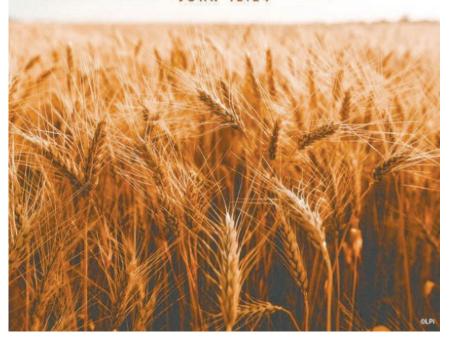
MAR **17** 2024

ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRODUCES MUCH FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT PRODUCES MUCH FRUCH



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

Welcome!

Masses

Saturday | 4:00pm Sunday | 9:00 and 10:45am Monday - Friday | 8:00am No Mass on Thursday

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

If Only I ...

The 19th century poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, wrote the following during line during a difficult time in his life: "Of *all* sad words of tongue or *pen*, the saddest are these, 'It might *have been*." His words came to mind while I was reading the seventh chapter of John's Gospel where Nicodemus is mentioned and reminds his colleagues in the Sanhedrin that Jewish Law requires that a person be heard before being judged (Jn 7:50-51).

In response, Caiaphas, the High Priest that year, retorted, "No prophets have come

This Week's Highlight

Strudel Sale This Weekend

Catholic War Veterans Post 1812 Auxiliary Strudel Sale, this weekend Apple, Cherry, Cheese, Apricot, Blueberry and **a new one Pineapple-Cheese**

\$10.00 each

from Galilee!." As a result, Nicodemus voted for the judgment, leaving Joseph of Arimathea as the only member of the Sanhedrin to vote "No". I always wondered why Nicodemus who had been a secret disciple of Jesus would do so, and more importantly, did he ever regret what he had done. That is when I found the story that might be true.

As Jesus' mother, Mary, was walking to the tomb after the crucifixion, Nicodemus walked beside her along the rocky ground. Mary stumbled and Nicodemus took her arm to steadied her. During that encounter however, a small gold jar fell out of Mary's pocket, and Nicodemus stooped down to retrieve it. Commenting on the beauty of that jeweled item, he handed it back to Mary, who held it close. "Yes," she said softly, "it is beautiful. It was a gift given to my son when he was born in Bethlehem." Nicodemus blanched and mumbled "If only I had known . . . if only I had known." Perhaps if he had known the facts, Nicodemus would have voted differently. But, as many of us who face making decisions in unclear situations, we, too, are often at the same disadvantage.

So often I am guilty of Nicodemus' mistake. I assume that I know all the facts, and even when I don't, I make a decision that appears to be correct and the best way to go. Responding with "What I thought. "or "It seemed the best alternative" places me in the role of God who definitely I am not!!! The fact is no one knows what might have been. All we do know is that the infinitely good God can and often will take the mistakes we make in good conscience and turn them around for good.

The story of Joseph in the Old Testament is a classic example of the man who could have spiraled into the fantasy world of "If only" with the serious challenges he endured. God took Joseph's misfortunes and changed them so that Joseph could proclaim: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Genesis 50:20)

Whittier's statement often fits my outlook on the "might have been" events in my life: "Of all sad words of tongue or *pen*, the saddest are these, "It might *have been*." To this I add another verse, "It might have been a whole lot worse!"

Sister Helene

STEWARDSHIP FOR MARCH 10, 2024

 Sunday Offering
 6,450.05

 St. Monica Fund
 365.00

 Misc. Special Envelopes
 498.00

We Share (On-Line Giving) for February

Sunday Offering\$5,880.50 St. Monica Fund......\$706.00

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





MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 17 5th Sunday of Lent 9:00am Frank Restifo 10:45am Daniel J Stanowick

Monday, March 18 Lenten Weekday 8:00am The Grassos Family 8:30am Exposition following mass

Tuesday, March 19 St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:00am Living & deceased of Diana & Dan Rickard Family

Wednesday, March 20 Lenten Weekday 8:00am Theresa Pruchnicki Thursday, March 21 Lenten Weekday 8:00am Terry Walker

Friday, March 22 Lenten Weekday 8:00am Living & deceased of Kate Hetman Family

Saturday, March 23 Lenten Weekday 4:00pm People of the Parish

Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:00am Harry Klosowski 10:45am Joseph & Margaret Dubas





Stations of the Cross Friday at 3:30 in the Church



Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended for the family and friends of: Florence Kanta Who was recently buried. May she 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: Zachary Smith Tuesday: Zachary Smith Tuesday: Steven Vasko Wednesday: Matthew Wasinski Thur: Christopher Yankay Friday: John Paul Antalek Sat: Dylan Ennis Sunday: Pray for a Prayerful Holy Week

Please Pray For the Parishioners Listed Below

Frank Zore, Jennie Brikowski, Joanne Reddinger, Baby Zander, Fr. Ted Marszal, Annie Runyeon, Anthony Bifro, Maggie Hojnowski (infant), Gaylene and Lisa Bielawski, Larry Piechowiak, Special Intention, Marianne Toma, Sally Weiskopf, Jerry Perchinske, Madeleine Iglodi

Please call the parish office if you would like to add a name to the prayer list. 216-662-8685

HIS WEEK

Activities CALENDAR

Monday, March 18

4:00pm Spring Sports Practice (g) 4:00pm Walking Class (J) 7:00pm Finance Council mtg (F) **Tuesday, March 19** 8:45am Confirmation Preparation (F) 4:00pm Spring Sports Practice (g) 6:30pm St Vincent dePaul Mtg (F) 7:00pm Ward 7 Block Watch Mtg (cmr)

Wednesday, March 20

3:00pm Fish Fry Prep (c) 4:00pm Spring Sports Practice (g) 6:30pm G.A. Meeting (+) 6:30pm Series on Catholicism & the Saints (c)

7:00pm D.H.N. Meeting (c) Thursday, March 21

3:00pm Fish Fry Prep (c) 4:00pm Spring Sports Practice (g) 4:00pm Walking Class (J) 6:30 Guild Meeting (c)

Friday, March 22

4:00pm Fish Fry (c) 4:00pm Spring Sports Practice (g) Saturday, March 23

8:30am Men of the Vine (ocu1&2) Sunday, March 24 7:30pm A.A. Meeting (c)



Series on Catholicism and the Saints

Please join us for an informative evening to reflect on the history, tradition, and joy of the Catholic Church Wednesdays during Lent. We will be exploring the Church through the Bishop Barron Series on Catholicism Location: Cafeteria Any questions please call Fr John (216-662-8685) Ext 115

Guild Meeting

The March Guild Meeting is this Thursday at 6:30pm in the cafeteria.





The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch

sponsored by Councilwoman Jenn Newrones, will meet **TUESDAY**, March 19th at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria of St. Benedict School. Our guest speaker will be Garfield Hts. Police Chief Mark Kaye. Nonperishable items for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry would be appreciated. All are welcome. For more information contact Gail, 216-662-9213.

LADIES GUILD BAKELESS BAKE SALE

Everyone is invited to participate in this fundraiser. Envelopes for your convenience can be found at the doors of the Church, or you can place any amount you would like to donate in an envelope marked, "LADIES GUILD BAKELESS BAKE SALE" and drop it in the Church collection basket, or drop it off at the Parish Office. We will be collecting donations through March. We will accept cash or checks made out to "St. Monica Guild." Thank you for your generosity. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Kathy Zack 216-650-2158 or

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Kathy Zack 216-650-2158 or Mary Lou Krawczyk 216-407-7152

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Needs

The food pantry is in need of the following Cake Mix Canned Meat/Veggies Pasta Sauce/Noodles Ramen Noodle Soup Canned Fruit Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate Instant Oatmeal Fruit Spread/Jam/Jelly Jell-o Treats: Cookies/Tarts/Biscuits/Candy Protein Bars Hot Dogs Donations can be dropped off at the parish office during regular business hours.

Isabella Guild of Garfield Hts Luncheon

Saturday March 23, 2024 Featuring Entertainment by: Girls with Squirrels "Former members of the Pop Tarts" Knights of Columbus Annex 10806 Granger Rd. Garfield Hts. 44125 Cost \$20 Lunch/Raffles Doors open @ 12 noon For tickets see an Isabella Guild Member or call Marlene at 216-662-6645.

Pre-Cana Retreat

The SS Cosmas & Damian's Pre-Cana Retreat will take place on Sunday, April 21, 2024. Registration is due by Monday April 15, 2024. More information available on the registration link: <u>2024 Pre-Cana Registration</u>. If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Vance at 330-840-9943.

(St. Monica's will not have a Pre-Cana Retreat this year)

Garfield Heights Knights of Columbus Wednesday Night Dinners

Wednesday, April 17 Chicken and Waffle Coat \$13.00

Reservations by Friday March 29 @ 8PM 216-662-2277 Prepared by Lori's Custom Catering

> Dinner Consists of: 2poeces of Chicken, Waffle, Honey Butter, Baked Apple

EVERYTHING IS PACKAGED PRE-ORDER ONLY TAKEOUT ONLY **SERVING TIME 4-6 PM** Pickup at 10806 Granger Road—CLUB 4130





Located in Southeast Asia between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Indonesia has beautiful beaches, diverse cultures and nearly 280 million people—the fourth highest population in the world!

Many of the country's more than 17,000 islands are in the Ring of Fire, a region around the rim of the Pacific Ocean where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common. Climate-related disasters such as cyclones also threaten the islands and are becoming more frequent and destructive.

Strong rains and wind from these storms—combined with long periods without rain, called drought make it difficult for people like Evita Tiro Wada to grow food. Evita and her family live on Flores Island, where she keeps a home garden for food and income.

To help her family and community become more resilient against natural disasters and have more reliable access to food, Evita participated in a Catholic Relief Services' program, through which she joined a disaster preparedness group.

The group helps their community stay safe during emergencies like cyclones and earthquakes. They created a system to warn people to evacuate and identified evacuation routes, assembly points and resources they can use during a crisis.

The group also maintains a community garden. They grow vegetables like beans, eggplant and water spinach to provide healthy food for their families. They use a drip irrigation system that conserves water so the vegetables can grow even during a drought. Evita and her group members use the garden to teach people from other communities how to start their own.

To protect their garden from the wind and prevent erosion from the ocean waves, Evita and her group planted trees. They also cleaned up the river and other areas in their town by picking up trash, which helped prevent flooding.

Evita says, "When I first joined the village disaster preparedness group, I thought, 'What will I do or give to help the community?' After I've been involved, I see the benefits of what the community and I did."

Pray with us during Holy Week and Easter



Looking for a way to enrich your Holy Week experience? AM1260 The Rock,



offers a full array of special programming that will help you pray, meditate, and enter more deeply into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whether you listen on the radio, through our mo-

bile app, or on your computer, AM 1260 The Rock can accompany you during the holiest season of the year. Go to <u>https://am1260therock.com</u> to find the entire Holy Week and Easter Schedule or call us at 216-227-1260 to obtain a printed copy. From everyone at AM 1260 The Rock, may you continue to have a blessed Lent, a spiritually fruitful Holy Week, and a Joyful Easter

St. Monica Parish Lenten Fish Fries

Served in the School Cafeteria 13623 Rockside Rd, Garfield Heights



Fridays February 16, 23 March 1, 8, 15, 22 Serving 4pm - 7pm

~ Seafood Dinner Choices ~

Battered Fried Cod · Baked Salmon With Dill Sauce · Fried Shrimp Seafood Dinners Include Choice of One Side Dish, plus Applesauce or Coleslaw,

FREE Dessert, Coffee, Ice Tea included with dinners

Cod - \$15.75 • Shrimp - \$15.75 • Salmon - \$17.50

~ Side Dishes Available ~

Homemade Noodles and Cabbage • French Fries • Potato/Cheese Pierogi Homemade Macaroni and Cheese

~ Additional Lenten Dinners Available ~

Macaroni & Cheese • Cabbage & Noodles • Pierogis Available With Choice of Applesauce or Coleslaw Dessert, Coffee, Tea, Milk

\$8.00 - \$11.00 ea

Credit and Debit Cards Accepted

Dine In or Carryout Senior & Children Dinners Available Fully Handicapped Accessible

All are Welcome, Please Join Us! 216 662 8685



Celebrate Spring!

At Our 38th Annual

Fashion Show/Luncheon

Sponsored by St Monica Church Ladies Guild Sunday, April 21, 2024 1:00 PM

Woodside Event Center at Archangel Michael's 5025 E. Mill Road (off Wallings @ I-77) Broadview Hts 44147

\$ BASKET RAFFLES \$ CASH RAFFLES \$ PRIZES \$

AND FASHIONS From

BLOSSOMS N BOWS BOUTIQUE

357 W Aurora Rd, Sagamore Hills, Ohio www.blossomsnbows.com

Donation: \$35 per person

Plated Dinner Menu Woodside Signature Salad, Green Beans Almondine Rolls, Dessert and Beverage

Choose: Chicken Piccata w/Angel Hair Pasta & Marinara Sauce Or Stuffed Shells w/Ricotta Cheese & Marinara Sauce (Gluten Free substitute available)

For Tickets, Contact: Marlyn Praznik 216-218-2482, mpraznik@aol.com

READINGS & SONGS

Entrance Chant 352 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

The Responsorial PsalmPsalm 51:3-4, 12-15

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

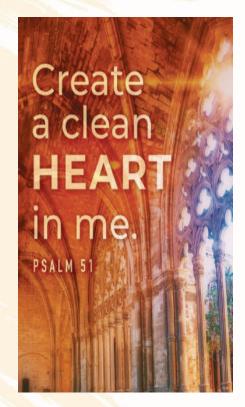
Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me.

I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading Hebrews 5:7-9

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.



READINGS & SONGS

Gospel John 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

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Offertory Chant 696 In Every Age (Whitaker)

Communion Chant I Am the Bread of Life

And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day.

I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; and who believe in me shall no thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live for ever, you shall live for ever.

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you.

I am the Resurrection, I am the life. If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live for ever.

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, Who has come into the world.

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