

# JOY

THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



## ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

9933 Midway Road, Dallas, Texas 75220

214-358-1453 • Fax: 214-351-1887

[www.stmonicachurch.org](http://www.stmonicachurch.org)

### MASS TIMES

#### Weekend:

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am & 12:30 p.m.,

2:00 pm (*Español*), 5:00 pm

#### Weekday:

Monday - Friday: 6:45 am

Monday - Saturday: 8:00 am

Primer Martes del Mes: 7:00 pm

First Friday: 5:30 pm

### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 3:30 - 4:30 pm

6:30 - 7:00 pm

### BAPTISM

Third Sunday of each month 3:30 pm (English)

*Tercer sábado cada mes 3:00 pm (español)*

Parents and godparents required to attend preparation class, offered the first Saturday of each month, 10:00 am. Call Faith Formation Office to register.

*Padres y Padrinos deben de asistir a una clase de preparación que se otorgan los primeros sábados cada mes a la 1:00 pm. Llame a la oficina de Ministerio Hispana.*

### MARRIAGE

Contact a priest or deacon at least six months before the planned marriage date.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE

972-994-1121

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Message Line (confidential)

214-290-0803

Companions for the Journey

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday, 12:00 noon

Please submit notices in writing or email: [lpenton@stmonicachurch.org](mailto:lpenton@stmonicachurch.org)

### WELCOME TO ST. MONICA!

We are pleased to have visitors join us in worship and to become an active registered parishioner. Registration forms are found in the vestibule or at the Parish Offices.

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## Parish Staff

Fr. Stephen W. Bierschenk  
Pastor Ext. 107

Fr. Alan McDonald  
Parochial Vicar Ext.112

Monsignor John F. Meyers  
Pastor Emeritus

Deacon Abel Cortes  
Deacon Larry Lucido  
Deacon Bob Murrinan  
Deacon Brian Mitchell  
Deacon Michael Weston

### St. Monica Church Offices

(214)358-1453

Fax: (214)351-1887

Laura Penton  
Receptionist Ext. 453  
Debbie Diaz  
Business Manager Ext. 176  
Emmanuel Espiritu  
Director of Youth & Youth Music Ext. 103  
Melissa Franks  
Database Manager Ext. 111  
Marilyn Hicks  
Safe Environment Director Ext.144  
Jared Wirths  
Bookkeeper Ext. 102  
Jeremy Wirths  
Director of Music Ext. 101

**Faith Formation** (214)357-8549  
Fax: (214)351-1887

Mariangela Byrne  
Director of Faith Formation Ext. 132  
Eldie Diaz  
Administrative Assistant Ext. 549

**Ministerio Hispano** (214)357-8549  
Fax: (214)351-1887

Maria M. Gonzalez-Rocha  
Director of Hispanic Ministry Ext. 131

**St. Monica School** (214)351-5688  
Fax: (214)352-2608

4140 Walnut Hill Ln. Dallas, TX 75229  
Phil Riley Principal  
www.stmonicaschool.org



# † From the Pastor †

One day a wealthy woman entered the Catholic Worker house in Manhattan to donate an expensive diamond ring to the religious group's cause. Rather than sell the jewelry for money, Dorothy Day, a co-founder of the Catholic Worker, decided to take the ring and give it to a poor, old woman. A staff member objected, pointing out that if the ring had been sold, there would have been enough money to pay the old woman's rent for a year.

Day responded, "Do you suppose that God created diamonds only for the rich?" Day intended to leave it up to that woman to decide for herself whether to sell the ring or whether to enjoy it sparkling on her finger. (Richard Wightman Fox, *Jesus in America*)

It is an interesting thing to consider – did God only create diamonds for the rich, and happiness for the well-to-do, and love for those who are considered adorable? We know in our heart that the answer has to be "NO!" After all, we depend on God to love us completely and bless us and watch over us not only when we are living in perfect harmony with him. We also expect his loving care when we are imperfect and sinful and ignore him at work in our life. It is God's nature to be generous. We could never imagine that he was not holding us up in our daily life.

As we begin this third week of Advent, perhaps we should challenge our self to consider if we are walking through the world with as generous an attitude toward others as we expect to have God show us. There are simple tests all around us.

The test might be that pitiful person standing in the cold on a street corner with a handmade sign. They might be desperate, they might be able-bodied, they might be dishonest. Only God can judge their motive and their heart. And our gift is not going to change their life's direction. But, we can choose to hand them a few dollars with our blessing, because God did not reserve acts of kindness only for the deserving.

The test might be that lonely person that we find so boring and so hard to get away from. Our first inclination might be to pretend we did not see them, or to make it clear that this conversation has to be ended quickly. But, our simple gift of our full attention and a little of our time has great power. God does not intend for only the self-important to deserve a friendly listener.

The test is surely going to be given by those closest to us. A spouse, a child, a close friend, a coworker – we are most comfortable with those we know well, and they are comfortable with us. But, that comfort also opens the door to selfishness, and taking advantage and being less guarded in what we say or how we act. But, there is no reason that those whom we value most in this world should ever doubt that they are loved and appreciated. They deserve our patience and love and to hear out loud how they are valued. God did not intend our good will and acts of love to be given only to strangers.

God's love has no limit. And he invites us to join in his work – giving away our love as freely as we receive his love.

–Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk

“God's nature to be generous...”

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: 4 p.m., 6 p.m.,  
8 p.m. (*Spanish*), 10 p.m.  
Christmas Day: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

### New Year's Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve: 5 pm  
New Year's Day: 9:30 am

### Holiday Church Office Hours

December 20 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
December 23 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
December 24 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
December 25 — Closed

## Ministry News

### Youth Ministry

#### Come to Holiday in the Park!

The Youth Group (6th-12th grade) will be going to Six Flags on December 13 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. It will be a fun night, and will be completely free. Space is limited! For details contact Emmanuel Espiritu at (214)358-1453 or email him at [EEspiritu@stmonicachurch.org](mailto:EEspiritu@stmonicachurch.org).



### Office of Faith Formation

#### Live Nativity and Bilingual Posada

Everyone is invited to a Bilingual Posada and Live Nativity on December 15, starting in the Cafeteria immediately following the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass. A Posada is a Latin American Christmas tradition that dramatizes the search of Joseph and Mary for lodging. Our Posada, which will be sung in English and Spanish, will end on the football field where



we will have a Live Nativity with animals. After the Live Nativity scene, everyone is invited to the small gym for festive Christmas food and dessert.



#### Catechists (Volunteer Religious Education Teachers) and Substitute Catechists Needed

St. Monica's Faith Formation program is looking for a 4th grade catechist for Sunday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Catechists are provided with books, training and resources to help prepare lessons. Substitute catechists are also needed to volunteer once a month. If you are interested in serving as a catechist or as a substitute catechist, please call the Office of Faith Formation at (214)357-8549.

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, December 15, 2013

8:00 a.m. Priest's Intention  
9:30 a.m. Priest's Intention  
11:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish  
12:30 p.m. Priest's Intention  
2:00 p.m. Tomas Rodriguez de Claudia Perales  
5:00 p.m. Priest's Intention

### Monday, December 16, 2013

6:45 a.m. Juan Medrano † by His Mother  
8:00 a.m. † by St. Monica PTO

### Tuesday, December 17, 2013

6:45 a.m. Silvana Weisser by Rich & Sandy Haas  
8:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Booker †  
by Toni Graham

### Wednesday, December 18, 2013

6:45 a.m. Mary Haas † by Rich & Sandy Haas  
8:00 a.m. Martin Kahn † by St. Monica PTO

### Thursday, December 19, 2013

6:45 a.m. Helen Muñoz † by Mario A Muñoz  
8:00 a.m. Matthew & Sydney Geis †  
by Frank Geis

### Friday, December 20, 2013

6:45 a.m. Nancy Crinnion †  
by Kohring & DaSilva Families  
8:00 a.m. Morgan Filhiol †  
by Mark & Virginia

### Saturday, December 21, 2013

8:00 a.m. Madden Family by Anonymous  
5:00 p.m. Michael Marrinan †  
by Arlene Mullusky

#### For our Sick:

Margaret Dundas	Doris Walker	Andrew Rapoza
Nancy Poulos	Riad Ghorra	Dolores
Dorothy LaDue	Lupe Cano	Gonzales
Franco	Sandra S. Limon	Rosa V. Gomes
Miramontes	Richard	Mary Hernandez
Thelma Leuck	McCormick	Penny Belfiglio
Dorothy Lucido	Ellen Rhodes	Theresa Salas
Chris Nalborski	Victor Hurtado	Santano R.
Jill Rapsey	Rodney Doomes	Martinez
Maria Gutierrez	Augustine Gaitan	Michael Guerrero
Louella Marx	Frank Campise	Ray
Sally Reilly	Greg Hultgren	Redlingshafer
Rosemary Salm	Patricia Boehm	Samantha
Linda Duckworth	Effie McMahon	Martinez
Robert Smith	Rosemary	Leo Londenberg
Alberto Gutierrez	Elizondo	
Mary Daniels	Patricia Abshire	
Caroline Bowen	Helen Vega	
Richard Rapsey	Carmen Cedillo	
Dorothy Joubert	Cecilio Cardenas	

**For our Deceased:** Kristin Lopez, Jean O'Donnell, Howard Joplin, Richard Seltzer, Frank Halovanic, who served St. Monica faithfully as an usher for many years.

### Sanctuary Light

This week the Sanctuary Light is burning in memory of Helen Muñoz by Mario A Muñoz.

## News & Events

### Redemptoris Mater Concert

Come experience the fruits of your prayers from the Vocation Chalice Ministry by attending Redemptoris Mater Seminary's Concert on December 23 at 7 p.m. in the Church. Seminarians from Redemptoris Mater, an international diocesan and missionary seminary for the Diocese of Dallas, will be performing Christmas Carols from their home countries. A reception will be held immediately following the concert in the Family Center Lower Lounge. Tickets will be sold after Masses on the weekend of December 13 and 22 for \$20 each. Proceeds will go to help the seminarians continue their formation for the Diocese of Dallas. For details call the Parish Office at (214)358-1453.



### Cherish a piece of St. Monica Church for a Lifetime!

Still looking for that perfect gift?

Purchase an heirloom-quality cross made from the marble that was part of the original Altar, Communion Railing and Narthex in our old church. The marble came from Carrara, Italy, northwest of Florence, in the 1950s and was specifically fashioned for St. Monica Church. Originally blessed at its installation and again blessed by Fr. Bierschenk, these crosses make the perfect gift or keepsake. Crosses are \$50 each and can be purchased by contacting Terry Lynne at [tlynne@tx.rr.com](mailto:tlynne@tx.rr.com) or at (214)244-1615.



### Pancakes with Santa

The Knights of Columbus invite you to "Pancakes with Santa" Sunday December 15 in the school cafeteria. We will serve all you can eat pancakes from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and Santa will be in attendance for a professional photo opportunity from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. So forget waiting in the lines at the mall for your Christmas picture because Santa is coming to St. Monica! For details visit the council website at [www.kofc5656.org](http://www.kofc5656.org) or see the flyers on the tables in the church.

### The Light is On

On Wednesday, December 18, in all parishes in the Diocese of Dallas the Light Is On from 7 to 9 p.m. to offer all who wish the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance. For details call the Parish Office at (214)358-1453.



### Help Us Feed the Hungry!

The St. Monica Bread ministry works to help feed those in need in our community by delivering food donations from donors to North Dallas Shared Ministries. If you

are interested in assisting us email John Shank at [ejshan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ejshan@sbcglobal.net) or call (972)968-9162 to leave a message.

### Family Vocation Chalice

**December 21 at 5:00 p.m.**  
Valentino & Iona Fernandes  
**December 22 at 8:00 a.m.**  
Walter & Joan Minigutti  
**December 22 at 9:30 a.m.**  
Don & Betty Dickhens  
**December 22 at 11:00 a.m.**  
John & Bridget Woods  
**December 22 at 12:30 p.m.**  
James & Melissa Carpenter  
**December 22 at 5:00 p.m.**  
Jim & Laura Einspanier  
To participate call  
(214) 368-3640

## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, December 15, 2013

9:30 a.m. Adult Education | 217  
12:00 p.m. Pastoral Juvenil | 211  
3:00 p.m. Divina Misericordia | Iglesia  
3:00 p.m. Baptisms | Church  
6:00 p.m. Youth Night | 212

### Monday, December 16, 2013

7:30 a.m. Rosary  
8:30 a.m. Legion of Mary | Conf  
9:00 a.m.—12 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel  
1:00 p.m. Monday Bible Study | 129  
6:00 p.m. Centering Prayer | Bride's Room  
6:30 p.m. SVDP | 129  
7:00 p.m. Immaculate Heart Cenacle | Chapel

### Tuesday, December 17, 2013

7:30 a.m. Rosary  
9:00 a.m.—12 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel  
9:00 a.m. Lay Apostle's | Conf  
1:30 p.m. Tuesday Scripture Study | Conf  
7:00 p.m. Divina Misericordia | Lib

### Wednesday, December 18, 2013

7:30 a.m. Rosary  
9:00 a.m.—12 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Metro Serra Club | 217  
6:30 p.m. Legión de María | 129  
8:00 p.m. Young Serrans Holy Hour | Chapel

### Thursday, December 19, 2013

7:30 a.m. Rosary  
9:00 a.m.—12 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training | 129  
6:30 p.m. Pastoral Familiar | 211  
7:00 p.m. Pastoral Juvenil | LIB

### Friday, December 20, 2013

7:30 a.m. Rosary  
9:00 a.m.—12 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel  
5:30 p.m. Inlong/Vela Rehearsal  
6:00 p.m. Holy Face Novena | Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Apoyo Familiar | 211

### Saturday, December 21, 2013

9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer Group | 217  
12:00 p.m. Inlong/Vela Wedding | Church  
3:00 p.m. Bautisos | Church

### Stewardship of Treasure for December 8, 2013

Regular \$37,382.60  
Renovation \$5,406.00

*"The Lord does us the honor of placing his confidence in us and calling us to the ministry, showing us his mercy. This call is not reserved for a few, it is for everyone, each in his own state of life." - Blessed John Paul II*

**Total Mass Attendance**  
for December 8, 2013  
2,344

## † De El Pastor †

### Cáliz Vocacional Familiar

15 de diciembre

Familia Cazares

22 de diciembre

Jesús Espinosa

29 de diciembre

Leonor Haro

Para llevarse el Cáliz  
llame al  
(214) 358-1453



Un día una mujer rica entro a la Casa Obrador Católico en Manhattan para donar un anillo de diamante caro para la causa del grupo religioso. En vez de vender la joya por dinero, Dorothy Day, co-fundadora de Obrador Católico, decidió llevar el anillo y dárselo a una pobre mujer anciana. Un empleado se opuso, señalando que si el anillo se vendiera, sería suficiente dinero para pagar la renta de la mujer anciana por un año. Day respondió, “¿Supones que Dios creo diamantes sólo para los ricos?” Day quiso que la mujer decidiera por ella misma de vender el anillo o dejarlo que brillara en su dedo.

(Richard Wightman Fox, *Jesús en América*)

Es una cosa interesante de considerar – ¿Qué si Dios sólo creo diamantes para los ricos, felicidad a los que están bien y amor para aquellos que son considerados adorables? Sabemos en nuestro corazón que la respuesta tiene que ser “¡NO!” Después de todo, dependemos de Dios para amarnos completamente bendecirnos y cuidarnos no solamente cuando estamos viviendo en armonía perfecta con Él. También esperamos su amor y cuidado cuando somos imperfectos, llenos de pecado y cuando lo ignoramos en nuestra vida de trabajo. Está en la naturaleza de Dios ser generoso. Nunca nos podríamos imaginar que Él no nos estaría cuidando en nuestra vida diaria.

Mientras empezamos la tercera semana de Adviento, quizá deberíamos de retornos a considerar si estamos caminando por el mundo con una actitud generosa hacia otros como esperamos que nos la muestre Dios. Hay unas pruebas muy sencillas alrededor de nosotros.

La prueba puede estar en una pobre persona parada en la esquina de la

calle en el frio con una señal hecha a mano. Puede que estén desesperados, puede que esten sanos, puede que sean deshonestos. Sólo Dios puede juzgar su motivo y su corazón. Nuestro regalo no va a cambiar la dirección de su vida. Pero, podemos escoger darles unos dólares con nuestra bendición, porque Dios no reservo actos de gentileza sólo para los que se lo merecen.

La prueba puede estar en una persona sola que encontramos aburrida y difícil de alejarse. Nuestra primera inclinación puede que sea que pretender no verlos, o hacer claro que la conversación tiene que terminar rápidamente. Pero, nuestro simple regalo

“ La naturaleza de Dios ser generoso... ”

de nuestra total atención y un poco de nuestro tiempo tiene gran poder. Dios no tiene la intención para que sólo los auto-importantes merezcan una persona amistosa quien los escuche.

La prueba seguramente estará en quienes son los más cercanos a nosotros. Un cónyuge, un hijo, un amigo cercano, un compañero de trabajo – estamos más cómodos con los que conocemos bien, y ellos están cómodos con nosotros. Pero, esa comodidad también abre la puerta al egoísmo, tomando ventaja y siendo menos cuidadosos en lo que decimos o como actuamos. Pero, no hay razón alguna para que aquellos que valoramos más en este mundo duden que son amados y apreciados. Merecen nuestra paciencia, amor y escuchar en voz alta que son valorados. Dios no tuvo la intención que nuestra buena voluntad y actos de amor se dieran solamente a extraños.

El amor de Dios no tiene límites. Nos invita a unirnos en su trabajo – dando nuestro amor tan libremente como lo recibimos de Él.

–Padre Stephen W Bierschenk

## Noticias y Eventos



### Reflexión de Adviento

Este tercer domingo de Adviento se nos invita a esperar con alegría la venida de Jesús. Una persona que vive alegre comparte el hermoso regalo de felicidad con las personas que le rodean. Un Cristiano Católico que espera al Señor no tiene caras

larga, sino al contrario el gozo y la esperanza en el Señor se transmite a través de su alegría, entusiasmo y ánimo es un acto que contagia, anima e invita a vivir y creer que Jesús viene y está cerca! Alegría hermano, alegría! Posada Navideña y Natividad Viviente.

### Concierto de Redemptoris Mater

Venga a disfrutar los frutos de sus oraciones del Ministerio del Cáliz Vocacional con asistir el concierto del Seminario Redemptoris Mater el 23 de diciembre a las 7 p.m. en la iglesia. Seminaristas de Redemptoris Mater, un seminario misionero de la Diócesis de Dallas, interpretaran villancicos desde sus países de origen. Una recepción se celebrará inmediatamente después del concierto en el Centro Familiar cuarto 109. Se venderán boletos después de las Misas el 13 y 22 de diciembre por \$20 cada uno. Los fondos ayudaran a los seminaristas a continuar su formación para la diócesis de Dallas. Para más información llame a la oficina parroquial al (214) 358-1453.

### Bodas en Comunidad

Si viven en unión libre o esta casados solamente al Civil y está considerando vivir su Matrimonio sacramentalmente les invitamos a que considere recibir su sacramento en las Bodas Comunitarias que se llevaran a cabo el 12 de Abril del 2014. Esta es una manera especial y económica para recibir su sacramento. Por favor llame a María González-Rocha al (214)357-8549 para recibir más información.

### La Luz Encendida

Este miércoles, el 18 de diciembre, se estarán escuchando confesiones de 7 pm. a 9 pm. en la Iglesia. Recibamos a Jesús con un corazón limpio y agradecido por su inmensa misericordia. Para detalles llame a la Oficina de Ministerio Hispano al (214) 357 -8549.



### Misa de Navidad

La parroquia de Santa Mónica se está preparando para la celebración del nacimiento del Salvador. Les invitamos asistir a la Santa Misa que se llevara a cabo el 24 de Diciembre a las 8 p.m. Arrullaremos y adoraremos al niño Dios. También, les invitamos a traer su niño Dios para que sea bendecido y luego lo arrulle en su hogar. Que Jesús sea el centro de su hogar esta Navidad!

### Santísimo Sacramento

Jesús Sacramentado esta expuesto en la capilla de lunes a viernes de 9 a.m. a 12 p.m. para que venga a estar frente a El a solas y en silencio para acompañarle, pedirle, agradecerle, y/o contarle las cosas que trae tu mente y corazón. También, hay tiempos de adoración en comunidad dirigidas por ministerios de la parroquia a los cuales también son bienvenidos a asistir: Todos los martes de 8 p.m. a 9 p.m., los primeros viernes del mes de 7:30 p.m. a 8:30 p.m. y los segundos viernes del mes de 9 p.m. a 10 p.m. Ven a llenarte de la gracia que se recibe al estar frente a Jesús Sacramentado. Jesús esta ahí para ti.

### Devoción al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús

*"Te prometo, en la excesiva misericordia de mi Corazón, que su amor omnipotente concederá a todos aquellos que comulguen nueve Primeros Viernes de mes seguidos, la gracia de la penitencia final: No morirán en desgracia mía, ni sin recibir sus Sacramentos, y mi Corazón divino será su refugio en aquél último momento."*

Comenzando el primer viernes de mes del 2014, tendremos una Santa Misa en español a las 7 p.m. para practicar la devoción al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y recibir sus promesas dirigidas a Sta. Margarita de Alacoque. Después de la Santa Misa tendremos una hora de Adoración y alabanza ante el Santísimo Sacramento.

### Las Posadas

Las Posadas reflejan la cercanía no sólo de Dios con el pueblo, sino la del pueblo mismo, que celebra el hecho de que Dios viene a nosotros continuamente, como Dios de paz y



Dios de amor. Son celebraciones populares que en sus nueve días representan los nueve meses que Jesús estuvo en el vientre de María. Reviven no sólo el folclore popular, sino también la oportunidad de peregrinar y recordar la esencia misma de la Iglesia: una comunidad peregrina. Son una celebración de fe: comunidad, rosario, peregrinación, villancicos y compartimiento de alote, tamales, pozole, piñatas y música. Mantengamos viva esta bella tradición. **Hoy 15 de Diciembre a las 6 pm. Tendremos una Natividad Viviente y Posada**, el evento iniciara en la cafetería y terminaremos en el gimnasio para disfrutar de platillos tradicionales de la temporada, musica y piñatas. Les esperamos!!

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