

DEC  
31  
2023

# ST. MONICA

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

*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



THE HOLY FAMILY  
MINE EYES HAVE  
SEEN YOUR  
**SALVATION.**

LUKE 2:30

### 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 44125**  
**Office: (216) 662-8685 | Fax: (216) 662-1245**  
**Website: [saintmonicachurch.net](http://saintmonicachurch.net)**

## Pastoral Scene

### The Feast of the Holy Family

On this first Sunday after Christmas, the Liturgy invites us to celebrate the family group of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This feast developed only in the 17th century, and built on the Gospel accounts, because this family was looked upon as representing the ideal family. God wanted Jesus to be born into a human family, with a mother and father like us.

However, as idyllic as the picture of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is, we often forget

that the Holy family shared a life of hardship. They fled Bethlehem after King Herod ordered the killing of all male infants, took the dangerous journey to Egypt, and eventually traveled to Jerusalem for Jesus' presentation in the Temple. Even there, for a joyous occasion, Mary was told by Simeon that Jesus would be a sign of contradiction to the nations and that a sword would pierce her heart.

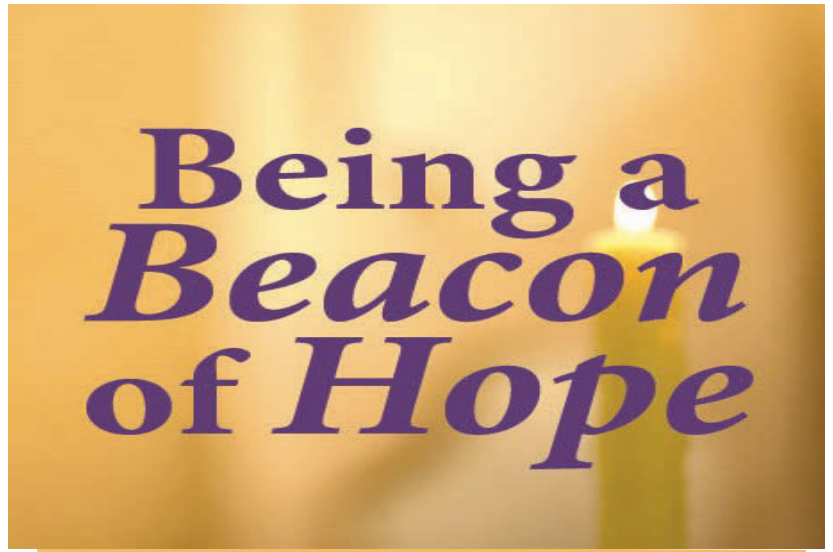
I have often wondered how Mary and Joseph lived, what type of conversations went on in the Holy Family's home, and were the words, (in Hebrew of course) of may I, thank you, please, or sorry ever get spoken? How did Jesus grow up in the little town of Nazareth. Did he have chores to do as he grew older, did he learn the carpenter's trade from Joseph, and did he help Mary with any work? Did he have a pet? Did Jesus go to school? The Gospels tell us that Jesus grew in wisdom and in strength (both physical and spiritual) after his first trip to the Temple in Jerusalem, and that Mary and Joseph found him in the Temple questioning and being questioned by the Doctors of the Law.

When I teach the children about Jesus, they often ask the same questions I have already listed. Knowing about the life of Jesus and what he did is important to children because it strengthens the bond between them and Jesus!

Jesus wanted to belong to a family like ours, one who experienced hardships, one where helping ones parents is important, and one where the words, "sorry, may I?, and thank you" are spoken often.

May your family mirror that of Jesus –a family where Mary, Joseph and Jesus fulfil with dignity and peace the mission which God has entrusted to them.

Sister Helene



### STEWARDSHIP FOR DECEMBER 10

Sunday Offering .....	\$ 5,789.74
St. Monica Fund.....	\$ 515.00

### STEWARDSHIP FOR DECEMBER 17

Sunday Offering .....	\$ 6,688.75
St. Monica Fund.....	\$ 372.00



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

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Sunday, December 31**

*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

9:00am Richard Krawczyk

10:45am Marissa Kovach

4:00pm (Vigil) People of Parish

**Monday, January 1**

*Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

**9:00am** Thomas & Veronica  
 Kvasnok

9:30am Exposition following mass

**Tuesday, January 2**

*Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors*

8:00am Josephine Horrigan

**Wednesday, January 3**

*Christmas Weekday*

8:00am Helen Bykiewicz

**Thursday, January 4**

*St Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

8:00am Priest Intention

**Friday, January 5**

*St John Neumann, Bishop*

8:00am Living & deceased of Cheryl & Michael Hanzick Family

**Saturday, January 6**

*Christmas Weekday*

4:00pm Patrick Lysobey

**Sunday, January 7**

*Epiphany of the Lord*

9:00am George Kaczmark

10:45am Frank, Jennie & Venus  
 Leone

## SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS

Please pray for the Seminarians of the Cleveland Diocese

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

Mon: Benjamin Baratian

Tues: Jonathan Green

Wed: Andrew Bendahan

Thursday: Thomas Byrne

Friday: Augustine Drexler

Sat: Stephen Vavro

Sunday: *Pray for Pope Francis*



There will be a Divine Mercy Holy Hour Sunday December 10th at 2:30 PM in St. Monica Church with Eucharistic Adoration, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Benediction. All are welcome!

## Please Pray For the Parishioners Listed Below

Jerry Perchinske, Madeleine Iglodi, Marie Yakich,  
 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

### Tuesday, January 2

7:00pm Holy Name Board (cmr)  
7:00pm Western Reserve Coin Club (c)

### Wednesday, January 3

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

### Thursday, January 4

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)  
5:00pm Set Up Sandwich Saturday (J)

### Friday, January 5

4:00pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

### Saturday, January 6

9:00am Sandwich Saturday (J)

### Sunday, January 7

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

### St. Monica Guild Board

The January meeting will be this Wednesday, January 3rd at 6:30pm in the St. Francis Room in the parish offices.



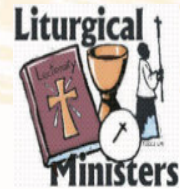
**Sandwich Saturday**  
Come and join us  
at the  
next Sandwich Saturday!  
**Saturday, January 6th,**  
**at 9:00am in the Parish Office.**



**All are invited to come and join the fun.**  
**Supplies needed: Jam/Jelly, Sandwich Baggies, gloves & round disposable tablecloths.**

## 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.

## BIBLE STUDY EVERYONE IS INVITED

### All are Welcome

We meet the first Wednesday of every month in St. Martin of Tours School. Next Study will be **January 3, 2024 -Matthew's Gospel.** January's session will be about the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. chaps. 5-7). No preregistration needed.

## Our Town & All-Around Coupon Book fundraiser

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!

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or phone/leave a voicemail for Regina at 216-581-4122. Free delivery!

Sale ends Jan. 22, 2024 (or while supplies last!)

**Entrance Chant** 308 Angels We Have Heard on High

**First Reading** Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying:

“Fear not, Abram!

I am your shield;

I will make your reward very great.”

But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?” Abram continued, “See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir.” Then the word of the LORD came to him: “No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir.” The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.” Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

**The Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 105:1-6, 8-9

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;

make known among the nations his deeds.

Sing to him, sing his praise,

proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Glory in his holy name;

rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!

Look to the LORD in his strength;

constantly seek his face.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

You descendants of Abraham, his servants,

sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He, the LORD, is our God;

throughout the earth his judgments prevail.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

He remembers forever his covenant

which he made binding for a thousand generations

which he entered into with Abraham

and by his oath to Isaac.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

# READINGS & SONGS

## **Second Reading** Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go.

By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age—and Sarah herself was sterile—for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said,

“Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.” He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

## **Gospel** Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition© 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

**Offertory Chant** 312 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

**Communion Chant** 330 What Child Is This

**The Concluding Rites** 313 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing



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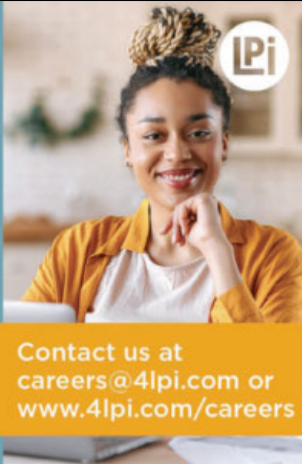
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