



THE PARISH of SAINT MONICA



Called by Name; Gifted by God; Committed to Prayer; Driven to Serve... Abiding in Hope

THE CHURCH of SAINT MONICA

Founded January 11, 1897

Parish Offices

(Pastoral Administration; Religious Education; Business & Finance; Worship & Music; Facilities)

Saint Monica Rectory
635 First Avenue
Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312
Phone: 610.644.0110
Facsimile: 610.695.0850

Office of Religious Education (Rector)

610.647.4757

Parish Website

www.saintmonicachurch.org

Twitter & Instagram

@StMonicaBerwyn

Join Flocknote!

Text "Monica1897" to 84576

Parish Staff E-mail

FirstInitialLastName@
saintmonicachurch.org

Parish Leadership

parishcouncil@
saintmonicachurch.org

financecouncil@
saintmonicachurch.org

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass 8:30 a.m.

(Monday thru Saturday with a Communion Service on Wednesday)

Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
11:30a.m.

Holy Days 8:30 a.m.
of Obligation 12 noon

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

Saturday from 4 to 4:45 p.m.
Anytime by appointment.

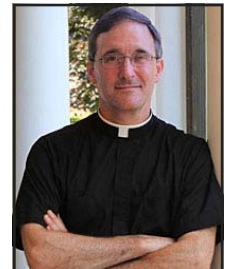


Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Last week I mentioned that one can actually measure spiritual "maturity" and spiritual "growth" by examining a person's concrete behaviors as they model Matthew 22:37-40 in "loving God" and "loving neighbor." This would involve a person's spiritual beliefs and attitudes; a person's spiritual practices; participation in organized Church activities and spiritual and pastoral activities directed with- and towards others.



One might naturally ask, "Well, in which stage am I?" A general description of the four spiritual "stages" are outlined below. In addition, the specific spiritual actions, activities and attitudes that need to be in place as a person moves from one spiritual stage to the next are provided as well.

Phase 1: A person EXPLORING CHRIST says, *"I believe in God but I am not sure about Jesus Christ" I am not sure if a human being can have a 'personal relationship' with a transcendent God. My faith is not a significant part of my life."*

A person EXPLORING CHRIST wants:

Help in developing a personal relationship with Christ; Compelling worship services; A feeling of belonging; Help in understanding the Bible in greater depth; Church leaders who model and consistently reinforce how to grow spiritually.

Next Steps They Need To Accomplish ("Catalysts" To Spiritual Growth)

I believe I am saved by God's grace and believe nothing I do can "earn" my way into Heaven (spiritual belief)

I believe in a "trine God" ("The Holy Trinity") Father - Son - Holy Spirit (spiritual belief)

I serve the church in some kind of ministry once a month or more each month (church activity)

I pray to seek guidance in my life occasionally or frequently (spiritual practice)

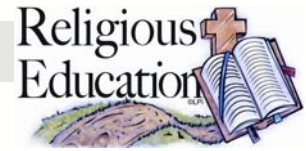
I reflect on Scripture and/or the Eucharist for guidance/meaning in my life [ranges from sometimes to frequently] spiritual practice).

(Continued on Page 4)



OUR PARISH PRAYER INTENTION for THIS WEEK

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests His power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

FROM *the* OFFICE of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**HEAVENLY HOSTS SING ALLELUIA!
CHRIST, THE SAVIOUR IS BORN!**

The Religious Education Program catechists, students, and administrators wish the parishioners of Saint Monica a blessed and peaceful Christmas!

The Religious Education Program is in session on December 19 and 20. Classes will not be in session on December 26 or 27.

Information regarding the cancellation of Religious Education classes due to inclement weather has been e-mailed to all registered families. This information can also be found on the parish website under "Religious Education".

FAMILY *and* YOUTH MINISTRY

This Sunday, Family and Youth Ministry will celebrate a blessed first semester of Edge and Life Teen. Thank you for all your prayers and support!

In Christ,
Jason Carter
Director of Family and Youth Ministry

FROM *the* OFFICE of WORSHIP *and* MUSIC**CAN YOU HELP?****CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

Volunteer parishioners spend countless hours preparing the church décor for the various liturgical seasons throughout the year. Among the largest effort is our preparation for the Christmas Season. Trees, greens, garlands, wreaths, plants, flowers, lights, bows, swags, statues, straw, cords, wires, lights... there's much to be done and a lot to purchase and prepare. Can you help? In addition to physical assistance (we could always use help!), we count on your generosity to support the decoration of the

church each year, especially at Christmas and Easter.

If you would like to make a specific gift in memory of a loved one, please contact Frank Orman, Director of Worship & Music, at 610.644.0110, ext. 118. If you haven't already done so, please consider purchasing a pack of Saint Monica Christmas Cards to help underwrite the Christmas decorating effort! Call or stop in at the rectory to pick up a pack! There are five beautiful varieties to pick from.

If you can lend some time to help decorate during on Monday 21 December, please contact Liz Tenaglio at 610.688.6270.

SAINT MONICA PARISH INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE A NEW AND PERSONALIZED SPIRITUAL WORLD FOR YOURSELF!

Come As You Are — Come When You Can — Stay If You Like!

ALPHA

If you are looking for:

- A safe place to ask ANY questions about the Catholic/Christian faith
- Help in starting a spiritual relationship or a feeling of belonging
- Guidance in understanding the Bible and the Church in greater depth...then **ALPHA** is for you! **ALPHA** is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment.

Participants will gain assistance in starting a spiritual relationship or supporting an existing spiritual relationship. Weekly attendance is encouraged, but not required. Each session includes a light meal. We hope you will join us!

Dates: Sundays January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7, 21, 28; March 6 & 20; April 3

Location: Parish Education Center Cafeteria

Time: 12:45pm-3:15pm **Cost:** \$20 **Registration is required by January 4th**

OREMUS PRAYER PROGRAM

If you are looking for:

- Help in developing a deeper and more personal relationship with Christ
- Assistance in understanding the Bible and prayer
- Guidance in determining how God personally interacts in your life through prayer...then **OREMUS** is for you! Learn the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life, learn how to express yourself to God, hear His voice, and overcome common difficulties often encountered in prayer. Each session includes a powerful 30 minute DVD video, followed by small group discussion. Topics include: What is prayer? Before you Pray... Praying among Distractions and Dryness, among others topics. Weekly attendance is encouraged, but not required. Light refreshments will be served. Join us!

Dates: Wednesdays, January 13, 20, 27; February 17, 24; March 2, 9, 16

Location: Parish Center

Time: 7:00-8:00pm **Cost:** \$20 **Registration is required by January 4th** *(Cont'd on Pg. 5)*

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS for OCTOBER 2015

October 2015	\$72,448	44% Electronic	October YTD 2015	\$281,996	45% Electronic
October 2014	\$70,122	43% Electronic	October YTD 2014	\$284,642	42% Electronic
October Budget	2015-16	\$72,686	October YTD Budget 2015-16		\$289,747

Due to the early publication deadline, the collection totals for last weekend are not available.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a Special Collection next weekend for the Saint Monica Saint Vincent DePaul fund. May God bless you for your continued generosity.

The Fiscal Year 2015 budget for Saint Monica Parish is available on line at www.saintmonicachurch.org, under the Parish Information tab in the Parish Leadership section.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

(continued from Page 1)

Phase 2: A person GROWING IN CHRIST says, "I believe you can have a personal relationship with a transcendent God. I believe in Jesus Christ and I am working on what it means to get to know Him."

A person GROWING IN CHRIST wants:

Help in developing a personal relationship with Christ; Help in understanding the Bible in greater depth; Church leaders who model and reinforce how to grow spiritually; Compelling worship experience; To be challenged to grow and take the next step in their faith journey.

Next Steps They Need To Accomplish ("Catalysts" To Spiritual Growth)

I believe in a personal God who is actively involved in my life (spiritual belief)

I pray to seek guidance in my life frequently or daily (spiritual practice)

I reflect on Scripture for guidance or meaning in my life (spiritual practice)

I had 6 or more meaningful spiritual conversations with others in the past year (spiritual activity with others)

I currently give a significant amount [can be 10% or more] to my church (spiritual practice)

Phase 3: A person CLOSE TO CHRIST says, "I feel very close to Christ and depend on Him daily for guidance and support."

A person CLOSE TO CHRIST wants:

Critically Important:

Help in understanding the Bible in greater depth; Help in developing a deeper, personal relationship with Christ.

Important but less so than 1. and 2. -

Church leaders who model and reinforce how to grow spiritually; To be challenged to grow and take the next step in their own spiritual development; Encouragement to take personal responsibility for their own spiritual growth.

Next Steps They Need To Accomplish ("Catalysts" To Spiritual Growth)

I am willing to risk everything that is important in my life for Christ (spiritual belief/ attitude)

I desire Jesus is first in my life (spiritual belief/ attitude)

I was created and exist to know, love and serve God (spiritual belief/ attitude)

I believe that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are the decisive authority over what I say and do (spiritual belief/ attitude)

I reflect on scripture and receive the Eucharist for guidance and meaning in my life either frequently or daily (spiritual practice)

Phase 4: A person who is CHRIST CENTERED says, "My relationship with God through Jesus Christ is the most important relationship in my life. It guides everything that I do."

A person who is CHRIST CENTERED wants:

Critically Important:

Help in understanding the Bible in greater depth; Help in developing a deeper, personal relationship with Christ; Church leaders who model and reinforce how to grow spiritually.

Important but less than previously:

To be challenged to grow and take the next step in their faith journey; To be encouraged to take personal responsibility for their own spiritual growth.

Having a sense of "which stage I am in." In January, Saint Monica will roll-out three adult faith spiritual programs. Each will be targeted to people in different spiritual stages in their lives:

For searchers, seekers, skeptics, even long-term believers who just aren't sure about their faith, God and the Church any more. For people looking for a safe place to ask any questions they want in a non-judgmental atmosphere – we will be offering **ALPHA**.

More mature believers who are looking to grow their relationship with Christ especially through prayer will be offered **OREMUS**.

Some believers are more advanced in their spirituality and wish to be extremely challenged in their faith. They are willing to invest significant time and effort in growing their relationship with Christ, with others and with the Church and are looking to be held accountable in this growth path. For them we will offer "CALLED AND GIFTED - 2"

Further details about all three of these programs, including sign-up information, is forthcoming. We look forward to seeing you there!

Charles Flock Jr

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The annual Holy Name Society Retreat at Saint Joseph -in-the-Hills in Malvern is on! Reserve this special weekend of February 5-7, 2016. Special thanks to all who attended last year and over the years.

Did you know in the past 10 years that Saint Monica's parish of men has sent over 30 different individuals to attend at least one retreat. To register on line, just go to the website address is www.malvernretreat.com. If you need assistance or have questions, please e-mail Lee Megow at megowl@verizon.net

OUTREACH



Saint Gabriel's Food Cupboard Collection is this weekend after all Masses. No time to shop? Cash and donations payable to St. Gabriel's Food Cupboard are most welcome and can be left in the designated box in the gathering space. Canned goods and donations can be left through Tuesday, December 22nd at 8:00 a.m. Sisters Arleen McCann and Rita Martin, IHM send best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and many thanks for your wonderful generosity throughout 2015.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Masses

Thursday, December 24, 2015

4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

The Annual Candlelight Prelude and Carol Sing, with the Parish Choir, organ and brass quartet begins at 7:30 p.m. Music includes seasonal choral works and congregational carols.

Christmas Day Masses

The Nativity of Our Lord

Friday, December 25, 2015

7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

New Year's Day - A Holyday of Obligation

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Friday, January 1, 2016

8:30 a.m. and 12 noon

TRIP REGISTRATION OPEN



MARCH for LIFE

Donations also welcome.

Registration for the Saint Monica bus trip to Washington, DC for the March for Life on Friday, January 22, 2016 is now open! Can't attend the March yourself? If your means allow, please consider making a donation to help defray the cost of the trip for others, especially students and children who are invited to participate at no charge. In this way, you can be involved and demonstrate your support for this peaceful witness for life. To register, make a donation or get more information about the trip, see the March for Life registration webpage accessible from the parish website or contact Maurita Buhsmer at jbuhsmer1@verizon.net.

Saint Monica Parish invites you to explore a new and personalized spiritual world for yourself!

(Continued from Page 3)

CALLED AND GIFTED II (C & G II)

If you are likely to say, "I feel close to Christ and depend on Him daily for guidance and support, but I need encouragement to take personal responsibility for your spiritual growth" ... then **Called and Gifted II** is for you! The session is expected to be 3 hours in length. A continental breakfast will be served.

Date: Saturday, March 19th

Location: Parish Center **Time:** 9:15-Noon

Registration is required by January 4th

Cost:

\$10 if you attended **C & G I** and completed *The Spiritual Gifts Inventory*;

\$35 if you did not attend **C & G II**;

Participants must complete *Gifts Inventory* in advance.

Questions? Please contact Aagee Lane at 610-908-7007 or aageeclane@gmail.com.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE for December 20

DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Monday		NO ADORATION	
Tuesday	6:00-7:30 pm	RCIA	Youth Room
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday		Merry Christmas!	
Saturday	4:00-4:45 pm	Confession	Church

THE CHURCH of SAINT MONICA

WWW.SAINTMONICACHURCH.ORG

SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook
The Church of Saint Monica, Berwyn



Twitter
@StMonicaBerwyn



Instagram
@StMonicaBerwyn

FATHER ZLOCK



Website
Frzlock.com



Facebook
Fr. Charlie Zlock



Twitter
@FrZlock

FAMILY & YOUTH MINISTRY

Edge: Middle School Youth Group
Lifeteen: High School Youth Group



Facebook
CSMEge
CSMLifeteen



Twitter
@CSMEge
@CSMLifeteen



Instagram
@CSMEge
@CSMLifeteen

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

The Saint Monica Parish Bulletin is published weekly and is available both on the parish website and distributed to the assembly after Sunday Worship.

Submissions are due each Monday by noon and should be e-mailed to parishbulletin@saintmonicachurch.org with formatting left to a minimum.

Please include a contact name and phone number with your submission. In the case where announcements must be submitted handwritten, please make sure the text is legible.

BULLETIN INSERTS

All inserts must be submitted to the Rectory Office for approval a minimum of **two weeks** before you would like it to appear.

MASS INTENTIONS for December 20 — December 27

MASS TIME	INTENTION	PRESIDER	MUSIC MINISTRY	NOTES
5:00 pm Vigil	+ Michael J. Doyle, Sr.	Fr. Zlock	Cantor	
7:30 am	+ Louis DeLuca	Fr. Zlock	Quiet	
9:30 am	People of the Parish	Fr. Avicolti	Parish Choir	
11:30 am	Thomas More O'Malley	Fr. Avicolti	Cantor	
Monday, 21st	+ Larry Harris	Fr. Zlock		
Tuesday, 22nd	Rocks Family			
Wednesday, 23rd	Communion Service			
Thursday, 24th	4:00 - People of the Parish 6:00 - People of the Parish 8:00 - People of the Parish	Fr. Zlock Fr. Fitzgerald Fr. Zlock		
Friday, 25th	7:30 - People of the Parish 9:30 - People of the Parish 11:30 - People of the Parish	Fr. Avicolti Fr. Zlock Fr. Fitzgerald		
Saturday, 26th	+ Richard Dressler	Fr. Zlock		
5:00 pm Vigil	+ Peg McGee	Fr. Zlock	Cantor	<i>Special Collection: Saint Monica Saint Vincent DePaul Fund</i>
7:30 am	The Fusco Family	Fr. Serano	Quiet	
9:30 am	+ Helen Piergiovanni	Fr. Fitzgerald	Parish Choir	
11:30 am	+ Larry Norton	Fr. Zlock	Cantor	

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Sonia Altirman, Margaret Annechini, Jack Barausky, Mary Alice Boyd, Michael Byrne, Mary Byrnes, John Canfield, Lina Cappelli, Lilly Ciocca, William Dahlman, Jim DiAntonio, Rita Dunn, Joseph Erwin, CJ Fazzini, Yolanda Fazzini, Scott Forbes, Bernadette Giodorna, Kelly Glacken, Mary Hartley, Jenna, Maya and Eva Izzi, Eleonora Jauslin, Faith Johnson, Libby Judge, Anne Maas, Dan Maguire, Louise Merlino, David Mikowychok, Melanie Mizenko, Dr. Mark Nardone, John and Lilly Neff, Josephine Pogorzelski, Rita Reilly, Mary Rose, Cathy Russell, Bob Schubert, Gary Smith, Helen Triolo, Bob and Mildred Walsh

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may Your perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

H.O.P.E. — HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCIES

Leader for this week: Sandie Concannon at 610-647-1068

PARISH LEADERSHIP

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sandra Concannon
Dr. Margaret Dalesandro
Palmer Dalesandro

Maureen Friedrich
Levi Keene
Tobias Hoppe, *chair*

Martha McGurk
Dr. Anthony Roeder
Brendan Powell, Jr.

FINANCE COUNCIL

Michael Brown
Brian McGaughan
Gerald O'Brien

Giulio Perillo
Matt Tomasicchio, *chair*
Michael Vadner

Lawrence Wieser
Henry Yordan

PARISH PASTORAL STAFF

Reverend Charles Zlock, M.Div., M.A., M.B.I.S., Pastor

Reverend Jaehwa J. Lee, Priest-in-Residence

Reverend Allan Fitzgerald, O.S.A., Ph.D., Pastoral Assistance

The Norbertines of Daylesford Abbey, Pastoral Assistance

Mary C. Pizzano, Director of Religious Education

Frank K.J. Orman, Director of Worship & Music

Jason Carter, Director of Family & Youth Ministry

Theresa Carey, Business Manager

Catherine H. Levine, Parish Administrative Assistant

Diane Kirsch Pealer, Religious Education Assistant

Elizabeth P. Tenaglio, Cemetery Administration

Frank Pantano, Facilities Manager