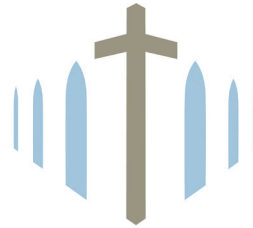




DECEMBER 11, 2016



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.

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 few years ago, in *Reader's Digest*, a lady reported searching for the perfect birthday card for her husband. She came across a promising one. On the outside it read: "Sweetheart, you are the answer to my prayers." Then she turned to the inside, which was inscribed like this: "You're not what I prayed for exactly, but apparently you are the answer." (Barbara Bartocci, "The Unexpected Answer")

It is an interesting scene that unfolds in today's gospel passage. At the high point of his influence, John the Baptist had pointed to Jesus and declared "Look, there is the Lamb of God." And like all the people of his time, as he began to sense that the Messiah was present among them, he was waiting for God to do what was expected. The people believed the world would be turned upside down as the Romans were defeated and Israel took its rightful place as the ruler of God's kingdom.

Now John found himself at odds with King Herod. John spoke the truth about Herod's marriage, but it was politically dangerous to do so. And as a result, John, who lived a life of total freedom, speaking his mind to anyone great or small who came before him, found himself in a dark, miserable prison cell. And to make things worse, his fate rested in the hands of someone who was known for his cruelty.

John heard good things about Jesus from his disciples when they visited. But it did not seem that the revolution he was expecting to erupt around Jesus was taking place. Perhaps Jesus was not what he had prayed for after all. And so sent word, "Are you the one, or should we look for another?" His hope and expectations were being overwhelmed by the situation in which he found himself. He wasn't seeing what he had prayed for, and so he needed to know if Jesus was the

answer.

The Lord does not simply say "Yes". Instead, he points out signs that would be clear to John there in the darkness of his prison cell. The blind could now look into the face of the one they loved, the lame could now dance, the limbs that had been scarred by leprosy could now embrace another, and the poor were being reassured that God loved and cared for them. The answer became crystal clear to John, for so often he had pondered the words of Isaiah that we hear in today's first reading. Jesus was the one.

Think how often we expect God to meet our expectations. We plan for the perfect child born to perfect parents. We want our life to be peaceful and pain-free. We expect to have more than we need so that we can be generous with others. But then life steps in to mix things up. We offend one another and can't seem to get over it. We work hard but can't get ahead. We have a generous heart, but people take advantage of our good nature. There are times in life when it seems that we have been praying so long and so well and not getting exactly what we prayed for.

In those moments, perhaps we need to look more carefully at the signs around us that show that God is answering. When we are grieving or suffering, we are surrounded by an army of family and friends who are lifting us up in prayer and will do anything they can to help. When we feel far from God, we can come sit in his presence before the Tabernacle and love him and let his love wash over us. When we wonder if we can keep going, we look back and remember all the times God has been there to help us, and we know he will not abandon us now.

In all our prayers, we discover that God has given us the perfect answer – Jesus, God with us.

–Fr. Stephen Bierschenk

News & Events



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 in the Church. David Calavitta, a national Catholic speaker, will share the message, and dinner will be provided by Olive Garden.

Come hear our School Choir at North Park

All of our School Choirs will be performing at North Park this year and would love to see you there! Our 5th-8th graders will perform on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 4:30 pm. The performance will be in the North Court, which is by the big orange statue. We hope to see you there!

The Catholic Daughters will hold their **Annual Tamale Sale** TODAY 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.

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

St. Monica Christmas Schedule

The following will be the schedule at St. Monica for Christmas and New Year's. Cards with the schedule will be available in the church starting this weekend. You are invited to take the cards and share them with friends and family and ask them to celebrate Christmas at St. Monica!

Wednesday, December 21

Light Is On Confessions from 7 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

No morning Masses

No Confessions

Masses will be celebrated at 4 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm (Spanish) and 11 pm

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Masses will be celebrated at 9:30 am and 11 am ONLY

Saturday, December 31st - New Year's Eve

Mass will be celebrated at 8 am and 5 pm and 7 pm (Spanish)

Confessions will be heard at regular times

Sunday, January 1st - New Year's Day

Masses will be celebrated at 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm (Spanish) and 5 pm

Stewardship

12-04-2016

Regular - \$49,873

Renovation - \$10,063

Total Mass Attendance

12-04-2016

3,424

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 11

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..... Celenia Arroyo † by Gladys Dela Cruz

5:00 pm..... Priest's Intention

Monday, December 12

6:45 am..... Debbie Diaz

by Jana Rebone & Notre Dame Students

8:00 am..... In Thanksgiving for Lianna Kelly

by The Holmes Family

Tuesday, December 13

6:45 am..... For Madden & Canary Families

8:00 am..... Victoriano Viray by Frendo Family

Wednesday, December 14

6:45 am..... Gen Mello by Jean Ryan

8:00 am..... For the Intentions of The Bryan Family

by The Bryan Family

Thursday, December 15

6:45 am..... Gloria Ramos † by Josie Melle

8:00 am..... Willie Haba, Sr. † by Marjorie Haba

Friday, December 16

6:45 am..... Nancy St. Romain by Mary Melle

8:00 am..... PTO Mass

Saturday, December 17

8:00 am..... Daniel Flynn & Ellenore Flynn

by Walter & Joan Minigutti

5:00 pm..... Jim Thixton † by Chetlee Reyes-Thixton

Sanctuary Light

This week the Sanctuary Light is burning for Alda Montero †.

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.

Lorenzo²

Dorothy Joubert¹

Zach²

Christopher Hall¹

Jesse Martinez²

Marcela Hernandez²

Ester²

Robert Juarez²

Christopher Alcantar¹

Willie Alcalá³

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

William (Bill) Walker, Sr.

News & Events

PAIN (Prayerful Assistance In times of Need) will be holding our monthly meeting December 14th from 11:30 to 12:30 in Family Center Room 211. 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.

Scrip will be sold TODAY (Dec. 11th) and next Sunday, December 18th from 10:00 am-11:00 am in Angel Hall. Scrip is the sales of merchant gift cards. All proceeds benefit St. Monica Catholic School.

Stephen Ministers are members of St Monica Church who go through 50 hours of caregiving training in providing emotional and spiritual support to people going through a difficult time, such as grief, divorce, job loss, illness or another life crises. We will be training a new class of Stephen Ministers starting January 12th, 2017. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister, call Jim Einspanier at [214-914-2802](tel:214-914-2802).

This is an invitation to all women in the Dallas Diocese to come and join us in the **Dallas Vocation Guild**. The DVG is a spiritual, charitable, educational non-profit Catholic organization of women dedicated to the promotion and sustaining of religious vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The DVG meets on the third Thursday of every month (September through May) at 11:00 am in the Family Center at St. Monica Catholic Church at the corner of Midway and Walnut Hill. Our next meeting will be on December 15th. The Rosary is prayed, Mass is celebrated by our Chaplain and lunch is served. Lenten and Advent reflections are also offered during those seasons. For more information or to make luncheon reservations, contact Shirley Vilfordi, [214/369-7724](tel:214-369-7724) or shirleyvilfordie@gmail.com or Mary Marchand at mmarchand@allsaintsdallas.org.

The Secular Franciscan Order is a worldwide Catholic order of married and single people who strive to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their daily lives by following the Rule of St. Francis of Assisi. If you feel the call from the Lord to embrace a Franciscan life style, you are welcome to visit with the St. Francis of Assisi fraternity at our meetings on the third Sunday each month at 2 p.m. in the Family Center at St. Monica. Call Nancy Allen at [214-517-9123](tel:214-517-9123).

Catholic Charities of Dallas will begin nine new courses in Dallas & Farmers Branch in January of 2017 to assist those studying for their US Citizenship Exam. Registration takes place on the first day of the courses, and the cost is \$30 which includes study materials. Contact Maggie Berman at [469-801-8169](tel:469-801-8169) or mberman@ccdallas.org for questions.

Family Vocation Chalice

To participate call (214) 368-3640

December 17 at 5:00 pm
Jere & Mary Agnes Romine

December 18 at 11:00 am
Carlos & Sylvia Perez

December 18 at 8:00 am
Andy Morrison

December 18 at 12:30 pm
Jason & Linda Killough

December 18 at 9:30 am
Frank & Rebecca Geis

December 18 at 5:00 pm
Javier Espinoza

The St. Monica Choir
will present Handel's

Messiah

accompanied by an orchestra

on
CHRISTMAS EVE
10 PM

This powerful performance will lead
seamlessly into the majestic pageantry of the
11 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.



Parishioners have logged

4,178 hours

of service beyond the boundaries of
St. Monica since we launched
Faith in Action!

Did you buy for a Christmas Angel?

Be sure to log your shopping hours at www.stmonicachurch.org/faithinaction or use a deposit slip, located at the back of the church. You may put "Anonymous" in the name field if you prefer to be an "Anonymous Angel."

Noticias y Eventos



11 DE DICIEMBRE
Apariciones, reflexión, Rosario.
3:00 pm - Cafeteria

12 DE DICIEMBRE
Santa Misa, mañanitas, matachines,
Rosario, convivio
7:00 pm - Iglesia

Parroquia Católica Santa Mónica
(9933 Midway Rd. Dallas, Tx. 75220)
(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.

Bendición de niño Dios Les invitamos atraer sus niños Dios para ser bendecidos en la Misa del 24 de Diciembre a las 8pm. Mantengamos esta hermosa tradición y sembremos en el corazón de nuestros seres querido el motivo principal de las fiestas vespertinas.



¡Hasta hoy,
4,178 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

11 de Dic
Familia Pecina



Corona de Adviento-TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

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 de la Primera carta a los Tesalonicenses 5,23: "Que el propio Dios de la paz los santifique, llevándolos a la perfección. Guárdense enteramente, sin mancha, en todo su espíritu, su alma y su cuerpo, hasta la venida de Cristo Jesús, nuestro Señor". Palabra de Dios. Breve pausa para meditar.

Guía: Los hombres de hoy no verán en persona a Cristo en esta Navidad. Pero sí verán a la Iglesia, nos verán a nosotros. ¿Habrá más luz, más amor, más esperanza reflejada en nuestra vida para que puedan creer en El?

ENCENDIDO DE LA VELA

Guía: En las tinieblas se encendió una luz, en el desierto clamó una voz. Se anuncia la buena noticia: ¡El Señor va a llegar! ¡Preparen sus caminos, porque ya se acerca! Adornen su alma como una novia se engalana el día de su boda. ¡Ya llega el mensajero!. Juan Bautista no es la luz, sino el que nos anuncia la luz.

Cuando encendemos estas tres velas cada uno de nosotros quiere ser antorcha tuya para que brilles, llama para que calientes. ¡Ven, Señor, a salvarnos, envuélvenos en tu luz, caliéntanos en tu amor!

Guía: Unidos en una sola voz digamos: Padre nuestro, Ave María

Guía: Ven, Señor, haz resplandecer tu rostro sobre nosotros.

Todos: Y seremos salvados. Amén

Pastorela Noche Luminosa

El 18 de diciembre a las 3pm. 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).

Horario para días Navideños

Confesiones, Miércoles 21 de Diciembre 7 pm a 9 pm

Misa de Navidad, Sábado 24 de Diciembre 4 pm; 6 pm; 8 pm Español; 11 pm

Domingo 25 de Diciembre, Misas 9:30 am & 11 am

Misa de Fin de Año, Sábado 31 de Diciembre 8 am; 5 pm; & 7 pm (español)

Domingo, 1 de Enero – Misas a las 8 am, 9 am, 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm (español) y 5 pm

De El Pastor

Hace algunos años, en Reader's Digest, una mujer hizo un reporte sobre la tarjeta perfecta para su esposo. Se encontró con una alentadora. Por fuera decía: "Querido, tu eres la respuesta a mis oraciones." Entonces la abrió y adentro decía así: "No eres exactamente por lo que ore, pero aparentemente tú fuiste la respuesta." (Barbara Bartocci, "La Respuesta Inesperada")

Hay una escena interesante que se desarrolla en el pasaje del evangelio de hoy. Al punto de su influencia, Juan el Bautista apunto a Jesús y declaro, "Miren, ahí está el Cordero de Dios." Y como todas las personas de ese tiempo, cuando sintió que la presencia del Mesías está entre ellos, esperaba que Dios hiciera lo que se esperaba. Las personas creían que el mundo se voltearía al ser derrotados los Romanos e Israel tomara su lugar prometido como líderes del Reino de Dios.

Ahora Juan se encontraba en desacuerdo con el Rey Herodes. Juan dijo la verdad sobre el matrimonio de Herodes, pero políticamente era muy peligroso hacerlo. Como resultado, Juan que vivía en plena libertad, hablando lo que quería a todo que cruzara su camino, ahora se encontraba en la oscuridad, un una prisión. Para empeorar las cosas, su suerte estaba en las manos de alguien que era conocido por su crueldad.

Juan escucho buenas cosas de Jesús por sus discípulos que le visitaban. Pero no le parecía que la revolución que esperaba de Jesús se estaba llevando a cabo. Probablemente Jesús no era la persona por la cual él había orado. Le mando decir, "¿Acaso eres tú, o debemos esperar a otro?" Su esperanza y expectativas sobresalieron por la situación en la cual se encontraba. No estaba viendo resultado por lo que él había orado, necesitaba saber si Jesús era la respuesta.

El Señor no dice simplemente "Si".

Sino que le da signos claros que Juan puede identificar en la oscuridad de su prisión. El ciego ahora podía ver el rostro de su ser querido, el cojo ahora podía bailar, las extremidades que habían sido marcadas por la lepra ahora podrían adoptarse, los pobres podían estar seguros que Dios los amó y cuidó. La respuesta se hizo clara a Juan, por tantas veces que había reflexionado sobre las palabras de Isaías que hoy escuchamos en la primera lectura. Jesús es el elegido.

Piensa en que tan a menudo esperamos que Dios cumpla nuestras expectativas. Planeamos que el niño perfecto nazca para los padres perfectos. Queremos vivir en paz y sin dolor. Esperamos tener más de lo que necesitamos para poder ser generosos con los otros. Pero de repente la vida cambia las cosas. Nos ofendemos y parece que nunca termina.

Trabajamos mucho pero parece que no avanzamos. Tenemos un buen corazón pero las personas toman ventaja de esto. Hay tiempos en la vida que sentimos que hemos orado por tanto tiempo, lo mejor posible y no conseguimos por lo que oramos.

En esos momentos, probablemente necesitamos mirar más cuidadosamente los signos a nuestro alrededor para ver que Dios está contestando nuestras oraciones. Cuando estamos desconsolados o sufriendo, estamos rodeados de familia y amigos que nos ayudan con oraciones y su voluntad de hacer cualquier cosa para ayudar. Cuando nos sentimos lejos de Dios, podemos venir a sentarnos en su presencia ante el Tabernáculo, amarle y dejar que su amor nos cubra. Cuando pensamos si podemos seguir adelante, miramos atrás y recordamos todas las veces que Dios ha estado ahí ayudándonos y saber que no nos abandonara ahora.

En nuestras oraciones, descubrimos que Dios nos ha dado la respuesta perfecta _ Jesus, Dios esta con nosotros.

–Fr. Stephen Bierschenk