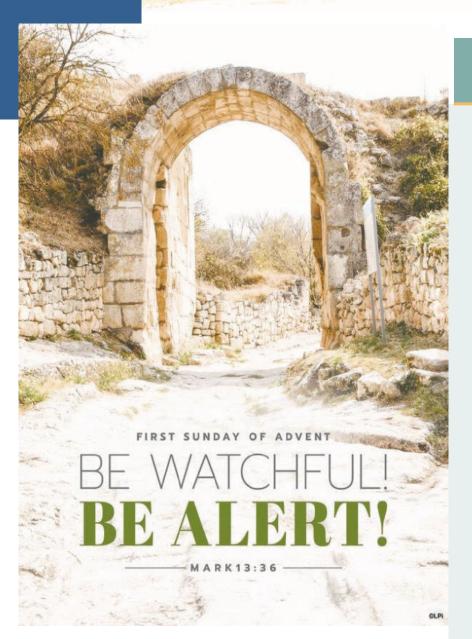
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OUR MISSION

We, the parish of St. Monica, work to create a Christlike family, welcoming all people where one encounters a loving God, by serving the spiritual, educational and social needs of the community.

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Welcome!

Masses

Saturday | 4:00pm Sunday | 9:00 and 10:45am Monday - Friday | 8:00am

Confession

Saturday | 3:15pm

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Friday | 8:00 am - Noon Saturday & Sunday | Closed

Parish Clergy

Rev. John J. Mullee, **Pastor** Rev. Theodore Marszal **Retired, in Residence** Stan Drozell, Deacon

Pastoral Staff

Sister Helene Skrzyniarz SSJ-TOSF Parish Catechetical Leader srhelene@saintmonicachurch.net Molly Grunau,

Director of Liturgy and Music Diane O'Neill, Business Manager Susan Shepka, Office Manager Joseph Ungarsky,

Pastoral Council Chairman Bill Simon, Finance Council Chairman Bob Soeder, Web Master

Bulletin Announcements

Email: srjoyce@saintmonicachurch.net by NOON on Friday the week before

Additional Contacts

St. Benedict | (216) 662-9380 **Early Learning Center** | (216) 475-3633 **OCFCU** | (216) 663-6800

PASTORAL SCENE

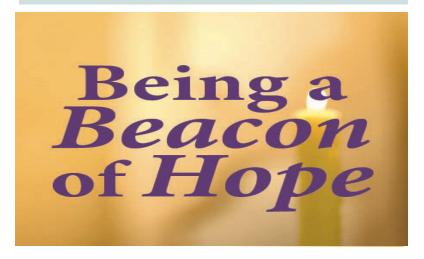
Pastoral Scene

Remembrance and Anticipation

As I write this Pastoral Scene, my radio is playing, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas", a lovely song, but not very supportive of the spirit of the Advent season which focuses on Remembrance and Anticipation. Please don't label me as Scrooge, but there's more to Advent than the commercial aspect of this season.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which translates to the Greek word *parousia*. Originally, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians on the

This Week's Highlight



January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and his first miracle at

Cana. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ, but the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. The Advent season was not explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas until the Middle Ages. Advent symbolizes the church's present situation in these "last days" as God's people waited for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom.

Advent places the Church in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, look to the readings on the four weeks of Advent. *The first two Sundays in Advent look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays look backward to remember Christ's first coming.* Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment, to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

Please enjoy the Advent journey to Christmas. It is the journey we take in Faith each year with all those who have gone before us.

O Come, Emanuel! Sister Helene

STEWARDSHIP FOR NOV 19. 2023

Sunday Offering 4,493.18 St. Monica Fund 1,020.00 Misc. Special Envelopes 479.00

STEWARDSHIP FOR NOV 26. 2023

Sunday Offering\$	5,213.20
St. Monica Fund\$	500.00
Misc. Special Envelopes\$	447.00



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 3
1st Sunday of Advent

9:00am Richard J. Lenczewski 10:45am William J. Gadomski

Monday, December 4
Advent Weekday

8:00am Mary Ann Shaw 8:30am Exposition following mass

Tuesday, December 5
Advent Weekday
8:00am Andrew Boksansky

Wednesday, December 6
Advent Weekday
8:00am Peter Cappelli

Thursday, December 7
St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church

8:00am Living & deceased of PFC William Foster Veterans & Families

4:00pm (Vigil) People of the Parish Friday, December 8
Immaculate Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am Aloysius Mullee 9:00am Living & deceased of Terrence & Donna Zak Family

Saturday, December 9
Advent Weekday

4:00pm Marge Konkowski

Sunday, December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00am People of the Parish 10:45am Mary Malicki

There will be a Divine Mercy Holy Hour next Sunday at 2:30 PM in St. Monica Church with Eucharistic Adoration, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Benediction.

All Are Welcome



Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy
and prayers are extended
for the family and friends of:
Ethel Mae Karlozi and
Stephen John Bucchieri
Who were recently buried.
May they and all of our
dearly departed rest in peace

SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS

Please pray for the
Seminarians of the
Cleveland Diocese
Please join us in praying for
the following seminarians
this week:

Monday: Daniel LaPolla

Tuesday: Billy Reed

Wednesday: Joseph Rohan

Thursday: Joshua Stecz Friday: Craig Ziobert

Sat: Johannes Benninghoff Sunday: *Pray for Our Safety*

Forces

Please Pray For the Parishioners Listed Below

Wally Voyten, Maryann DiEgidio, Lisa Bielawski, Gaylene Bielawski, Ron Smith Jr., Nikki Avalon, Annie Runyeon,,Anthony Lupica, John A Chesney, Teadan Maynard (infant), Tommie Ferrante, Betty Jacob, Madeline Iglodi, Joanne Reddinger, Katie Medvetz,

Please call the parish office if you would like to add a name to this list.

If you have a special intention you would like remembered in prayer,

please call Lillian Naptune

(216)662-5464

THIS WEEK

Activities CALENDAR

Monday, December 4

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

4:00pm Walking Class (J)

6:30pm Holy Name Meeting (c)

Tuesday, December 5

1:00pm Our Father's Daughters (F)

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

7:00pm W Reserve Coin Club (c)

6:30pm Pastoral Council Mtg (F)

Wednesday, December 6

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

6:30pm Guild Board Meeting (F)

6:30pm G.A. Meeting (+)

Thursday, December 7

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

4:00pm Walking Class (J)

Friday, December 8

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

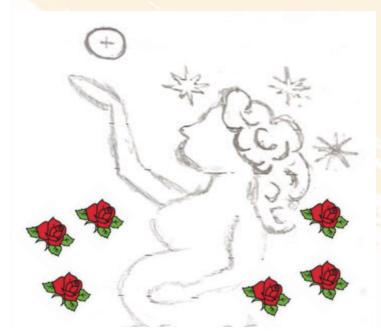
Saturday, December 9

8:30am Men of the Vine (ocu1&2)

9:00am Syriac Orthodox Church (J)

Sunday, December 10

7:30pm A.A. Meeting (c)



Guild Board Meeting

St Monica's Guild Board Meeting is this Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30pm in the St. Francis Room of in the parish office building.



Oplatky is available in the Parish Office.
The cost is \$1.00 per package of 2 wafers.

Oplatky is used at home during the table prayer at the Christmas Eve dinner. The wafer bears an image from the Christmas story and the bread signifies the bread of life—Jesus, who is among us in the Eucharist and in our lives.

The prayer used is included. Supply is limited.

Join us for an Expectant Mothers Blessing

During all Masses December 9th and 10th

The Most Important Person on earth is a mother.

She cannot claim the honor of having built

Notre Dame Cathedral.

She need not.

She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral - a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body...

The angels have not been blessed with such a grace.

They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven.

Only a human mother can.

Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation.

What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?

Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

Retirement Fund for Religious

You can help.

"Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90.

Please donate to the Religious Fund for Religious next week.

Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priest who have dedicated their lives to serving others.

Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

Join Us for Our 20th Annual Christmas Concert Finale Saint Martin of Tours

Please join us and mark your calendars for Saint Martin of Tours 20th Annual Christmas Concert Finale! It will be held Sunday, December 17th at 7:00 PM in the church (Saint Martin of Tours). St Martin Parishioner/St Monica Guild Member, Raine Austen will host and perform your specially requested Christian and Secular Christmas music from the past 20 years. Guests include David Pratt on vocals, David Millen on sax, Frank Restifo on guitar, And JoDee Coulter on piano. The Christmas Prayer Box will be available in the vestibule starting in November in remembrance of those we love and have lost. Bring your family and friends. Your love offering is graciously appreciated. Help us fill the church on December 17th.



St. Monica Holy Name Society

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS President Dave Kolo

There has been a whole lot of activity from our Holy Name Society here at St. Monica this past fall. We are still an active organization that raises funds through our \$1000.00 Raffle and 250 Club. The money raised through those efforts goes right into the parish needs of continued maintenance and improvement projects. Thank you to all who contribute and participate in these efforts.

One of the projects that our Holy Name Society arranged and paid for was the new handicap self opening door at the rear of the church. Thanks to *Frank Leone* for coordinating this project. The society also contributed funds to offset the cost of the asphalt repair of the area by that entrance.

Thank You to *Chuck Williams* for his efforts through the Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies to provide Monstrance Pins to all of the Eucharistic Ministers here at St. Monica. This is in an effort to make more people aware of the Eucharist as being an important part of the mass.

Special mention to *George Medvetz and wife Sue* for their efforts in doing monthly updates in our Manger in front of the church. The work they do helps put a fresh look, not only during the Christmas Holiday, but all year long.

Thanks to *Bill Skladany* for coordinating the annual Sock and Underwear drive for our Diocesan Union, and here at St. Monica. Thanks to all who contributed items or cash towards that effort.

At our November Holy Name Society meeting our organization collected \$200.00 and 11 box's of food for the St. St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Monica. We also held our annual Memorial Service for our deceased members from this past year.

Congratulations to *Jim Joyce*, the current Cleveland Diocesan Union President, being awarded the *John M. Kovach Award*. It recognizes contributions to our local Society, the Deaneries and Diocesan Union of the Holy Name Society. In past years many of our members have been honored with a service award from the Diocesan Union. Those included are *Chet Balewski*, *Ed Briggs*, *Jim Joyce & Richard Simon* - the *Medallion Circle Award*. *Bill Skladany*, *Greg Rowinski & Bob Raffle* - *The Distinguished Service award*. Congratulations to all of our members who have been recognized for their dedication to St. Monica Parish and The Cleveland Diocesan Holy Name Society!

In a few short weeks we all will be celebrating the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. May the St. Monica Holy Society wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas!

The Manger of My Heart

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.

The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.
You came as a baby born in a manger.
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.

Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.
Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."

"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.

Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.

Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.

Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.

Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.
Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.
In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.

This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart. Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part. Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day. Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

Authored by: Renee Swope, "The Manger of My Heart" from <u>Proverbs 31</u> Ministries

\$1,000 Holy Name Monthly Raffle Winners - November

\$500.00 Wyatt Welich \$500.00

Wyatt Welich \$500.00 A. Gibson
Ticket #0325 Ticket #2222

Seller: Ben Welich

Seller: HN Society

Captain: Ben Welich

Captain: HN Society

1714 tickets were sold

Tickets for the December drawing can be purchased from any Holy Name member or in the parish office.

The next drawing will be Sunday, **Dec. 31st** after the 10:45 Mass in the Church.
All proceeds are used for parish maintenance



Coats for Kids

Knights of Columbus Council 4130

Will be collecting monetary donations for "Coats for Kids"

the weekends of
December 2nd and 3rd
and
December 9th and 10th.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 2, 2023 Mass 4:00 P.M. December 3, 2023 Mass 9:00 A.M. Mass 10:45 A.M.



December 16, 2023 Mass 4:00 P.M. December 17, 2023 Mass 9:00 A.M. Mass 10:45 A.M.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9, 2023 Mass 4:00 P.M. December 10, 2023 Mass 9:00 A.M. Mass 10:45 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2023 Mass 4:00 P.M. December 24, 2023 Mass 9:00 A.M. Mass 10:45 A.M.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Holy Day of

December 7, 2023
Mass 4:00 P.M.
December 8, 2023
Mass 8:00 A.M.
Mass 9:00 A.M. with St. Benedict Catholic School
Mass 12:00 P.M.

Obligation

Sacrament of Reconciliation December 20 & 21, 2023 after 8:00 A.M. Masses

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD [CHRISTMAS]

At the Vigil Mass
December 24, 2023
Mass 4:00 P.M. (Children's Mass)
At the Mass during the Night
December 24, 2023
Mass 10:00 P.M.

At the Mass at Dawn

December 25, 2023 Mass 9:00 A.M.

At the Mass during the Day

December 25, 2023 Mass 10:45 A.M.

Night of Christmas Hymns December 24, 2023 9:30 P.M.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

December 30, 2023 Mass 4:00 P.M. December 31, 2023 Mass 9:00 A.M. Mass 10:45 A.M.

December 30, 2023

SOLEMNTY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD December 31, 2023 Mass 4:00 P.M. January 1, 2024

Mass 9:00 A.M.







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READINGS & SONGS

Entrance Chant 274 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

First Reading Isaiah 63:16b – 17, 19b; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

The Responsorial Psalm Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

READINGS & SONGS

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

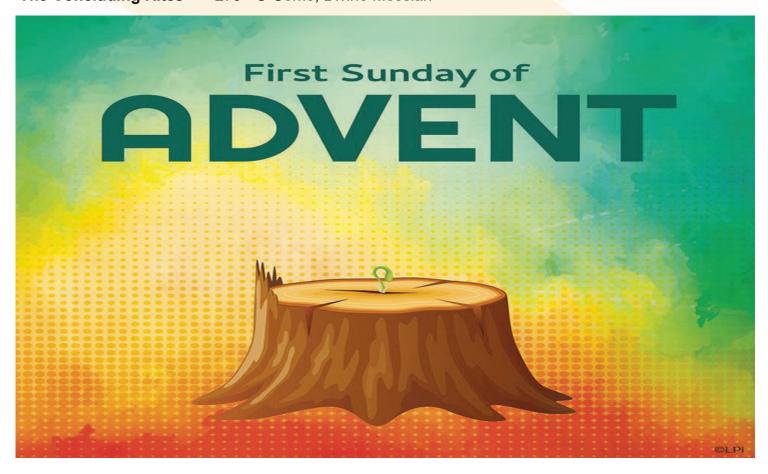
Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

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Offertory Chant 657 Sacred Silence

Communion Chant 785 Behold the Lamb (Willett)

The Concluding Rites 279 O Come, Divine Messiah



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