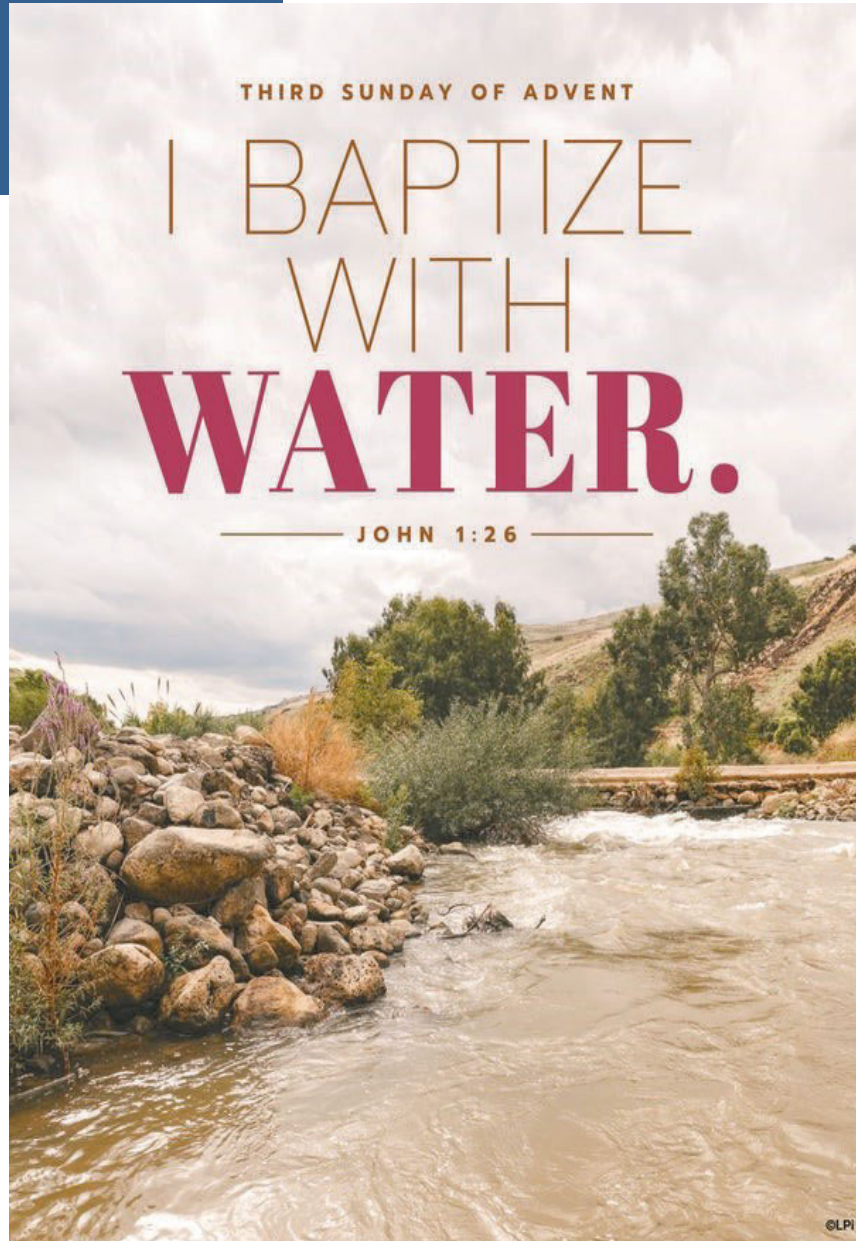


DEC
17
2023

ST. MONICA

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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.

13623 Rockside Road, Garfield Heights, OH
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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

**“The world promises us pleasure, but it is only in Jesus that we find joy.”
St. Thérèse of Lisieux**

This week we light the pink advent candle which represents JOY. How do we find joy in our severely broken world? Simply put... keep our focus on Jesus. Satan uses every attempt to steer us away from God’s truth. He wants us to distort our views and cause confusion. Satan wants us to believe that life does not begin at conception, life ends

when we want, you can choose to be male or female, and marriage can be between two men and two women. These types of worldly ways are not in harmony with God. Many souls have become lost, saddened, and in despair. There is no lasting peace or joy when following the worldly ways.

From the beginning, God has given us the Truth. Good morals and values will always keep us close to Jesus. Life does begin at conception, life here on earth ends at natural death (life will continue eternally either in Heaven or Hell), God creates us to be either a man or a woman, and marriage shall be between a man and woman. If we know and believe in God’s truth, follow in His ways. His ways lead to peace, hope, and JOY! There is so much joy when you stand before Jesus, knowing you try your best to follow in His footsteps.

“Joy is not the same as pleasure or happiness. A wicked and evil man may have pleasure, while any ordinary mortal is capable of being happy. Pleasure generally comes from things, and always through the senses; happiness comes from humans through fellowship. Joy comes from loving God and neighbor. Pleasure is quick and violent, like a flash of lightning. Joy is steady and abiding, like a fixed star. Pleasure depends on external circumstances, such as money, food, travel, etc. Joy is independent of them, for it comes from a good conscience and love of God.” Venerable Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

May God bless you on this joyous Sunday!
Molly

STEWARDSHIP FOR DEC 10, 2023

Will be in next week’s bulletin due to early bulletin deadline

We Share (On-Line) Giving for November

Sunday Offering\$5,345.50
St. Monica Fund\$676.00

Please continue to mail in your donations, donate online or drop off at the office. You can also drop your donation in the baskets in church.

Thank you for your continued support

Please note our average weekly expenses are \$13,546.00





Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended for the family and friends of:
Agnes Pokorny
Who were recently buried.
May she and all of our dearly departed rest in peace

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 17 3rd Sunday in Advent

9:00am People of the Parish
10:45am Joseph & Margaret
Dubas

Monday, December 18 Late Advent Weekday

8:00am Josephine & Diane Fargo
8:30am Exposition following mass

Tuesday, December 19 Late Advent Weekday

8:00am Bernice & Roger
Augustine

Wednesday, December 20 Late Advent Weekday

8:00am Ronald Kaminski

Thursday, December 21 Late Advent Weekday

8:00am Priest Intention

Friday, December 22 Late Advent Weekday

8:00am All Souls

Saturday, December 23 Late Advent Weekday

4:00pm People of the Parish

Sunday, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00am Living & deceased of Fr.
Thomas Haren Family

10:45am Sam & Agnes Poplar

Christmas Eve

4:00pm Priest Intention
10:00pm Priest Intention

SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS

Please pray for the Seminarians of the Cleveland Diocese

Please join us in praying for the following seminarians this week:

Mon: Christopher Villarreal
Tuesday: Samuele Cafaratti
Wednesday: Maxwell Giori
Thursday: Jeremy Vinluan
Friday: Dc. Kevin Bertleff
Sat: Dc. Michael Garvin

Sunday:

*Pray for Peace & Goodwill
Among All*

**Join us every Thursday
at 6:00 pm in Church as
we pray the Rosary.
All are invited.**



**Pray
for
Peace**

Please Pray For the Parishioners Listed Below

Dolores Kocik, Joan Fischer,
Wally Voyten, Maryann DiEgidio, Gaylene Bielawski,
Lisa Bielawski, Ron Smith Jr., Nikki Avalon,
Annie Runyeon, Anthony Lupica, Tommie Ferrante,
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 18

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)
4:00pm Walking Class (J)

Tuesday, December 19

1:00pm Our Father's Daughters (F)
4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

Wednesday, December 20

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)
6:30pm G.A. Meeting (+)

Thursday, December 21

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)
7:00pm Ward 7 Block Watch (cmr)

Friday, December 22

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

Sunday, December 24

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

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch

Meeting and Christmas Party,
sponsored by
Councilwoman Jenn Newrones,
will take place Thursday, December 21st
at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria of
St. Benedict School.

Attendees are asked to bring a gift-wrapped
tree ornament and a
side dish or goodies to share.

All are welcome.

For more information,
contact Gail, 216-662-9213.



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

Please join us **this Sunday** for
Saint Martin of Tours
20th Annual Christmas Concert Finale!

It will be held
Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 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.

Bring your family and friends.

Your love offering is graciously appreciated.
Help us fill the church on December 17th.



Holiday Office Schedule

The Parish Office will be **closed**
as follows.

Christmas

Friday, December 23rd
Thru Tuesday, December 26th
Reopening Wednesday, December 27th

New Years

Monday, January 1st
New Years Day

St. Benedict School

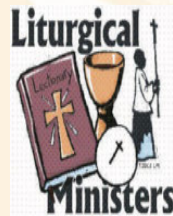
Will be closed beginning
December 20th
with classes resuming on
January 4, 2024
Say a little pray for all the
students, teachers and staff.

Our Women and Men Religious Offer Gratitude

A Sister shares,
“I thank the Lord for all who give.
I don’t think we would make it without them.”
Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week.
Your donation makes a difference in the lives of
elderly women and men religious.
To learn more about how your gift helps, visit
www.retiredreligious.org



Liturgical Ministers Schedule



The deadline for any special requests
for the *February/March/April*
schedule needs to be turned
into the Parish Office no later
than **Tuesday, January 9.**

Please remember that this will include
Lent, Holy Week and Easter
so please make note of what you
would like to serve for.

We appreciate your help
with this request. Thank you.

Our Town & All-Around Coupon Book fundraiser **Act soon!**

St. Monica Respect for Life Ministry is again selling the
"Our Town and All-Around" coupons books for \$28.00.
Enjoy life and help support women in need at the same time!
You will be saving \$\$ even if you use only a fraction
of the hundreds of local and national discount offers
(offers valid now through Dec. 1, 2024).
The FREE "SaveAround" Mobile App includes additional offers you can
use across the U.S. and Canada! Makes a great gift.

Order online at:

www.SAPayNow.com/242012

or phone/leave a voicemail for Regina at 216-581-4122. Free delivery!
Sale ends Jan. 22, 2024 (or while supplies last!)

OTHER INFORMATION

Womankind Maternal & Prenatal Care Center

Thank you for supporting Womankind! We truly appreciate your thoughtful gift of \$573.50, received on 11/29/23 from your parish collection. The compassionate care our prenatal patients and support services clients enjoy at no cost is made possible because of generous donors like you.

Thank you again for sharing in our life-affirming mission. May God give you and your family plenty of reasons to be grateful this holiday season!



Thank you so much for your kind gift of \$918.00 to our **37th Annual Blanket Sunday** appeal. Because of you, we will be able to supply local men, women, children and seniors with warm blankets, mattresses, beds and other necessities. These basic items are ones that many of us might take for granted, but are incredibly difficult to acquire for individuals and families on a limited income.

Because of caring people like you, last year the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to provide some 138 mattresses/beds and 5,400 new, warm blankets to low-income families and people experiencing homelessness across the region.

Thank you again for your kindness.



NEWS FROM AM 1260 The Rock

Prepare your heart for Jesus with AM1260 The Rock.

During the Holy Season of Advent as we await the Birth of Jesus Christ, AM 1260 The Rock is broadcasting special programming to enrich your preparation. In addition, we will be offering EWTN's "The 48 Hours of Christmas," with special programming and Masses for your Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

4th Sunday of Advent Masses

8:00 AM Mass from EWTN Chapel

10:30 AM Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Mass for the Homebound

Christmas Eve Masses

1:30 PM Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve LIVE from Rome

10:00 PM Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve LIVE from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC

Christmas Day Masses

1:00 AM Midnight Mass from the Holy Land

8:00 AM Solemn Mass of Christmas LIVE from EWTN

12:00 PM Solemn Mass of Christmas Day LIVE from the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington DC

This schedule is subject to change. Please visit our website at: www.am1260therock.com for the complete and updated schedule or call us at 216-227-1260. From all of us at AM 1260 The Rock, may you have a blessed and peaceful Advent, and a very Merry Christmas.

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

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.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY *Holy Day of Obligation*

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.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 16, 2023
Mass 4:00 P.M.
December 17, 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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

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.

SOLEMNTY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

December 31, 2023
Mass 4:00 P.M.
January 1, 2024
Mass 9:00 A.M.



OTHER INFORMATION

Holiday Lighting Contest

Participate in this year's annual **Holiday Lighting Contest** by **nominating your favorite residential holiday light display. One winner in each ward and one citywide winner will be selected.**

Please submit nominations...

In-Person / Mail: Garfield Heights Civic Center
5407 Turney Road
Garfield Heights, OH 44125

Email: psalemi@garfieldhts.org

Nominations close Tuesday, December 20th at 4pm

I would like to nominate the house at...

(address)

Return this slip in-person or by mail to the Garfield Heights Civic Center.

Entrance Chant 288 Ready the Way (Hurd)

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.
As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

The Responsorial Psalm Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:

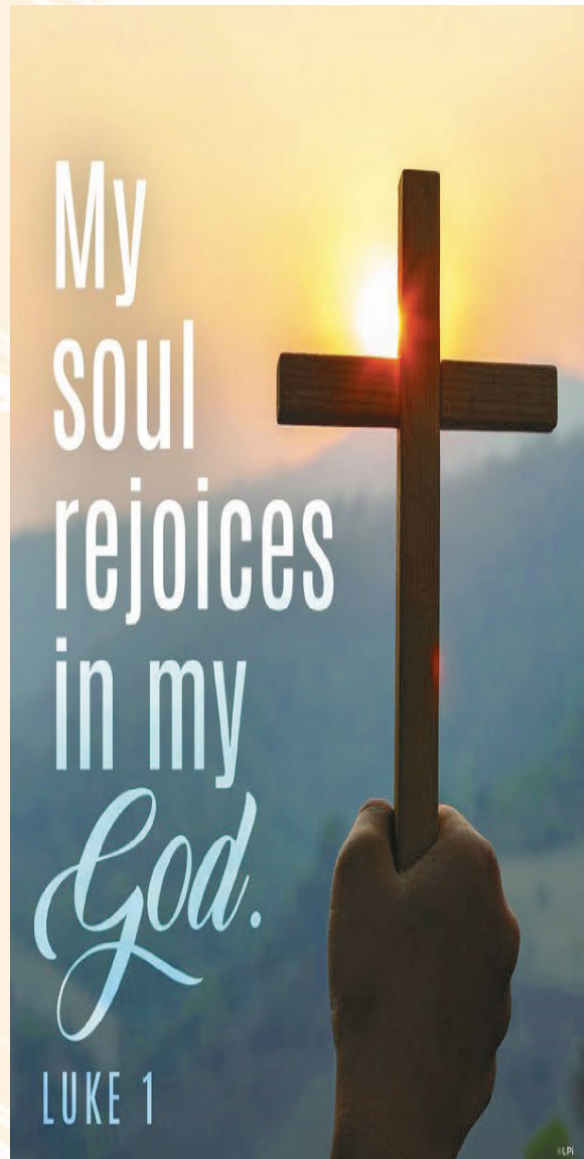
R. My soul rejoices in my God.

the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

R. My soul rejoices in my God.



READINGS & SONGS

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said:

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
'make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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Offertory Chant 474 Mary Song (NEW BRITAIN)

Communion Chant 793 One Bread, One Body

The Concluding Rites 274 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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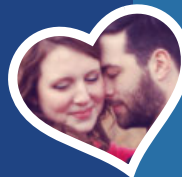


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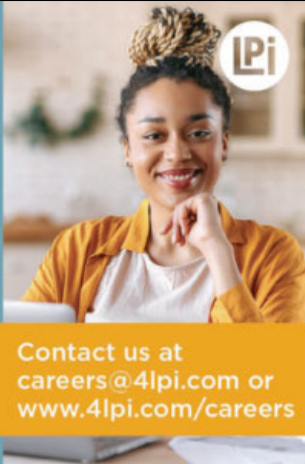
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