose we are - not at all an easy path to follow. The growth and development of the Church has not been without great discomfort and pain - remember the aftermath of the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council? Or, in even more modern times, the unrest and consternation of many while implementing the Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal?

The call of any good leader is to guide those in their charge to grow and move forward. Growth does not happen without some discomfort and pain. Moms going through labor to give birth to their beautiful children will attest to that one. The last few days that Jesus spent prior to his Resurrection could certainly not be construed as a 'leisurely walk in the park.'

Admittedly, I'm a fairly conservative Catholic and am watching and listening carefully. But I do have to admit that the words of Pope Francis have made me think and his actions give me cause to re-evaluate myself and where I stand within the context of the Church and in this world. The truth is, like the Pharisees of old, we don't know the plan that God has in store for us. It's human nature to be uncomfortable or even sometimes fearful of the presentation of different ideas or modifications in philosophy. Many times, Jesus had them (both the Pharisees as well as his disciples) in a tail-spin.

Granted, Pope Francis is not the Messiah. However, he is now the successor of St. Peter, who was the Rock upon which our Lord built his Church. I have to believe that God has a plan for the Church and that somehow, Pope Francis by virtue of his election through the discernment of the College of Cardinals and due process now fills a necessary role in her growth, development and journey. May God bless him and keep him!

-Bob Soeder

Church Law & Tax Report

There are always frequently asked questions concerning church deductions for tax purposes. We hope this will help clarify it for you.

1. If I make a contribution in early January 2018, can I claim it on my 2017 taxes? .. No, charitable contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered.
2. If I mail my contribution in December 2014, but it doesn't reach my church until January 2015, for which year should I claim it? On your 2014 tax return. A check that is mailed to a charity is deductible in the year the check is mailed (and postmarked), even if it is received in the next year.)
3. What kind of records do I need in order to prove I made a contribution?

For individual cash contributions of **under \$250**: you must have a bank record (a cancelled check) or a receipt from church containing the church's name, and the date and the amount of each cash contribution.

For individual contributions (cash or property) of **\$250 or more**... You must receive a written receipt from your church. A statement that no goods or services were provided by the church for the contribution. A statement that goods or services provided consisted entirely of Intangible Religious benefits or a description and good faith estimate of the value of goods or services other than intangible religious benefits that the church provided in return for the contribution. For more information - ChurchLawandTaxStore.com

Support St. Monica Respect for Life Ministry and enjoy many great discounts by buying an **Entertainment Book (\$30)** and **Our Town and All-Around Book (\$28)**. **While supplies last---deadline: Jan 15th. Free Delivery. Phone Regina: 216-661-6616 or 216-744-3263.**



The next Baptism Class will be held **Tuesday, January 16th, 2018 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**.



With the holiday's behind us, please join us as we "Walk" back into shape with the help of Leslie Sansone's Walk at Home DVD's. **Mondays and Wednesday (weather permitting).**

We begin at **5:30 in the Parish Office**. **Please call to register as space is limited. 216-662-8685.**

**January 15, January 17, January 22, January 24
January 29, February 5, February 12, February 14
February 21, February 26 & February 28**



Stewardship

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Dec. 23 / Dec. 24

Regular Sunday Envelopes	\$ 9,012.00
St. Monica Fund	\$ 291.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 17.50
Christmas	\$18,426.00

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Dec. 30 / Dec. 31

Regular Sunday Envelopes	\$ 6,065.00
St. Monica Fund	\$ 600.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 24.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 1,439.00

Answer to This Week's Religion Question

In the Bible, how many "Kings" are mentioned who visited the child, Jesus?

Answer: The number is not mentioned; but the traditional number is "three" due to the three gifts that are given to Jesus.

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



St. Benedict Catholic School

Third Grade

This last month, our third graders have been busy discussing what they are thankful for. So many of them are thankful for their families, friends, and God. Using what they are thankful for, they are working on creating multiple paragraph writing pieces. They have been very successful with this and seem to be enjoying expressing themselves through writing. They are continuing to improve their reading skills by going back in the text to find "text evidence" and showing that they understand what they have read. Multiplication concepts have been introduced. They are understanding multiplication and are grasping the strategies to solve these problems. We are looking forward to mastering the multiplication facts and understanding division. Each day, we are seeing that God is at work here with our special third graders; they are showing kindness to their friends, being helpful, trying their best to follow the school rules, and working on becoming successful in their school work.



Parish Activities

MONDAY, January 8

4:00	Athletic Practice (g)
6:30	Confirmation Workshop (J)
7:00	Finance Council (F)
8:00	HN Meeting (c)

TUESDAY, January 9

Worlds Finest Chocolate Storage (cmr)	
2:00	Senior Mtg. (AR)
2:40	Living Stations Practice (+)
4:00	Athletic Practice (g)
6:00	Bible Study (F)
6:30	PTU Meeting (c)
6:45	Boy Scouts (AR)

WEDNESDAY, January 10

Worlds Finest Chocolate Storage (cmr)	
12:00	Tai Chi (J)
2:40	Living Stations Practice (+)
4:00	Athletic Practice (g)
6:30	Confirmation Workshop (J)

THURSDAY, January 11

Worlds Finest Chocolate Storage (Cmr)	
2:40	Living Stations Practice (+)
4:00	Athletic Practice (g)
7:00	WinterFest Workers Mtg (c)

FRIDAY, January 12

4:00	Athletic Practice (g)
6:00	Winterfest Set Up (SLL)

SATURDAY, January 13

7:30	Men of the Vine (ocu 1&2)
5:00	Winterfest (SLL)

SUNDAY, January 14

1:00	Winterfest (SLL)
2:30	Divine Mercy (+)

NIGHT AT THE RACES

ST. BENEDICT ATHLETICS WILL BE HOSTING ITS ANNUAL NIGHT AT THE RACES ON **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018**, IN THE SCHOOL GYM. TICKETS ARE \$20 AND HORSES ARE \$25 AND ARE ON SALE NOW. THERE IS ALSO ADVERTISING AVAILABLE IN OUR RACING PROGRAM. **CONTACT ALYS RADOSEVIC AT 216.319.6832 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TICKETS.** SEE YOU IN THE WINNERS CIRCE!!

NIGHT AT THE RACES!



NIGHT WITH THE CLEVELAND MONSTERS

Deadline to order tickets is this Sunday, January 7th. Don't miss out on great seats at a great price. Let's show our appreciation for their response to our summer festival. Don't forget.... 15 people from our group will have the opportunity to sit on the Monsters bench during their warm up time! **Game date & time: Friday, February 9th at 7:00 pm..** Also, it's a "1-2-3" Friday. Fans enjoy **\$1 Pepsi Products, \$2 Sugardale hotdogs, and \$3 draft beer specials!**



COME JOIN US! Order form is in today's bulletin!

Readings for the Week of January 7, 2018

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
Monday	The Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-17, 18-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday	Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

WHEN ALL THE HUSTLE-BUSTLE OF THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER..... Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? **If you agree then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.** For more info: www.GreatMarriagesOhio.org or call (330) 305-9963.

Upcoming date: February 16-18, 2018 in Richfield, Ohio.

Women's Retreat - Spiritual Growth in the Gospel of Loving Kindness. January 22-25. Presented by Sr. Mary Ann Flannery SC, Sr. Mary Ann Spangler, HM & Sr. Jeanne Tighe, SFCC. The concept of 'Loving Kindness' is gaining much attention among all religions although it stems from an Eastern concept applied to meditative prayer. We will explore the Gospels for their richness in this virtue, discuss how we can pray with Loving Kindness and grow deeper in it as we apply it in our lives. We will also explore writers and spiritual leaders, chief among them Pope Francis, to determine how kindness made them more peaceful in times of duress and challenge. **Cost: \$210. Offered at Jesuit Retreat House, 5629 State Rd., Parma. To register contact [440-884-9300](tel:440-884-9300) or visit www.jrh-cleveland.org.**