

CHURCH OF ST. MONICA

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PASTOR:

REV. MSGR. THOMAS A. MODUGNO

ASSOCIATES:

REV. JOE A. FRANCIS

REV. THOMAS MANKAMTHANATH

IN RESIDENCE:

REV. APOLINARI J. NGIRWA

IN SUNDAY SERVICE:

REV. RICHARD AROLD

ORGANIST &

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

MR. DAVID SCHAEFER

CANTOR &

LEADER OF SONG:

MR. JOSEPH NEAL

MASSES

SUNDAYS:

7:30AM, 9:00AM, 10:30AM,
12:00 NOON PRINCIPAL LITURGY

WEEKDAYS &

FIRST FRIDAYS:

7:30AM, 9:00AM, 12:00 NOON

SATURDAYS:

9:00AM, 5:30PM VIGIL

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES:

BY APPOINTMENT.

PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER
OF THE PARISH STAFF
WELL IN ADVANCE.

SACRAMENT

OF RECONCILIATION:

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD
AT 5:00PM ON SATURDAYS
AND ANYTIME BY
APPOINTMENT.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: NOVEMBER 28, 2010

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As the first word of Advent, Christ warns us, "Stay awake! You must be prepared." The impervious, unprepared people "in the days of Noah" were distracted by their "eating and drinking," oblivious to the imminent flood. In what, then, does this Advent preparation consist? Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ through faith. "Faith is... a liberation of my I from its preoccupation with self, a liberation that sets me free to respond to the Father, to speak the Yes of love that sets me free to say Yes to being... Faith is... a breaking out of the isolation that is the malady of my I. The act of faith is... a breaking open of the door of my subjectivity" (Pope Benedict XVI). "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!"

TODAY'S READINGS ...

First Reading — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD'S house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

Psalm — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

Second Reading — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 12: 11-14).

Gospel — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of the Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24: 37-44).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK ...

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday: Is 25: 6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29: 17-24; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12



SATURDAY: VIGIL

5:30 David and Yepsi Lopez

SUNDAY: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ferguson (living)

9:00 Peter McGrath (53rd Anniversary)

10:30 John MacKenzie

12:00 **St. Monica Parishioners**

MONDAY: WEEKDAY

7:30 Gerri Canning (living)

9:00 Walter Kleeman

12:00 Elizabeth Watkins

TUESDAY: SAINT ANDREW

7:30 Cecilia Giannasio

9:00 Carlos M. Diaz Ristorucci

12:00 Diana Kallfelz

WEDNESDAY: WEEKDAY

7:30 Mr. Kuchar

9:00 Catherine Joyce

12:00 Holy Souls

THURSDAY: WEEKDAY

7:30 Rosa Teresa Litrenta

9:00 Juan Ayastury (living)

12:00 Carmen Lopez

FRIDAY: SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

7:30 Anna and Frank Fodor

9:00 Walter Ferber

12:00 Minette Ferrier

SATURDAY: SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS

9:00 Carla Betiana Litrenta (living)

HOPEFUL EXPECTATION...

Our liturgical year begins with the season of Advent — a time of hopeful expectation of the coming of the Lord. On the First Sunday of Advent we look forward to the end of time when we will awaken to the dawn of Christ's new day. Today we hear Isaiah speak of a day when God's power will have brought universal peace and God's "light" (teachings) into all of human society. Only when humanity walks "in the light of the LORD" (Isaiah 2:5), when all people desire to be instructed "in [God's] ways" (Isaiah 2:3), will the world be set aright and our deepest longings fulfilled. The reading from Romans calls us to "awake from sleep" for this final "day is at hand" (Romans 13:11, 12). Together this Sunday's scriptures proclaim our Christian faith that Jesus is the One who will finally come to fulfill God's plan of salvation. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

*First Sunday of Advent (A)****Welcome to St. Monica's!***

*The music for today's Eucharist can be found
in our hymnal on the following pages:*

Entrance Hymn	195
<i>Creator of the Stars of Night</i>	
Penitential Rite	112
Responsorial Psalm	477
<i>Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	114
<i>A virgin will give birth to a son; His name will be Emmanuel; God is with us.</i>	
Offertory Hymn	359
<i>Blest Are They</i>	
Sanctus	103
Memorial Acclamation	104
Great Amen	105
The Lord's Prayer	120
Lamb of God	188
Communion Hymn	449
<i>I Am the Bread of Life</i>	
Recessional Hymn	194
<i>On Jordan's Bank</i>	

STEWARDSHIP ...

For the past months or so, I have been praying to St. Jude, who has helped me, and to God, to let me know His will ... So here I am joining the parish and the first thing I see is tithing. I wonder if this is God's will. The thing I most want my son to learn (and he's not there yet) is the joy of loving and giving. God's greatest gift to us is each other. We certainly are our brother's keeper.

At any rate, I have been lacking in my personal relationship with God. I think trying to live like Jesus is not enough (although I'm sorely lacking in my efforts there, too.) I guess the faith is the thing, and if tithing will help me with that, I'd better try it."

Last Week's Collection: \$ 5992.00

Last Year's Collection: \$ 4,117.00

HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS MARKETS ...

The *Holiday Market at Union Square*, from now till December 24, 2010. Intersection of Park Avenue South , Broadway, 14th Street and Union Square West, NYC and

The *Holiday Market at Columbus Circle*, from December 1 -24, 2010 at the Intersection of Columbus Circle , Central Park West and Central Park South , Manhattan, NYC

St. Vincent Ferrer, 151 East 65th Street (between Lexington and Third Avenue) on Saturday, **December 4th** from 10:00am-3:00pm. homemade crafts, jewelry, wreaths, candles, quilts, and pottery. Homemade baked goods, a photo with Santa, make your own ornaments, many raffles.

ORGAN DONORS ...

Sadly, the number of people awaiting transplants in the United States is on the rise at an alarming rate, with nearly 109,000 on the waiting list. This means that, each day, as many as 18 lives are lost and a new name is added every 11 minutes.

One of the most wonderful ways in which an individual can demonstrate love for another is by making an informed decision to become an organ donor. Please consider enrolling in the New York State Organ and Tissue Donor registry this month by calling (646) 291-4444.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ...

This food program serves more than 5 million meals each year. The Homeless Prevention Program helps more than 3,000 families and individuals stay in their homes, provide emergency shelter for 1,500 and temporary or traditional apartments for 2,000. To learn more: www.catholiccharitiesnyc.org

PLEASE REMEMBER...

Both in life and in death, we belong to the Lord.

- Romans 14

Please remember St. Monica's Church in your will.

IN MEMORY OF ...

The monthly Sanctuary Light and the monthly Bread and Wine used for the Celebration of the Eucharist may be reserved for your special intentions in memory of a deceased loved one, in thanksgiving for a favor received or for any other special need.

Please call the rectory (212) 288-6251 to make your reservation.

**The Burning of the Sanctuary Light
during the month of
NOVEMBER**

In Memory of the Eileen and William Mullin
Requested by Robert E. Mullin

**The Bread and Wine for the
Celebration of the Eucharist during the month of
NOVEMBER**

In loving Memory of Rose Armetta
Requested by Adam Armetta

BIBLE CLASSES ...

To celebrate Advent, Father Joe Francis will be having Bible study classes in the church on Tuesdays from 7:00pm to 8:00pm starting **November 30, December 7, 14 and 21st**. All are welcome, please join us and bring a friend.

OUTSIDE OUR PARISH ...

Irish Sopranos and Irish Tenor, Karl Scully will perform a Classic Christmas Concert at Blessed Sacrament Church in Jackson Heights, Queens on Sunday, December 5, 2010. Ticket Donation is \$30. This will also be a Festive cocktail Reception following the concert, admission is \$25. For reservation or more information, please call (718) 639-3888.

WORLD AIDS DAY ...

December 1 is *World AIDS Day*, the day designated as a time of prayer and support for all those living with the HIV Virus and remembrance of the millions already lost to AIDS. Let us unite in growing respect and understand for one another, tolerance of differences that have a power to divide us and work together for peace and justice for all.

MOVIE NIGHT FOR KIDS & GROWNUPS ...

Please join the Church of St. John the Martyr for a Christmas celebration of pizza, Christmas cookies and entertainment short family Christmas movie, "The Very First Noel," on Saturday, December 4 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the church hall. An offering of \$5 per person or per family is requested. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

They are located at 250 East 72nd Street (close to 2nd Avenue) 212-744-4880. All are welcome.

BOOMERS & BEYOND ...

Come and spread some holiday cheer with Boomers & Beyond at their annual caroling event on Sunday, **December 5th, 2010.**

They will meet at Cardinal Cooke Medical Center at 5th Avenue between 105th and 106th Streets at 12:15 pm, move on to the Lott Assisted Living residence at 5th Avenue between 107th and 108th Streets and will finish by 3:00pm, in plenty of time for any other holiday plans you have for the day – maybe even join the group for a holiday toast !

RSVP by Wed, 12/1:

boomersandbeyond.eastside@gmail.com or call (646) 241-1332

FEAST OF FAITH - WHAT IS THE MASS? ...

What is the Mass? There is no simple answer to that question. The Church uses many different images and terms to describe our most important prayer. The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist, a Greek word that means "thanksgiving." It is the Lord's Supper. It is the Breaking of the Bread. It is the memorial of the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. It is the Holy Sacrifice, in which the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is perpetuated. It is the holy and divine liturgy, the sacred mysteries. It is the source and summit of our Christian lives, the new covenant, the work of the Holy Spirit, the paschal mystery. The many different words and images that we use when we speak of the Mass are not signs of confusion, but of wonder at what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1328) calls the "inexhaustible richness" of the Eucharist. The Mass, our greatest prayer and our deepest mystery, is celebrated every day, many times a day, the world over. The Eucharist is both "bread from heaven" and "daily bread." The Mass is our everyday miracle. —*Corinna Laughlin*, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

EWTN PRESENTATION ...

NEW: This film, directed by Leonardo Defilippis, tells the story of St. Therese of Lisieux, a young girl who fell in love with Jesus Christ and demonstrated a path of spirituality through her actions of unconditional love & human compassion, December 8th, 2010 @ 9:00pm (2hrs)

DAMIEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE, GOD MAKING A SAINT ...

NEW: This documentary chronicles the life of Father Damien, a Catholic priest from Belgium who, at the age of 33 was sent to minister to the lepers. He was recently canonized by Pope Benedict for this selfless act of mercy and compassion towards others. December 12th at 10:00pm, encores December 14th at 1:00pm and again December 16th at 5:00 am (60 minutes) (60 minutes)

SPECIAL DEVOTIONS

Rosary: Weekdays after the Noon Mass

and on Saturday after the 9:00am

Holy Hour: First Friday of each month after the Noon Mass

Devotions: Miraculous Medal on Mondays after each Mass



THE ADVENT WREATH

The origins of the Advent wreath are lost in history. There is evidence that pre-Christian Germanic and Scandinavian cultures used wreaths with candles as part of their pagan religious rituals during the darkening winter months. As the light of the sun seemed to die during each cycle of seasons, there was an attempt to coax the light back into existence through the kindling of more candles as the solstice Day, found great acceptance in Scandinavia with young women wearing a wreath with candles to celebrate the “saint of light.”

In Germany, the multi-week custom of lighting candles before the solstice was “baptized” into the Advent wreath. The evergreen symbolized the eternal life promised by the coming Savior, the circle of the wreath was interpreted as a sign of the one God who is without beginning and without end; and the candles referenced the four Sundays before the festival of the Savior’s birth.

While it is common to use three purple candles and one rose candle in Advent wreaths today, four ivory or white ones have also been used. As late as the 12th century, white was the color worn in Rome during Advent. Likewise, all four candles of the wreath could be violet, the designated color of the season today.