

Pastoral Scene

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors of Saint Monica Church

In the glow of the Birth of Christ, on the last Sunday of 2017, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This unique family in the history of salvation experienced many happenings. Their trials and struggles were truly felt by them. For this reason we can have hope in all the challenges which we face in life.

The New Year begins tomorrow with the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. This is not a holy day of obligation this year.

Mary not only gave but she preserved life through her faith and trust in God through all that she would experience in the life, death and resurrection of her Son. This message of hope which begins each New Year comes at the right time. This is especially true in these times in which we live. The winter months of the Northern Hemisphere can oftentimes seem to close in upon us. This is especially true for those who may be confined to their homes or rooms. With this in mind, I suggest that if you know such an individual, it would be good to call, write and even visit them. The Blessed Mary was moved to such a visit when she visited her older relative, Elizabeth, upon hearing of the upcoming birth of her child.

The thought of New Year resolutions come to mind. There are many thoughts of what to do, such as, cutting down on food, stop smoking, less time on the computer and the list goes on. All these thoughts are good but more important is to think about a rhythm to our lives. As followers of Christ there needs to be time spend in daily prayer, particularly in the morning and at night. The reading of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and growing in our knowledge of the Faith is also helpful. The "let down" of the Christmas festivities can leave all of us a little empty.

A return to the basics, through seeking to reintroduce a daily rhythm to our lives, can be helpful. If you will, we need to listen to our bodies. Oftentimes the stress we may discover in life is caused by our own doing. It is true there are external sources of stress but more important is our need to look at what is in our control. Using the phrase: "if this was not in my life it would be different" or "that is not my fault" and other such phrases can blind us to opportunities for change. "Seek the Lord that he may be found" and doing so will help us to see happenings in his light!

As this year of 2017, comes to an end, may we never lose the wonder of this holy season. May the New Year resolutions we make contain a greater commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church. Always remember our unique gifts are there to be used for the betterment of the world and its people.

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!**



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



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 upon 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

Due to the early bulletin deadline, the collection figures were not available at the time of printing. They will be included in the January 7 bulletin.

Answer to This Week's Religion Question

What are the Beatitudes?

Answer: The Beatitudes are attitudes of Christian living.

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



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY INFORMATION NIGHT

When: Wednesday evening, January 17, 2018, 7:00-9:30 pm

**Where: The Center for Pastoral Leadership
28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe (at the I-90 and Rt. 2 split)**

If you feel called to serve the Church as a lay person, consider formation and Certification as a Lay Ecclesial Minister for the Diocese of Cleveland.

For further information, please contact the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Office:

(440) 943-7670

Parish Activities

MONDAY, January 1

Office Closed

TUESDAY, January 2

2:00 Senior Board Mtg. (F)
6:00 Bible Study (F)
6:30 Guild Board Meeting (J)
6:45 Boy Scouts (c)
7:00 MH K of C Board Mtg (AR)
7:00 Bereavement Ministry (cmr)

WEDNESDAY, January 3

4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
6:30 Growing Our Faith (c)

THURSDAY, January 4

4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
6:30 Athletic Board Mtg (J)
7:00 Pastoral Council Mtg (CC)

FRIDAY, January 5

4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
7:30 Catholic Club Social (AR)

SATURDAY, January 6

9:00 Sandwich Saturday (J)

SUNDAY, January 7

8:00/10:00 Coffee & Donuts (c)
2:00 Girl Scout Cookie Rally (g)
2:00 Baptist Group (AR)
6:00 MH K of C Free Throw Contest (g)

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 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. DEADLINE TO ORDER TICKETS IS JANUARY 7th!**



Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40 or, for Year B, Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 105: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40
Monday	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
Tuesday	Saint 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
Wednesday	The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
Thursday	Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42
Friday	Saint John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51
Saturday	Saint André Bessette 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Continued.....

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
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