



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 • Línea 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.

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

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 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

Mariangela Byrne

Administrative Assistant x 7549

Eldie Diaz

Marriage Ministry Coordinator x 7164

Coordinadora de Matriomonios

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

A preacher described that his first recollection of any mention of Christ's second coming went back to when he was six or seven years old. His grandfather was taking him somewhere in his 1949 Hudson. It was getting close to Christmas, close enough that he had already made the longings of his heart known to Santa Claus. He was hoping for a shiny red bicycle, with chrome fenders, and plastic streamers on the handlebar. His parents had even assured him that they thought Santa might bring that bicycle because he had been a good boy. In his mind the plans for the bike were complete. Nothing else to do but wait.

As they rode along his grandfather frequently would lean forward toward the windshield and look up into the sky in front of them. The sky was mostly clear and bright with stars and a nearly full moon. "Look," his grandfather said, "look at the moon." It had a pinkish hue and around it a rather hazy looking ring. It seemed strange and eerie. His grandfather continued, "When the moon looks that way, I wonder if it's time for the rapture?"

"What's a rapture?" he asked him. His grandfather explained, "When Christ will come again and take us all to be with him in heaven. Jesus said there would be signs in the sun and moon and stars. Maybe this is one of them." The boy sat quietly for a while after that. And, he thought to himself, "Lord, if you really are coming again, could you please wait until after Christmas?"

As we begin the season of Advent, the message is not new. We've heard it all our life – Jesus will return and so we have to be prepared. And we have no more success now than the first disciples did in learning what the timetable will be. Our attitude toward Advent usually is that the Lord is coming, but hopefully not yet.

Two men were working in the field. Two women were grinding at the mill. In both cases one was taken, the other remained. Were the ones taken now gone because they were ready to go? Did the ones left behind

remain because their work was not yet completed? The parables could be interpreted either way, for we are not given the knowledge to interpret how God decides.

The key to our preparation for the return of Jesus is to remember what we will celebrate soon – with the coming of Christ into our world, always and everywhere, God is with us. His presence is so real that we cannot focus so much on what is to come that we lose sight of how necessary all the everyday things and situations are in preparing us for eternal life.

It will be wonderful to celebrate Christmas by giving loved ones just the perfect gift – we're already thinking about what it should be. But, this weekend we begin gathering gifts from the requests on the Angel Trees. We will not see the face of the child who receives our gift, but our act of generosity will help that child know they are remembered and blessed by God's loving care, just as we are.

It will be wonderful when we get to heaven and the peace and joy of being with God is ours. But during this season, as we sing about peace on earth, perhaps it is time for us to give up the memory of a past offense leave behind the burden of resentment we carry.

It will be wonderful one day to see God face to face. But he is always giving us glimpses – in the face of a loved one and in the face of a stranger, in the face of a friend, and in the face of someone we do not like. Perhaps our daily work during this Advent should be to look for Christ in each person, and treat them with the same respectful reverence that we will one day give to the Lord when he comes.

The Lord will return at a time we do not know. And it seems that the correct preparation is doing the best we can at the ordinary things of life. We know that we are not ready yet for his coming. That is why there are still four more weeks of Advent remaining. Time to get to work!

–Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk

News & Events

The **Monday afternoon Bible study group** will not meet on November 28. Our next session will be on December when we discuss the prophet Zephaniah. For additional information contact Phyllis Conces at pconces@sbcglobal.net.

St. Monica is collecting new socks for males and females for **Austin Street Centre**. Donations may be dropped off in McManus Hall any day this month. Socks will be distributed the second Monday of December. For more information, contact Missy Dours at dours@sbcglobal.net.

St. Monica Christmas Angel Program The Christmas Holiday is around the corner and once again we invite you to consider adopting an angel, either a child or a senior citizen in need, from our Christmas Angel program. Angel Trees are located in the Narthex and Angel Hall. With your generous support we will make this another successful year in making Christmas wonderful for many families. For more information please email christmasangel@stmonicachurch.org.



Pancakes with Santa! The Knights of Columbus are hosting the 4th Annual "Pancakes with Santa" on Sunday, December 4th from 8:00 am to 11:00 am in the Family Center small gym. Why wait in the mall? Bring your family, even if you don't have little kids, for a great breakfast and get your picture taken with Santa. Breakfast is \$5 and pictures are \$15. These are professional pictures and you can get a print of it that day.

Adorers are needed to sit with Jesus for one hour on Sunday and Monday from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm and 11:00 am - 12:00 pm on Fridays. To sign up, contact Margie at adore10397@sbcglobal.net.

Stocking Stuffers & Spirits
A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS MARKET

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
5PM-9PM

ST. MONICA CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAMILY CENTER
4140 WALNUT HILL LANE

**In consideration for our vendors, all children must be supervised.*

Stewardship
11-20-2016
Regular - \$47,651.07
Human Development - \$4,237
Total Mass Attendance
11-20-2016
3,204

Mass Intentions

Sunday, November 27

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 Andres Roberto Paredes †
by Familia Oliva
5:00 pm..... Priest's Intention

Monday, November 28

6:45 am..... Dr. Luis Fernandez, Sr. †
by Friendo Family
8:00 am..... John Becan † by Jerrie Becan

Tuesday, November 29

6:45 am..... For Holiness in Our Church
8:00 am Barbara Michalski †
by The Bloomfield Family

Wednesday, November 30

6:45 am..... Jeffrey Plausche, Sr. †
by Mary & Bill Sladek
8:00 am..... For Madden & Canary Families

Thursday, December 1

6:45 am..... Dr. Charles Lodowski † by his children
8:00 am..... Evelyn Waller † by Barbara Chambers

Friday, December 2

6:45 am..... Maria Rosell Gutierrez †
by Annette Doskey
8:00 am..... Karl Harvey † by Mary & Bill Sladek
5:30 pm..... Mel Vigen † by Joe Bielecki
8:00 am..... For Our Priests

Saturday, December 3

8:00 am..... Samuel Pipitone † by The Watts Family
5:00 pm..... Juliana Landa † by Virginia & Mark Filhiol

Sanctuary Light

This week the Sanctuary Light is burning for Rudy Guerra, Sr. †.

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.

Lorenzo ¹	Ellison Rebecca Harp ²
Zach ¹	Dorothy Joubert ³
Jesse Martinez ¹	Christoper Hall ³
Christopher Alcantar 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.



News & Events

St. Nicholas Fun Day

Sponsored by the St. Monica PreSchool, mark this day of FUN, Tuesday, December 6th from 9 am - 10:30 am, on your calendar as a MUST DO in preparation for Christmas! Children ages 2-6 and a parent/guardian are invited to join us for a morning of stories, crafts, games, snack and of course a visit from Saint Nicholas. This morning is an outreach activity of our parish school and we extend an invitation to ANYONE who wishes to come. Campus tours and a peek into our PreSchool classes will be available. We hope you join us! RSVP to [214-351-5688 ext. 5261](tel:214-351-5688).

The Catholic Daughters will hold their **Annual Tamale Sale** on December 10 & 11 after all Masses. These delicious Padrino's tamales come frozen in amazing heat-in bags (ready in just 20 minutes freezer to table) will be available again this year in time for Christmas. Pork, chicken or beef available for \$12/dozen or \$8/half dozen. Cash and check only. Get them while they last. Questions? Call Mary at [972-571-4926](tel:972-571-4926).

Cristo Rey, a Catholic College Prep High School, will hold an Open House on January 19 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. The school is currently enrolling for 9th and 10th grades. For more information, text "2021" to [95577](tel:95577), call [214-844-7956 ext. 400](tel:214-844-7956) or visit cristoreydallas.org.



St. Monica Fine Arts presents the
Annual St. Monica Parish
Christmas Concert
Saturday, December 10, 2016
7:30 pm
in the Church
Free Admission | Reception to Follow



HEAVEN MEETS EARTH
DECEMBER 11 AT 6:00 PM

Heaven Meets Earth is a night of worship, inspiration, and adoration for the entire community hosted by St. Monica's L1FT Youth & Young Adult Ministry. David Calavitta, a national Catholic speaker, will share the message, and dinner will be provided by Olive Garden.

Family Vocation Chalice

To participate call (214) 368-3640

December 3 at 5:00 pm
Paul & Genevieve Figel

December 4 at 8:00 am
Molly Gondolf

December 4 at 9:30 am
Joe & Maureen Hafertape
James & Melissa Carpenter

December 4 at 11:00 am
Clement & Jenny Basil

December 4 at 12:30 pm
Lars & Nelly Andresen

December 4 at 5:00 pm
Gaspar & Hope Lopez



BEYOND BOUNDARIES
2016 ST. MONICA FAITH IN ACTION

Parishioners have logged
3,547 hours
of service beyond the boundaries of
St. Monica since we launched
Faith in Action!

Log hours at
www.stmonicachurch.org/faithinaction
or use a deposit slip, located at the
back of the church, and drop it in the
collection basket!

Noticias y Eventos

XXIII PEREGRINACIÓN GUADALUPANA
Diócesis Católica de Dallas

“¿Qué pasa, el más pequeño de mis hijos?
 ¿A dónde vas?
 ¿A dónde te diriges?...”
 -NICAN MOPOHUA-

Diciembre 03 del 2016
7:00 am

EPIPHANY QUASI-PARISH
 (434 S. Ward, Italy, Tx. 76651)

Informes: (214) 379-3172

SERENATA A LA VIRGEN Te invitamos a cantarle a la Guadalupe el 12 de Diciembre. Ven a honrarle con tu voz. Este año la serenata a la Morenita tendrás la oportunidad de venerarle a través de tu canto. Por favor llamar a la Oficina Parroquial para inscribirte 214-357-8549.

Adviento El Adviento es un momento privilegiado para renovarnos. Para vivir una fe que nos haga caminar, una esperanza que nos ayude a despojarnos de tantos pesos absurdos y un amor que lleve a Cristo a cualquier sitio donde nos encontremos. Pidamos al Señor esa gracia tan especial para siempre caminar con El.

MÁS ALLÁ DE LOS LÍMITES
 2016 SANTA MONICA FE EN ACCIÓN

¡Hasta hoy,
3,547 horas
 de servicio se han reportado para el programa Más Allá de los Límites!

Anote sus horas en www.stmonicachurch.org/faithinaction o use una forma de depósito que ese encuentra en las mesas por las entradas principales de la Iglesia y póngala en la canasta de colecta.

Cáliz Vocacional Familiar

Para llevarse el Cáliz llame al (214) 358-1453

4 de Dic
 Familia Leon

11 de Dic
 Familia Pecina

Corona de Adviento**Reflexión de Primera Semana: Llamada a la Vigilia**

Guía: En el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo. Acto de Contrición.

Guía: Reconozcamos ante Dios que somos pecadores.

Todos: Yo confieso ante Dios todopoderoso...

(LITURGIA DE LA PALABRA.)

Lectura del santo evangelio según san Marcos 13,33: "Estén preparados y vigilando, ya que nos saben cuál será el momento". Palabra del Señor. (Breve pausa para meditar)

Guía: Vigilar significa estar atentos, salir al encuentro del Señor, que quiere entrar, este año más que el pasado, en nuestra existencia, para darle sentido total y salvarnos.

(ENCENDER LA VELA)

Guía: Encendemos, Señor, esta luz, como aquel que enciende su lámpara para salir, en la noche, al encuentro del amigo que ya viene. En esta primer semana de Adviento queremos levantarnos para esperarte preparados, para recibirte con alegría. Muchas sombras nos envuelven. Muchos halagos nos adormecen. Queremos estar despiertos y vigilantes, porque tú traes la luz más clara, la paz más profunda y la alegría más verdadera. ¡Ven, Señor Jesús! ¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

Guía: Unidos en una sola voz digamos: Padre Nuestro, Dios Te Salve María, Gloria. Ven, Señor, haz resplandecer tu rostro sobre nosotros.

Todos: Y seremos salvados. Amén.

Pastorela

El 18 de diciembre a las 3 pm les esperamos en la Cafetería a despertar el espíritu navideño con una hermosa y divertida Pastorela. Recibamos el mensaje de Jesús en familia, le garantizamos que pasara un rato agradable. Para más información, [214-357-8549](tel:214-357-8549).

Misa de Primer Viernes de Mes y Adoración

Este Viernes 2 de Diciembre, se celebrará la Eucaristía a las 7 pm en honor al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Si tu alma esta sedienta de paz, el mejor lugar donde puedes conseguirla es frente al Amor de los Amores, Jesús Eucaristía. Después de la Santa Misa continuamos en Adoración a Jesús Sacramentado. ¡No desperdiciemos las gracias que nos da nuestro Señor!



De El Pastor

Un predicador describe lo que recuerda de la primera vez que hablo de la segunda venida de Cristo, cuando tenía más o menos seis o siete años. Su abuelo lo llevaba algún lugar en su Hudson de 1949. Se acercaba la Navidad, estaba lo suficientemente cerca que ya había hecho los anhelos de su corazón conocido a Santa Claus. Esperaba una bicicleta roja, con la defensa cromada, y plástico en los cuernos. Sus papas inclusive le habían asegurado que probablemente Santa le traería la bicicleta porque había sido un buen niño. En su mente los planes de la bicicleta era un hecho. Nadamas era esperar.

Cuando iba a lado de su abuelo, frecuentemente inclinaba su cabeza a la ventana y miraba al cielo. El cielo estaba claro y brillante con estrellas y casi luna llena. ¡Mira! dijo su abuelo, "Mira la luna." Tenía un tono rosado y alrededor un anillo que se veía nebuloso. Parecía extraño y misterioso. Su abuelo continuó, "Cuando la luna se ve de esa manera, me pregunto ¿si es tiempo para el rapto?"

¿Qué es un rapto? le pregunto. El abuelo le explico, Cuando Cristo vuelva y nos lleve con Él al cielo. Jesús dijo que habría señales en el sol, la luna y las estrellas. Probablemente este es uno de ellos. ... El niño se quedó callado por un rato. Pensó, Señor, si en realidad vas a venir, podrías espérate hasta después de navidad.

Al iniciar la temporada de Adviento, el mensaje no es nuevo. Lo hemos escuchado toda la vida, Jesús regresara y tenemos que estar preparados. No hemos tenido más suerte ahora que los primeros discípulos en aprender el tiempo que pasaría. Nuestra actitud sobre el adviento usualmente es que el Señor viene, pero ojala que aún no.

Dos hombres trabajaban en el campo. Dos mujeres estaban moliendo en el molino. En ambos casos uno se fue, y el otro se quedó. A los que se llevaron, ¿era porque estaban listos para irse? Los que se quedaron era porque aún no completaban su trabajo. La parábola puede ser interpretada de ambas maneras, porque no se nos ha dado

la sabiduría de interpretar como Dios decide.

La clave de nuestra preparación para el regreso de Jesús es recordar lo que vamos a celebrar, con la venida de Cristo al mundo, por siempre y en todas partes, Dios está con nosotros. Su presencia es tan real que no podemos enfocarnos mucho en que es lo que vendrá, que perdamos de vista lo que es necesario en todos los días y en cada situación para prepararnos para la vida eterna.

Sería maravilloso celebrar la Navidad dando a nuestros seres querido el regalo perfecto, ya hemos pensado en que podrá ser. Este fin de semana tomamos los ángeles del árbol de Navidad. No veremos el rostro del niño que recibirá nuestro regalo, pero nuestro acto de generosidad le ayudara al niño a saber que Dios se acuerda y los bendice con un amor cariñoso, así como a nosotros también.

Sera maravilloso cuando lleguemos al cielo y la paz y el gozo de estar con Dios sea de nosotros. Pero durante esta temporada, al cantar sobre la paz en la tierra, seria buen tiempo para dejar las ofensas del pasado y dejar el resentimiento que cargamos.

Sera hermoso un día ver Dios de cara a cara. Sin embargo siempre nos permite verle en el rostro de un ser querido, en el rostro de un extraño, en el rostro de un amigo, en el rostro de alguien que no queremos. Tal vez nuestro trabajo diario durante este Adviento podría ser mirar a Cristo en cada persona, y tratarlos con la misma reverencia y respeto con la cual trataríamos al Señor cuando venga.

El Señor volverá en un tiempo que no conocemos. Parece ser que la preparación correcta es hacer lo mejor que podamos en las cosas ordinarias de la vida. Sabemos que no estamos preparados para su venida. Es por eso que aún hay cuatro semanas de Adviento. Es tiempo de ponerse a trabajar...

- Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk