



13623 Rockside Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

Parish Office:
(216) 662-8685
fax: (216) 662-1245
website: saintmonicachurch.net

St. Benedict: (216) 662-9380
Early Learning Center
(216) 475-3633
OCFCU (216) 663-6800

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday
8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(Closed 12:30-1:30 p.m. for lunch)

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

MASSES: 7 days a week

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
and 10:45 a.m.

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Bulletin Announcements due to
smedvetz@saintmonicachurch.net
by NOON on Monday

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Thomas A. Haren, **Pastor**

Rev. Theodore Marszal,
Senior Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jerome Lukachinsky,
Retired, in Residence

Rev. Thomas G. Montavon,
Retired, in Residence

Stan Drozell, **Deacon**

PASTORAL STAFF

Sister Helene Skrzyniarz
SSJ-TOSF,

Parish Catechetical Leader
srhelene@saintmonicachurch.net

Bob Soeder, **Director of**
Liturgy and Music

Stan Jakosh, **Business Mgr**

Mrs. Sue Shepka, **Office Mgr**

Kathy Piggford,

Pastoral Council Chairman

Kathy Wendling,

Finance Council Chairman



BAPTISM: Please make arrangements in advance. Baptisms are performed on Sundays, immediately following the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Pre-Baptismal instruction is required for parents. Please call the Parish Office for time of next scheduled class.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Adults and school-age children seeking full membership in the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist can make an appt. to continue their conversion process by calling the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION: Opportunities to celebrate God's forgiveness in one's life are available on Saturday afternoons from 3:15-3:45 p.m. Individual appointments with a Priest can be arranged.

MATRIMONY: The Diocese of Cleveland requires a 6-month preparation period for marriage. Call the Parish Office to set your wedding date and plan your celebration.

CONFIRMATION: Any adult or high school student needing Confirmation, please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation.

ANointing OF THE SICK: Celebrated upon request. Call the Parish Office to make arrangements with one of our Priests.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please call the Parish Office to register.

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Provides Catholic education for students K-8. School hrs.: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. *Before & After Care* available. Mrs. Lisa Oriti, *School Principal*

GROWING OUR FAITH: Lifelong faith formation centered in the events of Church life that promotes faith, growth, and understanding. All are invited. Meets once a month.

EUCCHARIST FOR THE HOMEBOUND: Parish Team and Staff Members visit the homebound on a monthly basis. If you or someone you know is homebound and would like to receive communion, call the Parish Office.



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer and Rosary
following 8:00 a.m. Mass

Sunday, December 8

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 George & Margaret Basha

10:45 William J. Gadowski

Monday, December 9

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

6:30 Priest Intention

9:00 People of the Parish

7:00 People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 10

Advent Weekday

8:00 Wanda Rowinski

9:00 Larry Herman

Wednesday, December 11

Advent Weekday

8:00 Terry Kosmata

Thursday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 Dominico Festa

Friday, December 13

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

8:00 Marge Konkowski

Saturday, December 14

Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

3:15 Confessions

4:00 People of the Parish

Sunday, December 15

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 Living & Deceased members of William Bennett Family

10:45 Rudolph & Cecilia Gurgol

Please keep in your prayers the following members of our Parish Community:

Joyce Peck, JoAnn & Henry Murowsky, Wally Voyten, Gaylene Bielawski, Lisa Bielawski, Cleora Bielawski, Joanne Reddinger, Baby Legend Williams, Kathleen Pucci, Thom Machar. The names will remain in the bulletin for two weeks. Please call the parish office if your name or a loved one's name needs to be added to the list. Please be sure that the person who is ill consents to have their name placed on the list. If you have a special intention you would like remembered in prayer, please call Lillian Neptune (216) 662-5464.



Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and friends of those who were recently buried

Rev Thomas J Lusoski 11/24/2019

Pastor Emeritus, St. Margaret Mary Parish, S. Euclid

Ted Strenkowski 11/28/2019

May they, and all our faithful departed, rest in peace.

OPLATKY

Oplatky is now available in the Parish Office. The cost is **\$1.00 per package of 2 wafers.**

Religion Question of the Week

What are the Synoptic Gospels?

Did You Know?

Did you know that the original property designated for St. Monica Parish is now Monica Lane?

One Liner

"Many persons want to serve God, but only as advisors".

Answer to the **Religion Question of the Week**
located on page 5 of this bulletin

MEMORIAL FLOWER ENVELOPES

Deceased loved ones can be remembered through the Christmas Flower Memorial Fund.

Names you submit with your donation by **Monday, December 16th**, will be posted on the bulletin board in the Rockside Road vestibule during the Christmas season.

Through your generous offerings, flowers and supplies are purchased to enhance our liturgies throughout Advent and Christmas. This is a beautiful way to remember your loved ones and at the same time contribute to our liturgical celebrations.



COFFEE-DONUTS-FELLOWSHIP

Join us today in the school cafeteria, Hosting will be members of Pastoral Council.

There will NOT be a social Dec. 15th, due to the Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Right to Life Ministry.



Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Sunday, December 8th, (2:30 p.m.)

Saint Monica Church

All are welcome!

ST. MONICA SENIOR'S GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Seniors will meet in the school cafeteria on **Tues., Dec. 10th** for their annual Christmas party. **Party will begin at 4pm.** Don't miss this celebration. **Don't forget to bring your \$1.00 gift exchange.** All money (\$16.25) must be sent in to Gerry Golem, 13624 Silver Dr., GH, 44125. Make checks payable to St. Monica Seniors. See you there!

MANY THANKS

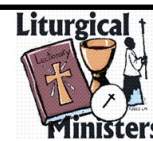
Many thanks to the volunteers who helped at the **Community Meal on Thanksgiving Day**. We want to thank the **Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union** for their help in organizing this event, and **St. Augustine's Church** for preparing the food for its distribution.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Any special requests for the months of **January/February/March**

must be turned in to the Parish Office **no later than Monday, December 9th.**

Please note: New Years is included in the current schedule.



Pastoral Scene

2nd Sunday in Advent 2019 C

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 St. Monica Church during these days. It is true that this hospitality should be practiced all year long but particularly during the Advent and the 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.

Tomorrow, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Because the Holyday falls on a Sunday in Advent, the Solemnity is moved to Monday. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

Thursday, 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.

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.

Fr. Ted Marszal

CONFIRMATION-November 24, 2019

It is with great joy we congratulate the following “Fully Initiated Catholic” who celebrated their Confirmation on Sunday, November 24, 2019. May they remain strong, vibrant, and holy in the practice of their faith.

Kayla Ann Madeline Ade
Dudley Thomas Francis Beckrest
Jorge Francisco Jose Cardenas
Brianna Leigh Cecilia Galang
Logan Thomas Anthony Herrage
Marcellus Joseph Lawrence Lewandowski
Michael Anthony Sebastian Lewandowski
Christian Asher Jerome Locke
Luke Edward Joseph Reed
Kayla Marie Margaret Rostorfer
Molly Katherine Elizabeth Russo
Misty-Lucille Gallaway Ann Whitelock

REDISCOVER SAINTS BOOK—Matthew Kelly

Ever think about becoming a Saint - Saints come from all walks of life. The catholic church has thousands of saints. It seems Saints, were either very religious from childhood or great sinners but then turned around and became very devout. A person is not born a saint. The Pope does not make someone a saint, the designation of sainthood only recognizes what God has already done. Read about the lives of Saint Ignatius, Saint Francis of Assisi, Mother Teresa and more saints in the book “Rediscover Saints” by Matthew Kelly, that will be handed out to members of the parish the weekend of December 14/15.



**Society of
St. Vincent de Paul**
Diocese of Cleveland

The Cleveland Cavaliers have teamed up with the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s Hunger Centers to help feed the hungry this Christmas season. The CAVS are offering discounted tickets to the **Fri., Dec. 20th home game @ 7PM against the Memphis Grizzlies**. In addition to your ticket purchase benefitting our hunger centers, all attendees will receive a Whammer Bobblehead. The fun-filled evening includes a free throw on the court after the game. [Order tickets at svdpcle.org](http://order tickets at svdpcle.org) or <https://go.rallyup.com/svdp-cavs>. **Sales end 12/19/19 @ 5PM.**

Jan. 24, 2020 will be the 47th “**March for Life**” in Washington D.C. in memory of the now over 60 million babies aborted in the U.S. since the infamous Roe V Wade/Doe v Bolton 1973 Supreme Court decisions which effectively allowed abortion for any reason throughout all 9 months of pregnancy. A bus will be leaving from St. Monica Church and also from St. Columbkille Church (includes a hotel stay.) Reservations required ASAP. Please call Regina at 216-744-3263 for details.



St. Benedict Catholic School Spotlight

Sixth Grade

Mr. Nelson and Mr. Ungarsky

In **Science**, our sixth graders have just finished their Physical Science unit and are now exploring the world of Life Science. Their first destination is learning about the characteristics of life, particularly abiotic (non- living), and biotic (living). One engaging activity they will be participating in, is walking around the school on a "scavenger hunt," listing those things that are abiotic and those things that are biotic. Their findings will then be discussed in class. They will examine their findings to determine if they meet the criteria of living or non living things.

The sixth graders completed their second narrative by **writing an essay** describing how they would spend the day with Henry David Thoreau if he visited them today. The story "If You Spent the Day with Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond" was read to them. Then they had to decide what three things they would do with Henry today. Students were also required to illustrate their composition. In addition, students created a SOLE lesson in groups. They learned from *Henry David Thoreau Bell Ringer for Justice* that Thoreau wrote about the individuals who lived at Walden long before he built his house there. They were the outcasts of society and lived on its fringes. These individuals included the former slaves, the Irish immigrants, as well as the downtrodden. Writing about them gave them dignity and Thoreau wanted everyone to know that they also had contributed to the growth of the community. Students answered the question "Can an Individual Contribute to the Growth of a Community?" through a SOLE presentation. They prepared a powerpoint that gave information about various individuals who contributed to the growth of the community in which they live.

In **Math**, students are practicing with ratios, rates, and equivalent ratios. We will be working with percents in the future.

Knights of Columbus—Coats for Kids Drive

Going on now through December 15th, the Garfield Heights Knights of Columbus will be collecting new and like-new winter coats in all sizes – infant to adult - . You may drop the coats off in the large box which will be located in the vestibule of the church. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase coats, **please make checks out to Knights of Columbus, Council 4130. In the memo field write COATS FOR KIDS. Last pickup date is December 15th.** THANK YOU for your continued support of this program!

PARISH ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, December 9 *See Liturgy Schedule*

8:00 a.m. School Events (cmr)
8:00 a.m. PTU Santa Shoppe (AR)
4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)
5:00 p.m. Walking with Leslie Sansone DVD (J)
7:00 p.m. CWV Mtg. (c)
7:00 p.m. Finance Council (F)

TUESDAY, December 10

8:00 a.m. School Events (cmr)
8:00 a.m. PTU Santa Shoppe (AR)
2:45 p.m. Reconciliation Lessons (+)
3:00 p.m. Drama Club Practice (g)
4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)
4:00 p.m. Seniors Christmas Party (c)
6:45 p.m. Boy Scouts (F)

WEDNESDAY, December 11

8:00 a.m. School Events (cmr)
8:00 a.m. PTU Santa Shoppe (AR)
12:00 p.m. Tai Chi (J)
2:30 p.m. Band Concert (g)
4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)
5:00 p.m. Walking with Leslie Sansone DVD (J)
7:00 p.m. G.A. (ocu 1&2)

THURSDAY, December 12

8:00 a.m. School Events (cmr)
8:00 a.m. PTU Santa Shoppe (AR)
3:00 p.m. Christmas Musical (g)
8:00 p.m. Tri M Mtg (ocu 1&2)

FRIDAY, December 13

8:00 a.m. School Events (cmr)
8:00 a.m. PTU Santa Shoppe (AR)
4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)

SATURDAY, December 14

7:30 a.m. Men of the Vine (ocu 1&2)
2:00 p.m. Baptist Bible Study (F)

SUNDAY, December 15 *See Liturgy Schedule*

9:00 a.m. **PANCAKE BREAKFAST-Right To Life (c)**
8:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting (AR)

Thank You Holy Name Society and the Women's Guild

Over the past year, the members of the Holy Name Society and the Women's Guild have volunteered their time working on our parish grounds. Among the most recent projects was the cleaning of the Church pews by the Women's Guild, and the general landscaping of the area near the Marian Shrine and in front of the Priest's rectory by the Holy Name Society. **We thank all who participated in these worthy projects.**

HOLY NAME SOCIETY MONTHLY RAFFLE WINNERS

Drawing November 24, 2019

<u>Ticket# 1777</u>	-	<u>Ticket# 1696</u>
Winner: Alycia Cohara	-	Pat Farrel
Seller: Alys Radosevic	-	Bob Rafal
Captain: Will Skladany	-	Bob Rafal

ST. MARY MISSION—We would like to thank you for your generous donation of religious items to our mission. They will be put to good use by other churches, convents and religious organizations.

Stewardship Offertory Collections

For: November 24, 2019

Regular Offertory.....	\$ 6,665.00
St. Monica Fund.....	\$ 355.00
Children's Envelopes.....	\$ 0.46
Catholic Cmpn for Human Development ..	\$ 246.00

We Share Electronic Giving-November

Regular Offertory.....	\$ 2,688.50
St. Monica Fund.....	\$ 441.00

For: December 1, 2019

Regular Offertory.....	\$ 7,272.00
St. Monica Fund.....	\$ 1,154.00
Children's Envelopes.....	\$ 7.00

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

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS 2nd COLLECTION TODAY

Support aging religious. Our second collection today is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

RIGHT TO LIFE MINISTRY-PANCAKE BREAKFAST

St. Benedict School Cafeteria
Sunday—Dec 15th—9AM —12:30PM

Sausage, Orange Juice
UNLIMITED PANCAKES

\$7.00—(Adults)

\$5.00—(under 12)

Raffle Baskets—50/50 Raffle
AND

Christmas Cookies for Sale!
PLEASE JOIN US!

We are donating our profits from the Craft Fair to Maggie's Place and Womankind.

Proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast will help fund the March for Life trip in January.

Thank you for your support of this important Ministry

Answer to this Week's Question

Answer: The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. They are called *Synoptic* because these Gospels are so similar in their content about the life of Jesus.

WINTERFEST 2020

Saturday, January 18th — 5:00-9:00pm

Sunday, January 19th — NOON-6:00pm

DONATIONS

Once again, we are asking for any **donations for our Chinese Raffle for our 9th Annual Winterfest**. 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 gift cards of any kind, or an item that best highlights your business we would gladly accept that too! If you would like to make a monetary donation to help us make some great baskets... we would be grateful for that as well! Also, if you have any empty baskets we sure could use them too! 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 a donation picked up, please call Bill Noyes at 216-912-8679.

TICKETS

By now, **you should have received your Winterfest Tickets which have been mailed.** We are asking everyone to help out by either purchasing or selling the tickets for \$30.00. The proceeds from Winterfest will benefit the church to offset our electric bill which was over \$22,000 last year. **We will be having early incentive drawings** so turn them in as soon as you purchase or sell them! **Winners will be drawn on December 8th, December 22nd, and January 12th - \$75, \$50, and \$25, respectfully.** Thank you so much for your help in making our Ninth Annual Winterfest a success!

St. Nicholas Gift Giving

The St. Monica St. Nicholas Christmas Gift Giving Program is a sharing of Christmas gifts with those who are less fortunate and unable to buy gifts for their children and other family members. Tags identifying the age, gender, and type of suggested gift can be obtained in the vestibule. Pick up the gift tags the weekends of Dec 7/8 and 14/15. Please return your purchased and wrapped gifts (with the tags securely attached to the front of them), to the Church the weekend of December 21st and 22nd.



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your generous support for the collection that took place on Nov. 24, 2019. As a parish, we raised \$246.00, to support those who live on the margins and in poverty in the United States.

The Second Sunday of Advent

Entrance Chant:

Alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is Near

Alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is near.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is near.

Earth has longed for his approach: Hurry, the Lord is near.
straighten the road, smooth the path. Hurry, the Lord is near.

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Alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is Near

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 72: Justice Shall Flourish

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fulness of peace forever.

Words: Psalm 72 Music: Rory Cooney. Copyright © 1991 by OCP Publications, Portland OR. Reprinted with permission of OneLicense.net Lic. #A-702569 All rights reserved.

Offertory Chant:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Journeysongs #302)

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, this Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Montehr kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

Text: 76 76 6 7 6, based on Isaiah 11:1; trad. German Carol, 15th cent.; tr. By Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt. Music: ES EST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN; melody tr. Alt. Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesange, Cologne, 1599;
harm. By Michael Praetorius, 1571 0 1621, Musae Sioniae, 1609.

Communion Chant:

Bread of Life (Journeysongs #788)

Bread of life, hope of the world, Jesus Christ, our brother:
feed us now, give us life, lead us to one another.

1. As we proclaim your death, as we recall your life,
we remember your promise to return again.
2. The bread we break and share was scattered once as grain:
just as now it is gathered, make your people one.
3. We eat this living bread, we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world, source of lasting love.
4. Hold us in unity, in love for all to see;
that the world may believe in you, God of all who live.
5. You are the bread of peace, you are the wine of joy,
broken now for your people, poured in endless love.

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Sending Forth:

Bring Forth

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice; bring forth the city of God.
You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the Kingdom of God!

Text and music: Marty Haugen. Copyright © 1986 by GIA. Publications, Inc. Chicago IL.
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Reading 1 Is 11:1-10

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
he shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment. **R.**

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth. **R.**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save. **R.**

May his name be blessed forever;
as long as the sun his name shall remain.
In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed;
all the nations shall proclaim his happiness. **R.**

Reading 2 Rom 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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OH COME LET US ADORE HIM

Advent Festival of Praise

Monday December 16, 2019 7:00 PM

St. Monica Church

13623 Rockside Rd, Garfield Heights, OH 44125

Presented by:

NCS TEC

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Individual Confession



ST. MONICA GUILD

THE GRAPEVINE 2019



Board Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 3 - 6:30 p.m.

Jennings Social: NO SOCIAL IN DECEMBER

Membership Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 19 - 6:30 p.m.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*"It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing.
It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving"*

~Mother Teresa

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LOUISE TRIPTOW – 216-475-3825 or 216-225-0323

Please plan to join us on Thursday December 19th at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria. We will be playing our version of "Bunco" ... 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. Please remember to bring a few inexpensive wrapped gifts to swap in the merriment.

One of my favorite Christmas stories is 'The Gift of the Magi', a short story written by O. Henry. The story tells of a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money and the sacrifice they made to obtain the gifts they did. The message of the story is that sincere love captures the spirit of Christmas more perfectly than any gift we can possibly buy for another person. May love and the joy & peace of Christmas be with you today and throughout the New Year.

You are so special to me,
Louise

PROGRAM

SUE KOLO – 216-536-7680

Thank you to our November speaker, Vicky Follen, for her presentation on Pro Life work being done by LifeWorks Ohio. Join us on Dec. 19th for our Christmas Party when we will again play our exciting version of Bunco. We will provide the dice **and ask you to provide 1 or 2, at the most 3, inexpensive, wrapped "gifts" for table prizes.** 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. See you then!

ROSARY CHAIN

Please remember to keep all of our departed members and their families in your prayers this Holy Season of Christmas.

MARY MAROTTA – 440-546-1108

SUNSHINE

Please remember to let me know if there is a member that is need of a little cheer. Stay warm and healthy. Wishing Christmas Blessings to you and your family.

BARB OKUROWSKI – 216-406-3731

TRAVELING MADONNA

The Traveling Madonna visited with Nancy Simpson during the month of November. She will visit with me, in my home in December, then travel to the home of Fran Arko for January. Please let me know if you would like to have the Madonna in your home for a visit.

RITA STANOWICK – 216-662-1513

JENNINGS SOCIAL

We had quite a few residents join us for our fun afternoon social. Thanks again to Berny Cermak, Petie Sigmund, Mary Lu Peterre and Lillian Neptune for spending time with the residents/friends. There will not be a Jennings Social in December. We will visit again on the third Wednesday, Jan. 15th, from 1:30-2:30. Hope you can attend. Merry Christmas!

CAROL DELOOZE – 216-816-5837

WINTERFEST 2020

Winterfest will be held the weekend of January 18th – 19th, 2020. Once again, we are asking for donations for our Chinese Raffle. Anyone who does any knitting, sewing, crocheting or crafting of any kind, donations would be greatly appreciated. Tickets to plays, movies and sporting events would be wonderful. Gift cards would be great or any money donations to purchase items would be fantastic! We are also in need of volunteers throughout the weekend to help make Winterfest a success. If you can help anytime Saturday 5-9 pm, or Sunday 12-6 pm, we would greatly appreciate it. Even if you have volunteered in the past, if you could please let us know you would like to help, we would appreciate it. We do not want to assume you will be there and we have several places we need to make sure are covered. Please call Angie or Bill Noyes to let us know if you can help. Thank you for all your help in making Winterfest a success for our parish.

ANGIE NOYES – 216-912-8679



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Gail Tippen	Dec. 1 st	Agnes Ungarsky	Dec. 1 st	Laverne Cappelli	Dec. 2 nd
Agnes Kobzowicz	Dec. 2 nd	Mary Ann Fetchik	Dec. 5 th	Marcella Marrali	Dec. 10 th
Barb Vaughn	Dec. 11 th	Betty Lou Tomko	Dec. 14 th	Mandy Corsi	Dec. 14 th
Kolores Kucinic	Dec. 16 th	Debbie Kosmata	Dec. 19 th	Connie Holub	Dec. 20 th
Agnes Dzuroff	Dec. 21 st	Barb Duritsky	Dec. 23 rd	Nancy Fitch	Dec. 25 th
Tina Anelli	Dec. 27 th	Joan Fischer	Dec. 27 th		

*****IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO POST AN ARTICLE IN THE GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT SUE MEDVETZ AT (216) 662-8257 OR EMAIL MEDVETZS4791@ATT.NET. ARTICLES MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, FOR THE JANUARY GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER*****

Editor: Sue Medvetz

