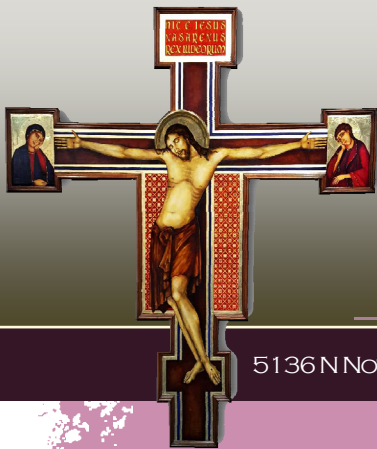




SAINT MONICA PARISH

5136 N NOTTINGHAM AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60656 • (773)-763-1661 • WWW.STMONICACHICAGO.COM

*To Serve as He Served, To Live as He Lived,
and To Love as He Loved.*

*Behold,
I am sending my messenger
ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.*

Mt 11:11



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2016

SAINT MONICA PARISH

Church Location: Corner of Foster and Nottingham Avenues

Office Address: 5136 N. Nottingham Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60656

Telephone: 773-763-1661

Fax: 773-763-4917

Parish Website: www.stmonicachicago.com

Parish Office Hours: Monday & Friday—9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.,

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday—9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday—10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and SUNDAY—CLOSED

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Mariusz (Mario) P. Stefanowski	Pastor
Rev. Andrew Izyk	Associate Pastor
Rev. William Holbrook	Resident Priest
Mr. Ron Gronek	Deacon
Mr. Ed Podgorski	Deacon
Mrs. Laurie Becker	Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Sabina Debski	Parish Secretary
Mr. Kamil Duda	Director of Music
Mr. Richard Grabowiecki	Maintenance Engineer
Mrs. Dorothy Spencer	Director of Finance
Mrs. Gwenn Suvada	Business Office Coordinator

ST. MONICA ACADEMY

5115 N. Mont Clare, Chicago, Illinois 60656

Telephone: 773-631-7880

Fax: 773-631-3266

www.stmonicachicago.com

ACADEMY STAFF

Mr. Raymond Coleman	Principal
Mrs. Darlene Connelly	School Secretary

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

If you are arriving late for Mass, please choose an appropriate time to enter the church, such as when everyone is standing, but not during the readings or prayers. Please know that it is better to be present at Mass, even if you are a little late, than not to be present at all.

Please be respectful and courteous when entering church by turning off ALL cell phones and beepers. Church is a place of worship and should be treated with reverence. Thank You.

CHURCH FOYER DISPLAY AREA

The tables and bulletin boards in the church foyer are designated for displaying parish and school information only. No outside brochures, newspapers, flyers, prayer cards, devotional material and religious articles are allowed. Non-parish/school items are removed daily. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Bulletin article submissions are due ten (10) days prior to publication date. **Holidays are subject to earlier deadlines.** All requests are considered for print based on priority, available space, and are printed and edited at the discretion of the Pastor and Bulletin Editor. Requests can be sent via e-mail to bulletin@stmonicachicago.com.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.—English and 6:00 p.m.—Polish
Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 Noon, and Polish at 1:30 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday at 8:30 a.m.

ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Prayed weekdays before the 8:30 a.m. Eucharist.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Held every Thursday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. concluding with Benediction at 6:45 p.m., and prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. (some exceptions due to Holy Days and liturgical celebrations).

SACRAMENTS

ANOIDING OF THE SICK

The special grace of this Sacrament offers the Lord's healing strength, peace and courage to anyone who is seriously or chronically ill, hospitalized or about to undergo surgery. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to have someone anointed.

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated twice a month: the first and third Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. (some exceptions due to Holy Days and liturgical celebrations). Please call the Parish Office to register for the program and to set a date for the Baptism.

MARRIAGE

Archdiocese of Chicago guidelines for marriage preparation ask that a minimum of six months be set aside for preparation for marriage. No firm date for a wedding will be set until the conclusion of the couple's first meeting with the parish minister. At least one of the engaged persons (or their parents) must be a registered and active parishioner of St. Monica. No Sunday weddings are scheduled.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK/HOMEBOUND

If you or a family member are in a local hospital or are homebound and would like to have a visit from a priest, please call the Parish Office to make arrangements. Ministers of Care are also available to bring Communion to those who are confined at home and are unable to attend Mass, either temporarily or on a continual basis. Please call the Parish Office to schedule a visit.

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Monday — Friday from 8:00—8:25 a.m., Saturday from 3:00 to 3:50 p.m., and 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. (English and Polish). Individual confessions available by appointment.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Monica is a welcoming Catholic faith community.

Proclaiming the power of the Word of God, we join together in the celebration of the Eucharist and all Sacraments. We aim to follow Jesus Christ —

TO SERVE AS HE SERVED, TO LIVE AS HE LIVED, AND TO LOVE AS HE LOVED.

OUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 12, 2016

8:30 a.m. — John Swienton (Birthday)
 † Tom Chambers
 † Claro & Virginia Ricana

TUESDAY, December 13, 2016

8:30 a.m. — † Elisa Constantino

WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2016

8:30 a.m. — St. Alejo for favors granted

THURSDAY, December 15, 2016 -

8:30 a.m. — † Nora Dorgan

FRIDAY, December 16, 2016

8:30 a.m. — † Michael Sheehan

SATURDAY, December 17, 2016

4:00 p.m. — Scafa Family
 † John P. Partipilo
 † Joseph Zagotta
 † Frances Slabas
 † Harriet Marshall

SUNDAY, December 18, 2016

7:30 a.m. — People of St. Monica Parish
 9:00 a.m. — † Marge O'Donnell
 Victoria Krautter (Birthday)
 † Paul Widtmann
 † Louis Gazda
 10:30 a.m. — † Trina Davila
 † Dinah Marasigan
 † Patrick Koziol
 12:00 p.m. — † Esper Cobarrubias
 4:30 p.m. — **SIMBANG GABI**

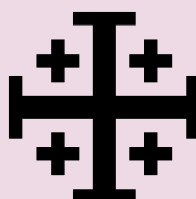
POLISH MASS

SOBOTA, 17 grudnia 2016

6:00 p.m. — - Za dusze w czyście cierpiące

NIEDZIELA, 18 grudnia 2016

1:30 p.m. — † Edward Wójcik
 † Krzysztof Dzik



SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Arnott Family, Phyllis Babbs, Carol Batjes, Marilyn Bell, Sylvia Boulahanis, Pat Brennan, Adam Burek, Jo Buscemi, Rogelio Castro, Sr., Cindy Cisek, Grace Cleys, Joan Craig, Samantha Crump, Carole Edwards, Roberta Gols, Kerri Horan, Martin McNeela, Terina Marotta, Dolores Nieciecki, Darlene O'Donnell, David Ostrowski, Stephanie Pasko, Jose Perez, Sharon Petrozz, Max Piekos, Hanrietta Pinkowski, Deacon Ed Podgorski, Augie Sansone, Beverly Schiffer, Tim Sheehan, Harriet Skiba, Denise Slaski, Fr. Fred Tomzik, Ida Traczyk, Laura Wysocki, Ralph Volgarino and all the sick and aged of our parish.

REMEMBER OUR MILITARY

*Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
 Protect them as the protect us.
 We ask this in Jesus' name.
 Amen*

United States

Air Force

Michael Brimie
 Zachary Muldoon
 Matt Olken
 Anthony Villalpando
 Laurel Walsh

United States

Army

Eric Ambriz
 James Ambriz
 Kurt Beyer
 Tom Bobek
 Daniel Clark
 Michael G. Dobija
 Justin Elazegui
 Walter Fernandez
 Robert Gullett
 Brandon Jackson
 Andrew Kupinski
 Jesus O. Lebron
 Conner Mahoney
 Erik Malenock
 Andrew Perez

United States

Army, cont'd

Julio Rios
 Michael Rivera
 Brian Scoles
 Andrew Thomas
 Christopher Walsh
 Michael Zadlo

United States

Army Reserve

Jason Adamczyk
 Roman Gronke
 Keith Maslon
 Sean O'Grady

United States

Coast Guard

Christine Ambriz

United States

Marines

Vincent Bertucci
 Andrew Cobos
 Gage Cygnar

United States

Marines, cont'd

Lukas Czynczyk
 Dominic Davila
 Andrew L. Davison
 Caitlen Ferrarell
 Benjamin Juhasz
 Mathew Lynn
 Michael T. Medrys
 Steven Meyer
 Kevin Rasmussen
 Christopher Ryan

United States

Navy

Jeremy Bloom
 Justin Chovanec
 Zachary Corrado
 Daniel Jarosz
 Clay Presny
 Riley Schoen
 Steven Schancy
 Richard Whitman
 Nick Whitman

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHILDREN OF GOD!

Michael Fernandez Jr.

Jackson James Specht

SAINT MONICA PARISH - ADVENT

A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

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*The King of Israel, the LORD,
is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.*

— Zephaniah 3:15b

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

When the ties of affection and authority that bound Europe's Catholics unraveled in the sixteenth century, many cultures lost time-honored customs of faith. Some customs proved to be especially difficult for the reformers to wrest away from the people, especially those celebrated in the home. This week in Sweden, a country where the Catholic Church was disestablished four hundred years ago, a Catholic martyr from Sicily is the most beloved figure. St. Lucia, Lucy, is celebrated on December 13. The long-story-short is that Lucy was a Christian whose father wanted to marry her off to a pagan fellow, and she rejected her father's authority. To make an example of her, her father had her killed. In the course of the brutal martyrdom, Lucy lost her beautiful eyes, but her vision was miraculously restored. The candles worn today by the eldest daughter of the family are tokens of the fire that refused to harm the saint. So this patroness of light and clear vision is revered on the shortest, darkest days of the Nordic winter. Before the reform of the Gregorian calendar in the sixteenth century, December 13 was the winter solstice.

Today, young girls appear in the morning wearing lighted candles on their crowned heads (battery-operated now after many mishaps), and serve sweet rolls and coffee to everyone in the house. For the Swedes, who are not churchgoers, the "Lucias" are the official heralds of the holiday season and a sign of everyone's yearning for more light in this world. Europe once abounded with customs like this; the survival of this custom in Scandinavia is a sign of God's grace, and how fertile the soil is to receive the true message of Advent.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

St. Monica Parish Welcomes All to Experience
the Beautiful Liturgy of
SIMBANG GABI
CHRISTMAS 2016
Sunday, December 18
A traditional evening Mass known as
"Simbang Gabi" has long been a widely
celebrated and distinct part of the Filipino culture
5136 N. Nottingham Ave
Chicago, IL 60656
corner of Foster and Nottingham
Celebrant
Auxiliary Bishop Francis J. Kane
Homilist
Fr. Ronald Paulino
Mass begins at 4:30pm
Followed by reception in Beyenka Hall
For information, please contact
Ruben Purification 773.594.9108 Dan San Buenaventura 773.414.5796

SAINT MONICA PARISH - ADVENT

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Celebrate. Celebrate. Dance to the music. "So go the lyrics to an old song from the early 70s. So also, in a way, goes the message of Zephaniah. For in telling the people of Israel that God is with them he puts a song in their hearts. And surely, he sets their feet to dancing.

Paul stays right in step, again playing the cheerleader and again telling the Philippians--and all of us--to set aside anxiety, to rejoice in the Lord. And in Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist speaks of ways to ready ourselves for the coming of the Christ so that our rejoicing in Jesus may be complete. Welcome to the Third Sunday of Advent. Zephaniah, Paul, and the Baptist are already rejoicing. It seems like a good time to join them.

TWO COATS

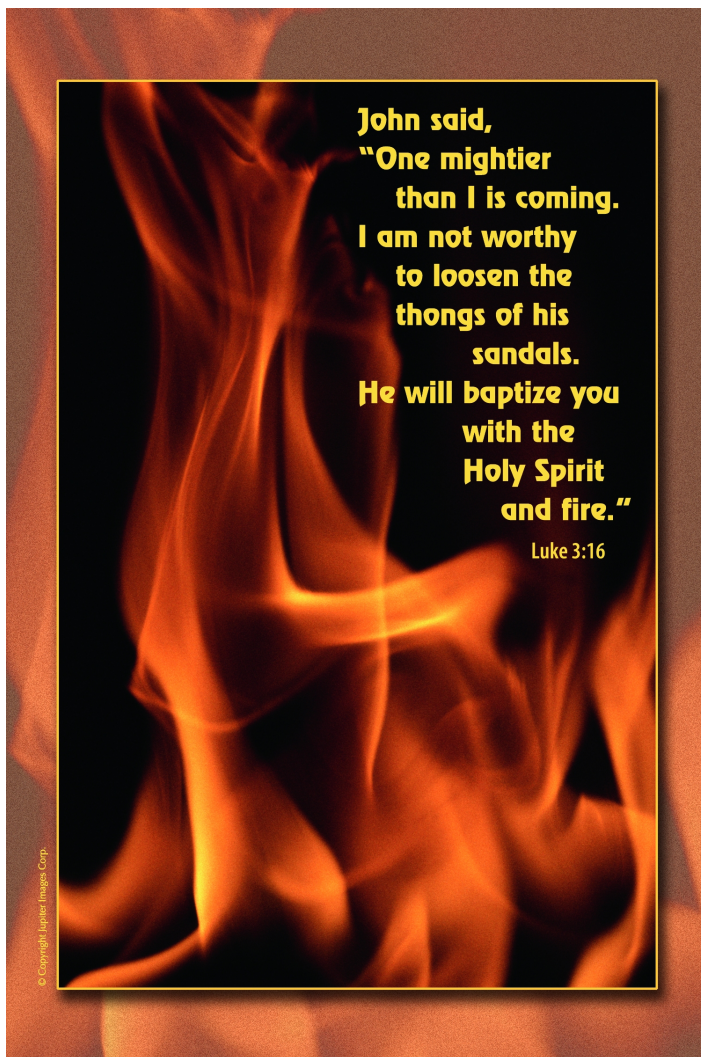
Speaking of the 70s, let's not forget President Nixon's well-used opening line about making things perfectly clear. John the Baptist could have begun his remarks in precisely the same way. We have enough generalities, don't we? But what we need more times than not are the specifics. As in, what exactly are we supposed to do? We may not be tax collectors. We may not be soldiers. But we may very well have two coats in our closet--or two loaves of bread in our pantry, or a few extra coins in our pocket--and John couldn't make our course of action any clearer.

ONE LIGHT

The Baptizer needed to be clear on another point as well--that he was not the Messiah, that he was not the One to come, that he was not his people's salvation. As the holidays approach, perhaps we all have to be wary about following the wrong lead. Of course, we know that Jesus is our Light, but there are a lot of other lights that can get in the way this time of year. We've got the overall glitter of the season, not to mention the shopping, the wrapping, the baking, the cleaning, and all of those holiday parties. None of these are bad things, but if we let them, they can cause us to lose our focus on the Lord. It's kind of like driving a car at night--when the interior lights are on, it's harder to see where we're going. But we don't have to lose our way--not now, not ever. Not with the likes of Zephaniah, Paul, and John the Baptist to keep us focused on our true north. John's good news to the people is our good news now--fully two thousand years later, just as it was in the early 70s. Christmas is only eight days away. Let's all celebrate and dance to the music.

Today's Readings: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

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ST. MONICA PARISH



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sacrament of Reconciliation

(English-Polish-Italian)

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24, 2016

4:00 pm - Family Mass

10:00 pm - Polish Mass

12:00 am - Midnight Mass

(Carols begin at 11:30 pm)

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2016

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm

St. Stephen

Monday, December 26, 2016

8:30 am

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31, 2016

4:00 pm - Vigil Mass

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, 2017

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm

THE CHRISTMAS WAFER *a tradition at the Christmas Table*

Packages of Christmas Wafers, *oplatki*, that have been blessed by our pastor are available at the Parish Office during regular office hours. Each package contains four wafers; enough for sharing at your Christmas Table while you exchange Christmas wishes and blessings with your loved ones.



A suggested donation per package is \$5.00

ST. MONICA CHRISTMAS PARTY

I would like to express my deepest thanks to our parishioners who prepared the annual CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Sharon Bass
Delia Lamb
Letitia Salamone

Additionally, I would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for cleaning and preparing the chairs in Beyenka Hall.

Most of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all the guests who came to the party! May the God bless you all!

Fr. Mariusz P. Stefanowski



ST. MONICA PARISH - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Our Lady of Guadalupe - Guadalupe, Mexico (1531)

Patroness of the Americas

Feast Day in the USA - December 12th

The opening of the New World brought with it both fortune-seekers and religious preachers desiring to convert the native populations to the Christian faith. One of the converts was a poor Aztec indian named Juan Diego. On one of his trips to the chapel, Juan was walking through the Tepayac hill country in central Mexico. Near Tepayac Hill he encountered a beautiful woman surrounded by a ball of light as bright as the sun. Speaking in his native tongue, the beautiful lady identified herself:

"My dear little son, I love you. I desire you to know who I am. I am the ever-virgin Mary, Mother of the true God who gives life and maintains its existence. He created all things. He is in all places. He is Lord of Heaven and Earth. I desire a church in this place where your people may experience my compassion. All those who sincerely ask my help in their work and in their sorrows will know my Mother's Heart in this place. Here I will see their tears; I will console them and they will be at peace. So run now to Tenochtitlan and tell the Bishop all that you have seen and heard."

Juan, age 57, and who had never been to Tenochtitlan, nonetheless immediately responded to Mary's request. He went to the palace of the Bishop-elect Fray Juan de Zumarraga and requested to meet immediatly with the bishop. The bishop's servants, who were suspicious of the rural peasant, kept him waiting for hours. The bishop-elect told Juan that he would consider the request of the Lady and told him he could visit him again if he so desired. Juan was disappointed by the bishop's response and felt himself unworthy to persuade someone as important as a bishop. He returned to the hill where he had first met Mary and found her there waiting for him. Imploring her to send someone else, she responded:

"My little son, there are many I could send. But you are the one I have chosen." She then told him to return the next day to the bishop and repeat the request. On Sunday, after again waiting for hours, Juan met with the bishop who, on re-hearing his story, asked him to ask the Lady to provide a sign as a proof of who she was. Juan dutifully returned to the hill and told Mary, who was again waiting for him there, of the bishop's request. Mary responded:

"My little son, am I not your Mother? Do not fear. The Bishop shall have his sign. Come back to this place tomorrow. Only peace, my little son." Unfortunately, Juan was not able to return to the hill the next day. His uncle had become mortally ill and Juan stayed with him to care for him. After two days, with his uncle near death, Juan left his side to find a priest. Juan had to pass Tepayac Hill to get to the priest. As he was passing, he found Mary waiting for him. She spoke:

"Do not be distressed, my littlest son. Am I not here with you who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Your uncle will not die at this time. There is no reason for you to engage a priest, for his health is restored at this moment. He is quite well. Go to the top of the hill and cut the flowers that are growing there. Bring them then to me." While it was freezing on the hillside, Juan obeyed Mary's instructions and went to the top of the hill where he found a full bloom of Castilian roses. Removing his tilma, a poncho-like cape made of cactus fiber, he cut the roses and carried them back to Mary. She rearranged the roses and told him:



picture: www.birtannica.com
G. Dagli Orti—DeA Picture Library

ST. MONICA PARISH - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

"My little son, this is the sign I am sending to the Bishop. Tell him that with this sign I request his greatest efforts to complete the church I desire in this place. Show these flowers to no one else but the Bishop. You are my trusted ambassador. This time the Bishop will believe all you tell him." At the palace, Juan once again came before the bishop and several of his advisors. He told the bishop his story and opened the tilma letting the flowers fall out. But it wasn't the beautiful roses that caused the bishop and his advisors to fall to their knees; for there, on the tilma, was a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary precisely as Juan had described her. The next day, after showing the Tilma at the Cathedral, Juan took the bishop to the spot where he first met Mary. He then returned to his village where he met his uncle who was completely cured. His uncle told him he had met a young woman, surrounded by a soft light, who told him that she had just sent his nephew to Tenochtitlan with a picture of herself. She told his uncle:

"Call me and call my image Santa Maria de Guadalupe". It's believed that the word Guadalupe was actually a Spanish mis-translation of the local Aztec dialect. The word that Mary probably used was Coatlallope which means "one who treads on snakes"! Within six years of this apparition, six million Aztecs had converted to Catholicism. The tilma shows Mary as the God-bearer - she is pregnant with her Divine Son. Since the time the tilma was first impressed with a picture of the Mother of God, it has been subject to a variety of environmental hazards including smoke from fires and candles, water from floods and torrential downpours and, in 1921, a bomb which was planted by anti-clerical forces on an altar under it. There was also a cast-iron cross next to the tilma and when the bomb exploded, the cross was twisted out of shape, the marble altar rail was heavily damaged and the tilma was...untouched! Indeed, no one was injured in the Church despite the damage that occurred to a large part of the altar structure.

In 1977, the tilma was examined using infrared photography and digital enhancement techniques. Unlike any painting, the tilma shows no sketching or any sign of outline drawn to permit an artist to produce a painting. Further, the very method used to create the image is still unknown. The image is inexplicable in its longevity and method of production. It can be seen today in a large cathedral built to house up to ten thousand worshipers. It is, by far, the most popular religious pilgrimage site in the Western Hemisphere.

<http://www.catholic.org/about/guadalupe.php>
picture: www.grayline.com



ST. MONICA PARISH - NEWS & SCHEDULE



TO TEACH
WHO CHRIST IS

CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Please continue to pray for Fr. Mario, our campaign volunteers and all parish families who will be invited to support *To Teach Who Christ Is*. If you are contacted by a volunteer, please accept their phone call to schedule a time to talk about your support of St. Monica.

Parish Goal: \$ \$800,000.00

Total Pledged: \$ 710,000.00

Percent of Goal: 88.75%

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS		LECTOR	ALTAR SERVERS
December 17	4:00 pm	S. Esquivel E. Wade M. Rolle		M. Cahill	H. Ryan M. Ryan N. Ryan
	6:00 pm	TBD		TBD	TBD
December 18	7:30 am	M. Cech K. Cronin		K. Wyszowski	M. Ghiloni M. Ghiloni
	9:00 am	M. Kuehl B. O'Donnell D. O'Donnell	R. Skubski S. Skubski	M. Rozko N. Amati	D. Douvalakis N. Douvalakis C. Frawley
	10:30 am	M. Caringella J. D'Avanzo K. Heneghan P. Jankiewicz	K. Knorr	A. Reisel R. LaVecchia	J. LaVecchia J. LaVecchia J. Perez M. Perez
	12:00 pm	T. Budzik B. Devine F. Miranda		C. Devine	L. Prado G. Rowell M. Rowell
	1:30 pm	TBD		TBD	TBD

ST. MONICA PARISH

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION PARISHIONER INFORMATION UPDATE FORM

We warmly welcome you and are very pleased that you have chosen to celebrate Mass with us, here at St. Monica Parish. Your registration is very important, especially when it is time for infant Baptism, school registration, wedding, or funeral.

We are often asked to provide letters as affidavits for Baptismal and Confirmation sponsors. We can only do this if you are a registered and active member in our parish.

Please fill out the attached form to register with the parish or to make any necessary changes for information currently on file. Return this form to the Parish Office or call Sabina Debski, Parish Secretary, at (773) 763-1661. You may also register by visiting our website at www.stmonicachicago.com.

Please check one: ☐ New parishioner ☐ Change of Name/Status
☐ Change of Address/Phone ☐ Moving, please remove from parish mailing list.

☐ Mr. & Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Mr.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Current Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Alternate Number: _____

Email Address: _____

CHRISTMAS FLORAL DECORATIONS FOR CHURCH

If you wish to remember your loved ones with a contribution for the flowers for the liturgical décor adorning our church throughout the Christmas season—the period between Christmas Day, December 25, 2016 through The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 9, 2017—we welcome your gift. Please fill in the form below and place it with your offering in an envelope marked “**Christmas Flower Memorials.**” Donations can be dropped in the weekend collection basket or delivered to the Parish Office. Those received by Monday, December 21, will appear in the Christmas Bulletin. Any memorials received after that will appear in the following bulletins.

- PLEASE PRINT -

DONOR: _____ AMOUNT: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

OR IN THANKSGIVING FOR: _____

POCHWAŁA PRZYJACIELA



Nikogo z ludzi Chrystus tak nie pochwalił jak Jana syna Elżbiety i Zachariasza. Nawet o swojej mamie nie wypowiedział publicznie tak pięknych i ciepłych słów jak o nim.

Łączyło ich nie tylko pokrewieństwo, lecz i przyjaźń. Znał jej tajniki ich wspólny uczeń Jan, syn Zebedeusza, autor czwartej Ewangelii. Jan obserwując wzrost popularności Jezusa cieszy się i – jak przystało na dobrego przyjaciela – dobrowolnie ustępuje Mu miejsca.

Pismo Święte niewiele mówi o konkretnych wymiarach przyjaźni Jana z Chrystusem. Wiemy jedynie, że więzy tej przyjaźni zostały już zadziergnięte w spotkaniu ich matek: Elżbiety i Maryi, gdy były w stanie błogosławionym. Skoro matki łączyły nie tylko więzy krwi, lecz i wielka przyjaźń, nie należy się dziwić, że ich synowie spotkali się na tej samej płaszczyźnie. Kto wie czy Jan nie był najbliższym przyjacielem, jakiego Chrystus posiadał na Ziemi. Łączyła ich bowiem wspólna misja. Jan miał przygotować teren pod działalność Jezusa. Uczynił to dobrze. Jego misja dobiegła końca i siedział w więzieniu oczekując na wyrok. Jezus wiedząc, że dni przyjaciela są policzone, wypowiada pod jego adresem słowa pochwały: „Między narodzonymi z niewiast nie powstał większy od Jana Chrzciela”.

W adwencie Kościół wzywa nas do spotkania z Janem Chrzciela i głębszej refleksji nad tajemnicą przyjaźni. Jest ona skarbem, jednym z nielicznych, o który warto na Ziemi zabiegać, ułatwiającym spotkanie z Bogiem. Przyjaźń jest dojrzałą formą miłości, opartą na współpracy i umiłowaniu prawdy.

Nie każda miłość ma odwagę zamienić się w przyjaźń. W miłości ludzie spotykają się twarzą w twarz, spoglądają sobie w oczy, ma ona coś z wzajemnej „adoracji”. Miłości grozi egoizm we dwoje. Przyjaciele spotykają się ramię w ramię, zapatrzeni są nie w siebie, lecz w zadania, jakie mają do wykonania. Przyjaciół łączy wspólny cel. Jeden drugiemu pragnie pomóc w wykonaniu życiowego zadania.

Ktokolwiek poszukuje przyjaciela, winien wzrok skierować na ludzi zapracowanych, dźwigających ciężar odpowiedzialności. Pragnienie uczestniczenia w trudzie jednego z nich jest znakiem gotowości na spotkanie przyjaciela. Nie musi to być pomoc bezpośrednia, może być zawarta w życzliwości, modlitwie, ofierze, ale jakaś forma współpracy musi być. Człowiek leniwy nie może być przyjacielem.

Drugim elementem nieodzownym w przyjaźni jest wspólne umiłowanie prawdy. Przyjaźń opiera się na zawierzeniu, a ono jest możliwe wyłącznie w oparciu o prawdę. Ta podobna postawa wobec prawdy łączyła Jana Chrzciela z Chrystusem. Jeden i drugi prawdę swych słów pieczętuje męczeńską krwią. Tylko ten, kto ceni prawdę wyżej niż doczesne życie, może być niezawodnym przyjacielem.

W adwentowym przygotowaniu do ponownego przeżycia tajemnicy przyjścia Syna Bożego na ziemię warto zastanowić się nad dziejami naszych przyjaźni w życiu. Czy przyjaciela szukam? Czy go znalazłem? Czy nie straciłem z własnej winy? Warto też odkryć związek udanych i nieudanych przyjaźni z naszym dorastaniem do spotkania z Bogiem. Jezus w każdej Mszy świętej wyznaje nam: „Wy jesteście przyjaciółmi moimi (...) Już was nie nazywam sługami (...), ale nazwałem was przyjaciółmi”. Boże Narodzenie to pamiątka narodzin naszego Przyjaciela. Czy może być piękniejszy dzień w roku?

Ks. Edward Staniek

PORZĄDEK MSZY ŚWIĘTYCH BOŻE NARODZENIE

Sakrament Spowiedzi

(po polsku)

Wtorek, 20 grudnia, 2016

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Pasterka

Sobota, 24 grudnia, 2016

10:00 pm

Boże Narodzenie

Niedziela, 25 grudnia, 2016

1:30 pm

Św. Szczepana

Poniedziałek, 26 grudnia, 2016

9:30 am & 7:00 pm



Zakończenie Roku

Sobota, 31 grudnia, 2016

6:00 pm - Msza Św.

10:00 pm - Nabożeństwo

12:00 - Msza Św.

Uroczystość Św. Bożej Rodzicielki Nowy Rok

Niedziela, 1 stycznia, 2017

1:30 pm

*Powyżej wymienione Msze Święte, będą odprawiane w języku polskim.
Porządek Mszy Świętych odprawianych w języku angielskim znajdują się na str. 5.*

OREMUS

Dzisiejsza liturgia wzywa nas do radości z bliskiego przyjścia Zbawiciela, który niesie wybawienie ubogim, chorym, słabym i nieszczęśliwym. To właśnie ich szczęście ma być dla uwięzionego Jana Chrzciciela znakiem, że Jezus jest prawdziwym Mesjaszem. Stawajmy dziś przed Panem nie jako duchowi bogacze, którzy sądzą, że mają dość zasług, aby wymagać od Niego konkretnych łask, lecz jako ubodzy, którzy oczekują Jego przyjścia z wiarą, odwagą i tęsknotą, ciesząc się, że przyjdzie już niebawem, aby okazać nam swoje miłosierdzie.

Mira Majdan, „Oremus” grudzień 2007, s. 60



ST. MONICA PARISH - STEWARDSHIP



December 4, 2016

Mass Time	Envelopes	Loose
4:00 pm	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 285.00
6:00 pm	\$ 115.00	\$ 401.00
7:30 am	\$ 1,376.00	\$ 126.00
9:00 am	\$ 1,972.00	\$ 165.00
10:30 am	\$ 1,611.00	\$ 205.00
12:00 Noon	\$ 835.00	\$ 167.00
1:30 pm	\$ 248.00	\$ 407.07
Mailed Envelopes		\$ 205.00
Give Central Online		\$ 730.00
Children's Envelopes		\$ 161.85
Grand Total This Week		\$ 10,979.92
Weekly Budgeted Goal		\$ 10,000.00
Facility Maintenance		\$ 2,054.75
Weekly Difference		\$ 979.92
Budgeted Goal Year-to-date		\$ 230,000.00
Contributions Year-to-date		\$ 220,884.23
Year To Date—Difference		\$ -9,115.77

DONATION CATEGORY	ENVELOPES RECEIVED	WEEKLY ENVELOPE TOTAL
\$ 0—1.00	5	\$ 5.00
\$ 1.01—5.00	81	\$ 354.00
\$ 5.01—10.00	98	\$ 945.00
\$ 10.01—20.00	108	\$ 1,950.00
\$ 20.01—30.00	42	\$ 1,145.00
\$ 30.01—40.00	23	\$ 862.00
\$ 40.01—50.00	15	\$ 740.00
\$ 50.01—75.00	6	\$ 405.00
\$ 75.01—100.00	4	\$ 376.00
\$ 100.01—200.00	9	\$ 1,300.00
\$ 200.01—1,000.00	1	\$ 250.00
Envelope Totals	392	\$ 8,332.00

Archdiocesan Second Collections - Year-to-date Total

Missionary Co-Op	\$ 5,108.00
Seminaries	\$ 2,433.75
Latin America	\$ 3.00
Retirement for Priests	\$ 127.00
Peters Pence	\$ 360.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 3,398.25
Catholic Charities	\$ 30.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Develop.	\$ 3,047.79



MONTHLY COLLECTIONS

	DATE	FIRST COLLECTION	SECOND COLLECTION
DECEMBER	December, 4	Regular Sunday Collection	St. Monica - Facility Maintenance Found
	December, 8	Immaculate Conception	None
	December, 11	Regular Sunday Collection	Archdiocese - Share in the Care
	December, 18	Regular Sunday Collection	St. Monica - School Development
	December 25	Regular Sunday Collection	A Christmas Gift for St. Monica's Parish
JANUARY	January, 1	Regular Sunday Collection	St. Monica - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
	January, 8	Regular Sunday Collection	St. Monica - School Development
	January, 15	Regular Sunday Collection	St. Monica - Facility Maintenance Found
	January, 22	Regular Sunday Collection	None
	January, 29	Regular Sunday Collection	None

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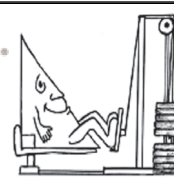
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