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

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.

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. 214-914-2802 (confidential)

Bulletin Deadline
Monday at 12:00 noon • Submit notices in writing to ecooper@stmonicachurch.org.
First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017

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
Larry Lucido

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 ........................................... x 7453
Faby Gomez
Business Manager .................................. x 7176
Debbie Diaz
Database Manager .............................. x 7111
Melissa Franks
Volunteer Coordinator ....................... x 7173
Maria E. Juarez-Plank
Safe Environment Director ........ x 7144
Shavana Lopez
Bookkeeper ........................................... x 7102
Jared Wirths
Director of Youth Ministry ......... x 7106
Jason Trujillo
Coordinator of Youth Evangelization x 7106
Maria Jones
Director of Communications ........ x 7142
Erin Cooper
Music Ministry
Director of Music ......................... x 7101
Jeremy Wirths
Director Youth Music ................ x 7103
Emmanuel Espiritu
Organist (9:30 & 11:00 Mass)
Guillermo “Will” Martinez

Faith Formation
Main: (214) 357-8549 • Fax: (214) 351-1887
Director of Faith Formation .... x 7132
Mariana Byrne
Administrative Assistant ............ x 7549
Eldie Diaz
Marriage Ministry Coordinator ..... x 7164
Coordinadora de Matrimoniros
Martha Gonzalez
Ministerio Hispano
Main: (214) 357-8549 • Fax: (214) 351-1887
Director of Hispanic Ministry ...... x 7131
Maria M. Gonzalez-Rocha

St. Monica School
Main: (214) 351-5688 • Fax: (214) 352-2608
Phil Riley, Principal
www.stmonicaschool.org

From the Pastor

In the 1930s, a pastor and his wife lived on almost nothing. One day he came home and his wife was wearing a gorgeous dress. “Where did you get that dress?” he asked. “I bought it today.” He then asked, “How much did it cost?” “Ten dollars.” The pastor smacked his head with his hand and yelled, “We don’t have that kind of money!”

His wife hung her head and said quietly, “I know, but the devil made me to do it.” “When that happens,” the pastor shouted, “you’re supposed to say, ‘Get behind me, Satan.’ ”

“I did,” she said. “And he said, ‘Looks good from back here too!’ ”

As we listen to the gospel today, describing Jesus being tempted by the devil, most of us would say we have not been presented with such a dramatic moment of decision. Our experience of the devil is mostly theoretical. Yet, in our relationship with God, even though we usually are clear about what is right and good in a certain situation, we look for a reason to justify acting in a way contrary to what God would want because we want something different.

Sometimes we get distracted by what we have and what we are able to do. When the devil suggests that people will follow Jesus if he will turn stones into bread, he forgets that finding meaning in our life is not about having a full stomach or a nice car or a roof over our head. Our life becomes richer as we love others and receive their love in return, as we forget our self and share our time with God, even though we usually are close his eyes to the evil the devil represented, and the people would come. We never hope to gain so much, but we don’t find it that hard to ignore the evil. As our friends tear apart the reputation of another, we join in because to stand up against them might cost us our standing with the group. We are inspired to gather our family every day for a time of quiet prayer, but soon the good intentions give way to schedules and complaints from the older children. We don’t have to embrace great evil to let many little opportunities to do good pass us by.

It is a remarkable fact that God has such confidence in us that he has given us the power to honor our relationship with him by choosing to only do what is pleasing to him. Temptations come our way, but if we choose to turn away from the good, the blame belongs to us. During this first week of Lent, our challenge is to seek to live each day in harmony with God, making sure that we only choose to think, speak and act in a way that reflects what God created us to be — his loving and faithful child.

—Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk
**News & Events**

**Attention Volunteers!** If you do not have the current Safe Environment Badge, which expires in July, and plan to volunteer this spring or summer, you are required to attend the FINAL TRAINING for the 2016-17 school year TODAY. Returning volunteers are required to attend to the Local Traffick class, which will be offered from 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm in the Lower Lounge. New volunteers are required to attend the Family of Faith class from 10 am - 11:30 am in the Upper Lounge. New volunteers should contact Shavana Lopez at slopez@stmonicachurch.org to complete an interview and background check in addition to attending the Family of Faith class.

The Knights of Columbus are hosting **Lenten Dinners** every Friday during Lent. The menu will include fried fish, french fries, hush puppies, cole slaw and cheese pizza. The specials for Friday, March 10th will be ceviche and baked fish.

**Do you want to help show how warm and welcoming St. Monica is?** Volunteer to be a Welcome Ministry greeter before Sunday 9:30 am or 11 am Mass or Saturday 5:00 pm Mass. The Saturday 5:00 pm Mass is an expansion of the ministry and many new volunteers are needed. The commitment is just 20 minutes before Mass one time each month. To volunteer or find out more contact Robbi Luxbacher at robbi@txtulip.com or 469-232-0350.

The **PAIN group** will be holding its monthly meeting in Family Center Room 211 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on March 9th. If you are in pain and would like us to pray with you, please join us. If you are not in pain and would like to pray with others who are, please join us.

**L1FT Youth Ministry** will not meet this Sunday (March 5) or next (March 12) due to the Dallas Catholic Youth Conference, our own Ascent retreat, and spring break. Today is the last day to sign up for Ascent! Head to www.L1FTministry.org/retreats.

**L1FT Young Adults** will meet for our monthly XLT—a night of worship, inspiration, and adoration—on March 7 at 7:00pm in the Family Center, room 220. We will continue our current series, Miraculous. www.L1FTministry.org/youngadults.

**Day trip to Austin...SAGE** is planning a bus trip to Austin to meet and watch the state legislature at work and tour the new governor’s mansion is in the works. For more details contact Bob Noyes at dadnoyes@juno.com or call 214-317-6925. Firm deadline for reservations is March 1. Event scheduled for March 15.

**5th Annual Women’s Lenten Day of Reflection** will be on Saturday, March 11 from 9 am-2 pm in the Family Center Lower Lounge. Linda Baksic, retired Associate Director of Catechesis for the San Antonio Archdiocese, will facilitate this Lenten day of reflection entitled *God never tires of forgiving us*. Our struggles will be viewed through the lens of the Lenten gospels and in the light of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*. Advance Cost is $15 ( $20 at the door) which includes breakfast and lunch. The event is for women over the age of 18 and is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. RSVP to Mary Louise 214-335-3259 or MaryLouiseLudt@mac.com.

Have you ever wondered what freedom means, and how to find it? Exodus is often seen as the defining moment in Israel's history, when God called Israel out of slavery in Egypt to freedom. The story of Exodus isn’t only Israel’s story, however - it’s also our story. *Exodus: Called to Freedom* looks through the lens of Christ and the Church to show how God ultimately desired to free us from the deadly grip of sin so that we could have authentic freedom. Join us for *Exodus: Called to Freedom* at St. Monica in the Family Center Upper Lounge beginning March 15 at 7 pm and continuing every Wednesday through May 24. Register for the study by calling 214-357-8549 or visiting www.stmonicachurch.org.

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**Mass Intentions**

**Sunday, March 5**
- 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:………Epitacia Rincon † by Familia Rosas
- 5:00 pm:………Priest’s Intention

**Monday, March 6**
- 6:45 am:………Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Geisler
  - by Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Meyers
- 8:00 am:………Willie Haba, Sr. † by Maylone Haba
- 5:30 pm:………Aleica Pereira San Clemente † by Janne Hidalgo

**Tuesday, March 7**
- 6:45 am:………Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Geisler
  - by Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Meyers
- 8:00 am:………PTO Mass
- 5:30 pm:………Laurel Gutierrez † by Anne Erickson

**Wednesday, March 8**
- 6:45 am:………For Our Priests
- 8:00 am:………Bill Walker, Sr. † by John & Marilyn Ropolo
- 5:30 pm:………Brittany Smith † by Anne Erickson

**Thursday, March 9**
- 6:45 am:………Carolyn Bowen † by Catholic Daughters
- 8:00 am:………Bill Walker, Sr. † by The Flynn Family
- 5:30 pm:………Susan Mello † by Nancy & Ed Mello

**Friday, March 10**
- 6:45 am:………Maria Delfina Sotelo †
- 8:00 am:………PTO Mass
- 5:30 pm:………Ernesto Lerma † by Victoria Lopez

**Saturday, March 11**
- 8:00 am:………Mary Kelley † by Family
- 5:00 pm:………Jordan Burger † by The Watts Family

**Sanctuary Light**
This week the Sanctuary Light is burning for all unborn children.

**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.

- Maria E. Gonzalez²
- Jose Gonzalez¹
- Antonio Gonzalez¹
- Francisco Muñiz²
- Lorenzo²
- Zack²
- Estrella²
- Jessica Martinez²
- Lonnie Franks²
- Michelle Franks³
- Casie Worley³
- Roberto Tozzi Manriquez³

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

**For Our Departed**
*Elizabeth Del Bosque
Audrey Townsend
Senan & Tina Fitzmartin*
Adorers are needed to sit with Jesus for one hour on Thursday from 10:00 am - 11:00 am Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. To sign up, contact Margie at adore10397@sbcglobal.net.

The St Monica Pro-Life Ministry invites you to pick a Baby Bank this weekend fill it up with your change and love for the babies and return it by April 22/23rd before or after the Masses. You could also return them at the church office during business hours.

Join LEAF for a two Hour Interactive and Informational Workshop titled Organizing the Whole Child on Tuesday, March 21st from 7 pm - 9 pm in the Family Center Upper Lounge. The workshop will cover four specific areas of organizing your child: behavior, executive functioning, tools for organizing your child for school, and outside resources.

Answer a Prayer! More than 40 students and their families from the St. Monica Parish, and surrounding area Catholic schools, are traveling with WOW (Women for Orphans Worldwide) to Guatemala this summer on a mission trip. The mission team is hoping to forever change the lives of families by installing stoves and water filter systems in more than 80 homes this summer. A donation of $250.00 will cover the purchase of a stove and water filter system to help the mission team provide hope to these families. Make checks payable to WOW. Donations will be collected during Mass the weekend of March 18-19. You can donate online at www.orphanoutreach.org/stoves or mail to 2001 West Plano Parkway #3700, Plano, TX 75075. Questions can be directed to Margo Isbell at misbell@orphanoutreach.org.

Parishioners have logged 11,860 hours of service beyond the boundaries of St. Monica since we launched Faith in Action!

LENT AT ST. MONICA

WEEKDAY MASSES
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
6:45 AM, 8 AM & 5:30 PM
SATURDAY 8 AM

CONFESSIONS
TUESDAYS 12-12:30 PM & 5-5:30 PM
SATURDAYS 3:30-4:30 PM & 6:30-7 PM

LIGHT IS ON CONFESSIONS
APRIL 5: 7 - 9 PM
APRIL 12: 7 - 9 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAYS AT 6:30 PM
7 PM (SPANISH)

PARISH MISSION
FEATURING ROBERT ROGERS
MARCH 26-28TH
7 PM - 8:30 PM IN THE CHURCH

LIVE A LIFE OF NO REGRETS
A PARISH LENTEN MISSION
FEATURING ROBERT ROGERS
MARCH 26, 27 & 28
7 PM NIGHTLY IN THE CHURCH
Vía Crucis
Todos los viernes de Cuaresma se meditará el Vía Crucis a las 7pm. en la Iglesia. Esta oración nos invita a caminar junto a Jesús el camino del Calvario y a la vez reconocer nuestras caídas y el amor misericordioso de Dios para levantarnos y ayudarnos a caminar con firmeza. Después, de la meditación tendremos una reflexión con el Padre Inigo. Es tiempo de conversión, oración, sacrificio y disposición a encontrarnos con Dios.

Confesiones y Missas durante la Cuaresma
Durante este tiempo de conversión es recomendable asistir al sacramento de la Confesión para que la intención de cambio de fruto. Habrá confesiones todos los martes de Cuaresma de 12pm a 12:30 pm y 5 pm a 5:30 pm. Gran oportunidad para abrir nuestro corazón a la Misericordia de amor. Se ha agregado una Santa Misa a las 5:30 pm. durante semana en la Cuaresma.
Primer Domingo de Cuaresma
5 de marzo de 2017

De El Pastor

En 1930, un pastor y su esposa vivían casi sin nada. Un día, cuando el llego a casa, su esposa tenía puesto un vestido hermoso. “¿De dónde conseguiste ese vestido?” le preguntó. “Lo compre hoy.” Entonces preguntó, “¿Cuánto te costó?” “Diez dólares.” El pastor se golpeó la cabeza y grito, “¡Nos tenemos esa cantidad de dinero!”

Su esposa levantó la cabeza y dijo en voz baja, “Yo sé, pero, el diablo me hizo que lo hiciera.” “¿Cuándo sucedió eso?” grito el pastor, “deberíamos de haber dicho, ‘Ponte atrás, Satanás.’”

“Lo hice,” dijo. “y, dijo, ‘también se ve bien de atrás!’”

Al escuchar el evangelio de hoy que describe cuando Jesús fue tentado por el demonio, la mayoría podría decir que no hemos enfrentado momentos decisivos tan dramáticos. Nuestra experiencia sobre el diablo es más teórico. Pero, en nuestra relación con Dios, aunque usualmente sabemos lo que está bien y es bueno en cierta situación, buscamos una razón para justificar la manera que actuamos contrario a lo que Dios quiere, porque queremos algo diferente.

Algunas veces nos distraemos por lo que tenemos o por lo que podemos hacer. Cuando el diablo sugiere que las personas seguirán a Jesús si convierte las piedras en pan, se le olvida que el Cura de Nazaret y sus discípulos siempre vivieron con escasa comida. Si vivimos mejor en las comodidades de este mundo, no podremos vivir libre de tentaciones. Pero, en un momento de oración, pero rápidamente la buena intención se desaparece por el deseo de estar contra el grupo. Nos inspiramos estar reunidos todos los días con nuestra familia en un momento de oración, pero rápidamente la buena intención se desaparece por los horarios y reclamos de los niños mayores. No tenemos que tener tanta maldad para dejar pasar muchas pequeñas oportunidades de hacer el bien.

Es un hecho remarcable que Dios tiene tanta confianza en nosotros, que nos ha dado el poder para honrar nuestra relación con el con tan solo escoger lo que le complace a Él. Las tentaciones llegan, pero si decidimos dejar lo bueno, la culpa es de nosotros. Durante esta primera semana de Cuaresma, nuestro reto es vivir esta semana en armonía con Dios, aunque usualmente sabemos que no hemos enfrentado momentos relacionados con lo que necesitamos, y que nuestros reveses serán recurridos por otros.

—Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk