

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

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

Second Sunday of Advent– December 9th, 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

Rev. Msgr. Leslie J Ivers

msgrlivers@stmonicanyc.org

Rev. Joslin K. Jose

frjoslin@stmonicanyc.org

Mr. Kevin Byrne

kbyrne@stmonicanyc.org

Ms. Maryann Tyrer

mtyrer@stmonicanyc.org

Mr. Michael Ward

mward@stmonicanyc.org

Mr. John Zupan

jzupan@stmonicanyc.org

Mr. Joseph Neal

Ms. Debbi Burdett

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 8th Grade Catholic Parochial School

408 East 82nd St., New York, NY 10028

(212) 288-1989 Fax: (212) 517 – 5788

Principal:

Ms. Kelly Burke

www.saintstephenschool.org

Interested in admissions to our parish school?

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 -- Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalm -- The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading -- I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel -- The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:1-6).

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: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde,19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY 5:30PM	December 8th Vigil Anita Devaney
SUNDAY 7:30AM 9:00AM 10:30AM 12NOON 5PM	December 9th Second Sunday of Advent Napoleon R. Arpa Anita Finnegan Devaney Anita Devaney All Parishioners James Gerald Barber
MONDAY 7:30AM 12NOON	December 10th Advent Weekday Brian Thompson John Cassis
TUESDAY 7:30AM 12NOON	December 11th Advent Weekday James F. Dana, Sr. Priscilla Morse
WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM 12NOON	December 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe Emil Russo Walter & Mary Ferber
THURSDAY 7:30AM 12NOON	December 13th St. Lucy Christopher Wagner Norma Ester Litrenta (Living)
FRIDAY 7:30AM 12NOON	December 14th St. John of the Cross Patricia Medici Priscilla Morse
SATURDAY 12NOON	December 15th Advent Weekday Erzseget & Laszlo Huszar

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Second Sunday of Advent
Monday:	International Human Rights Day
Tuesday:	St. Damasus I
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Thursday:	St. Lucy
Friday:	St. John of the Cross

*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 9, and 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 9, 16)
- **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 13, and 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Ready to Forgive

Father of mercy,
you give us prophets who call us back
to you
by proclaiming your mercy and
loving kindness.
You give us John the Baptist,
a prophet to bridge the old and
new covenants
with a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.
Give us strength in our weak moments,
lift us up when we fall,
and always reassure us
that you are ready to forgive
every time we leave behind what
separates us from you,
and turn back to you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 9, 2018
The Salvation of our God

Today's Readings: Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6. While kings and priests go about their important work, something is happening in the desert. "The word of God" comes to John, whose birth was surrounded by such marvelous events that people had asked, "What, then, will this child be?" (Luke 1:66). John, the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, is "a voice . . . crying out in the desert." He has an urgent message for the people of his time: to prepare the way of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord comes to us, too, when we take a rest from our work and withdraw to a place of silence. Try to spend ten minutes a day this week in silence, opening your heart to Jesus, making straight his paths by removing resent-

ment, bitterness, vengeful thoughts, anger, greed, envy, and anything else that might block his path. His great desire is to enter our hearts with the healing that he alone can bring.

With the path cleared, Jesus will amaze us with what he can do. He will lower mountains and hills in our life that had seemed insurmountable, straighten winding roads that seem to be leading nowhere, and smooth rough ways that are difficult to navigate.

As the love of Christ makes a home in our heart, it will begin to overflow to every person and situation in our life. We will be ready to celebrate Christmas with joy, knowing that it is but a foretaste of the joy we will know when Christ returns "and all flesh shall see the salvation of 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*

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 Intentions for Nora Murray

Offered By Kitty O'Donoghue

Sanctuary Lamp



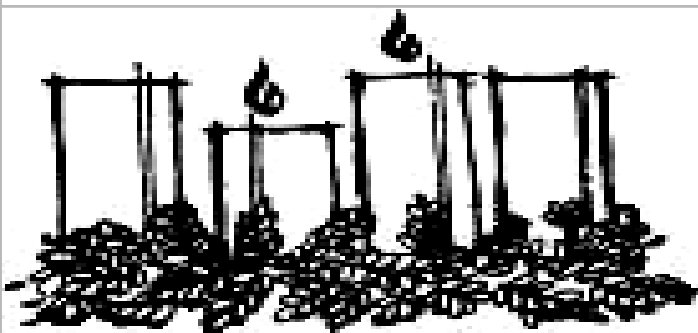
This Weeks' Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of Judit Csiki

Offered by Atilio Leonardi

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

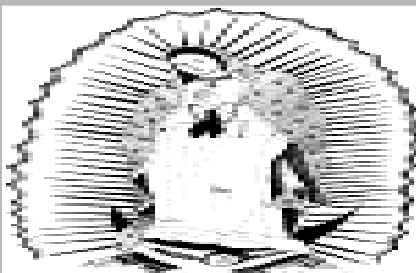
Look around most Catholic churches, and you will discover an image of John the Baptist, often in the old baptistry, or in a window near where the font is or was located. He has two feast days in the calendar: one commemorating his birth, and the other his death. There are only three nativities in our calendar: for Jesus, for Mary, and for the Baptist. John's birthday is reckoned according to the schedule given in Luke's Gospel of the angels announcement to Mary. The angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is in the sixth month of pregnancy, and so Mary hastens to help her. Reckoning Christmas as December 25, we count backwards nine months to March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation. Then we count forward three months to June 24 for John the Baptist's birth. Half-way to Christmas, his nativity gives ample reason for rejoicing in the summer, and his symbols of fire and water are used playfully in bonfires and dives into the sea. Even at the polar opposite of Christmas in the calendar, the energy of Christ's birth in the Incarnation provides cause for rejoicing.

--James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co



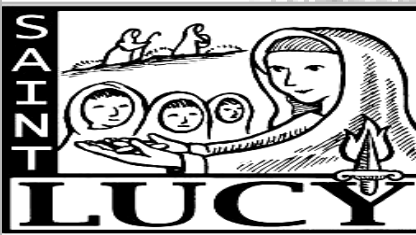
© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Saints of the Week



Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12th



St. Lucy

December 13th

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Cocktail Party & Silent Auction

On December 15, 2018, the parish is hosting its annual Christmas Cocktail Party & Silent Auction, from 5:30-7:30.

Tickets to this event cost \$100 and are currently available in the parish office (limit of 75 available). The ticket gets you access to a two-hour cocktail party where you can be on various goods and services.

The ticket also includes a VIP Seat to the Annual Christmas Concert that night at 8pm in the church.

For more information please contact the parish office.



ST. MONICA'S GIRL SCOUT

It's time to order your Girl Scout Cookies!

This year, your Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts, will be

PRE-SELLING Girl Scout Cookies after the 9am-12pm masses on December 16th.

The Troop accepts cash, check and Venmo. Cookies are \$5 and Gluten Free.

Cookies are \$6.

Don't miss out on those Thin Mints!

Put your order in early! Delivery will be mid-March.

As always, we thank you for supporting us.

Barbara, Christina, Amber, Chloe, Kiera, Kit, Marilyn, Mercedes and Molly

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



THANKSGIVING DINNER

On Thanksgiving Day, the parish held the annual community dinner, and served 220 diners a meal in the school auditorium. An additional 70 meals were distributed to our neighbors that could not attend. This event cannot happen without the generosity of our parishioners, friends and neighbors. We thank each and everyone of you for your contributions, including:

Fairway Market, Ottomanelli Brothers, Big Johns Moving Company, Community Emergency Relief Team (CERT), Eva's Garden Shop, Gracie Mews Diner, Le Pain Quotidien, East 82 Street Green Market, Three Star Diner, Two Little Red Hens, Orwasher's Bakery, Glaser's, The Students of St. Vincent Ferrer High School, The Students of St. Stephen of Hungary School.

Just a word

From your Pastor December 9th, 2018

Thank you, Joe Neal

Approximately 30 years ago, somewhere around the pastorate of Father Jack O'Leary, St. Monica got a new cantor. The child of protestant missionaries, Joe Neal was raised in Jamaica. He came to the parish after a varied and successful career. His conversion to the Catholic Church has a deeply personal experience, and his deep faith led him to see the music ministry here on E 79th Street as a calling. Moved by the Spirit he has shared that Spirit with us using his voice as an instrument. Joe's baritone voice and prayerful singing has inspired generations of parishioners.

However, time passes. Joe's decision to retire was difficult. New York and this parish have been his home for so long. But as he wrote to me, "I have been given a wonderful opportunity to create a whole new chapter at this stage." He continued, "I rejected it, until one day I realized, Lord, this is what you want me to do. And thus, I have peace with my decision."

This weekend is Joe Neal's last day with us. Following the 12noon mass we will have a reception in the back of the church, so we can have an opportunity to say good bye.

When I asked him if had anything to say to the people of the parish, he concluded, "I leave feeling such love and gratitude to this Community for allowing me to serve, through song, and I humbly pray that, once in a while, words that I sang, might have touched some hearts from time to time. "

You have, Joe. Many times. Thank you for your years of service to our parish.

Advent Offerings

Even as we say good bye to Joe as he ends his time with us, it is important to remember that there is still so much beginning. This is the first year we have really been able to "flex our wings" and try to offer events and opportunities for our parishioners to connect, deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and its connection to daily life, and to grow spiritually. So, remember:

December 12 at 7:00pm – In the main church – Holy Hour for Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 15 at 8:00pm – in the main church – Annual Christmas Concert

Advent Thursdays from 7:00-8:30pm – in the parish center chapel – Scripture reflection and discussion, followed by night prayer

Advent Saturdays 5:00pm – in the main church – Sung Evening Prayer (Vespers)

Every Friday throughout the year 5:10pm – In the parish center chapel – Evening Prayer (Vespers)

Every Sunday Morning 10:15am – in the parish center (Angelo Room) – Scripture reflection and discussion.

Father Baker