



# Church of St Monica

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*INCORPORATING THE PARISHES OF ST MONICA, ST STEPHEN OF HUNGARY AND  
ST ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY*

## 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

### 'TIS THE GIFT TO BE SIMPLE"

The Shaker hymn describes a circular journey from innocence to innocence with characteristic brevity:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free.

'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be.

This journey is easier sung about than done. It takes humility and time to recover a second innocence. Titles, positions of honor, money, and power are not requirements of the kingdom of God. Jesus says and demonstrates in today's Gospel that members of God's kingdom must hold in their embrace the most inconsequential of persons, for that person is identified with Jesus. This attitude ran counter to the intuition of the world of Jesus' time, as it does in ours.

The simplicity set forth by Jesus requires the shedding of unnecessary, unimportant, false, and burdensome attachments that earthly power demands. Membership in the Kingdom is light enough to put a song in our heart.

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#### PASTOR:

Rev. Donald C. Baker

#### ASSOCIATES:

Rev. Joe A. Francis

Rev. Joseph (Vincent) Gnarackatt

#### IN SUNDAY SERVICE:

Rev. Richard Arold

#### ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Mr. David Schaefer

#### CANTOR & LEADER OF SONG:

Mr. Joseph Neal

#### BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES:

By Appointment only.

Please contact a member of the parish staff well in advance.

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

5:00 PM on Saturdays

Anytime by appointment

#### COMMUNION FOR THE

#### HOMEBOUND:

Anyone who cannot attend church because of illness or age, please contact the parish office, so that arrangements can be made to bring communion to you.

#### MASSES

**Sundays:** 7:30 AM; 9:00 AM; 10:30 AM &  
12 NOON (Principal Liturgy & Choir)      **Saturday Vigil:** 5:30 PM  
**Weekdays:** 7:30 AM & 12 NOON      **Saturdays:** 12 NOON  
**St Stephen of Hungary:** Sundays 11:30 AM ( until further notice)

SEPTEMBER 20TH,, 2015

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Feast of St Monica will be celebrated by our parish on Sunday, September 27th at 12 Noon.

### NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9 AM to 5 PM  
Tuesday 9 AM to 7 PM  
Wednesday 9 AM to 7PM  
Thursday 9 AM to 7 PM  
Friday 9 AM to 2 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM to 2 PM

The Rectory Office is closed on Sundays

Rectory Office will be closed for lunch daily from 1 PM to 2 PM

### SPECIAL DEVOTIONS

**Rosary**  
Weekdays after the 7:30 AM and Noon Masses and on Saturday after the 12:00 Noon mass

**Holy Hour**  
First Friday of each month after the Noon Mass

**Devotions**  
Miraculous Medal on Mondays after each Mass  
**Divine Mercy**  
The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed each weekday afternoon at 3 PM

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The wicked say: With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test (Wisdom 2:12, 17-20).

**Psalm** — The Lord upholds my life (Psalm 54).

**Second Reading** — The wisdom from above is full of mercy and good fruits (James 3:16 — 4:3).

**Gospel** — Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me (Mark 9:30-37).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
- Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21
- Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-Lk 9:1-6
- Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9
- Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22
- Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45
- Sunday: Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19:8, 10, 12-14; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

- Sunday: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
- Monday: St. Matthew
- Tuesday: World Meeting of Families begins; Yom Kippur (Jewish day of a tonement) begins at sunset; Eid al Adha (Islamic observance) begins at sunset
- Wednesday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio); Autumn begins
- Saturday: Ss. Cosmas and Damian;



**Banns of Marriage**

**III. William Lawlor  
Lindsay Nicolai**

**SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 19): VIGIL**  
5:30 PM Heidi McGrew

**SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 20): 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
7:30 AM William Keating  
9:00 AM Francis Marzek  
10:30 AM Helen & John Flack & Family  
12 NOON Parishoners of St Monica, St Stephen of Hungary and St, Elizabeth of Hungary

**MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 21): St Matthew**  
7:30 A M Garrett Dillon  
12 NOON Pete Baros

**TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 22): WEEKDAY**  
7:30 AM The Frazetta Family  
12 NOON Andrew DiCarlo

**WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 23): Saint Pius of Pietrelcina  
Padre Pio**

7:30 AM Barney Levantino  
12 NOON Msgr Anthony Frontiero (Living)

**THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 24): WEEKDAY**  
7:30 AM Carlo Celosia  
12 NOON Jimmy Migliore

**FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 25): WEEKDAY**  
7:30 AM Robert Donohue  
12 NOON Anthony & Carmela Mallia

**SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 26) WEEKDAY**  
12 NOON Phyllis Zuzzo

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Leon Ferrier, Caroline Ferrier, Kathleen Reddington, Eileen McCarthy and those wounded in Military Action

**PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED**

*"I've gone to prepare a place for you."*

Please pray for our deceased parishioners and friends.

*If you wish to add the names of your loved one to the prayer list, please notify the rectory: (212) 288-6250. or e-mail us at [contac@stmonicanyc.org](mailto:contac@stmonicanyc.org)*

**Remember your loved ones by dedicating, in their honor, the weekly Bread & Wine, or Sanctuary Light**

## TODAY'S HYMNS

*25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)*

***Welcome to St. Monica's!***

*The music for today's Eucharist can  
be found  
in our hymnal on the following pages:*

**Entrance Hymn** 374

*Here I Am Lord*

**Penitential Rite** \*

**Gloria** \*

**Responsorial Psalm** 651

*The Lord upholds my life*

**Gospel Acclamation** 168

**Offertory Hymn** 359

*Blest Are They*

**Sanctus** \*

**Memorial Acclamation** \*

**Great Amen** \*

**The Lord's Prayer** 120

**Lamb of God** \*

**Communion Hymn** 437

*Taste and See*

**Recessional Hymn** 375

*The Summons*

*from the Mass For A New Era;  
for texts, see pew card*

***Today's Readings can be found  
on Page 651 of the Hymnal***

# Just a word

*From Your Pastor*

. . . I guess sooner or later, every pastor has to eat his words. At the very beginning, I said quite frequently, that I did not want to change things too quickly. I still maintain that as a useful pastoral plan! Even though, more and more I seem to be honoring it in the breach. Why do I say this? Here are three reasons.

### **Parish Council**

While it is not required, I have always believed that an active parish council is a pastor's right arm. They are the dreamers, the organizers, the ones who plan for where the parish should be in five years, and then set about making it happen. I have been assembling a group of people who will form the core of a nascent Parish Council. For a time it will function by appointment, but eventually I hope we can even have elections to it. The parish Council will hold an organizational meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm at St. Monica's.

### **Finance Committee**

This IS required by Canon law. The Finance Committee signs off on the parish budget (yes, we do have one) and advises the pastor in all things financial. The Finance Committee will hold its first meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at St. Monica's. It goes without saying that these committees will be made up of members of all three of the merging parishes— or at very least people from all three parishes have been invited.

### **Ministry Day**

Another aspect of the merging parishes that needs to be addressed is liturgical ministry. There are people at St. Stephen's, St. Elizabeth's and St. Monica's who serve as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes/Altar Servers. We have to incorporate the ministers from St. Elizabeth's and St. Stephen's into the worship life of St. Monica's. We need to come to know one another, pray with one another and learn to serve together. And of course everyone will need a refresher course in their ministries so we are all on the same page at worship. We will have a Ministry Day at St. Monica's on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 3pm. ALL Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Server/Acolytes are asked to attend. Please RSVP at [FRDCAB@stmonicanyc.org](mailto:FRDCAB@stmonicanyc.org). Let me know your name, and what ministries your serve at, and in which parish you have been serving.

Pretty much all the ministers are adults – right now. But in a few months I hope we will have young people as altar servers and lectors. Just let me get the adults settled first.

I hope by the end of the year to have a parish council, a finance committee, and a fully integrated cadre of ministers, serving here at St. Monica's. There is definitely more to come. I let you know more about that next time.

**-Fr Baker**

## Invitations, News, Thoughts and Prayers

# The Blessing of the Animals

The Church of St Monica will be honoring the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on Sunday, October 4th at 2:00 PM with a Blessing of the Animals celebration. We invite all parishioners, friends, and neighbors, along with your favorite pets to join us as we gather outside the Church steps, and offer special blessings for some very special creatures of God

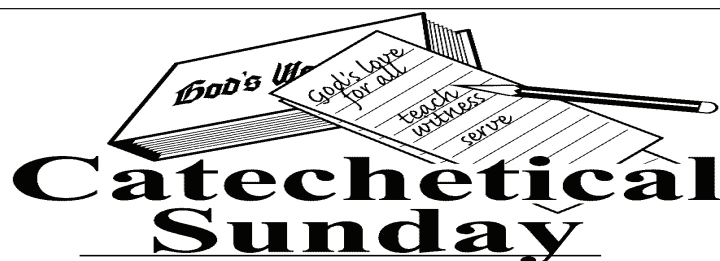


on

This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

All animals are welcome

Once again we'd like to remind you to visit our new and improved website at [www.stmonicanyc.org](http://www.stmonicanyc.org) for the latest pictures, information and updates about our parish



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## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Toward the end of the second century, a churchman in North Africa, Tertullian, described an early form of penance. Imagine if it had survived! There were three steps to this very public ritual. The unfortunate sinner was brought before the community in an itchy garment of goat's hair. The communities of the day were small and intimate, and everyone knew everyone else. The shame of exposure for a big sin—murder, idolatry, or adultery—would have been profound. The penitent would beg the community for prayers of intercession, and then go sit in a place assigned to penitents. After this public confession, the penitent would be assigned some discipline, usually a relatively severe fast, or the wearing of distinctive garb. This remedy for sin was for a certain period of time, or at least until the bishop (every small community has its own bishop) judged that enough was enough. Then the person would be readmitted to the eucharistic community, although Tertullian doesn't tell us how. Probably the bishop tenderly placed his hands on their heads, precisely where they were anointed at baptism. We do know that the readmission of penitents to the eucharistic table became in some churches a great celebration, and there are records from Spain of bishops leading penitents in a dance-like processional into the eucharistic hall on Holy Thursday.

MASS BOOK  
FOR 2016 IS NOW OPEN

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR CHURCH?

As we go forward with implementing the mergers of the parishes of St Monica, St Stephen of Hungary, and St Elizabeth of Hungary, we are continuing to look for volunteers to help us with various ministries in our parish. Right now we need volunteers to the following categories:

**Acolytes:** They prepare the altar and sacred vessels, and serve at the altar (Weekdays and Sundays)

**Eucharistic Minister:** They assist the parish and the priest at Mass distributing communion and sharing cups (Weekdays and Sundays).

**Ushers & Greeters:** These are our parish ambassadors who welcome all who enter our parish. They assist at Masses on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, and on special Feast Days.

**We will be having a Ministry Day at St. Monica's on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 3pm.**

If you wish to participate in any of the above ministries please call the church office (212-288-6250) for more information.



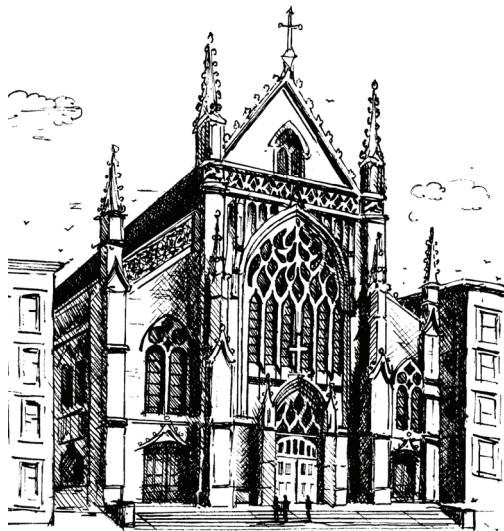


## CONGRATULATIONS!

WE'D LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO CONGRATULATE THE 18 LUCKY  
INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE SELECTED TO  
SEE POPE FRANCIS AT  
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN ON FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 25TH

Claude Foster  
Darlene Barry  
Reiko Takikawa  
Katherine O'Donnell  
Leo Clemente  
Donna Austi  
Luis Villarreal  
Wanda Nowak  
Rita Marra

Stephen Bajada  
Ahmed A. Abella  
Katy Shoukry  
Fernando A Villarreal  
Yang (Bernadette) Yoon  
Ana Cealia Fortuny F  
Bob Boyle  
Amy Rosenberg  
Hsien Ping C Pei



## *Reminder,*

Next Sunday, September 27th  
The Parish will be celebrating  
the Feast of St Monica  
At the 12 Noon Mass.  
Please join us to celebrate a  
beautiful day, with Coffee  
and Cake after the Mass