

ST. MONICA

CATHOLIC CHURCH

9933 Midway Road, Dallas, Texas 75220

214-358-1453 • Fax: 214-351-1887

www.stmonicachurch.org



WELCOME TO ST. MONICA!

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

MASS TIMES

Weekend:

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am & 12:30 p.m.,
2:00 pm (Español), 5:00 pm

Weekday:

Monday - Friday: 6:45 am

Monday - Saturday: 8:00 am

Primer Martes del Mes: 7:00 pm

First Friday: 5:30 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 3:30 - 4:30 pm ♦ 6:30 - 7:00 pm

BAPTISM

Third Sunday of each month 3:30 pm (English)

Tercer sábado cada mes 3:00 pm (Español)

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

Padres y Padrinos deben de asistir a una clase de preparación que se otorgan los primeros sábados cada mes a la 1:00 pm.
Llame a la oficina de Ministerio Hispana.

MARRIAGE

Contact a priest or deacon at least six months before the planned marriage date.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE

972-994-1121

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Message Line (confidential) 214-290-0803
Companions for the Journey

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday, 12:00 noon

Please submit notices in writing to
email: dmartinez@stmonicachurch.org

You can also find St. Monica Catholic Church on social media:

www.facebook.com/stmonicachurch

www.twitter.com/stmonicadallas

www.vimeo.com/stmonicachurch



Parish Staff

Fr. Stephen W. Bierschenk
Pastor Ext. 107

Fr. Alan McDonald
Parochial Vicar Ext.112

Monsignor John F. Meyers
Pastor Emeritus

Deacon Abel Cortes
Deacon Larry Lucido
Deacon Bob Marrinan
Deacon Brian Mitchell
Deacon Michael Weston

St. Monica Church Offices

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

Parish Secretary Ext. 453
Faby Gomez

Business Manager Ext. 176
Debbie Diaz

Database Manager Ext. 111
Melissa Franks

Dir Communications Ext. 142
Donna Martinez

Safe Environment Director Ext. 144
Marilyn Hicks

Bookkeeper Ext. 102
Jared Wirths

Dir Youth & Youth Music Ext. 103
Emmanuel Espiritu

Director of Music Ext. 101
Jeremy Wirths

Faith Formation

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

Director of Faith Formation Ext. 132
Mariangela Byrne

Administrative Assistant Ext. 549
Eldie Diaz

Ministerio Hispano

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

Director of Hispanic Ministry... Ext. 131
Maria M. Gonzalez-Rocha

St. Monica School

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

4140 Walnut Hill Lane Dallas, TX 75229
Phil Riley, Principal

www.stmonicaschool.org



✝ From the Pastor ✝

There is a story told about a church in Knoxville, Tennessee. It was one of those center-city churches that time seemed to have passed. Its membership had long since largely moved to the suburbs. Those who still

drove downtown to the church were mostly aging. The church received a new pastor and not long after this pastor's arrival, the pastor organized a program of feeding the homeless and the hungry in the church. Not all of the long-time, established members appreciated this change in their cozy little fortress in the center of downtown. After worship one day, one of the people in the congregation accosted the pastor and asked, "Why, in God's name, do we need all of these deadbeats coming around for a hand-out? Many of us are no longer comfortable coming here for worship. It makes no sense that we are offering a service to the homeless that the Rescue Mission already performs so well. Can you give me one good reason why you are doing this?" The pastor thought for a moment and then softly replied, "Well, I guess it is because I am trying to love people as Christ has loved me and by doing so, I am able to point people to God." The questioner was somewhat taken aback and said, almost apologetically, "Oh, please don't misunderstand. I know those people need God." And the pastor looked at her and said, "I hope you don't misunderstand me. I am not talking about those people. I am talking about you."

It is our belief that the words Jesus spoke were meant to inspire us just as they did the crowd who first heard the Sermon on the Mount, for he continues to speak to us. It is our belief that as he embraced the terrible death of the cross he was considering us as an individual, and knowing our sins he offered himself in our place so that everything would be forgiven and we can begin again. It is our belief that as he returned to life from the dead he was already preparing for us personally to do the same.

But, what is interesting about this personal relationship with Jesus is that it is never the Lord's intention that we focus

only on him and what we receive and how we show our gratitude to him. He is always challenging us to admit that our relationship with him involves his brothers and sisters. Every person we meet, whether we know them well or not at all, is a unique opportunity to love Christ, honor his presence, forget our self and serve him. We are expected to serve Christ in others.

You are the salt of the earth. We are to make things around us more "tasty" because we are there. That might involve being positive in our attitude and willing to pitch in and help, even when what needs to be done isn't our idea or something we would do. It could be putting on a smile and keeping our troubles to our self instead of complaining and going around with a sour face. Speaking a word of encouragement or simply expressing our appreciation for how important someone is for us gives a new meaning to their daily routine.

You are the light of the world. Things can hide in the dark, but everything becomes clear in bright light. We hide our imperfections, we keep our prejudices to our self, we bite our tongue instead of saying something hurtful. But, more is expected. We are to live in such a way that it is clear that Jesus is inspiring us. When we are asked to help at an inconvenient time, we are invited to shine forth our love for Jesus with the attitude of forgetting our self to serve another. When our feelings are hurt, we are invited to shine forth a Christ-like attitude of forgiveness, which forgives and then moves on as if all has returned to normal, because we reflect the love of Christ.

Each of us is called to point other people to God. But, we always have to be careful that before we begin directing someone else's life, we have made sure that we are living in such a way that we clearly understand our importance in the world. It is Jesus who inspires us, lives with us, invites us to give all to him. And, when we make him most important, everything else falls into its proper place.

— Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk

"This is Christian hope: that the future is in God's hands." - Pope Francis (via Twitter 12-14-13)

Ministry News

Office of Faith Formation

From Wittenberg to Rome: a Protestant's journey to Catholicism

All are invited to hear Dr. Carey Ford, Professor of Religion at Navarro College, discuss his Baptist to Catholic conversion experience. His presentation will kick-off our parish catechetical Lenten series by Fr. Robert Barron. Join us on Tuesday, February 25 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Family Center, Room 201.

For Faith Formation questions, contact Mariangela Byrne, 214-358-1453 x.132.

Youth Ministry

Add FUEL to your life!

The St. Monica Spring Youth Retreat, FUEL, will be at Sky Ranch on Friday, March 28 to Sunday, March 30. All 6th to 12th graders are invited, even if you've never been to youth group! The cost is \$150 and includes transportation, food, lodging, and a t-shirt. Space is limited. The deadline is March 1 to sign-up. If you need more information, please contact Emmanuel Espiritu at 214-358-1453 x103 or at eespiritu@stmonicachurch.org.

Music Ministry

Broadway Dinner Theater

When: February 22 and 23, 2014 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Ticket Price: Table for ten is \$250. Adults \$25. Children 12 and under \$15.

Ticket Purchase: In Angel Hall after all weekend Masses and on www.stmonicachurch.org. Please help us plan by purchasing tickets early! Please contact Dr. Jeremy Wirths at JWirths@stmonicachurch.org or at (214) 358-1453 for further details.

St. Monica School News



SMS DADS CLUB 2014 GALA - March 22, 2014

Honorary Chairman: Romeo Collazo. **Proceeds benefit the St. Monica School.** Questions about the gala should be sent to fnull@nobleroyalties.com, and questions about pre-events should be sent to wchurchill@gmail.com. Admission \$100 per person. Tickets now available through sponsorship or by individual purchase. Visit <http://www.smsgala.org/> for more information.

Pastoral Center News

Office of Vocations

Two Saint Andrew Dinners will be held for young men currently in high school, grades 9-12. The first will take place the evening of Tuesday, Feb 25, at Holy Trinity Seminary, and the second will occur the evening of Thursday, March 27, at the Parish Center of Saint Mark Catholic Church in Plano. Please email or fax the names of any young men that have spoken to you about an interest in the priesthood or who you think might benefit from attending a Saint Andrew Dinner to the Office of Vocations at vocations@cathdal.org.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 9, 2014

8:00 am.....Priest's Intention
 9:30 am.....Priest's Intention
 11:00 am.....For the People of the Parish
 12:30 am.....Priest's Intention
 2:00 pm.....Agustin Lezama † by Monica Mantello
 5:00 pm.....Priest's Intention

Monday, February 10, 2014

6:45 amFrank Halovanic † by Friends
 8:00 amGage Scrogum † by Tracy Ready

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

6:45 am.....Henry Galindo † by Amanda Flood
 8:00 amF. & F. Barciak by F. Xavier Barciak

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

6:45 amRichard Wood by Mary C. Solomon
 8:00 amRichard A. Seltzer † Phil & Becky Ryan

Thursday, February 13, 2014

6:45 amDarrell Lockridge by Amanda Flood
 8:00 amMsgr. Duffy Gardner by Pat Ferguson

Friday, February 14, 2014

6:45 amMarcella Fetsch † by Monica Noyes
 8:00 amFor Our Priests

Saturday, February 15, 2014

8:00 amPatricia Rodriguez by Marjorie Haba
 5:00 pm..... Christopher Wilcox † by Nancy & Ed Mello

Sanctuary Light:

This week the Sanctuary Light is burning for the Souls in Purgatory.

For Our Deceased:

Danny Meyers †

For Our Sick:

Beginning February 9, names will appear for 3 weeks. To request a name to appear again, please contact the Parish Office.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Margaret Dundas | Lupe Cano | Penny Belfiglio |
| Nancy Poulos | Sandra S. Limon | Theresa Salas |
| Dorothy LaDue | Richard McCormick | Santano Martinez |
| Franco Miramontes | Ellen Rhodes | Michael Guerrero |
| Thelma Leuck | Victor Hurtado | Ray Redlingshafer |
| Dorothy Lucido | Rodney Doomes | Samantha Martinez |
| Chris Nalborski | Augustine Gaitan | Leo Londenberg |
| Jill Rapsey | Frank Campise | Bill Durick |
| Maria Gutierrez | Greg Hultgren | Ellenore Flynn |
| Louella Marx | Patricia Boehm | Pete Cano |
| Sally Reilly | Effie McMahon | Thomas Sabedra |
| Linda Duckworth | Rosemary Elizondo | Santos Sabedra |
| Robert Smith | Patricia Abshire | Carmen Sabedra |
| Alberto Gutierrez | Helen Vega | Alma Sabedra |
| Mary Daniels | Carmen Cedillo | Tom Sedillo |
| Caroline Bowen | Cecilio Cardenas | Gertrude Collins |
| Richard Rapsey | Andrew Rapoza | Jerome Collins |
| Dorothy Joubert | Dolores Gonzales | Phyllis Brandt |
| Doris Walker | Rosa V. Gomes | Karen Fry |
| Riad Ghorra | Mary Hernandez | |

The **Legion of Mary** is providing a statue of the Pilgrim Virgin for home visitations in our parish. If you want more information about this program, please contact Mary Lucido at 214-351-6934 or at lmucido6555@att.net.

News & Events

Catholic Daughters of the Americas – Event

All Catholic women over 18 are invited to join us on Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 pm in the Family Center lower lounge to hear Fr. Bierschenk's presentation on Lent. Food and fellowship follow! For details, contact Mary Louise Ludt at marylouiseludt@mac.com or 214-335-3259.

Mom's Circle Events

All women of the parish are invited to our book club. We will be reading and discussing parts III and IV of *Rediscover Catholicism*. We'll meet Feb 19 at 7:00 pm at Fernando's (Midway & NW Highway).

On February 22, all women of the parish are invited to join us for brunch at Crossroads Diner (8121 Walnut Hill) at 11:00 am.

For more information about either event, please contact Lucy Piotrowski at misscoldsteele@yahoo.com.

Men's Study Group Spring Program

The Men's Study Group will begin a 7-week study of Fr. Robert Barron's *Conversion: Following the Call of Christ* on Tuesday, February 18 from 5:50 am to 6:45 am. You can find us in Room 109. The study program concludes on April 8. If you're interested, please contact Deacon Brian Mitchell at bjmitch37@sbcglobal.net or text 214-263-5398 to register.



ACTS Retreat for Women: Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service

Women are invited to join an upcoming retreat held at the Catholic Conference and Formation Center. The women's retreat is Feb 27th to Mar 2nd. Call Elida at 214-563-4026 for details. Registration and brochures are available online <http://www.stmonicachurch.org/> and in the narthex. Don't delay - call and register today!

3rd Annual North Texas Catholic Men's Conference

The 3rd Annual North Texas Catholic Men's Conference will celebrate *Faith Forges Freedom...Iron Sharpens Iron*. Come and enjoy food, praise and worship Friday, April 25, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Saturday, April 26, from 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. You will experience a full day of fun, food, fellowship, inspirational presentations, Reconciliation, Mass, the Rosary during Eucharistic Adoration. Please go to <http://ntxcmc.org> to register today!

Family Vocation Chalice

To participate call (214) 368-3640

February 15 at 5:00 pm

Jovita Aristta

February 16 at 8:00 am

Luis Barbero

February 16 at 9:30 am

Henry & Joumana Arraj

February 16 at 11:00 am

Matthew & Elizabeth O'Shea

February 16 at 12:30 pm

Donnie & Elsa Lampkin

February 16 at 5:00 p.m.

Tom & Mary Brandt

Stewardship - February 2, 2014

Regular \$43,769.50

Renovation \$12,514.50

Total Mass Attendance

February 2, 2014

2,889

Parish Calendar

Sunday, February 9, 2014

9:30 am ... Babysitting | 114

10:00 am ... Breaking Open the Word | 201

11:00 am ... Spanish Marriage Prep | 217

11:00 am ... ACTS Return Reception | Café

3:00 pm ... Spanish Divine Mercy Chaplet | Church

5:00 pm ... Women's ACTS | 201

Monday, February 10, 2014

7:30 am ... Rosary

8:00 am ... Austin Street Centre | 109

8:30 am ... Legion of Mary | 129

9:00 am ... Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel

6:00 pm ... Center Prayer Group | Bride Room

6:30 pm ... St. Vincent de Paul | 129

7:00 pm ... Immaculate Heart Cenacle | Chapel

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

7:30 am ... Rosary

9:00 am ... Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel

6:00 pm ... Dad's Club Silent Auction Meeting | 129

6:00 pm ... Catholic Daughters of America | 109

7:00 pm ... Spanish Divine Mercy Apostles | LIB

7:00 pm ... KoC Directors' Meeting | 217

8:00 pm ... Spanish Adoration | Chapel

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

7:30 am ... Rosary

9:00 am ... Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel

6:30 pm ... Spanish Legion of Mary | 129

6:30 pm ... Talleres de Oracion y Vida | 214

7:00 pm ... Spanish UD Biblical School | 109

8:00 pm ... YSC Holy Hour | Chapel

8:00 pm ... Broadway Dinner Rehearsal | Cafe

Thursday, February 13, 2014

7:30 am ... Rosary

9:00 am ... Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel

10:00 am ... Dallas Vocation Guild | 109

6:30 pm ... Stephen Ministry Supervision | 109

6:30 pm ... ACTS Core Meeting | JCLC Board

Friday, February 14, 2014

7:30 am ... Rosary

9:00 am ... Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel

2:00 pm ... CDA Holy Hour | Chapel

6:00 pm ... Holy Face Rosary/Novena | Chapel

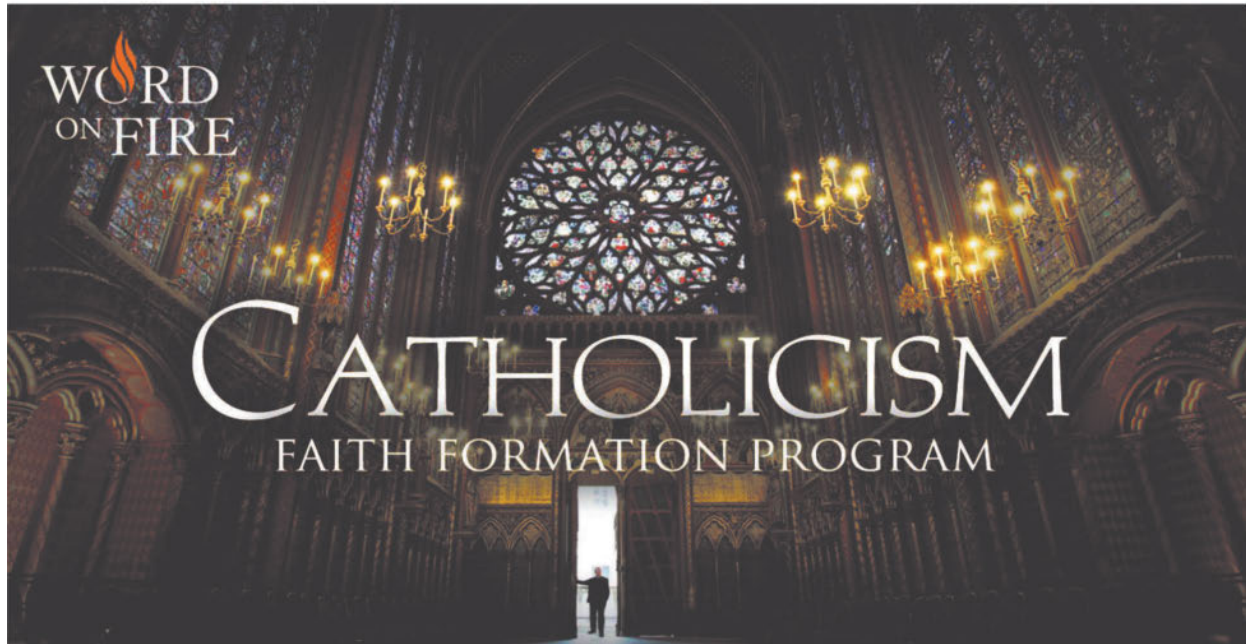
Saturday, February 15, 2014

9:00 am ... Centering Prayer Group | 217

5:00 pm ... CDA Bake Sale | Church

6:00 pm ... Pastoral Familiar Dinner/Dance | Cafe

IGNITE YOUR FAMILY'S FAITH



Join us for a St. Monica's All-family evening of lively discussion and dinner as we watch the highly acclaimed "CATHOLICISM" documentary by

FATHER ROBERT BARRON

Moderated discussion facilitated by:

FATHER ALFONSE NAZZARO

DATE, TIMES & LOCATION:

Friday, February 28, 2014

St. Monica's Family Center
(Small Gym)

5:30 pm: Pizza Served
6 pm: start of program

COST / REGISTRATION:

FREE ADMISSION

Free Pizza / BYOB

Childcare available for those in need, but we encourage all family members to participate in the discussion

CONTACT:

Mariangela Byrne:
St. Monica Catholic Church
Director of Faith Formation
214.357.8549 (ext. 132)

AN EPIC FILM ON THE MOTHER OF CHRIST

MARY

OF NAZARETH



MARYFILM.COM

LOCATION Studio Movie Grill at Spring Valley



DATE/TIME 2/16 & 2/23 at 2:30 pm

CONTACT www.stmonicachurch.org for details



Help Orphans in Guatemala Donate New Socks and Underwear

WOW, Women for Orphans Worldwide, an auxiliary of Orphan Outreach, serves the children of Guatemala. WOW was started 5 years ago by St. Monica moms Margo Isbell, Linda White and Tiffany Wines. WOW Jr. Members and current 8th graders, Andrew Isbell and Katie Smithson, are collecting new socks and underwear in sizes 3T-Adult Small, which will be distributed to the children during the WOW summer 2014 mission trips to Guatemala.

Donate February 10-28

Collection boxes located in McManus Hall, Family Center, School Hallways & Church

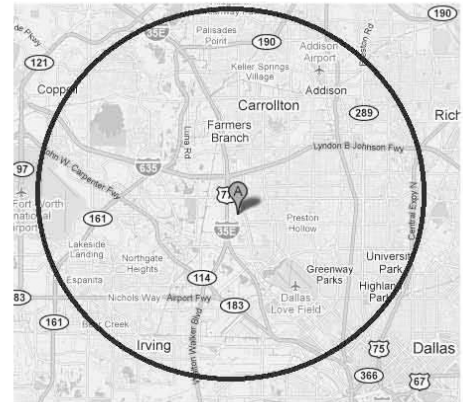
www.womenfororphansworldwide.com

Boy Scout Troop 412 7th Annual Mulch & Compost Sale

Top quality landscape materials,
in 2 cubic foot bags,
locally manufactured by Living Earth,
Texas' largest green material recycler.

**All orders in circled area delivered
free to your home on March 8th.**
*Scout salesman responsible for special arrangements
outside delivery area.*

| Office Use Only | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|--------|
| Ord# | Init | Pmt# | Amt \$ |



| Hardwood Bark Mulch | Cedar Mulch | Organic Compost |
|--|---|--|
| Hardwood barks, consisting of oak, gum, and hickory. Bark is hammer milled through a screen to provide a shredded, fibrous material for excellent hold on sloped surfaces. | Ground native Cedar trees, with leaves, bark, and white wood included. Cedar Mulch repels insects, has a pleasant aroma, and is a reddish brown color. Lasts longer than other mulches. | Totally organic, aerobically composted humus containing manure, cotton seed meal, wheat straw, hardwood shavings, and other valuable components. Free of weed seeds and insects. |
| \$4.00 per bag | \$5.00 per bag | \$7.00 per bag |

| | |
|---|------|
| Scout Salesman | |
| Customer Name | |
| Delivery Address | |
| City | Zip: |
| Weekend Phone | |
| Email | |
| Any note regarding delivery instructions: | |

| | Bags | Ea. | Total |
|-----------------------|------|-----|--------------------------|
| Hardwood | | \$4 | \$ |
| Cedar | | \$5 | \$ |
| Compost | | \$7 | \$ |
| Order Total | | | \$ |
| Total Collected | | | \$ |
| CASH (check box) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CHECK (write check #) | | | |

----- Detach Receipt Here and Give to Customer -----

Scout Salesman: _____

To order additional bags or for questions, visit www.bsatroop412.com or contact Marc Jennings, 214-395-6015, marc@3jdesign.com

| | Bags | Ea. | Total |
|----------|------|-----|-------|
| Hardwood | | \$4 | \$ |
| Cedar | | \$5 | \$ |
| Compost | | \$7 | \$ |
| Total | | | \$ |

Order deadline is 03-02-2014 at midnight | Please make checks out to: "Troop 412"
Orders will be delivered on Saturday, 03-08-2014 throughout the day and placed on your lawn or walkway.

Noticias y Eventos



Conferencia de la Divina Misericordia

Ven a empaparte del amor de Dios, de su misericordia, de su sanación en este próximo congreso que se llevara a cabo el 7, 8 y 9 de Marzo del 2014 en el rodeo de Mesquite. (1818 Rodeo Dr. Mesquite, Tx 75149). Conferencistas: Padre Bala, Padre Dante, Padre Juan Diaz, Padre Ernesto Torres, Hna Gladys Garcete, Hno Pedro de Acevedo y Rvdmo. Obispo Auxiliar Douglas Desotel. La donación es \$20 por adulto (\$25 en la puerta), \$10 por jóvenes 11-17 años y \$5 por niños de 5-10 años de edad. Los fondos recaudados serán para la futura construcción del Santuario de la Divina Misericordia. Para más información y para conseguir boletos por favor llame a Baltazar Villanueva al 214-584-7789.

Apóstoles Eucarísticos de la Divina Misericordia

La misericordia de Dios quiere llenar tu vida de paz, consuelo y esperanza. Ven y se parte de este grupo de personas que se enriquecen a través de la Sagrada Palabra, Catecismo de la Iglesia, Diario de Santa Faustina y la Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia. Te invitamos a que caminemos juntos en la fe en este ministerio espiritual. Nos reunimos todos los martes de 7 pm. a 9 pm. en la Biblioteca de la Escuela. Dios tiene algo especial para ti, déjate amar y encontrar por ese Amor de amores. Para más información comunícate con Baltazar Villanueva al 214-584-7789

Círculo Juvenil Ágape

Si eres un joven adulto entre 18 a 35 años de edad te invitamos a ser parte de este grupo juvenil para darle nueva luz a tu vida. Somos jóvenes normales en búsqueda de la felicidad duradera que solo se encuentra viviendo en el amor de Jesús. Enfrentamos retos y tentaciones de la vida como cualquier otra persona, pero nos enriquecemos con las prácticas de la fe católica, defendiendo los valores humanos y compartiendo nuestra energía e ideas en la Iglesia de Dios. Para más información comunícate con Martha González al 214-718-9511 o al marthagonzalez00@hotmail.com

Talleres de Oración y Vida

¿Quieres conocer a Dios? La única manera para poder conocerle y escucharle es a través de la oración. En los talleres de oración y vida se dan las técnicas de diferentes modalidades de oración, cada persona identifica la modalidad que más le identifique y comienza a tener una relación más profunda con Dios. Esto se logra a través de la práctica y el deseo sincero tener a Dios en tu vida. Las clases son en el Centro Familiar en el salón 214, inician a las 7pm. Para más información comunícate con Gloria Solis al 512-621-0038



Adoración Eucarística

El regalo más grande que Jesús nos da es quedarse con nosotros en el Santísimo Sacramento, El está realmente presente en Cuerpo, Sangre, Alma y Divinidad. En esta parroquia Jesús está expuesto de lunes a viernes de 9 am. a 12 am. para que vengan a Sus pies a entregarle todo su ser y dejar que El consuele, traiga paz y alegría a todo lo que guarda el corazón. Hay tiempos de oración personal o en comunidad. Las adoraciones en comunidad son todos los martes de 8 pm a 9 pm., los primeros viernes de mes de 7:30pm. a 8:30 p.m. y los segundos viernes de mes de 9p.m. a 10 pm. Déjate llenar de la gracia de Dios.



Cáliz Vocacional Familiar

9 de febrero

Manuel y Brenda
Sanchez

16 de febrero

Genaro y Elvira
Colorado

23 de febrero

Efrain y Mayra Arriaga

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

2014 Bishop's Appeal for Catholic Ministries

The goal of St. Monica Catholic Church is to raise \$211,000 to assist the Diocese of Dallas in providing these services:

Pastoral Ministries

Family Services

Education of Seminarians

**Financial Assistance to
Catholic Schools**

Clergy and Diaconal Ministry

For more information, visit
www.cathdal.org

"Esta es la Esperanza del Cristiano: De que el futuro esta en las manos de Dios." -
Pope Francis
(via Twitter 12-14-13)

✝ De El Pastor ✝

Esta es una historia que se contó de una Iglesia en Knoxville, Tennessee. Era una de esas Iglesias que estaban en el centro de la ciudad que parecía que el tiempo había pasado. La mayoría de sus miembros se habían movido a los suburbios. Aquellos que todavía iban a la Iglesia eran ya de edad avanzada. La Iglesia recibió un pastor nuevo y no mucho después de su llegada organizo un programa para darle de comer a los desamparados y las personas que tenían hambre en la Iglesia. No todos los miembros que tenían tiempo de ser feligreses apreciaron este cambio de ser fuertes acogedores en el centro de la ciudad. Después de un día de culto, una de las personas de la congregación abordó al pastor y le dijo, "en el nombre de Dios, porque necesitamos a todos estos holgazanes que vengan por comida? Muchos de nosotros ya no nos sentimos cómodos de venir aquí al culto. No tiene sentido que estemos ofreciendo un servicio a los desamparados que la Misión Rescate ha realizado tan bien. ¿Me puede dar una buena razón por que estamos haciendo esto? El pastor pensó por un momento y suavemente le respondió, "Bueno, creo que es porque estoy tratando de amar a las personas como Cristo me ha amado y al hacerlo estoy llevando a las personas a Dios." El que le pregunto estaba desconcertado y dijo en una manera casi disculpándose, "O por favor no me malinterprete. Sé que esas personas necesitan a Dios." Y el pastor la miro y le dijo, "Espero que usted no me malinterprete. No estoy hablando de esas personas. Estoy hablando de usted."

Creemos que las palabras que Jesús hablo eran para inspirarnos al igual que lo hizo a la multitud que lo escucharon primero en el Sermón de la Montaña, porque El continua hablándonos. Creemos que cuando tomo la terrible muerte en la cruz estaba considerando a cada uno de nosotros individualmente, y conociendo nuestros pecados se ofreció asimismo en nuestro lugar para que todo se nos perdonara y pudiéramos comenzar de nuevo. Creemos que cuando regreso a la vida de la muerte, Él ya había preparado lo mismo para nosotros.

Lo que es interesante sobre esta relación personal con Jesús es que el Señor nunca ha tenido la intención que nos enfoquemos solamente en El y en todo lo que recibimos y como le mostramos nuestro agradecimiento. Él siempre nos reta a admitir que nuestra relación con El incluye a nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Cada persona que conocemos, aunque no lo conozcamos bien es una oportunidad única para amar a Cristo, honrar Su presencia, olvidarnos de nosotros mismos y le sirvamos. Se espera que sirvamos a Cristo en los hermanos.

Ustedes son la sal de la tierra. Debemos hacer las cosas que nos rodean mas "sabrosas" porque estamos ahí. Esto puede incluir tener una actitud positiva y dispuestos ayudar aunque no se nuestra idea o algo que haríamos. Puede ser poner una sonrisa y dejar nuestros problemas para nosotros mismos en vez de renegar y andar con caras amargadas. Dar una palabra de aliento o simplemente expresar nuestro aprecio por lo importante que es alguien para nosotros cambia el sentido de su rutina diaria.

Tu eres la luz del mundo. Las cosas se pueden ocultar en la oscuridad pero todo saldrá a la luz del día. Escondemos nuestras imperfecciones, mantenemos nuestros prejuicios, nos mordemos la lengua en vez de decir algo hiriente. Pero se espera más de nosotros, debemos vivir de tal manera que sea claro que Jesús es el que nos inspira. Cuando se nos pide que ayudemos en un tiempo inconveniente, se nos invita a que dejemos brillar nuestro amor a Cristo con una actitud de perdón, el cual nos lleva a ver que todo vuelve a la normalidad porque reflejamos el amor a Cristo.

Cada uno de nosotros estamos llamados a llevar a otros a Dios. Pero debemos tener cuidado que antes que comencemos a dirigir las vidas de otros, nos aseguremos que estamos viviendo de tal manera que claramente entendamos nuestra importancia aquí en el mundo. Es Jesús el que nos inspira, vive con nosotros, nos invita a que le demos todo y cuando lo hacemos el más importante en nuestra vida todo está en su lugar.

— Padre Stephen W Bierschenk

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Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6
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