**10**2023

# ST. MONICA

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT MARK1:7A

#### **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 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

#### 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

#### 2nd Sunday in Advent 2023

The person of John the Baptist is featured this Sunday as he prepares the way for the promised one of Israel. A person quite different from Jesus but a person who is the "bridge" in bringing to the world the fulfillment of the promise found through the prophets. This week's gospel presents the beginning of Jesus in his public ministry. It is a reminder of our own adult faith and commitment to the promised Messiah and that it deepened each year during our Advent journey to celebrating the birth of Christ.

The Virgin Mary and John the Baptist are two important figures of the Advent Season. They both exemplify qualities to be followed. Mary's receptiveness to God's grace as she pondered all which God had done in her life and John the Baptist who followed his call to prepare the way of the Lord. The qualities of contemplative prayer and seeking our true call in life are shown to us in these two holy people.

A very practical way of living this message is to be open to the guests who visit

#### This Week's Highlight

#### "Being a Beacon of Hope" Program

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a final letter will be mailed to you with a personalized Commitment Card. We invite all faithful parishioners to complete a card as our parish goal is 100% participation!

You may return your card by:

- mailing it to the parish office using the preaddressed envelope included with the letter.
- or bring it to Mass next Sunday.
- or you may visit our parish website at <u>www.saintmonicachurch.net</u> and complete an electronic Commitment Card.

### All cards need to be returned to the parish by Sunday, December 31.

As a friendly reminder, electronic giving is an easy, safe and secure way to support St. Monica Church. To set-up a recurring weekly or monthly gift or to make a one-time donation directly from your bank account or credit card, please visit our website and follow the instructions.

We are grateful for your support!

St. Monica Church during these days. It is true that this hospitality should be practiced all year long but particularly during the Advent and Christmas season. I have recently met people from out of State and from other countries who have found their way to our Church. They remarked about the church's beauty both in the structure and in the people they encountered. May we continue to bring this beacon of light to all who enter this holy place.

Tuesday, December 12, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady appeared to a 57 year old Indian widower by the name of Juan Diego who lived in a small village near Mexico City. On a Saturday morning, December 9, 1531 Mary appeared to him and gave him a message for the Bishop. Three days later she appeared again this time providing him roses to be put in his cape or tilma. Returning to the Bishop he opened his cape and behold, not only the roses, but an image of Mary dressed in traditional Indian dress.

Pastoral Scene continued on page 4

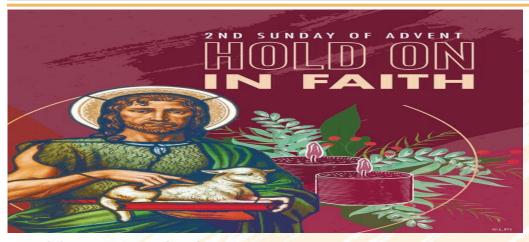
### STEWARDSHIP FOR DEC 3, 2023

Sunday Offering	\$ 6,992.73
St. Monica Fund	\$ 1,043.01
Misc. Special Envelopes	\$ 2,292.00

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



#### MASS INTENTIONS

**Sunday, December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent**9:00am People of the Parish
10:45am Mary Malicki

Monday, December 11
Advent Weekday
8:00am Terry Kosmata

8:30am Terry Kosmata 8:30am Exposition following mass

Tuesday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe 8:00am Wanda & Henry Rowinski

Wednesday, December 13 St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr 8:00am Ray & Alma Kubalski

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



Pray for all those who are homeless

Thursday, December 14
St John of the Cross, Priest &
Doctor of the Church
8:00am Julies (Jake) Cermak

Friday, December 15
Advent Weekday

8:00am Living & deceased of William Bennett & Family

**Saturday, December 16**  *Advent Weekday* 4:00pm Rudolph & Cecilia

**Sunday, December 17** 

3rd Sunday of Advent
9:00am People of the Parish
10:45am Joseph & Margaret Dubas



Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to the families and friends of all who have recently died.

May they and all of the 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: Jake Cermak
Tuesday: Steve Zbiegien
Wed: Gregory Hovan
Thurs: William Martzaklis
Friday: John Scantling
Saturday: Connor Trout
Sunday: Pray for

Missionaries

### Please Pray For the Parishioners Listed Below

Joan Fischer, Wally Voyten, Maryann DiEgidio,
Gaylene 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 11

4:00 pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

4:00 pm Walking Class (J)

#### **Tuesday, December 12**

1:00 pm OurFather's Daughters (F)

2:00pm Senior Meeting (J)

4:00 pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

6:30 pm St Vincent DePaul

Meeting (F)

#### Wednesday, December 13

4:00 pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

6:30 pm G.A. Meeting (+)

#### **Thursday, December 14**

4:00 pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

4:00 pm Walking Class (J)

6:60pm Guild Meeting (c)

#### Friday, December 15

4:00 pm Winter Sports Practice (g)

#### Sunday, December 17

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

#### **Support a Lifetime of Service**

Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay.

Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings.

As they age, they require essential care and medication.

Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious.

Please give generously

#### **Senior Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held this
Tuesday, December 12th
at 2:00 p.m.

in the St. Joseph room of the parish office.
Come and Enjoy, Coffee, Donuts, Bingo and
Fellowship

New Members Always Welcome

#### **Guild Meeting**

The December meeting will be
Thursday, December 14th
At 6:30 pm
In the school cafeteria.
All are Welcome



Congratulations to our newest Baptized Catholics:

Sofia Rose Zavarella, Dean Michael Zavarella and Ava Grace Herman

May God continue to bless them and their family.

#### Pastoral Scene continued

Because of the close link between the Church in Mexico and the Church in the United States, the feast is celebrated as she is called today: the Patroness of the Americas. She is depicted as a woman with child, she is a reminder of respecting life in all its stages. This important focus fits into our celebration of God's life in us and the Holy Season of Advent in which we journey.

A final note, we continue Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Monday Masses. All are welcome to join us during the "Holy Half Hour".

Father Ted Marszal

### OTHER INFORMATION



Oplatky is available in the Parish Office.

The cost is \$1.00 per package of 2 wafers.

Oplatky is used at home during the table prayer at the Christmas Eve dinner.

The wafer bears an image from the Christmas story
and the bread signifies the bread of life—Jesus,
who is among us in the
Eucharist and in our lives.
The prayer used is included. Supply is limited.



St. Monica Respect for Life Ministry
would like to thank everyone who helped make our Christmas Craft Fair
such a success!

A special "thank you" to all the many capable, cheerful and hard-working
Trinity High School students who volunteered hours of their time!!

Honestly, we couldn't have done it without them.

What a great way to put their faith into action.

We were able to make generous donations to both

**Zelie's Home and Womankind.** 

This will help these wonderful organizations continue to help families in need "Choose Life!"

See you at next year's Fair---always the Saturday after Thanksgiving!

#### **Heartfelt Thank You**

To Spectrum and their Employees
For 35+ boxes of toys and
Countless boxes of food
Given to St. Monica's St. Vince DePaul Society
for distribution as needed.
And for their donated of toys and other supplies to
Zelie's Home



#### **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



### OTHER INFORMATION

**December 2023 - Jesuit Retreat Center Programs & Retreats - Celebrating 125 Years**Jesuit Retreat Center, 5629 State Rd, Parma, OH 44134. <a href="https://www.jesuitretreatcenter.org">https://www.jesuitretreatcenter.org</a>

**The Gift of Change.** Monday, December 4, 6:00 - 8:30pm. *Presented by David Eich.* This presentation will feature families from a national search for family excellence will share the gifts of diligence, compassion, perseverance, conviction, creativity, resiliency, clarity, accountability, vigilance, discernment, forbearance, and grace. \$40

**Liturgy & Ignatian Spirituality: Mass & Ignatian Reflections in December.** Tuesdays, 8:00am - 8:30am. December 5, 12 and 19. On Tuesdays, the Jesuit Retreat Center offers Mass in the Main Chapel followed by a brief reflection on Ignatian Spirituality. Free will offering (registration is not necessary).

**Advent Luncheon: Mass & Reflection.** Monday, December 11, 10:00am - 12:30pm. Encounter Advent, Be Transformed, Deepen your Prayer. Join us for an Advent experience of Mass/Liturgy, prayer, reflection, and a luncheon with presenter, Fr. Bernie Owens, S.J., who recently joined our JRC Staff as a master retreat director & presenter. He is the author of *Realizing Our Deepest Desires* and *More Than You Could Ever Imagine*. Fr. Bernie guides us through an Advent encounter where you will truly be transformed and will deepen your relationship with God. Cost: \$40

**December Sabbath Days - a Personal Retreat Day.** Tuesday, December 12, 8:30am - 3:30pm. Come and spend a day of renewal and prayer at the Jesuit Retreat Center. Give yourself the time and space to come pray in our chapels, to sit in quiet reading in the library, and to walk and meditate on JRC's beautiful grounds. Cost: \$50

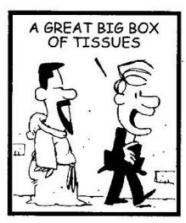
**Advent: May My Spirit Magnify The Lord.** Wednesday, December 13, 9:00am - 3:00pm. Presented by William Miller and Sr. Mary Ann Spangler, HM. This day will be a day to pray, ponder and share ways to bring God's presence into today's world as Mary did. Lunch is included. Cost: \$60

**Calix AA Men's Recovery Retreat: Let Go and Let God.** Friday, December 15, 5:30pm - Sunday, December 17, 11:00am. A Recovery Retreat at Jesuit Retreat Center is a time to nurture your serenity and find the strength to work the steps of recovery. Weekend includes: Prayer and meditation, AA leads, small group discussions, walk the grounds, pick a pal, healing service and Sunday Mass. (The Mass is open to all attendees.) Lots of friendship, fellowship, laughter, food and snacks all while making new relationships. Cost: \$270

**December Morning Prayer for Women.** Monday, December 18, 9:30 - 11:00am. Women from all walks of life are invited to pray together and learn more about the beauty of prayer. Led by Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, S.C.,

#### 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT











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# ST. MONICA GUILD THE GRAPEVINE 2023



Board Meeting: WEDNESDAY, DEC 6 - 6:30 P.M. Membership Meeting: (Please Note: DATE CHANGE)

THURSDAY, DEC 14 - 6:30 P.M.

Jennings Social: WEDNESDAY, DEC 20 - 2:00 p.m.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

"My prayer for you is that when Christ comes to you in Christmas, He may find in You a warm home, warm love like that of a heart full of love, like that of a simple shepherd who was the first one chosen to see Christ."

Saint Theresa of Calcutta

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Guild Members,

MANDY CORSI - 216-408-0765

I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving with your families. It is now time for Advent, and preparing for Christmas. We get so involved in decorating our homes, putting up the Christmas tree, baking cookies, writing cards, shopping and wrapping presents that we need to take a breath and slow down for the real reason for the Season. That God gave us the most perfect Gift~ His Son, Jesus Christ. That is what we celebrate the most. What a beautiful time of year of celebration for this reason!

I hope you enjoyed our speaker Debbie Makowski at the November meeting's presentation on Nutrition. She called me afterwards and said she enjoyed presenting to such a lovely group of ladies. A big "Thank You" to Sue Medvetz for another successful Peterson Nut Sale! Great Job! Hoping to see all of you at our December Christmas Party/Meeting. We will be playing our version of Bunco! Always a good time! Don't forget to bring 3 to 5 inexpensive wrapped gifts to exchange during the game!

God's Blessing to You and Yours,

#### Mandy

#### PROGRAM

#### KATHY ROWINSKI - 216-663-9852

I'd like to thank our November Guest Speaker, Debbie Makowski, Certified Nutritionist/Fitness and Food Coach, for a very informative presentation on <u>Healthy Eating + Active Living</u> (H.E.A.L) a holistic approach to wellbeing so you can feel and live your best life. We even had a quiz! She left us with these basic principles: By eating the 3 macros—protein, healthy fats, complex carbs—with each meal, eating 3 meals a day without snacking in between meals, and hydrating with water, the body maintains a healthy physique. Choose foods that serve your body and allow you to live in optimal health. Thank you, Debbie, your presentation was enjoyed by all.

Please join us on Thursday, December 14th, at 6:30 p.m. (one week earlier than usual) for our Christmas party/meeting when we will again play our version of "Bunco". We'll provide the dice; you provide the 3-5 inexpensive wrapped gifts. They can be something you got and want to re-gift, or something you didn't really need but couldn't pass up the sale. Hopefully you will get something just as nice in return, as well as have lots of fun. It is a fun and simple game—roll the dice and take a present, near the end of the game you take/swap/steal one from your neighbor. Looking forward to seeing you there!

#### MEMBERSHIP

#### LOUISE TRIPTOW - 216-225-0323

The purpose of the St. Monica Guild is to promote the spiritual development of all Catholic women and to give financial assistance to our parish whenever needed. Just a reminder, that your annual Membership fee of \$5.00 is due by December 31<sup>st</sup>, (as stated in the Constitution of the Saint Monica Guild Article III – Sec. IV: Each member, upon payment of dues, is entitled to vote, make motions, offer nominations, and act as Committee Chairpersons). You can drop your membership envelope in the Church collection basket, the parish office, or pay at the meeting. Invite a friend, neighbor, or relative! We'd love to have them join us.

#### Peterson's Nut Sale

#### SUE MEDVETZ - 216-924-3804

Once again, thank you to all who participated in the 2023 Guild's annual nut sale. Special thanks to those who were able to increase their sales over last year's totals. Our total sales were \$6,192.00. Thank you for your support in helping to make this fundraiser a success. All proceeds will benefit our Church.

#### FASHION SHOW/LUNCHEON

#### MARLYN PRAZNIK - 216-218-2482

Plans are moving along for celebrating our 38th Annual Fashion Show/Luncheon on April 21, 2024, at Woodside Event Center on Mill Road off Wallings Road. Blossoms n Bows Boutique in Sagamore Hills, will once again be providing our fashions. Our theme this year is "Celebrate Spring!" and we will be providing you with lots of ways to celebrate! More details to come! Please remember us during this season of gift giving and donate your new or never used items for the basket raffles. We need "new" gifts, gift cards/gift certificates that will not expire until after April 2024. Some suggestions would be children's toys, games, personal care items, gardening items, pet items, just to name a few. Donations can be brought to our membership meeting, dropped at the parish office, or call me to make arrangements for pick up or drop off.

#### **ROSARY CHAIN**

#### CHRISTINE PAYNTER 216-475-4205

Please remember all of our deceased members of the Guild in your prayers during this Holy Season of Christmas.

#### SUNSHINE

#### BARB OKUROWSKI - 216-406-3731

Sympathies were sent to member, Barb Vaughn, for the recent loss of her mother. Please keep Barb and her family in your prayers. Please continue to let me know if there is anyone that you know of that could use a little sunshine sent their way. Wishing Christmas Blessings to you and your family.

#### TRAVELING MADONNA

#### RITA STANOWICK 216-662-1513 / ROSEMARY WELICH 216-410-5003

The Traveling Madonna visited with Nancy Simpson for the month of November. She will travel to the home of Rita Stanowick to visit for the month of December. If you would like to schedule a visit to your home, please call Rita or Rosemary.

#### JENNINGS SOCIAL

#### LAURA MUROWSKY - 216-587-2172

The November Jennings Social was attended by 33 residents who enjoyed the fun afternoon of playing bingo and afterwards cookies and coffee. Thank you to Sue Kolo, Connie Holub, Mary McFeely and Kathy August for volunteering and visiting with the residents for the afternoon. December's social will be a hot chocolate/cookie and caroling afternoon instead of the usual Bingo games. Please join us on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and share some holiday cheer with everyone. Wishing all a Merry Christmas.



Agnes Ungarsky	Dec 1st	Laverne Cappelli	Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Claire Hrovat	Dec 6th
Barb Vaughn	Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mandy Corsi	Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Lou Tomko	Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>
Debbie Kosmata	Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Holub	Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Fitch	Dec 25th
Tina Anelli	Dec 27th	Joan Fischer	Dec 27th		

\*\*\*IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO POST AN ARTICLE IN THE GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT SUE MEDVETZ AT (216) 662-8257 OR
EMAIL <u>MEDVETZS4791@ATT.NET</u>. ARTICLES <u>MUST</u> BE SUBMITTED <u>NO LATER THAN</u> MONDAY <u>DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup></u>, FOR THE JANUARY
GRAPEVINE NEWS\*\*\*

Editor: Sue Medvetz

### READINGS & SONGS

**Entrance Chant** 274 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.

#### A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

#### The Responsorial Psalm Psalm 85:9-14

#### R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

#### R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

#### R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

### READINGS & SONGS

#### Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting your-selves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight his paths."

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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 278 On Jordan's Bank

Communion Chant 802 One Love Released

The Concluding Rites 566 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



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