

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

First Sunday of Advent-December 2nd, 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

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Mr. Kevin Byrne

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Ms. Maryann Tyrer

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Mr. Michael Ward

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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 -- The days are coming when the LORD will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 33:14-16).

Psalm -- To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).
Second Reading -- Abound in love for one another and for all (1 Thessalonians 3:12 -- 4:2).

Gospel -- Stand erect and raise your heads; your redemption is at hand (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36).

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 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY 5:30PM	December 1st Vigil Brian Thompson
SUNDAY 7:30AM 9:00AM 10:30AM 12NOON 5PM	December 2nd First Sunday of Advent Matthew Young ho Hwang Edward Ford James Bausano All Parishioners Thanksgiving to St. Agata
MONDAY 7:30AM 12NOON	December 3rd St. Francis Xavier Nadire Saiti (Living) Mort Shepetin
TUESDAY 7:30AM 12NOON	December 4th Advent Weekday Carla Betiana Litrenta (Living) Anita Devaney
WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM 12NOON	December 5th Advent Weekday Frances & Brendan Cryan Adam Armetta
THURSDAY 7:30AM 12NOON	December 6th Advent Weekday Vincent & Natalie Dana Dr. James F. Dana, Jr. & Children
FRIDAY 7:30AM 12NOON 5:30PM	December 7th St. Ambrose Maryjane Russo Robert DeCola William O'Connor
SATURDAY 12NOON	December 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Guillermina Vega

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	First Sunday of Advent
Monday:	St. Francis Xavier
Tuesday:	St. John Damascene
Thursday:	St. Nicholas
Friday:	St. Ambrose; First Friday
Saturday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*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 2, 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 2, 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, November 29, December 6, 13, and 20. Please join us for any or all of these evenings.
Sounds of Silence Quiet Retreat Day – Saturday, December 8, 9-3pm in the Parish Center. No charge, but please bring your own lunch. RSVP to the parish office, please!
- **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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



God's Justice

God of justice,
you surprise us with your choices
of the smallest nation to bless the world,
a shepherd boy to be their king,
and a baby born in a stable to be the
King of Kings.

Give us a heart like yours
that loves the least among us
and values them as the greatest.
Teach us your justice
that will always forgive
and bring forth life from death.
We make our prayer through Jesus,
the long-awaited Messiah,
the fulfillment of the promise from
all ages. Amen.

Sunday, December 2, 2018
A Season of Waiting

Today's Readings: Jeremiah 33:14–16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2; Luke 21:25–28, 34–36. Many good things require waiting and planning: a wedding celebration, the birth or adoption of a baby, running a marathon. For such events, we enter into a mode in which much attention is focused on the preparation, even while the obligations of our daily life continue.

This kind of preparation is needed to have a good Advent. It may be hard to imagine even more preparation when already there are presents to be bought and wrapped, a tree and lights to be put up, cookies to be baked, and cards to be written.

Preparing for Advent is not hard work; it is a work of the heart. There are many ways to prepare our hearts—attending

daily Mass, reading and reflecting on each day's readings, praying Morning and Evening Prayer, praying the Rosary, and meditating in silence for fifteen minutes each day.

The work of the heart we choose keeps our eyes fixed on the miracle that in God's plan, he spoke his Word and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is the Word expressed in flesh and blood, to allow us to draw closer to the God of infinite mystery. Jesus gives his very flesh and blood to us—once in history on Calvary, and for all time in the Eucharist.

While we await his return, we have good reason to “stand erect and raise [our] heads,” as today's Gospel counsels. We cannot become too fatigued or too anxious to remember that “[our] redemption is at hand.”

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
Helen Berningham,
Corentin Villemeur & Catalina Parra

ALL VICTIMS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

*Please pray for our deceased parishioners
and family members*

*Thomas James Elsascar, Edmond Collins
Jose Rafael Gutierrez, Judit Csiki &
Fr. Vincent Bartley*

Bread & Wine



This Weeks' Sanctuary Lamp
In Memory of
Olga Rosa Teresa Litrenta

Offered by Maria Litrenta

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Occasionally, someone raises a surprised complaint that while Christmas arrives on Santas sleigh at the Macys parade on Thanksgiving Day, the Church doesnt catch on too fast. They may even say that Advent is a new-fangled idea. Not so. To trace its beginnings, we have to go back to the fourth or fifth century in France (then Gaul), when Epiphany was the favored day, next to Easter, for baptism. The old pagan structures of Rome were collapsing then, and many people sought to be baptized. Since adults always prepared for baptism by fasting, folks counted back a few weeks for a kind of retreat. Before too long, bishops were advising everyone to attend church frequently beginning on December 17. Soon, artists were imagining ways of expressing the Advent mystery, and in Italy this gave rise to beautiful mosaics of empty thrones awaiting the arrival of the Lord of all creation.

Advent as we know it develops on two separate tracks: the first having to do with our spiritual preparation for celebrating the Christmas feast, and the second having to do with the way this is organized and expressed in the liturgical readings and prayers every day of the season.

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

Our Savior Church-Concert for Christmas

The Choir of the Church of Our Saviour will present a **Concert for Christmas** on Wednesday, December 19th at 7:30 p.m.

at the

Church of Our Saviour, 59 Park Avenue at 38th Street (near Grand Central) in Manhattan.

Tickets are \$20 (General Admission) and may be

purchased in advance at

<oursaviourchristmas.bpt.me>or

at the door on the evening of the concert.

For more information, please call
(212) 679-8166

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.



Advent Day of Prayer

A day for quiet prayer and reflection on the Advent season will take place on Saturday, December 8th, beginning at 9:30 am in the Parish Center.

The day begins with arrival at 9:30 am (light refreshments will be served), followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Morning Prayer at 10:00 am.

Since December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation, there will be Mass celebrated at 12 Noon in the Parish Center Chapel, followed by lunch (please bring your own lunch.) The day will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3:00 pm.

Please call the Parish Center at 212-288-6250 if you plan to attend.

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

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



Just a word

From your Pastor December 2nd, 2018

Turning is for the Byrds

People of a “certain age” will remember the hit song by The Byrds “Turn Turn Turn”. That song, based on the biblical passage Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 sings:

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; ... a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ... a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away... A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*

In short: Things last, but not forever. Things grow, but also grow old. Things sooner or later change. Ecclesiastes’ desire is that its readers understand and embrace this truth. But it does not mean that we will always like it.

After over 30 years our beloved cantor, Joe Neal, has informed us that he is retiring. His final day with us will be December 9th. Although his actual final mass will be the 5pm on that day, **following the 12 noon mass on December 9th we will have a reception in the rear of the church for Joe**, where we will all be able to say how much his music and his spirit have meant to our parish.

I know: its quick. But I am sure we all understand Joe’s reticence for long good byes.

. and while we are on the subject. Many know Michael Blecha. He came on staff as an assistant to Father Peter Colapietro and when Fr. Pete moved, we offered him full time employment here. Before working for Fr. Pete, he worked in sales with “Crazy Eddie” in his stereo store (“His prices are in-sane!” remember?). Michael has served us in the parish offices but mostly as my right hand in the church as sacristan. However, he has informed us that he has the opportunity to return to sales and thus will be leaving us as of March 1st.

Michael will be around for a while, but I envision that as his final days here approach, we will similarly thank him with a reception for all the help he has been to us in general and me in particular. I’ll say more about Joe next week, but in the mean time I thought you all should know about these changes.

Turn, Turn, Turn. People come, stay, and move. Pastors are assigned, then reassigned. Parish staff are hired, but then retire. Things change. We don’t like it; however, Ecclesiastes wants us to know this is the way of the world. It is also the way of parish life. We’ll hire new cantors, and of course a new sacristan – but people are harder to replace. And some are irreplaceable.

Father Baker