



ST. MONICA

CATHOLIC CHURCH

9933 Midway Road, Dallas, Texas 75220

214-358-1453 • Fax: 214-351-1887

www.stmonicachurch.org



Search for "St. Monica Church Dallas" in the app store.

WELCOME TO ST. MONICA CHURCH!

We are pleased to have visitors join us in worship and we invite you to become active registered parishioners. Registration forms can be found in the vestibule, at the Parish Office, and online.

Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am,
11:00 am, 12:30 pm,
2:00 pm (español), 5:00 pm

Weekday Mass Times

6:45 am, 8:00 am M-F
8:00 am Saturdays
First Fridays 5:30 pm
Primer viernes del mes 7:00 pm

Childcare for 11:00 am Mass

Ages: 12-months to 4-years
No Cost
Room 114 Family Center
St. Monica Women's Ministry

Reconciliation • Reconciliación

Saturday/Sábado
3:30-4:30 pm • 6:30-7:00 pm

Baptism • Bautismo

Third Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
Parents and godparents are required to attend a preparation class offered on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. Call the Faith Formation Office to register.

Tercer sábado de cada mes a las 3:00 pm

Padres y Padrinos deben asistir a una clase de preparación que se ofrecen los primeros sábados de mes a la 1:00 pm. Llame a la Oficina de Ministerio Hispano.

Marriage • Matrimonio

Contact a priest or deacon at least six months before the planned marriage date.
Llame a un Sacerdote o Diacono por lo menos seis meses antes de la fecha de la boda.

Helplines • Linea de Ayuda

St. Vincent de Paul serves the poor or distressed on an emergency basis.
972-994-1121 (confidential) Volunteers contact: info@stmonicasvdp.org

Stephen Ministry helps those experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or another life crisis. 214-290-0803 (confidential)

Bulletin Deadline

Monday at 12:00 noon • Submit notices in writing to ecooper@stmonicachurch.org.

Parish Staff

Fr. Stephen W. Bierschenk

Pastor - x 7107

Fr. Iñigo Lopez

Parochial Vicar - x 7112

Fr. Edwin Leonard

Vocation Director (in residence)

Monsignor John F. Meyers

Pastor Emeritus

Deacons

Abel Cortes	Bob Marrinan
Larry Lucido	Brian Mitchell

St. Monica Church Office

Main: (214) 358-1453 • Fax: (214) 351-1887

Hours: M-F 9:00-5:00 • Sunday 10:00-2:00

Parish Secretary

Faby Gomez x 7453

Business Manager.....

Debbie Diaz x 7176

Database Manager.....

Melissa Franks x 7111

Volunteer Coordinator.....

Maria E. Juarez-Plank x 7173

Safe Environment Director

Shavana Lopez x 7144

Bookkeeper.....

Jared Wirths x 7102

Director of Youth Ministry.....

Jason Trujillo x 7106

Director of Communications

Erin Cooper x 7142

Music Ministry

Director of Music

Jeremy Wirths x 7101

Director Youth Music.....

Emmanuel Espiritu x 7103

Organist (9:30 & 11:00 Mass)

Guillermo "Will" Martinez

Faith Formation

Main: (214) 357-8549 • Fax: (214) 351-1887

Director of Faith Formation

Mariangela Byrne x 7132

Administrative Assistant

Eldie Diaz x 7549

Marriage Ministry Coordinator

x 7164

Coordinadora de Matrimonios

Martha Gonzalez

Ministerio Hispano

Main: (214) 357-8549 • Fax: (214) 351-1887

Director of Hispanic Ministry.....

Maria M. Gonzalez-Rocha x 7131

St. Monica School

Main: (214) 351-5688 • Fax: (214) 352-2608

Phil Riley, Principal

www.stmonicaschool.org

From the Pastor

Forty years ago today, after eight years of seminary preparation, I was ordained a priest. My decision to become a priest was first made in the second grade. As the teacher described the life of being a priest, I decided that was what I would do. I went home and announced my decision that evening. My parents surely accepted my decision with all the seriousness a seven-year-old setting the course of their lifetime deserves.

But, then, when I was ten, I read a book about missionary priests in Alaska. They traveled from place to place to care for the people, some were also doctors who brought medical care to people who had never received it before. And most fascinating to my ten-year-old mind was that they flew their own plane in order to cover the vast expanses of Alaska. I was hooked – I would be a priest and a medical doctor and get an airplane!

Throughout high school, I continued to weigh both options. I was always active at the parish, serving Mass and helping any way I could. And I took all the math and science courses offered so I'd be ready to pursue medical studies. My senior year of high school I had to make a decision. You can guess how it all worked out – my medical career has now been on hold for more than forty years!

We all have a similar experience – we study, we plan out our life, we dream about what is to come. And then, the real world takes over. Whether it's embarking on a career or getting married or starting a family, we can never be sure where the Lord is going to take us. I had the same experience. Seminary training never prepared me for hearing confessions for school children hundreds at a time, or for living with a Pastor who smoked at the table while everyone else ate their meal. Seminary training cannot explain how to decide how many bulletins need to be printed for Easter, or what should be done when a storm blows the cross off the top of the church.

Sometimes people misunderstand how rich and wonderful the life of a priest is. It is true that we give up having

a wife and our own children, but when I see the face of a child light up as they "give me five", or watch a young person grow up into a wonderful young adult, still at church, still willing to shake my hand as they leave Mass, it is clear my large family continues to grow. It is true we go home alone, but year by year the circle of friendship grows as together with the people we serve we share moments of great joy – the birth of a child, First Communions, Confirmations, Marriages. And, as we share the sorrow of burying a loved one, and seek together to peer through the darkness to find hope in times of trouble, it becomes clear that God chooses weak, imperfect people like me to be the instrument of his love and mercy.

The first time I was assigned as pastor of a parish, the parish boundaries were all of Fannin County. I would tell people that in my parish there were more cows than people. Since then, I have served in parishes large and small, and my experience has shown me that the place is not as important as the people. Today I want you to know how grateful I am to the people of St. Monica. You have inspired me, challenged me, helped me to be a better priest.

Denzel Washington tells this story about himself: "I walked into the house one day and feeling full of myself, a movie star, said, 'Mother, did you ever think this was all going to happen?' She responded, 'Oh please, go wash the windows for me. You have no idea how many people have been praying for you when you were a knucklehead.'"

The same is true for me. I have no idea how many people have prayed that I be a good priest. I am sure that many times I have been a knucklehead. And it is the prayers of so many of you that continue to hold me up and keep me going. Forty years sounds like a long time, but of course, we only take care of one day at a time. Thank you for being there. My prayer today is that we will continue to accomplish great things for God together.

—Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk

News & Events



Father Bierschenk,

Thank you for 40 years of service in the priesthood and for blessing St. Monica with your presence and leadership!

St. Monica Parish

The use of the Narthex

The liturgical norms of the United States Bishops suggest that the Narthex (main entrance) of the church be a place of welcome, where the people make the transition from the world outside and enter into the place of worship. Over the years, the Narthex of our church has come to be used for many other purposes. Often it is crowded with representatives of groups seeking members, or organizations involved in fundraising. At the suggestion of the Parish Council and after consulting the church staff, Fr. Bierschenk has decided that the Narthex area is too small to support uses other than welcoming those who enter and leave, greeting the clergy after Mass, and providing information for parishioners and guests at the Connection Point. Beginning May 1, fundraising efforts, signing up for events, and information tables will be in Angel Hall or on the breezeway outside the church. Two groups per weekend may occupy the space, which must be scheduled on the facilities calendar (email [Melissa Franks](mailto:mfranks@stmonicachurch.org)).

St Monica Pro-Life Ministry: Beginning May 14th on the second Saturday of every month come join the us for one hour starting at 10 am. Pray the Rosary to save the unborn at the Southwestern Surgery Center, located at 8616 Greenville Ave., Dallas 75243. Be part of making a difference in this year of Mercy.

L1FT Youth Ministry is taking signups for two summer events: our Six Flags trip on May 14 and the Steubenville Lone Star Conference being held in Downtown Dallas June 17-19. Head to www.L1FTministry.org/events to signup and find more information.

Lemonade Day is May 7th!

Come and support the SMS kinder team's business "Lemonade Kingdom" Our kindergarten team has been working hard to open their business and embrace entrepreneurship. They will be opening up their lemonade stand in front of Trader Joe's on Walnut Hill and 75 from 9 am - 1 pm. Can't make it? Lemonade Kingdom will be open for business in the carpool line May 9th and May 10th. Come and experience the "Cherry Bomb" our flagship flavor!

Stewardship

04-24-2016

Regular - \$35,044

USCC Home Mission - \$3,261

Total Mass Attendance

04-24-2016

3,364

Mass Intentions

Sunday, May 1

- 8:00 am..... Priest's Intention
- 9:30 am..... Priest's Intention
- 11:00 am Priest's Intention
- 12:30 pm Priest's Intention
- 2:00 pm.....Priest's Intention
- 5:00 pm..... Priest's Intention

Monday, May 2

- 6:45 am..... For Our Priests
- 8:00 am..... Angela Henrick †
by Claude & Kathleen Taylor

Tuesday, May 3

- 6:45 am..... Genevieve Lodowski † by Ruth Lodowski
- 8:00 am..... Jim Thixton † by Chetlee Reyes-Thixton

Wednesday, May 4

- 6:45 am..... Francine Myers † by John Mullen
- 8:00 am Miguel Gonzalez by Familia Gonzalez

Thursday, May 5

- 6:45 am..... Winifrede Morgan † by Josie Toogood
- 8:00 am..... Don Padgett †
by Michelle & Jon Peterson

Friday, May 6

- 6:45 am..... Dr. Charles Lodowski †
by Ruth Lodowski
- 8:00 am..... Nelly Chavarria † by Petrikas Family
- 5:30 pm..... Jose Carlos Flores, Jr. by Jerry Orozco
- 7:00 pm..... Dolores Blank † by Jim & Margaret Salinger

Saturday, May 7

- 8:00 am..... Katy Constanzo †
by Daniel & Stefanie Constanzo
- 5:00 pm..... Juliana Landa † by Virginia & Mark Filhiol

Sanctuary Light

This week the Sanctuary Light is burning for those considering a vocation to the priesthood.

For Our Sick

To request a name to appear, please contact the parish office or complete a green prayer request card (found on tables at the back of church) and place the card in an offering basket.

Maureen Wijeweera ¹	Tillie Rodriguez ²
Lorenzo ²	Reginald Jones ²
Zach ²	Amalia Garza ³

Names will appear for 3 weeks. The numbers after the names begin at 3 and count down and are intended to help those who make requests.

For Our Departed

Rita Marder
Edward Marquez





JOIN US TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD FOR

Fr. Stephen W. Bierschenk

TODAY FROM 9 AM - 3:30 PM
RECEPTION IN THE FAMILY CENTER

2ND ANNUAL ST. MONICA

MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION

PENTECOST SUNDAY
MAY 15TH, 2016

11 AM: MASS

11 AM - 3:30 PM:
RECEPTION IN FAMILY CENTER

For more information, contact Maria
Rocha at 214-358-1453 or
mrocha@stmonicachurch.org or
Juliette Akagu at 214-791-4358 or
julieakagu@yahoo.com.



News & Events

Catholic Charities changes the way you donate Catholic Charities of Dallas has partnered with iDonate to give donors multiple ways to give non-cash goods such as electronics, vehicles, jewelry, gift cards, securities and more. Please visit catholiccharitiesdallas.org/donate to see how you can give today. CCD is pleased and excited to offer new ways people can give back to community without cash.

Catholic Charities of Dallas Teams Up with LASSA to #TurnTXTeal for Victims of Sexual Assault April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. One in five people are affected by sexual assaults, including the immigrant population. That's why Catholic Charities and LASSA are teaming up to help more victims and to raise awareness on social media with #TurnTXTeal. Visit Catholic Charities of Dallas Facebook page to share the post.



YOUNG ADULT NIGHT OF WORSHIP
FIRST TUESDAYS AT 7 PM IN THE CHURCH

Family Vocation Chalice

To participate call (214) 368-3640

May 7 at 5:00 pm
Bob & Janis Andres

May 8 at 11:00 am
Scott & Sharon Wetzel

May 8 at 8:00 am
Christine Bukowsky

May 8 at 12:30 pm
Kevin & Theresa Byrd

May 8 at 9:30 am
Stella Osimua

May 8 at 5:00 pm
James & Mary Wilhelmi

Noticias y Eventos

**RETIRO DE
PENTECOSTÉS**

'Y todos quedaron llenos del Espíritu Santo' Hechos 2,4

**Sabado
y
Domingo
21 y 22
Mayo 2016**

Horario:
8:00 am a 7:00pm
Domingo
8:00am a 1:30pm

Invita Pastoral Familiar Hispana Sta. Monica

Iglesia Santa Monica
Walnut Hill 4140 Cafetería
Dallas Tx. 75029

Donación: 10 dls.

Informes: No niños
(214) 815-3103

¡Porque ser Madre lo Merece!

Este 7 de Mayo, a las 5pm. les invitamos a traer a sus madres al evento organizado para ellas en la Cafetería de la Escuela. El evento es gratuito, tendremos música, folclórico, comida y muchas sorpresas. Regálale unas horas de alegría y gozo en un ambiente familiar y divertido. ¡Les esperamos!

Les invitamos a vestir sus trajes típicos el domingo 15 de Mayo **en nuestro evento Multicultural**. Sera un día colorido donde compartiremos con personas de diferentes nacionalidades. Compartiremos platillos típicos, música y baile. Venga listo a representar su país! Para más información llame a María González-Rocha **214-357-8549**.



CELEBRANDO EL CUARENTA ANIVERSARIO Sacerdotal de
Padre Stephen W. Bierschenk
HOY
9 AM - 3:30 PM EN EL CENTRO FAMILIAR

SANTA MÓNICA

CELEBRACIÓN MULTICULTURAL

**DOMINGO DE
PENTECOSTÉS
15 DE MAYO, 2016**

11 AM: MISA
11 AM - 3:30 PM:
RECEPCIÓN EN EL CENTRO FAMILIAR

Para más información llame a
Maria Rocha al 214-358-1453 o
mrocha@stmonicachurch.org.



Mayo Mes de María Durante el mes de Mayo, todos los domingos los niños participaran en el ofrecimiento de flores a María después de la Comunión. Les invitamos a traer un ramo de flores para honrar a nuestra madre del cielo. ¡Cultivemos el amor a María a nuestros hijos!

RICA Si es una persona adulta y le gustaría recibir los sacramentos de Bautismo, Primera Comunión y/o Confirmación les invitamos considerar las clases de RICA (Rito de Iniciación para Cristianos Adultos). Este programa inicia el mes de septiembre y termina en Pascua del 2017. Las clases también son para aquellos adultos que quieran seguir creciendo y conociendo más de la fe católica. Para más información por favor comuníquese a las Oficinas Parroquiales [214-357-8549](tel:214-357-8549).

Redescubriendo nuestra raíces Ministerio de danza Indígenas para niños de edades entre 5 a 8 años. Las danzas indígenas son una forma de redescubrir las raíces de nuestros antepasados. Ellas poseen un carácter sagrado y reflejan hechos históricos y de la fe religiosa, constituyendo en la actualidad una riqueza espiritual. Para más información o para inscribir a sus niños llame a Nelda Hernández al [214-952-9139](tel:214-952-9139).

Servidores del Altar Si su hijo/a ya hizo la Primera Comunión y está en quinto grado en adelante, le invitamos a integrarlo al ministerio de Servidores del Altar. Ellos forman una parte muy importante durante la Santa Misa, representan los ángeles ayudando al Sacerdote en los momentos más importantes de la Santa Eucaristía; Están más cerca del Señor en el Altar. Anímelos, motívelos a participar en este hermoso ministerio. Los próximos talleres de formación serán el 17 & 24 de Mayo de 6:30 pm. a 8pm. Para más información llame a Norma y Julio Peña, [940-799-1766](tel:940-799-1766); [469-803-9150](tel:469-803-9150).

Cáliz Vocacional Familiar

Para llevarse el Cáliz llame al [\(214\) 358-1453](tel:(214) 358-1453)

8 de Mayo
Martha Gonzalez

15 de Mayo
Monserrat Chavez

22 de Mayo
Tacho Dimas

29 de Mayo
Martha Resendiz

De El Pastor

Hoy hace cuarenta años, después de ocho años de prepararme en el seminario, fui ordenado como sacerdote. Mi decisión de ser sacerdote surgió desde que estaba en segundo grado. Cuando la maestra estaba describiendo la vida de un sacerdote, decidí que eso era lo que haría. Esa tarde fui a casa y les comente sobre mi decisión. Mis padres aceptaron mi decisión con toda la seriedad que se toma a un niño de siete años diciendo el curso que tomara su vida.

Cuando tenía diez años, leí un libro sobre sacerdotes misioneros en Alaska. Viajaban de un lado a otro cuidando a personas, algunos eran médicos que daban cuidado médico a personas que nunca antes lo recibían. Lo más fascinante a mi mente de diez años era que volaban sus propios aviones para cubrir más distancia en Alaska. Estaba enganchado, ¡sería un sacerdote y doctor y tendría un avión!

Durante mis años en la preparatoria, continúe en la balanza de las dos opciones. Siempre fui activo en la parroquia, sirviendo en la Misa y ayudando en lo que pudiera. Tome todas las clases de matemáticas y ciencias que ofrecían para estar listo y seguir con mis estudios médicos. En el último año de prepa tenía que tomar una decisión. Pueden imaginar lo que sucedió, ¡mi carrera medicina ha estado en espera por más de cuarenta años!

Todos tenemos una misma experiencia, estudiamos, planeamos nuestra vida, soñamos en lo que queremos ser. Luego, el mundo real nos llega. Ya sea comenzar nuestra carrera, casarnos, o iniciar una familia, nunca podemos estar seguros a donde nos lleva el Señor. Tuve la misma experiencia. La capacitación del seminario nunca me preparó para escuchar más de cien confesiones a la vez de niños de la escuela o vivir con un Párroco que fumaba en la mesa mientras que los demás comíamos. La capacitación del seminario no explica en como decidir cuantos boletines necesitan imprimirse para Pascua o lo que se debe hacer cuando una tormenta vuela la cruz de la cúpula.

Algunas veces las personas malinterpretan lo rico y maravilloso que es la vida de un sacerdote. Es verdad que decidimos no tener esposa e hijos,

pero cuando veo el rostro de un niño que se ilumina al saludarle, o miro a un adolescente ser un maravilloso joven adulto, continuar en la iglesia y aun dándome un saludo al salir de Misa, es claro que mi familia sigue creciendo. Es verdad que nos vamos a nuestra casa solos, pero año tras año el círculo de amigos crece, y junto con las personas que servimos, compartimos momentos de gran gozo, el nacimiento de un niño, Primeras Comuniones, Confirmaciones y Matrimonios. Cuando compartimos el dolor de enterrar a un ser querido y juntos buscamos salir de la oscuridad para encontrar la esperanza en tiempos difíciles, es claro que Dios escoge a personas débiles, imperfectas como yo para ser su instrumento de amor y misericordia.

La primera vez que fui asignado como párroco de una parroquia, los límites de la parroquia eran hasta el condado de Fannin. Le decía a la gente que en mi parroquia había más vacas que gente. Desde entonces, he servido en parroquias grandes y chicas, mi experiencia me ha enseñado que el lugar no es tan importante como lo es la gente. Hoy, quiero decirle lo agradecido que estoy con la gente de Santa Mónica. Me han inspirado, retado, ayudado a ser mejor sacerdote.

Denzel Washington cuenta una historia sobre sí mismo: "Un día entre a mi casa, sintiéndome realizado como estrella de película y dije, 'Madre, ¿alguna vez pensantes que todo esto sucedería?' Ella respondió, 'hay por favor, ve a lavarme las ventanas. No tienes idea cuantas personas oraron por ti cuando eras un testarudo.'"

Es lo mismo para mí. No tengo idea cuantas personas han orado para que sea un buen sacerdote. Estoy seguro que muchas veces he sido un testarudo. Son las oraciones de muchos de ustedes que me mantienen y me empujan a seguir. Cuarenta años se escucha demasiado tiempo, pero por supuesto que solo tomamos un día a la vez. Gracias por estar ahí. Hoy mi oración es que juntos sigamos logrando grandes cosas para Dios.

—Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk