

# 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

**The Holy family of Jesus. Mary & Joseph– December 30th, 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 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 -- Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

Psalm -- Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or Psalm 128.

Second Reading -- See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2, 21-24) or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].  
Gospel -- The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. They found him in the temple, in the midst of the teachers (Luke 2:41-52).

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: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18  
Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28  
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34  
Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42  
Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51  
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

# Mass Schedule

**SATURDAY** December 29th *Vigil*  
5:30PM Anthony & Carmela DeBono

**SUNDAY** December 30th *THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH*  
7:30AM Zoila Delagado  
9:00AM Sarah McHugh  
10:30AM Mary (Marie) Carvill  
12NOON All Parishioners  
5PM Whitney North Seymour & Paul De Witt

**MONDAY** December 31st *Seventh Day within the Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord*  
7:30AM Mr. Vernon Sarah  
12NOON Mary Carvill  
5:30PM Noreen Lovett

**TUESDAY** January 1st *The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*  
12NOON Michael Sullivan

**WEDNESDAY** January 2nd *Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen*  
7:30 AM Belle La Rue (Living)  
12NOON Edith Costello

**THURSDAY** January 3rd *Christmas Weekday*  
7:30AM Kathleen M. Reddington  
12NOON Pedro Ant. Litrenta, Sr.

**FRIDAY** January 4th *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*  
7:30AM Joan Rosilda Pece  
12NOON Tito O. Velasco

**SATURDAY** January 5th *St. John Neumann*  
12NOON Adam Armetta

*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:**

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

## Adult Faith Formation – open to all adults!

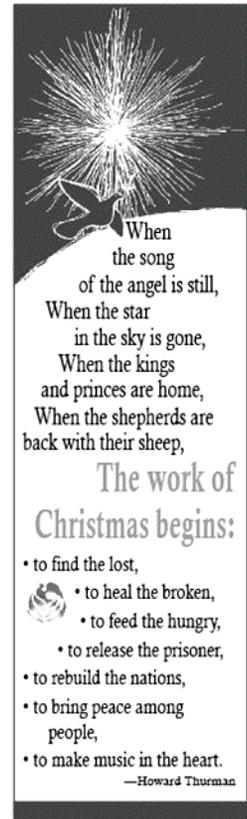
- **Sunday Morning Scripture Discussions**, 10:15-11:45am in the Parish Center – join us for coffee and conversation every Sunday that Religious Education is in session! No charge, no registration needed. (Resuming on January 6)
- **Evening Prayer in the Parish Center Chapel each Friday at 5:10pm. All 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!
- **Save the Date!** Fr. Baker will be leading a three-week book club in February on John Boyne's *A History of Loneliness*. Read this incredible novel and join us for this discussion. (The book is available wherever you buy or download your books.)

## Adults who are thinking about becoming Catholic, or Catholic adults who have missed First Communion and/or Confirmation – It's never too late!

- 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.

**Please remember:** The Christmas Season (in the Church's liturgical calendar) runs from Christmas Eve until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 13 this year)! So leave those decorations up, and keep playing Christmas music throughout the season! On January 14, we go back to Ordinary Time. Wishing you and your loved ones a Christmas Season filled with joy and peace!



# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



## A Call to Prayer

God our Father,  
you sent your beloved Son into the world  
to share in our humanity.  
From all time, you chose the Virgin Mary to  
give birth to him,  
and placed him in a human family.  
With Mary, his mother, and Joseph,  
her husband,  
to nurture and care for him.  
Still, you called him away from them to be  
with you in your house

to study the Scriptures and commune with  
his true Father.  
We ask you to call us too, so that,  
as much as we love our parents, our siblings,  
and our children,  
and desire to spend time with them,  
we never forget that we need to spend time  
with you each day,  
to praise you, to thank you, to pour out our  
hearts to you,  
and to ask for your guidance.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 30, 2018  
Honor Your Father and Mother



*Today's Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52.* When we are young and first learning the Ten Commandments, one that hits home is the Fourth Commandment: "honor your father and mother." As we grow older, we realize that this commandment is not just about children obeying parents, but that it applies to our lives as much or more when we are adults.

The Book of Sirach, a Wisdom book from the Hebrew Scriptures, describes the goodness that comes from following this command at all stages of one's life. Sirach also defines what it means to honor: to care for, to be considerate,

to be kind; and what it means *not* to honor: to revile or to be a cause of grief.

When Jesus' parents find him in the temple, they have great anxiety, but Jesus explains that he needs to be in his Father's house. He has not stayed at the temple to dishonor Mary and Joseph, but rather to give honor to his Father.

Why is this commandment important? What would family life be like if children, including grown children, truly honored their parents at all times? Would we become less self-centered? Would elderly people experience less loneliness? What example would our children see?

## 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**

**MARYLYN ATKINSON & MICHAEL CURLEY**

**ALL VICTIMS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY**

## PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

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

***Blake Murphy & Christopher Cosby Farley***

## Bread & Wine



This Week's Bread & Wine Intentions for Anne Nolan

Offered By Kitty O'Donoghue

## Sanctuary Lamp



This Weeks' Sanctuary Lamp Intentions for Ann Creedon

Offered by Kitty O'Donoghue

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition.

There has always been an appreciation in Christianity for the value of pilgrimage--the journey to holy places that is a symbol of our life's journey to God, and a sense of connection to important events in our family history. During the Christmas season, many of us undertake pilgrimages to the family homestead for festival meals, to the parishes where we were formed in the faith, or perhaps even to a beautiful manger scene or festival of lights. There are few better days than this in our calendar for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure that no one gets left behind!  
--James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
Monday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord;  
St. Sylvester I: New Year's Eve  
Tuesday: The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord;  
Mary, the Holy Mother of God;  
World Day of Prayer for Peace;  
New Year's Day  
Wednesday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen  
Thursday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus  
Friday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; First Friday  
Saturday: St. John Neumann; First Saturday



**Our next Family Mass will be  
Saturday, January 5th at 5:30PM**

**All Families & Parishioners are invited**

*Happy  
New Year*  
★ 2019

## HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS

The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always get it right, but they always tried to. These three amateurs were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation--to do his Father's work but he also returned home with his parents.

Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.



# Just a word

*From your Pastor December 30th, 2018*

## **Whew!**

Advent season and Christmas passed it would seem, in a flash, and we stand on the brink of 2019. This fall we have really focused on the parish and have tried to offer classes, events, celebrations, and opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection. It has been great, and I thank everyone who helped, organized, taught, prayed, attended and listened at these many events.

The month of January will be somewhat quieter, and we catch our breath and prepare for the arrival of Lent this Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. But that does not mean that nothing will be happening. For example:

## ***History of Loneliness* Book Study**

One of the most serious crises to hit the Church since the Reformation has been the revelations that priests and religious have been abusing children and adolescents for . . . years? . . . Decades? . . . And that there was an organized effort to conceal these crimes on the part of the hierarchy.

Some of you have thanked me for the way we priests have preached on this painful subject. Some of you have demanded to know why we never bring it up. Some of you think we talk about it too much, and others wish we'd shut up about it. Sigh.

It is hard to please everybody. And yet we cannot simply ignore it – nor can we constantly talk about what happened. Sooner or later we have to begin to ask the deeper questions: How? Why?

We could do that many ways, but the way I have chosen to do it is by offering a three-week book study on John Boyne's novel *A History of Loneliness*. It deals with the abuse crisis in Ireland, but the way in which the author tells the tale of a priest caught in the middle of the crisis offers, in my humble opinion, much to discuss and reflect upon, so that our shock and anger can move towards understanding and action.

There will be more information about this study in January, but the discussions will take place on Thursday evenings. Watch the bulletin for this opportunity to read and discuss this devastating book together.

## **Old Year's/New Year's Wishes**

In a famous scene from the movie *All About Eve*, Bette Davis stands on a staircase at a cocktail party, turns and utters one of her most classic lines, "Fasten your seatbelts; it's going to be a bumpy night!"

The same could be said about the whole past year. In our parish and school there were changes as people we've known and loved for years moved on or retired. In our nation and world, the political circus and gridlock has, if anything only increased. And in our Church, the secrets that had been whispered in the darkness are finally being shouted from the housetops (Luke 12:3) and bishops are finally being held accountable for their actions in the sexual abuse crisis.

Bumpy indeed. And yet, change always brings with it the possibility that things not only change, but change for the better. New blood and ideas in the parish and the school, new policies and saner politics in our nation and world, and a more humble and open Church.

My wish for us all here in our parish and school is that 2019 bring THAT change. That together we pray and work for a renewed church and school, so that we can be a sign of the change the world needs. If the man whose birth we celebrated last week still has any relevance in this world – and we believe here most firmly that he does – it is precisely because in his words and in his life, he gave flesh and blood to that change. And when we follow him in this coming year, we will too.

Happy New Year! And don't forget that Sunday evening after the 5:00pm mass there will be wine and cheese (and champagne!) as we prepare to ring in 2019.

Father Baker