

Liturgy Schedule

8:30 Morning Prayer, Rosary, Monday through Friday

Monday, December 11 Advent Weekday

8:00 Terry Kosmata

6:30 Eucharistic Expo

Tuesday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 Margaret A. Rapsik

Wednesday, December 13 Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

8:00 Jake Cermak (anniv)

**Thursday, December 14 Saint John of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor of the Church**

8:00 Jim & Joan Clark and Family

Friday, December 15 Advent Weekday

8:00 William Bennett & Family, Living & Deceased

Saturday, December 16 Advent Weekday

2:00 Mahoney / Blasko Wedding

3:15 Confessions

4:00 People of the Parish

Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 Diane Fargo

10:00 Joseph & Margaret Dubas

12:00 Jeanette Zendarski



the following members of our Parish community: the following members of our Parish community: **Calhan, Joan Hrovat, John Rozmarynowski, Albert Marotta Sr., Jack Pekar, Lynda Petit, Joan Kaczmarczyk, Bill Exton, Dolores Nose, Taryn, Sr. Maryann Zakrajsek, 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 **Ursula Strauss, Calvin Ochendowski and Rev Mirko Hladni** who were buried this past week. May they and all our dearly departed, rest in peace.

WEDDING BANNES

III Allison Blasko and Clint Mahoney



There will be **NO social** this weekend. Join us next week for Coffee & Donuts after 8:00 and 10:00 masses. Hosting will be members of the **Catholic War Vets / Catholic War Vets Auxiliary.**

Religion Question of the Week

Who was Aaron?

Did You Know?

Did you know that last year the parishioners of St. Monica's donated over \$18,000 for various charitable enterprises out side of our parish?

One Liner

"Go out to all the world and tell the Good News". (Jesus)

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



Oplatky is now available at the Parish Office. Cost is \$1.00 for a package of two.

St. Nicholas Gift Giving 2016

The St. Monica St. Nicholas Christmas Gift Sharing Program will be held again this year. The program is a sharing of Christmas gifts with those who are less fortunate and unable to buy gifts for their children and other family members. **Tags identifying the age, gender and type of suggested gift can be obtained in the vestibule. This is the last weekend for picking up St. Nicholas gift tags.** Please return to Church the wrapped gifts with the tags securely attached next weekend **December 16th / 17th .**

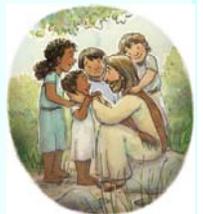


A Very Special Shepherd Celebrates Midnight Mass

As the shepherds came to adore the newborn Savior at the first Christmas, Saint Monica's parishioners will have a very special Shepherd as the main presider at the Midnight Mass this Christmas. **Bishop Martin Amos, recently retired from the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, will be the main celebrant and also will join us here during the Christmas holidays.** Bishop Amos is a "Cleveland native" with deep roots in our diocese where he served as an auxiliary bishop from 2001 to 2006, and then was appointed as the eighth bishop of Davenport, Iowa from 2006 to 2017. We extend a warm welcome to Bishop Amos for the Christmas Season and celebrate his presence as a true "Christmas gift"!

Christmas is Special for Children and so is the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass

Over the last three years, the 4:00 pm Mass has had a special focus for the children and it will be no different this year. Please consider celebrating this '4:00 Vigil Mass' that will allow the family to worship early enough to have dinner, set out the cookies and milk for Santa, and head off to bed before the reindeer fly! The children-friendly presentation will take place after the Gospel. We look forward to having your family join us in welcoming the Infant Savior and the 'Reason for the Season' who is Jesus!



Pastoral Scene

Following Jesus

“He called them and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him.” James and his brother John dropped everything to follow Christ. In leaving their boat, they also left their livelihood. In leaving their father, they said farewell to the comforts of home and family. They embarked on this unknown journey with Jesus with neither stability or security. All they had was trust. They had such a great faith in the man who “called them.” How remarkable is this! Clearly their encounter with Christ was life changing, even before they knew the full truth of who Jesus was. We know about His miracles, His resurrection, and the whole history of Christian faith.

In a sense, would you think today would be easier for us to leave our homes, our way of life, and parents than it was for James and John. We have so many reasons to believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God. How attached we must be with our regular routines and our plans, would you be ready to leave everything and follow Jesus, or do you just want to do it part-time, on Sundays and weekends, or only when you feel like doing it? If the apostles did this part-time, what kind of message do you think we would have received?

I hope you feel the way I do and want to hear it every day – not just when you feel like hearing it. Look at your heart, make up your mind, and hopefully you will be like me and follow Jesus all the time.

God Bless – Deacon Stan

St. Monica Senior Group Christmas Party

The seniors will meet in the school cafeteria on **Dec. 12th** for their annual Christmas party. We will be serving Fried Chicken, Beef Tips with Mushrooms AuGratin Potatoes - Green Beans Almondine - and Salad along with assorted pastries, coffee, tea and water.

Party will begin at 4pm. There will be entertainment and drawings. Don't miss this celebration. **All money must be in by Dec.4th. Contact Gerry Golem at 216-581-1777 for reservations and more information. Don't forget your \$1.00 gift exchange.**



MEMORIAL FLOWER ENVELOPES

DECEASED LOVED ONES CAN BE REMEMBERED THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL FUND. **NAMES YOU SUBMIT WITH YOUR DONATION BY THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH WILL BE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE ROCKSIDE ROAD VESTIBULE DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.** THROUGH YOUR GENEROUS OFFERINGS, FLOWERS AND SUPPLIES ARE PURCHASED TO ENHANCE OUR LITURGIES THROUGHOUT ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS. THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES AND AT THE SAME TIME CONTRIBUTE TO OUR LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS.



Winterfest Donations

Once again we are asking for any donations for our Chinese Raffle for Winterfest which will be held on Saturday, January 13th and Sunday, January 14th 2018. Anyone who does any sewing, knitting, crocheting, painting, wood work and crafting of any kind, donations would be greatly appreciated! Tickets to plays, movies and sporting events would be wonderful. If you would like to donate any gift cards of any kind or an item that best highlights your business we would gladly accept that too! Lastly if you would like to donate money to help us make some great baskets...well we would be grateful for that as well!



Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Please make sure you let them know it is for Winterfest and don't forget to leave your name so we can properly thank you! If you need to make arrangements to have it picked up we can do that too! **Call Bill Noyes at 216-912-8679 and he will be happy to pick it up!**

Please Decorate For Christmas

For over five hundred years it has been the custom to decorate our Churches and Homes for Christmas. It is a way that Christians everywhere express their appreciation for God's gift of His Son to our world.



In recent years there has been an enormous effort on the part of our secular society to remove the true Christian meaning of Christmas from our community. Stores will play Christmas music to entice customers to buy presents for their relatives and friends but they will forbid their employees to say “Merry Christmas” to those who shop there.

We ask you to bring the true Christmas spirit back into the communities in which we live. Please decorate not just the inside, but also the outside of your houses. “Christmas lights” represent Christ who became the “light of the world” on Christmas morning, and the star that led the Magi to Bethlehem.

Night with the Cleveland Monsters!



Join us for an evening with the Cleveland Monsters on Friday, February 9th. Game time begins at 7:00 pm. *Just in time for a great family outing or to give as a Christmas gift!* As an added bonus, 15 people from our group will have the opportunity to sit on the Monsters bench during their warm up time. See the flyer for more details about the evening and how to order. Ticket order forms are available at the Parish Office, in the bulletin, and on our website. **In addition, every Friday Night Game is a “1-2-3 Friday” where fans can enjoy \$1 Pepsi products, \$2 Sugardale hotdogs and \$3 draft beer specials.**

Divine Mercy

Please join us for a special hour of adoration and thanksgiving to the Divine Mercy of Jesus **this Sunday, December 10th, 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.**



LITURGICAL MINISTERS



Any special requests for the **January/ February/March** schedule needs to be turned in to the office no later than **Monday, December 18th.** If possible, please include requests for Easter since Easter is April 1st. Thank you



Stewardship

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Dec. 2 / Dec. 3

Regular Sunday Envelopes	\$ 8,906.00
St. Monica Fund	\$ 1,434.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 21.50
Christmas Flower Envelopes	\$ 1,702.00

November WeShare Electronic Collection	
Regular Sunday	\$ 3,890.50
St. Monica Fund	\$ 574.50

Answer to this Week's Religion Question

Who was Aaron?

Answer: He was the brother of Moses and Miriam; also the First Priest of the Hebrews in the Old Testament.

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



Sixth Grade Classroom News

We've had some new firsts in the sixth grade this month. We met our first grade buddies for the first time. Hurray! We spent some time playing a get to know each other game and reading to each other as well. There were lots of smiles on the faces in the first grade room that day. We also met our Faith Families for the first time. We introduced ourselves and talked about sharing a meal together as a family at the Thanksgiving feast. In our daily classes, there have been a lot of firsts too. In Math for the first time, we're working with positive and negative integers, rational numbers, and absolute value. All these topics looked difficult at first, but we're finding it's not as bad as we thought. Our first novel, *The Westing Game*, is coming to a close in Language Arts. We're participating in an Escape Room activity. We use novel content, cooperative learning, and critical thinking skills to try to solve the mystery and "escape" the Westing house! Another first is working on our science fair projects. We're focusing on roller coasters, kinetic and potential energy, speed, and how these are all related. We're also continuing to research and organize our science project papers while learning outlining and citation skills. Matter is another topic we're discussing. Finding elements on the periodic table, deciphering the difference between solutions and mixtures, and discussing the differences among the three states of matter. To wrap up our firsts, in Social Studies for the first time, we're studying all about Ancient Egypt. We're learning about pyramids, pharaohs and the Nile River. We're creating time lines and will learn all about Egyptian achievements. After Egypt, we will study ancient Kush. Ask us about any of these topics and see how much we'll impress you.

Parish Activities

MONDAY, December 11

- 6:30 Eucharistic Exposition (+)
- 7:00 Christmas Play (g)
- 7:00 Finance Council (F)
- 7:30 CWV/CWVA (c)

TUESDAY, December 12

- 4:00 Senior Christmas Party (c)
- 4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
- 6:00 Bible Study (F)
- 6:45 Boy Scouts (AR)
- 7:00 Bereavement Ministry (cmr)

WEDNESDAY, December 13

- 12:00 Tai Chi (J)
- 3:00 Board Game Club (AR)
- 4:00 Athletic Practice (g)

THURSDAY, December 14

- 4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
- 6:30 Athletic Board Mtg. (J)
- 8:00 Tri M Mtg (ocu 1 & 2)

FRIDAY, December 15

- 4:00 Athletic Practice (g)

SATURDAY, December 16

SUNDAY, December 17

- 8:00/10:00 Coffee & Donuts (c)
- 2:00 Baptist Group (AR)

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!!**



Coats for Needy

The Knights of Columbus, Garfield Hts. will be collecting Coats from November 25th through December 10th they will be collecting new and like-new winter coats in all sizes - infant to adult. You may put the coats in the boxes, located at the Rockside Road entrance of the church.



Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase coats, they can be sent to: Knights of Columbus, 10806 Granger Road, Garfield Hts, OH 44125 Checks payable to: **Coats for Kids Foundation.**

SANDWICH SATURDAY

Thank you to everyone who came to help make the sandwiches and the personal hygiene bags for the homeless on December 2nd. Special thanks also to all those who donated items for this effort. We sent 300 sandwiches, personal hygiene bags, and fruit to St. Ignatius for delivery to the homeless. Merry Christmas! **See everyone at the next Sandwich Saturday on January 6th!**



Readings for the Week of December 10, 2017

Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Monday	Saint Damasus I, Pope Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jud 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

New Year's Eve Retreat. December 31 – January 1. New Year's Eve is a threshold moment - an ideal time to stop and reflect and pray in gratitude for the blessings of the past year, and to look with renewed hope upon the life and possibilities of a new year. The evening will begin with dinner at 6:00 pm and will conclude at 11:00 am the next morning. Includes Mass and time for reflection and discussion. Cost: \$95. To register contact [440-884-9300](tel:440-884-9300) or visit www.jrh-cleveland.org.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship
Girls and Boys age 10 to 14, you are invited to participate in a basketball free throw competition, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Councils #4130 and #5106.

You do not need to be on a basketball team to participate! **All you need is a parent (or guardian, friends parent, coach, any adult) and a non-perishable food item for the hunger center!** Winners will continue on to the District and State competition, times to be announced.



When: Sunday January 7th, 2018 Time: 6:00 pm

Where: St. Benedict's Gym

13633 Rockside Road, Garfield Hts., Ohio 44125

Questions? John Kevern 216 536 1895 or Ben Welich 216 410 2150

Please Remember Your Food Donation