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Maintenance—maintenance@stmonicastl.org

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Principal

Genny Callier...314.434.2173.....principal@stmonicastl.org

Secretary

Maggie Hermann...314.434.2173.....Mhermann@stmonicastl.org

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Regular Weekend Celebrant

Fr. George Brennan

Permanent Deacons

Jim Martin
Jim@jpmllc.com
and
Carl Sommer
Carlsommer@earthlink.net

Retired Deacons

Deacon Robert Birkenmaier
and Deacon Ray Miller

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m.,
Sunday 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
and 5:00 p.m.

Daily Weekday Mass

6:30 and 8:15 a.m.
8:00 a.m. Saturdays

Confesssions

3:30 –4:30 p.m. Saturday
or by Appointment

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. Trust. Trouble. Temptation. The Israelites remembered and trusted in God's constant, guiding presence and gave back to God the first fruits of the land. The psalmist trusted God would be present in times of trouble. Jesus survived temptation in the desert, only by trusting in God. In whom or in what do we place our trust when we are troubled and tempted?

Next weekend will be the Second Sunday of Lent. The readings next week remind us to keep our eyes fixed on heaven. God asks Abram to look up at the sky and count the stars. Philippians reminds us our citizenship is in heaven. Peter, James and John's eyes are fixed heavenward as they climb the mountain and witness Jesus' transfiguration. Where are our eyes fixed? On our electronics, on what others have? Let us ask for the grace to fix our eyes and hearts heavenward.

Lent is upon us! The word LENT comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "SPRING." Well, as I write this we are hardly in Spring, with the single digit temperatures and the below zero wind chills. HOWEVER, we do know that Spring is coming. We know that the flowers will soon be sprouting from the earth and the trees will be in full bloom. Just so we know that the promise of Jesus's life, death, and, most importantly, His Resurrection will be celebrated in six weeks. We have faith and we need to celebrate that faith. We need to live that faith. We need to be open to the message of Jesus, not just as He goes into the desert for his forty days of fasting and prayer, nor He is transfigured before His apostles, Peter, James, and John (as we will hear next weekend), but as we see, know, and celebrate His presence in our lives TODAY. How do we respond to His call to us? How are we growing in faith? How are we listening to God speaking to us? As Saint Paul said in the Second Letter to the Corinthians, used as the second reading on Ash Wednesday, "*In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you.* Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Make this Lent special through prayer, almsgiving, and fasting!

The Rite of Election: The Rite of Sending of our candidates and catechumens for the Easter Sacraments was to be celebrated this morning at the 9:30 A.M. Mass. This afternoon, at 2:30, at the Cathedral, Bishop Rivituso will officially "elect" our catechumens to receive the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. He will also celebrate the ceremony of the "Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates." These two ceremonies, while separate, are often celebrated at the same time because of convenience. In both all who are preparing for the Easter Sacraments are called to be faithful Christians! Please pray for our catechumens (soon to be "the Elect") and our candidates as they journey during this Lenten Season to the life-giving waters of Baptism, the coming of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, and the reception of Holy Communion as the life giving Bread which has come down from heaven.

Parish Mission: Thanks to all who attended the Mission on March 3, 4, and 5. Even though the weather was against us on Sunday, the attendance picked up during the week. I think it is most important that we listen to Mr. Molina's reminder: "There is a BIG difference between being a FAN of Jesus and a FOLLOWER of Jesus!" So let's be FOLLOWERS of Jesus, and not just FANS! Don't forget we are all called to be saints, as he reminded us, in quoting Saint Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 4, verse 3: " This is the will of God: your sanctification." Are we willing to embark upon this journey and to do our best to be saints?

Continue on next page……

He left us many things to think about. May we listen again and again to the Spirit speaking to us, especially during this Lenten season!

New Elevator lobby and elevator: The bids for our construction of the new elevator lobby and renovation of the hall and the "small meeting room," are due this coming Tuesday. Let's pray that they are in line with the estimates given to us several months ago. I'll let you know next week how they turned out. HOWEVER, a "curve was thrown us" last week. It seems that there is A LOT of ASBESTOS in the Parish Hall. Some of it was encapsulated, with the "new floor" that is in the Msgr. Schneider Hall. However, the original asbestos is underneath that floor and there is a LOT of asbestos tiles that weren't encapsulated. (If you have been in the basement of the church and seen where the tables and chairs are kept, you already know that!) However there is plenty in the walls and throughout the building. So, the curve thrown us, was that it must be "remediated," prior to any construction. Since we would still like to get the major work done immediately after Easter the remediation of the asbestos in the hall will have to be done beginning later this month. The Archdiocese and I are to receive some proposals and decide who best can do the work to have it done. "STAY TUNED."

This was of course written prior to the meeting of organizations on Ash Wednesday evening. Thanks to all who attended. I hope that it went well. ALL will have to put up with this "momentary light affliction," as Saint Paul says (2 Corinthians 4:17) so that the better good might happen for us all. I'll let you know next week what we came up with from the meeting on Ash Wednesday. Thank you for your prayers and patience.

Principal Search: The Search Committee continues its work. They have identified around a half dozen candidates that they would like to continue to interview. Again, more on that next week. Please pray for the committee and a successful outcome for the betterment of our school and parish.

Please remember that we have Stations of the Cross each Friday at 2:00 P.M.
Also, at the end of this week will be our school's Spring Break. Please have a good and safe break. May it be restful for all! Since so many of us are Irish, or would like to be, please have a very happy and blessed Saint Patrick's Weekend next weekend. "BE SAFE AND SANE!"
I will be out of the country from Monday afternoon through the early evening of March 21. The Internet works quite well and so do the phones, so I will be in constant touch with the parish. Please pray that I get some rest and relaxation. Suffice it to say I think I'm getting too old to do all that is required of a pastor of a parish with so many things going on.

Have a very fruitful and prayerful Lenten Season.

Faithfully yours,
Fr Joe Weber

PARISH RENOVATIONS

In order to free up our Parish staff from Renovation related questions , direct all questions concerning Church Basement meeting rooms, Church Hall, Church kitchen and all storage areas to Ray Alonzo, Building Chairman. **rayalonzo@ymail.com**.

PARISH SUPPORT MARCH 3: Envelopes 12,487.00; Loose $1,463.75; Online Giving $9,938.67; Easter Flowers $360.00; School $410.00; Tithing for the Poor $5.00 Central/Eastern Europe $50.00; Catholic Relief $45.00; Black/Native Mission $65.00and St. Vincent De Paul $50.00.

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 11-16

MONDAY	LENTEN WEEKDAY
6:30 A.M.	Patricia Barolak
8:15 A.M.	Arthur Biedenstein
TUESDAY	LENTEN WEEKDAY
6:30 A.M.	Robert Peterson
8:15 A.M.	Lynn Reyland
WEDNESDAY	LENTEN WEDNESDAY
6:30 A.M.	Robert Peterson
8:15 A.M.	Eloise Foss
THURSDAY	LENTEN WEEKDAY
6:30 A.M.	John Lang
8:15 A.M.	Dorothy Armour
FRIDAY	LENTEN WEEKDAY
6:30 A.M.	Mary Ann Raimondo
8:15 A.M.	Richard Sander Jr
SATURDAY	LENTEN WEEKDAY
8:00 A.M.	Mary Anne Dineen
5:00 P.M.	Anne Mischler

PRAY FOR OUR HOSPITALIZED, HOMEBOUND AND SICK

Steven Baak, John Barolak, Ruth Begnaud, Janet Collins, Shirley Dunker, Estelle Flanakin, Billie Grief, Charlotte Griffaw, Bill Guiot, Christina Hartley, Bob Huseman, Sylvia Indelicato, Ronald Kalupa, Michael Kisling, John Krause, Gloria Luca, Lourdes Manalo, Mary K. Mc Carthy, Eileen McDonough, Deacon Ray Miller, Rose Miller, Ann Miller, Fred Mueller, Jack Powers, Mary Renner, Bob Reuther, Joseph Ritacco, Jim Sallwasser, Joe Schmitz, Rose Slee, Joe Sonderman, Brent Spaeth, Jack Stretch, Stan Thomas, and Fr. Timothy Vowels.

WELCOME TO Daniel and Jennifer Ferris and their daughters Paige and Maya Ferris (12030 Tangletree Drive) who recently joined our Parish Community.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL (ACA) kickoff weekend April 27 -28 and will continue for the following two weekends. This year's theme is I BELIEVE. If you are a donor who received your card in the advance mailing from the Archbishop, feel free to send it in now and avoid the campaign weekend lines. In the coming weeks, we will be seeking out parishioners to help staff the card distribution tables after all Masses on those weekends. The Appeal directly supports more than 40 ministries and programs in our community. For questions, call or email Mary Fran Pike or David Skaggs at 314.994.0425 or **mftp33@aol.com**.

Board Game and Card Game Collection Drive

Spring cleaning is upon us! Do you have board games or card games gathering dust in your closet? Declutter your house and help out St. Monica's School all at the same time!

The St. Monica PTO is collecting new and used board games and card games for the school kids to use during indoor recess. All difficulty levels are appreciated, from preschool age to junior high.

A donation box will be located in the Church vestibule from March 17th-April 7th. Contact Becky Niesen (636.288.0061 or rebecca.niesen@yahoo.com) for more information.

Come, join us at **MOPS** (Mothers of Preschoolers) next meeting Wednesday, March 13! We are hosting Mika Ross, relationship counselor. She will speak to us about building our community as mothers, our relationship with our spouses and our faith. Wednesday, March 27, we will join seniors at Delmar Gardens nursing home for their music class! We are searching for a new coordinator for next year. For information contact Steph Hampton **stmonicamops@gmail.com**.

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

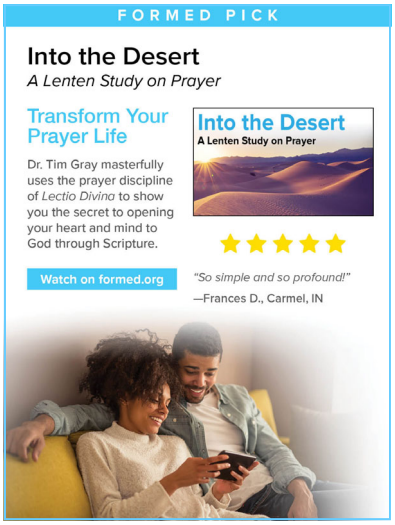
3/10	CHILDRENS LITURGY
3/11	PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR
	RCIA
	MON@MONICA'S
3/12	CORNERSTONE BIBLE STUDY
	MEN'S ACTS
	ROOM AT THE INN
	SCHOOL BOARD
3/13	MOPS
	PSR
	BIBLE STUDY PM
3/14	ADULT CHOIR
	LENTEN STUDY SERIES
3/17	CHILDRENS LITURGY

PSR News:

March 13 Class #25 Parents Come/Attend Class Night.

LADIES GUILD MON@MONICA—Ladies, join us for a Lenten soup supper Monday, March 11, 6:30 P.M. in the church hall. The Ladies Guild board will provide delicious homemade soups for supper. Don't be late. We will also be collecting travel-size personal care items to be donated to the homebound and needy. Bring your donations to this meeting. No RSVP necessary. Thank you for your support.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS have rescheduled their Bingo at St. Richard for Saturday March 30 at 7:00 P.M. Cost is $20 in advance/ $25 at the door and includes a packet of bingo cards, snacks and drinks. For reservations or information, contract Troy 314.469.1132.



If you're looking for a way to grow spiritually this Lent, see this week's FORMED Pick of the Week. In the six episodes of Into the Desert: A Lenten Study on Prayer Dr. Gray shares a method of prayer called Lectio Divina that helps you hear God's voice in prayer through the Scriptures. If you've ever wondered how to begin praying or felt like your prayer is one-sided, this series on FORMED will help you. This week, go to **formed.org** and watch Into the Desert: A Lenten Study on Prayer.

Formed.org is a free gift for our parish. Sign up for free at **https://stmonicastl.formed.org** or go to our parish homepage at **stmonicastl.org**.

ST. MONICA PARISH LENTEN PASTA DINNER Friday, April 5 in our School Cafeteria from 5:30–7:00 P.M. Homemade pasta, garlic bread, salad, drink and dessert. $5 for adults, $3 for children five years of age or younger. Hope to see you there!

SVDP PANTRY AT ST. MONICA
The pantry is out of Mac & Cheese, cookies/ crackers/snacks and is in need of potatoes and vegetables, other than green beans.

PRO LIFE NEWS—Missouri Right to Life Lobby Day March 12 in Jefferson City. Rally starts at the first floor Capitol Rotunda at noon. Transportation available. **http://www.missourilife.org/assets/2019-lobby_day_flyer.pdf**.

Educate yourself on the country's most pro-life bill that was recently passed by the Missouri House of Representatives. **http://www.missourilife.org/prHB126.html**. The bill goes before the Missouri Senate. Pray for its passage and contact your local legislators to pass HB 126. Go to **https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx** for contact information on our own legislators. As Catholics, we need to share our support of life with our policymakers.

SPECIAL BLESSING for expectant mothers and fathers after All Masses before the feast of the Annunciation, Sunday, March 24.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE—Sign up in the church vestibule for St. Monica's Day Friday, March 29 at Planned Parenthood. Contact **juliolagos@sbcglobal.net** or **dbomkamp@sbcglobal.net**

Deacon Diaper Drive—Pro-life Committee will help with this during the weekends of March 30–March 31. Soon there will be boxes at the church entrances.

MAGNIFICAT invites St. Monica women to breakfast Saturday, March 30 at Cardinal Rigali Center. Registration 8:30, breakfast/program 9:00-noon. Amy Olson will share her testimony. Limited seating. RSVP by March 26 at 314.801.8688. Tickets $20 (ask about group discount for a full parish table!). Call Toni at 314.324.4493 with questions.

DEAR PARISHIONERS AT ST. MONICA'S,
Thank you for your continued support of Birthright Counseling, STL and our moms. Recently your donations help a mom, Stephanie. She has two children, 4 years and 9 months old and now one on the way. Through your support we were able to help Stephanie with rent and utilities. We will continue to offer her support as she works her way through a GED program to better provide for her children. She meets weekly with her counselor and is due this summer. Your support allows mothers to choose life for their babies.

Weekly Mass Schedule
Sunday 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.
Monday through Friday 6:30 A.M. and 8:15 A.M.
Saturday 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. (Anticipates Sunday)

Lenten Morning Prayer
Monday through Saturday 7:40 A.M.

Formed: The Catholic Faith On Demand
https://stmonicastl.formed.org

Eucharistic Adoration
Monday through Saturday 7:00-8:00 A.M.
Wednesdays, 9:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.

Community Rosary
First Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M.

Stations of the Cross
Fridays of Lent 2:00 P.M.

Sacrament of Penance
Saturdays 3:30-4:30 P.M. OR By appointment

Communal Penance Celebration
Wednesday April 3, 7:00 PM

Men's ACTS Retreat
April 11-14

Holy Thursday, April 18
Morning Prayer 8:15 A.M.
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 P.M.
Night Prayer 11:00 P.M.

Good Friday, April 19
Morning Prayer 8:15 A.M.
Stations of the Cross 3:00 P.M.
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 7:00 P.M.

Holy Saturday, April 20
Morning Prayer 8:15 A.M.
Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection 8:00 P.M.

INFORMATION SHEET

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