



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.

11:30 a.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.

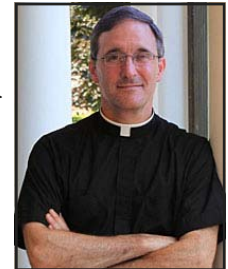


Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Before I get to my spiritual reflection on prayer below, allow me to offer an update on the Capital Campaign first. I want to make sure to keep all interested parishioners updated concerning the results of the **Capital Campaign** and the progress of the **Master Plan**. I shall be doing this using the **Saint Monica "FlockNote" feature**. If you are interested, take out your smartphone; **text "Monica1897" to 84576**. After about 30 seconds, you will receive a message where you can click on a link to register with FlockNote and then join the various Saint Monica Flocknote groups. Follow the directions to join "Capital Campaign/Master Plan." I shall be updating all interested parishioners under this on a regular basis.



Last week I introduced Jerome Kropp's "The Top Ten Excuses Not To Pray." It could be found in the March 2015 issue of *Liguorian Magazine*. We began by looking at reasons 10 through 7. Today let's look at the next three.

#6 – God already knows what's in my heart. He doesn't need me to tell Him. Well, yeah God's pretty smart and possesses all of that omniscience, omnipotence and omnipresence (all knowing, all powerful and all present). But that's not the point. Are you sure that *you know* what's truly in your heart? How do you determine that? We live in a fallen world. We have been compromised, scarred, scared, injured. An honest look at ourselves would determine that we are not always clear about our own intentions and motivations. Honestly looking into our own hidden agendas can be a difficult and painful process. That should drive us to prayer. This kind of prayer heals us of past injuries, purifies our intentions, points us in the direction of our purpose, mission and destiny and helps us to become that person that God intended us to be.

#5 – I'm rarely in the right mood or frame of mind to pray. While there might be a benefit to being in the "right frame of mind, if you always wait for that moment, you might *never* pray. If we reached out, took care of – and loved people *(Continued on Page 4)*



OUR PARISH PRAYER INTENTION for THIS WEEK

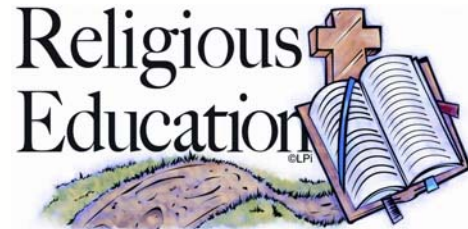
The Year of Mercy is about drawing our parish community into an encounter with the Mercy of God, so that we lead ourselves and all the faithful into a fuller understanding and celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

As we begin this Year of Mercy, let us remember that the Church is a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven. 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.

FROM *the* OFFICE of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Religious Education Program is in session on December 6-7.

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

PRESENTING

CONNECT

A SERIES ON PRAYER



Saint Monica **LIFE TEEN**
Leading Teens Closer to Christ
7-9pm

Saint Monica **EDGE**
Catholic Middle School Ministry
4-5:30

This Sunday

FROM *the* OFFICE of WORSHIP *and* MUSIC

A SERVICE of LESSONS & CAROLS *for* ADVENT

Sunday, 13 December at 3 p.m.
with the Saint Monica Parish Choir

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Advent and Christmas. The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve.





On December 8th, Catholics all over the world will begin to celebrate the *Holy Year of Mercy*. Seeing the great need for mercy and healing in the world, Pope Francis called for the *Year of Mercy* — a special period, also known as a *Holy Year* or *Jubilee Year*, for the Catholic Church. It is a time for the Church across the world to take approximately a year to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way.

Pope Francis has asked us as individuals and as a Church “to be a witness of mercy” by reflecting on and practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. (*Pope Francis’ Announcement of the Year of Mercy*) Beginning December 8, 2015, the *Holy Year of Mercy* will focus on studying and reflecting on mercy, receiving mercy, and being merciful towards others. The Church of Saint Monica will offer opportunities to “Live the Holy Year of Mercy”. We invite you to join us in our partnership with the Legacy of Life Foundation and others. See Saint Monica’s website for more details on these opportunities at www.saintmonicachurch.org/home/holy-year-of-mercy

- Adopt a Family, spiritually and / or financially
- Participate in our Diaper and Formula Drive in February, 2016
- Prepare a “Celebration Supper for Moms” in March, 2016
- Assist in a renovation of a Bristol, Pennsylvania Women’s Center in late Spring, 2016
- Hear a moving “Witness Talk” in January, 2016
- Learn about a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat held at the Immaculata Spirituality Center:
March 11-12-13, 2016 and October 7-8-9, 2016
- Take part in the March for Life in Washington: Friday, January 22

For more information, please contact Maurita Buhmer at jbuhsmer1@verizon.net

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

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Sunday Collection	\$8,099
Electronic	\$3,677
Total	\$11,776

We have 167 families contributing electronically.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Sunday, November 29, 2015

Sunday Collection	\$7,855
Electronic	\$6,430
Total	\$14,285

We have 167 families contributing electronically.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a special collection this weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious. 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)

only when “we felt like it,” our lives would be impoverished and we would become selfish and small people. If you are in a good frame of mind, halleluiah! Thank the Lord for that. If not, pray anyway! The only clear mind is one that is conscious that he/she needs God right now, regardless of the mood.

#4 – I don't pray because I have way too many distractions that take me away from prayer. – A favorite, especially for busy parents with kids involved. Then again, do you know *anyone* who isn't active and busy? A large part of prayer is not calendar but choice. Many things in life distract us: vanity, the esteem of others, money, power, pleasure. These are the things that might better be termed *temptations* rather than *distractions*. So let's try that excuse again, “I don't pray because I have way too many *temptations* that take me away from prayer.” Really? One of the best ways to fight temptations is prayer. Say to God, “Lord, help me overcome my distractions and my temptations.” This isn't saying that the temptations and distractions are not present. They'll be back. But you'll be back fighting them again, with God – in prayer.

Next week we close with the TOP three reasons people mention why they don't pray.

Charles Flock Jr

SACRAMENT SPOTLIGHT



The parents of First Penance/First Communion and Confirmation candidates are reminded to return the envelope containing the completed sacrament documents by the designated due date. The First Communion packet is due this week, on or before December 7. The Confirmation packet is due on or before December 14. Thank you for your timely submission of the packets.

YOUNG ADULTS: *Come learn about Mary*

If you're a Catholic adult in your 20s or 30s, we want to meet you! Catholic Young Adults of Chester County (CYACC - pronounced “kayak”) exists to offer you social, spiritual, and service opportunities. Join us for an Advent

reflection focusing on Mary this Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 7:30 PM at Saints Peter and Paul in West Chester! Check us out on Facebook, at www.cyacc.org, or email us at cyacc1@gmail.com for more information.

Saint Monica Parish Christmas Cards are for sale at the Rectory! Stop by — there are five beautiful versions available in limited quantities!

Preparing for Christmas

Confession Times

Monday, December 7 - 6:15 to 7:15 pm
Saturday, December 19 - 3:45 to 4:45 pm

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

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Due to the Bulletin Publisher's printing schedule, the following deadlines are in effect through the holidays:

- December 20 Bulletin submissions due Tuesday, December 8 by 12 noon
- December 27 Bulletin submissions due Monday, December 14 by 12 noon
- January 3 Bulletin submissions due Thursday, December 17 by 12 noon

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

THE GIVING TREE



Our parish's annual Advent service activity, *The Giving Tree*, has begun! *The Giving Tree* tags are hung on the Christmas trees displayed in the Gathering Room of church. Please choose one tag or more and purchase the gift or gift card noted on the tag. All gifts and gift cards will be donated to the

following 4 agencies who are assisting the needy living in the Philadelphia area: *T/E Cares, The Sisters of Saint Joseph Welcome Center, Saint Agnes Day Room in West Chester, and Montgomery County Family Services*. Please bring your donation to the Gathering Room of the church by the date noted on the tags. Please note:

Most gifts are due on December 13, but some are due sooner. Gift cards should be placed into envelopes and placed into the boxes located near the trees. **PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS.** Thank you for bringing Christ's light to those in need!

TRIP REGISTRATION OPEN

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 Buhmer at jbuhmer1@verizon.net.

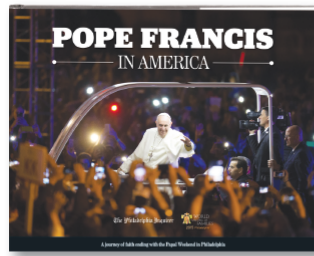


WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Women of the Parish you are invited to *Advent by Candlelight* hosted by the women of *Walking with Purpose, Thursday, December 17, 7:00-9:30PM* in the Education Center Cafeteria. **Featuring: Guest Speaker Kathleen McCarthy** is a published author, Catholic radio broadcaster and has been a Catholic lay evangelist for almost 40 years. Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. Light refreshments will be served. \$10.00/person. **RSVP to Maureen at 610-644-7794 or mfmulhall@aol.com.**

ORDER YOUR OFFICIAL KEEPSAKE TODAY

**YOU WILL SAVE \$10
YOUR PARISH RECEIVES A \$10 DONATION PER ORDER**



PARISH
DISCOUNT
\$29.95
Retail: \$39.95



- The official coffee-table book of Pope Francis' historic visit
- Exclusively from The Inquirer and World Meeting of Families
- Washington, D.C., NYC, Philadelphia and Cuba coverage
- 144 pages of faith and history to cherish for a lifetime

For every book you and your fellow parishioners order, \$10 will be donated to your parish.

2015POPEBOOK.COM

USE PARISH
CODE: **STMONICA1**

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE for December 6

DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sunday	7:00-9:00 pm	Women's Society	Cafeteria
Monday	9:00am-4:30pm	Adoration	Church
Tuesday	8:30 am	Feast of Immaculate	Church
	12:00 Noon	Conception Masses	
	6:00-7:30 pm	RCIA	Youth Room
Wednesday	6:00-8:00 pm	Youth Bible Study	Youth Room
	7:00-9:00 pm	Parish Choir Rehearsal	Church
Thursday	7:00-9:00 pm	WWP Connect Coffee	Cafeteria
Friday	9:15-10:30 am	Legion of Mary	Rectory
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
Lifteen: High School Youth Group



Facebook
CSMEdge
CSMLifteen



Twitter
@CSMEdge
@CSMLifteen



Instagram
@CSMEdge
@CSMLifteen

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 6 — December 13

MASS TIME	INTENTION	PRESIDER	MUSIC MINISTRY	NOTES
5:00 pm Vigil	People of the Parish	Fr. Zlock	Cantor	<i>Special Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious</i>
7:30 am	+ Robert Reimer	Fr. Zlock	Quiet	
9:30 am	+ Anthony Morelli	Fr. Fitzgerald	Parish Choir	
11:30 am	+ Diane McKniff	Fr. Fitzgerald	Cantor	
Monday, 7th	+ Stewart Hatting	Fr. Zlock		
Tuesday, 8th	8:30 am + Nicholas Fazzini 12:00 Noon + Charles DiCola	Fr. Zlock Fr. Zlock		
Wednesday, 9th	Communion Service			
Thursday, 10th	+ Harry Parker	Fr. Jaehwa		
Friday, 11th	+ Pamela Winning	Fr. Zlock		
Saturday, 12th	+ Richard Dressler	Fr. Zlock		
5:00 pm Vigil	+ George J. Muller	Fr. Driesch	Cantor	
7:30 am	People of the Parish	Fr. Fitzgerald	Quiet	
9:30 am	+ Antonette Venetzia	Fr. Zlock	Parish Choir	
11:30 am	Howard Schultz	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: Ginny McCarty at 610-644-5815

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*