

# Church of Saint Monica Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Saint Stephen of Hungary

413 East 79<sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10075  
**Church Offices and Parish Center:**  
406 East 80<sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10075  
(212) 288-6250 Fax: (212) 570 - 1562

**Third Sunday of Advent-December 16th, 2018**

## Office Hours

*Our Offices are open:*

**Mo. 9am – 5pm**

**Tu.-Th. 9am – 7pm**

**Fri. Closed**

**Sat. 10am -2pm**

**Sun. Closed**

*Our offices close for lunch:*

**1pm – 2pm daily**

*Pastor*

*Associates:*

*Deacon*

*Pastoral Associate:*

*Parish Manager:*

*Music Director*

*Cantor:*

*Wedding Coordinator:*

## Parish Staff

**Rev. Donald C. Baker**

[frdcab@stmonicanyc.org](mailto:frdcab@stmonicanyc.org)

**Rev. Msgr. Leslie J Ivers**

[msgrlivers@stmonicanyc.org](mailto:msgrlivers@stmonicanyc.org)

**Rev. Joslin K. Jose**

[frjoslin@stmonicanyc.org](mailto:frjoslin@stmonicanyc.org)

**Mr. Kevin Byrne**

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**Mr. Joseph Neal**

**Ms. Debbi Burdett**

[DBweddingsnyc@gmail.com](mailto:DBweddingsnyc@gmail.com)

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday: 12:00pm Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm**

**Sunday: 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 5:00pm**

**Monday – Friday: 7:30 & 12:00pm**

**Confessions:**

**Saturday 5:00 – 5:30pm and by appointment**

**Our church is open: 7am – 4pm daily for private prayer**



## St. Stephen of Hungary School

**Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Catholic Parochial School**

408 East 82<sup>nd</sup> St., New York, NY 10028

(212) 288-1989 Fax: (212) 517 – 5788

*Principal:*

**Ms. Kelly Burke**

**[www.saintstephenschool.org](http://www.saintstephenschool.org)**

Interested in admissions to our parish school?

**[admissions@saintstephenschool.org](mailto:admissions@saintstephenschool.org)**

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Roman Catholic Parish of St. Monica, St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Stephen of Hungary opens its doors to welcome and embrace all in our community. We strive through worship, hospitality and service to receive those seeking a spiritual home. In the midst of diversity of thought, life style, nationality, economic status and age, we endeavor to live as a community of faith and invite you to join our family - a family seeking to know and love Jesus Christ.

## TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading -- Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm -- Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

Second Reading -- Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel -- Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).

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

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

## Mass Schedule

<b>SATURDAY</b> 5:30PM	<b>December 15th Vigil</b> Joseph Morrone
<b>SUNDAY</b> 7:30AM 9:00AM 10:30AM 12NOON 5PM	<b>December 16th Third Sunday of Advent</b> Fr. John A. Grace & Bother Kent Florence Eva Palazza Rose Jamgochain All Parishioners Josephine & Carmel Xvereb
<b>MONDAY</b> 7:30AM 12NOON	<b>December 17th Late Advent Weekday</b> Matthew Anderson Frances Marzek
<b>TUESDAY</b> 7:30AM 12NOON	<b>December 18th Late Advent Weekday</b> Matthew Anderson Werner Hertzal
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 7:30 AM 12NOON	<b>December 19th Late Advent Weekday</b> Matthew Anderson Albany Valderrama
<b>THURSDAY</b> 7:30AM 12NOON	<b>December 20th Late Advent Weekday</b> Marie Greene Thomas & Peter Butitta
<b>FRIDAY</b> 7:30AM 12NOON	<b>December 21st Late Advent Weekday</b> Joseph Doyle & William Rockefeller Thomas Costello
<b>SATURDAY</b> 12NOON	<b>December 22nd Late Advent Weekday</b> Magdalena & Raimund Perz & Family

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Third Sunday of Advent;
Tuesday:	International Migrants Day
Friday:	St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

*If you wish to add the name of a loved one to the prayer list, please notify the parish center:  
(212) 288-6250*



### **K-8 Religious Education**

- **Upcoming dates:**

- ◇ **Religious Education for K-8** meets in the Parish Center, 10:15-11:45, December 16
- ◇ **No Religious Education or Adult Faith Formation or RCIA/Adult Initiation on December 23 or 30** – enjoy your Christmas Break! All sessions resume on Sunday, January 6.

### **Adult Faith Formation – open to all adults!**

- **Sunday Morning Scripture Discussions**, 10:15-11:45am – join us for coffee and conversation every Sunday that Religious Education is in session! No charge, no registration needed. (December 16, then resuming on January 6)
- **Evening Prayer in the Parish Center Chapel each Friday at 5:10pm. All are welcome!** It is a simple prayer service, lasting 15-20 minutes, consisting of psalms, readings, and pauses for quiet prayer. It is a lovely way to end your work week. Please consider joining us!
- **Advent Evening Prayer and Scripture Reflections** – 7-8:30pm in the Parish Center Chapel, December 20. Please join us for either or both of these evenings.
- **Reconciliation Monday** – December 17, 4-8pm – Confessions heard in the church – a great way to prepare for Christmas!

### **Adults who are thinking about becoming Catholic, or**

#### **Catholic adults who have missed First Communion and/or Confirmation**

- contact Maryann Tyrer, Pastoral Associate, to discuss our adult initiation process. You can begin the process any time throughout the year.

**Want to volunteer?** Yes, we need more volunteers, please! Many different opportunities are available, with various time commitments – Contact Maryann to discuss how your gifts might meet our needs.

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## God of Truth

God of truth,  
you help us to see ourselves for who  
we are  
in our selfishness and sinfulness.  
We are stung  
and left to ask,  
“What should we do?”  
Strengthen us to follow your  
Great Commandment:  
to love you, Lord,  
with all our heart, with all our soul,  
with all our mind, and all our strength,  
and our neighbor as ourselves.  
Save us from your judgment  
and instead rejoice over us  
as we rejoice in your great kindness.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 16, 2018  
Rejoice! The Lord is near

*Today's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18.* The people who gather around John the Baptist are both stung by his words and attracted by what he is saying. Their self-interest and avarice have led them to dishonest practices, but now they seem willing to leave those ways behind to welcome the Christ.

John assures them that, although he is not the Christ, another is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The anticipation is building, and we can imagine their excitement as they await his coming.

Excitement is building in the Church as we move through Advent. This Third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete,” a word that means “rejoice.” St. Paul tells us why: “the Lord is near.” We know, as John’s disciples only hoped,

that the Lord has come and lived among us as one of us. That alone is cause for rejoicing. We also know that he died and was raised from the dead, and he shares his risen life with us through the Baptism promised by John. More reason to rejoice! But since God has extravagant love, there is more. Jesus has promised he will return, that there will be new heavens and a new earth, and God will be “all in all.” We wait for that day, the Parousia, rejoicing that the Lord is near.

As you light the rose-colored candle on your Advent wreath this week, recall the day when you were baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. What words and signs help you to know that the Lord was near on that day and continues to be with you? How is your life different because of your Baptism? Are you on fire with love for God?

## SPECIAL DEVOTIONS

After all weekday masses

### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Every Friday after the Noon Mass to 3 PM, with Benediction following the Divine Mercy Chaplet

### **Devotions**

Miraculous Medal on Mondays after each Mass

### **Divine Mercy**

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed each Friday afternoon at 3 PM

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

5:00 PM on Saturdays Anytime by appointment

## **BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES:**

Please call the rectory office for more information.

## **COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND:**

If you know of anyone who cannot attend church because of illness or age, and would like to have communion brought to them, please contact the parish office, so that we can arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to bring communion to them.

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

**Please remember in your prayers**

*CHARLES MASSON,  
WALTER & IRENE BORNHEIMER,  
TOM TERRONE, BRIAN KRAMER,  
HELEN BERNIGHAN & MARYLIN ATKIWSO*

*ALL VICTIMS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY*

## PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

***Please pray for our deceased parishioners  
and family members***

*President George H.W. Bush,  
Jose Rafael Gutierrez,  
Thomas James Elsasser & Blake Murphy*

## Bread & Wine



This Week's Bread & Wine  
In Memory of  
Mr. & Mrs. Oge Bellevue  
  
Offered By Rita Bellevue

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, Gaudete Sunday, is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: Gaudete is Latin for Rejoice! This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy. Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

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## REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



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## SENIOR MINISTRY NEWS



### SENIOR MINISTRY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON SAVE THIS DATE

On Wednesday, **December 19, 2018**,  
The Senior Ministry will host their annual  
Christmas luncheon from 1:00pm-3:00pm at  
the Parish Center following their monthly  
**NOON MASS**

Our next movie date will be Friday,  
January 18, 2019

PLEASE RESPOND TO GLADYS  
IN THE  
PARISH CENTER OFFICE IF  
YOU ARE  
PLANNING TO ATTEND THE  
LUNCHEON. 212-288-6250.

Thank you. The Senior Committee looks  
forward to seeing you at the luncheon



# Just a word

*From your Pastor December 16th, 2018*

## **Sunday mornings in the parish**

What are Sundays like for you? If they are like they were for me before I became a priest, they consist of bagels, coffee, the newspaper, sleeping in and of course, mass. If you have a family, the sleeping-in may not happen, breakfast is built not around coffee and the news but about managing children and getting them ready for Sunday mass. Perhaps Sunday morning means mass gets anticipated on Saturday evening, or pushed to Sunday at 5pm. After all, not just priests work on Sundays.

But the one thing the vast majority of us have in common is that Sunday means *mass*. We come and leave. Most of us would never think of it being otherwise. However, for some of us, mass is just a part of Sunday morning. There are other things going on here. Sometimes people catch a glimpse of them at mass: dismissal of people, a special ritual, people singing between services . . . there is a lot going on here behind the scenes, and I thought you might like to hear a bit more about them.

## **Adult Faith Formation**

We announce every week, that starting at 10:15am a group of people gather in the parish center on East 80<sup>th</sup> St. What is Adult Faith Formation? It begins with the Bible. Our Church has a three-year cycle of Scripture readings assigned for Sundays. On Sundays, we get a cup of coffee from the parish center kitchen and sit and discuss the current Sunday's readings. There is no real need to prepare, and no need to be a Bible scholar. All one needs is a desire to understand the reading more deeply and to connect them to their daily life. People tell me that discussing the readings brings the Scriptures alive, so that when they do hear them at mass, they hear them and the priest's sermon, in a new way.

## **Religious Education**

Running at the same time as Adult Faith Formation is our religious education program for kids. We started this program in 2016, and it has taken a foothold in the parish and grown each year. It does not just prepare children for sacraments but offers religious education in prayer and worship to our children who do not receive such formation in their schools. Maryann Tyrer is the coordinator of this program, but she shepherds a group of catechists (teachers), assistants and other volunteers who watch the door, prepare and serve snacks, and otherwise help her prepare the next generation of Catholics. Walk by the parish center on Sunday and you might catch a glimpse of them coming and going and also using our new chapel.

## **RCIA**

Sometimes at the 12noon mass, you might have seen a group of people being dismissed following the homily. Sometimes, the beginning of mass changes as we welcome a group of people with a special series of blessings. These are glimpses into the process known as the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** or **RCIA**. This process actually takes place weekly, as a group of people meet in the parish center following the 12noon mass. That group is made up of adults who are preparing to be baptized, are completing their first communion and confirmation, or are becoming Catholics after being baptized in another Christian church. Often people who will be their sponsors are present as well. The format in some ways is like Adult Faith Formation. Everything begins with the Sunday scriptures, as we enter into them, and learn our Church's teaching from them. Maryann Tyrer oversees this as well, but she is aided by volunteers, who work as catechists, hospitality people and in other ways accompany these future Catholics.

## **Choir**

Choir rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings, or Wednesday afternoons for the children's choir. But they sing on Sundays. Often if you come to church early before the 12, you will hear them practicing or offering a piece of choral music as a prelude for the mass. Our children's choir sings the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month at the 5:30pm mass. Many new people have joined the choir over the past few months have become another group which meets on Sundays as part of the worship and education opportunities of the parish.

On Sundays close to nine hundred people attend mass at our parish. But of them there are scores of people for whom Sunday is filled with opportunities for education, growth and service. I thought you might like to know this. Because who knows? Maybe you are looking for a way to learn, to grow and serve as well.

Father Baker