

THE CHURCH OF
SAINT MONICA
 BERWYN, PENNSYLVANIA

Encountering Christ - Through Scripture, Through Liturgy, Through Serving Others

**THE CHURCH of
 SAINT MONICA**

Founded January 11, 1897

Parish Offices

(Pastoral Administration; Religious Education; Business & Finance; Worship & Music; Facilities)

Saint Monica Rectory
 635 First Avenue
 Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312
 Phone: 610.644.0110
 Facsimile: 610.695.0850

Office of Religious Education (Rectory)

610.647.4757

Parish Website

www.saintmonicachurch.org

Twitter & Instagram

@StMonicaBerwyn

Join Flocknote!

Text "Monica1897" to 84576

Parish Staff E-mail

FirstInitialLastName@
 saintmonicachurch.org

Parish Leadership

financecouncil@
 saintmonicachurch.org

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass 8:30 a.m.

(Monday thru Saturday with a Communion Service on Wednesday)

Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

Holy Days 8:30 a.m.

of Obligation 12 noon

The Sacrament of

Reconciliation (Confessions)

Monday 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.

Saturday 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

Anytime by appointment.

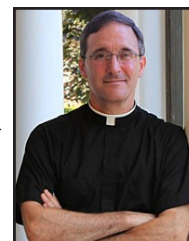
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

January 6, 2019

FROM the PASTOR'S DESK...

Liturgical Catechesis: Why do we use incense?

Incense has been used in Christian liturgy from its earliest centuries. In fact, it was a part of the Jewish tradition that came before it. The smoke of the incense is symbolic of sanctification and purification, as well as symbolic of the prayers of the faithful. It is one of the outward signs of spiritual realities, and that is why it has its place in Christian liturgy. These two purposes reveal a deeper truth. Prayer purifies and sanctifies us, making us worthy of worshiping God in heaven for eternity with all the angels and saints. Further information can be found on the website.



I've been writing about Jonathan Merritt's book *Learning to Speak God from Scratch: Why Sacred Words Are Vanishing--and How We Can Revive Them?* We are comparing his words and wisdom to that of "The Rule of St. Benedict." This week we look at a difficult topic: **sickness and pain.**

The *Rule of St. Benedict*, Chapter 36: involves the topic, "On the Sick." We read, "Before all things and above all things, care must be taken of the sick, so that they will be served as if they were Christ in person; for He Himself said, "I was sick, and you visited Me" (Matthew 25:36), and, "What you did for one of these least ones, you did for Me" (Matthew 25:40).

Sounds rather noble, doesn't it? In his book, Jonathan Merritt writes a fascinating story about pain and suffering. Literally overnight, he suddenly was faced with no sensation in his arms. He tried various quick-fixes and home remedies. Nothing worked. He visited several doctors. Not only couldn't they help, but they also couldn't even figure out what was wrong. The situation began to scare Merritt. More tests and consultations followed. Now the medical community was looking well beyond carpal tunnel and food allergies. It was now considering serious, life-threatening diseases. Now the case became frightening to Merritt and his family. What was especially debilitating, however, was the reaction by family and friends to Merritt's condition. He writes that, "Beyond a few easy-fix recommendations, most friends weren't interested in much discussion about the matter. The more I talked about it, the less they came around. I had lost my health, and now I was losing my community." Isolation was what caused the most suffering for the author.

(Continued on Page 4)

OUR PARISH PRAYER INTENTION for THIS WEEK

May celebrating the Feast of The Epiphany lift our hearts closer to Jesus.

FROM *the* OFFICE of DISCIPLESHIP *and* FORMATION

-the office of -
Discipleship and Formation

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE'VE MISSED YOU!

We can't wait to see you
this week at Children's
Liturgy of the Word, Small
Groups, and Youth Group!!

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



May the splendor of your majesty, O Lord, we pray, shed its light upon our hearts, that we may pass through the shadows of this world and reach the brightness of our eternal home. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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What if every Catholic did one thing each week
to intentionally share God's message with others?

Come and discover how four life-changing habits can point you
towards discovering incredible possibilities for your life.

You will leave the event with a personal plan
to help you become the best version of yourself.



Please join Dynamic Catholic and speaker Allan Hunt:

March 31, 2019 1-5pm
St John the Baptist Philadelphia
Manayunk/Philadelphia

Tickets & Info: [DynamicCatholic.com/
find-your-greatness-philadelphia-pa-mar-31-2019](http://DynamicCatholic.com/find-your-greatness-philadelphia-pa-mar-31-2019) or call 859.980.7900 for tickets.

Who should attend? The event is appropriate for ages 12+; youth are encouraged to attend!
Husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, single or married, young or old, Catholic or
non-Catholic: **you are invited.**

When was the last time you invested in your life? It's time. You are worth it!

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS for NOVEMBER 2018

November 2018	\$59,948	50% Electronic	November YTD 2018	\$318,254	51% Electronic
November 2017	\$72,225	54% Electronic	November YTD 2017	\$349,842	48% Electronic
November Budget 2018-2019	\$74,224		November YTD Budget 2018-2019	\$344,765	

**DUE TO THE EARLY
TRANSMISSION OF THE
BULLETIN, UPDATED
COLLECTION AMOUNTS ARE
NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS
TIME.**

POOR BOXES

Money collected from the Poor Boxes during the Month of January will be for the benefit of the Bethesda Project. May God bless you for your continued generosity.

The Fiscal Year 2019 budget for Saint Monica Parish is available on line at www.saintmonicachurch.org under the Parish Information tab in the Parish Leadership section.

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM the PASTOR'S DESK ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Medical isolation is a valid approach towards treatment. It allows for specific treatment to be focused on the sick. In *The Rule*, St. Benedict writes, *"For these sick let there be assigned a special room and an attendant who is God-fearing, diligent and solicitous. Let the use of baths be afforded the sick as often as may be expedient; but to the healthy, and especially to the young, let them be granted more rarely. Moreover, let the use of meat be granted to the sick who are very weak, for the restoration of their strength; but when they are convalescent, let all abstain from meat as usual."*

Personal, emotional, and spiritual isolation are other matters entirely. Merritt writes that, "No one can feel what another feels, so only those who live with pain can relate. Healthy people just cannot understand. This makes chronic illness an isolating experience."

Merritt continues, "Some sacred words could be deleted from the vocabulary of faith and we would barely notice. Not pain. This is a part of life whether you have a chronic physical condition or not. No one passes through life without accumulating his or her fair share of scabs and scars."

"Speaking God" also means finding the language to speak about the intersection between God and humanity. What words can – and must – we use to be "Christ-like" in situations where verbal redemption is needed? *"In a world where so many are writhing under the weight of chronic pain, Americans—and especially Jesus followers—must find a way to speak about pain that is helpful, informed, and compassionate. On my pain journey, I realized that pain is often talked about in two opposite ways. Both are incomplete and often heap more hurt on the afflicted (Merritt)."*

What we certainly must NOT do is to blame the disease and pain on the person who is sick. The Scriptures give us an example of this misaligned theology: *"As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him'" (John 9:1-3).*

Merritt writes that *"Some religious traditions treat pain—physical, emotional, or mental—as an unmitigated tragedy. They may even suggest a person's sins or faithlessness as the root cause. If we get rid of the sin or increase our faith, the pain will vanish. This framework is harmful in part because it heaps guilt on the pained. People see themselves as the cause of their pain or the reason it isn't resolving, and sometimes seek out spiritual solutions to pain at the exclusion of medical remedies. Other religious traditions speak of pain in the opposite way—as a gift—a primary portal through which we encounter the Divine. Some ascetic and monastic traditions resist the temptation to escape pain and even seek out discomfort. The goal is to embrace pain. This framework is harmful because the pained do not experience their pain as a positive force, and telling them it is so ...feels cruel."*

What is the solution? "Between these two poles, a third way understands pain as a negative and unfortunate presence that has the ability to grow us, teach us, and even lead us into greater spiritual awareness," writes Merritt. St. Benedict points to this in *The Rule*: "But let the sick on their part consider that they are being served for the honor of God." What I like about St. Benedict is his balance. He realizes that there is another side of pain and suffering. The sick and suffering also have a responsibility to those people who are caring for them. *"Let (the sick) not annoy their sisters who are serving them by any unnecessary demands. Yet, the sick, even those who are demanding and annoying, should be patiently borne with, because from such as these is gained a more abundant reward. Therefore, let the Abbess take the greatest care that the sick suffer no neglect. Take the greatest care that the sick be not neglected by the cellarers or the attendants; for she also is responsible for what is done wrongly by her disciples."*

Merritt concludes with the following insights and suggestions: *"We can seek to cure pain while also collaborating with pain. To sit with pain and listen to pain, even while we try to alleviate it. 'All I know is that pain is a teacher,' I said, 'but I do not know where he was educated.' On my own pain journey, I've begun pausing to reflect. To listen to the lessons pain is trying to teach. I stopped taking any pain-free moments for granted. Gratitude is now a greater part of my life rhythm. I've learned that I am not omnipotent and must relinquish control of my present as well as my future. I've realized that I am not infinite, and I should enjoy each day without rushing through. I've learned that I'm not empathetic, and I now find myself more attentive to painful cries around me."*

Before all things and above all things, care must be taken of the sick, so that they will be served as if they were Christ in person; for He Himself said, "I was sick, and you visited Me" (Matt 25:36), and, "What you did for one of these least ones, you did for Me" (Matt. 25:40).

Charles Flock Jr

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

THAT MAN IS YOU!



Are you seeking? Do you want to join a group of men who are doing just that ... **and are finding.** Join a group of men from St Monica, for a new term of TMIY starting

Thursday, January 10, 2019 at St. Norbert, weekly at 6am. For more information contact Tom McGurk at 610-722-9384 or email tmcgurk505@gmail.com. Welcome!

REGINA LUMINIS ACADEMY - OPEN HOUSE IN SCHOOL CAFETERIA



On Sunday, January 27, 2019, Regina Luminis Academy will hold an Academy-wide Open House from 1-3 PM. Please come tour our academy, speak with faculty, alumni and current students, to hear what makes our Classical Curriculum build strong Catholic Leaders. NAPCIS Accreditation for Grades PreK - 12. We look forward to meeting you!

Please contact Michelle Haley, RLA Enrollment Coordinator, at mzapatahaley@gmail.com or 610-308-5770 for more information.

HELPING HANDS



Have you participated in "Helping Hands," the meal packing event that the parish has hosted the last few years? On March 10, 2019, we will host our 5th annual event and pack our 248,000th meal for the

needy in Burkina Faso! To continue holding this wonderful event in the future, we are looking for one or two people with a charism for Administration who are interested in shadowing in 2019 and coordinating in 2020. At this point, we have the event planning dialed in and it takes minimal time in advance of the event to set up. Is this something you'd be interested in learning more about? Contact Levi Keene at levi.keene@gmail.com or (509)429-4192. Thanks!



PLEASE JOIN US
Eucharistic Adoration
Every Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm
Parish Rosary in the Grotto (Weather Permitting)
Every Monday at 7:15 pm

JOIN US ON THIS PRAYERFUL JOURNEY!

ST. MONICA BUS TRIP
46TH ANNUAL
MARCH FOR LIFE



FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019

DEPARTS 7 A.M. ~ RETURNS BY 8 P.M.
FAMILIES WELCOME.

Our bus will make 2 stops: The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (for those who wish to spend the day in prayer indoors) and downtown for the Rally on the National Mall and March to the Supreme Court.

\$25 for adults ~ No charge for students
Register (or donate to cover student seats)

at www.saintmonicachurch.org

Questions? Contact Rosemary Friedrich at rcfriedrich@verizon.net

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE for January 6

DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Monday	9:00 am-4:30 pm	Adoration NO Confession	Church
	7:15-7:45 pm	Parish Rosary	Church
Tuesday		NO Confession	
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service	Church
Thursday	7:00-9:00 pm	Walking With Purpose	Parish Center
Friday	9:15-10:45 am	Legion of Mary	Rectory
Saturday	4:00-4:45 pm	Confession	Church

THE CHURCH of SAINT MONICA

WWW.SAINTMONICACHURCH.ORG

SOCIAL MEDIA



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FATHER ZLOCK



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Frzlock.com



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FAMILY & YOUTH MINISTRY

Edge: Middle School Youth Group
Lifeteen: High School Youth Group



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BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

The Saint Monica Parish Bulletin is published weekly and is available both on the parish website and distributed to the assembly.

Submissions are due each Monday by noon and should be e-mailed to parishbulletin@saintmonicachurch.org with formatting left to a minimum.

Please include a contact name and phone number with your submission. In the case where announcements must be submitted handwritten, please make sure the text is legible.

BULLETIN INSERTS

All inserts must be submitted to the Rectory Office for approval a minimum of **two weeks** before you would like it to appear.

MASS INTENTIONS for January 6 – January 13

MASS TIME	INTENTION	PRESIDER	MUSIC MINISTRY	NOTES
5:00 pm	+ David Trassati	Norbertine	Cantor	
7:30 am	+ Melanie Meezinko	Norbertine	Quiet	
9:30 am	People of the Parish	Norbertine	Cantor	
11:30 am	+ Jack Alexander Mayes	Norbertine	Cantor	
Monday, 7th	+ Polly Traver	Norbertine		
Tuesday, 8th	Donald Vogelgesang	Norbertine		
Wednesday, 9th	Communion Service			
Thursday, 10th	+ Mary DiAntonio	Norbertine		
Friday, 11th	+ Patricia Church	Norbertine		
Saturday, 12th	+ Richard Dressler	Norbertine		
5:00 pm	+John McGee	Fr. Fitzgerald	Cantor	
7:30 am	+ Stephanie Kwasnicki	Norbertine	Quiet	
9:30 am	+ Regis Filtz	Fr. Zlock	Cantor	
11:30 am	People of the Parish	Fr. Zlock	Cantor	

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Sonia Altirman, Drew Brazer, Michael Byrne, Lina Cappelli, Terri Carson, Lilly Giocca, James DiAntonio, Gavin Duffy, Rita Dunn, Margarita Elloso, Joseph Erwin, Ria Filippelli, Judy Fittipoldi, Elaine Flynn, Hugh Gannon, Kelly Glacken, Mary Hartley, Karen Hastings, Natalie Innella, Jenna, Maya and Eva Izzii, Faith Johnson, Clare Johnston, Libby Judge, Debbie Kern, Charlie Litzelman, Jackson MacTaggart, Eugene Matta, Dan McMonigle, Heather Moore, Dr. Mark Nardone, John Neff, Rob Niederer, Steve Pannella, Apolonia Pepperling, Rita Reilly, Joel Rivera, John Robinson, Mary Rose, Cathy Russell, Gary Smith, Mildred Walsh

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and may Your Perpetual Light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

H.O.P.E. — HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCIES

Leader for this week: Sandie Concannon at 610-647-1068

PARISH LEADERSHIP

FINANCE COUNCIL

Robert Carden
Kevin Concannon
Dennis Connell
Richard Deak
Kathryn Leib
Jack Martin
Michael Vadner
Alex Weaver
Kolbe Wolfe

PARISH PASTORAL STAFF

Reverend Charles Zlock, M.Div., M.A., M.B.I.S., *Pastor*
Reverend Allan Fitzgerald, O.S.A., Ph.D., *Pastoral Assistance*
The Norbertines of Daylesford Abbey, *Pastoral Assistance*
Jason Carter, *Director of Discipleship & Formation*
Meghan Nulty, *Associate Director of Discipleship & Formation*
Diane Kirsch Pealer, *Program Coordinator for Discipleship & Formation*
Theresa Carey, *Business Manager*
Catherine H. Levine, *Parish Administrative Assistant*
Elizabeth P. Tenaglio, *Cemetery Administration*
Vincent Gutierrez, *Director of Facilities Management*