

February 2, 2020

He had to become like his brothers
and sisters in every way.

— Hebrews 2:17a

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ST. MONICA CHURCH

12136 OLIVE BLVD.

CREVE COEUR, MO 63141-6629

PARISH OFFICE 314.434.4211 FAX 314.434.5978

WWW.STMONICASTL.ORG

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

PASTOR: FR. JOSEPH A. WEBER...JWEBER@STMONICASTL.ORG EXT 336

REGULAR WEEKEND CELEBRANTS: FR. GEORGE BRENNAN; FR. DONALD HENKE;

FR. SEAN SALAI, SJ; FR. KEVIN STEPHENS, OP, AND FR. KRIS TEATER

PERMANENT DEACONS: JIM MARTIN...JIM@JPMLLC.COM AND CARL SOMMER...SOMMER@KENRICK.EDU

TRANSITIONAL DEACON: REV. MR. DANE WESTHOFF...DWESTHOFF@STMONICASTL.ORG

RETIRED DEACON: DEACON ROBERT BIRKENMAIER

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 A.M. MONDAY—FRIDAY; 8:15 A.M. WEDNESDAYS

CONFESSIONS: 3:30–4:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

PARISH SECRETARIES: PATTY GREAVES...PGREAVES@STMONICASTL.ORG EXT 330 AND

JOAN BECKER...JBECKER18@STMONICASTL.ORG EXT 331

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE LINE: 314.289.6101...Mailbox #2210

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: JOE GIBSON 314.504.0775...SAINTMONICASPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Forty days after Jesus was born, in accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Him to the temple in Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. What they could not have known is that two elderly inhabitants of the temple, Simeon and Anna, recognize in the six-week-old child the Savior of the World. As we celebrate this special feast this weekend, may we challenge ourselves to recognize Jesus in the face of those we meet. *Please note that there will be a procession at the beginning of the 9:30 A.M. Mass. Weather permitting we will meet outside. Otherwise, we will meet “down the main hall” of School.*

Next weekend will be the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. During these days in the middle of winter, when the nights are long, and sunshine can be scarce, we realize the value of the sun. It brightens our day and our mood. It gives life, warmth, and light. The light of Christ can do the same. With the light of Christ we can bring light of the darkness in our world: injustice, violence, fear, poverty, and countless other shadows. May the Light of Christ shine forth wherever we go and whatever we do!

Saint Blaise Day: Tomorrow, Monday, February 3, is Saint Blaise Day. There is a LONG tradition of blessing throats on that day. We will have the blessing of throats during the 6:30 A.M. Mass and there will be a **special prayer service**, with the blessing of throats, at **9:00 A.M. tomorrow (Monday) morning**. All of our school children will be present and all other parishioners are also invited to attend and receive this Sacramental.

Returning your old palm: Ash Wednesday this year is on Wednesday, February 26. **Beginning next weekend there will be containers at each entrance of church for you to bring back your “old palm” to be burned to be ashes for Ash Wednesday.** Weather permitting there will be a prayer service at 2:15 P.M. on Monday, February 24, with our school children attending, when we will burn the palm to get the ashes ready for use on Ash Wednesday. (If you recall we were unable to do the service on either Monday or Tuesday last year because of the bad weather!) If the weather is bad (too windy, rain, or snow on Monday), the “make-up date” will be Tuesday, February 25, also at 2:15 P.M.

Gavin Lain and Kobe Bryant: Thanks to ALL who have been praying for our 8th grade student, **Gavin Lain**, in his recovery from an accidental gunshot wound suffered on Friday, January 24th. Special thanks to all who attended the special prayer service, including the Rosary, last Tuesday night. Please continue to pray for Gavin, his parents, brothers, and all the family. Visitors are still not allowed, but prayers are MOST welcome. There is a “Caring Bridge” page established for Gavin. It is there that the latest medical reports will be posted. If you are an NBA fan, or perhaps just a sports’ fan in general, certainly the death of **Kobe Bryant**, his daughter, **Gianna**, and seven others last Sunday is certainly tragic. Perhaps most of us didn’t know that Mr. Bryant was a practicing Catholic. It is interesting to note that he and his daughter had attended the 7:00 A.M. Holy Mass, and received Holy Communion last Sunday, at his parish in Orange County, California. They had a basketball game many miles away and had to get to the airport to get the helicopter flight, but their PRIORITY was attending Mass first. There is a WONDERFUL lesson there for all of us: Mass is a priority. If you “easily excuse” yourself from the attendance at Holy Mass on a Sunday, think about this “superstar” and the importance he gave to going to Mass before going to the game.

Continue on next page.....

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network: As you know the "Apostleship of Prayer" has ceased printing the yearly intentions leaflet from the Pope. So, as I have told you, each month I will remind you of the Pope's Intention and provide a reflection that was given to us by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. This month the intention is: **Listen to the Migrants' Cries.**

The monthly reflection, written by Saint Louis's own Father Joseph Laramie, SJ, is as follows:

Knock, knock. "Who's there?"

This is a familiar format for a children's riddle. You knock, I ask, you reply.

It's based on a simple action— someone knocks on my door and I ask, "Who is it?"

Is this a stranger? A friend? A criminal? Who is knocking?

We're right to be curious. And it's ok to ask questions. But should we automatically be suspicious? What if this is a friend, or someone who needs my help?

This February, Pope Francis asks us to hear the cries of migrants. After all, we shouldn't bolt the door until we know who is knocking, right? He writes, "Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age" (Pope Francis, Message for the 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees).

After the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt with their child. They escape from King Herod who searches for the child "to destroy him" [Matt 2:13]. After this danger passes, the Holy Family returns to their homeland. They were refugees only temporarily. Perhaps they knocked on an unfamiliar door seeking shelter. Imagine Joseph offering to work in exchange for food and housing. Knock, knock. "Who's there?"

Modern migration is a complex issue. A humane response requires compassion, wisdom, and cooperation from citizens, churches, police, and government leaders. If we shut our ears and lock the doors of our hearts, then we will never hear the cries of the poor seeking protection and opportunity. Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Who is knocking at our door? How will we respond?

"Ordination Banns" for Mr. William G. Smith. (Although printed and announced last week, it is required that we do this for two weeks in a row.) Canon 1029: "After all circumstances have been taken into account in the prudent judgment of the proper bishop or the competent major superior, only those should be promoted to Orders who have an integral faith, are motivated by a right intention, and proven virtues, and other physical and psychological qualities which are appropriate to the order to be received." This canon makes it clear that being ordained a Deacon is not about fulfilling requirements, it is an integrated lifestyle of love for Jesus Christ and of service to the Church. Following the age-old custom of the Church, as maintained by Canon Law (Canon 1051, paragraph 2), it is my privilege to announce publicly that Mr. William G. Smith is a candidate for the Major Order of the Sacred Diaconate, to be conferred on June 6, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis. Anyone who know any reason why this candidate should not be ordained is bound to disclose this immediately. Please join me in prayer for Mr. Smith for ordination will be times of extraordinary grace and abiding peace.

Faithfully yours,
Fr Joe Weber

PARISH COLLECTION JANUARY 26: Envelopes \$14,784.00; Loose \$1,283.69; Online Giving \$6,389.34; Pro-Life \$55.00; School \$65.00; Candlemas Day \$30.00; Central and Eastern Europe \$25.00; St. Louis Review \$485.00; Tithing for the Poor \$40.00 and St. Vincent De Paul \$75.00.

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE January 26, 2020: Year to date deficit (July 1—January 26) - **\$48,403.17**
Weekly budget \$27,295.00 and Actual received \$22,457.37

MASS INTENTIONS—FEBRUARY 3-8

MONDAY ST. BLAISE
6:30 A.M. CARDINAL CORMAC MURPHY O'CONNOR

TUESDAY WEEKDAY
6:30 A.M. MARY CLAIRE PIKE

WEDNESDAY ST. AGATHA
6:30 A.M. NORB WIBBENMEYER
8:15 A.M. FR. PAUL KIDNER, OSB

THURSDAY ST. PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS
6:30 A.M. ROSALIE MUELLER

FRIDAY WEEKDAY
6:30 A.M. TERENCE BOYLE

SATURDAY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
5:00 P.M. ROSALIE MUELLER

PRAYERS FOR HEALING, REMEMBER...

Ruth Begnaud, Mildred Dickherber, Shirley Dunker, Estelle Flanakin, Everett Foss, Charlotte Griffaw, Bill Guiot, Christina Hartley, Bob Huseman, Ronald Kalupa, Nina Kelly, Kara Koeninger, Gavin Lain, Gloria Luca, Patricia Mohan, Lourdes Manalo, Eileen McDonough, Joan Middendorf, Rose Miller, Ann Miller, Fred Mueller, Jack Powers, Michael Reinhardt, Mary Renner, Joseph Ritacco, Helen Sander, Dennis Sarris, Jeannett Sarris, Joe Schmitz, Rose Slee, Joe Sonderman, Fr Timothy Vowels and Delores Wichmann.

Persons remain on the public Prayers for Healing list for six weeks unless otherwise requested.

OUR SYMPATHY TO

Joe Sedlock and his family on the death of his mother, Elsie Sedlock. May she be living with God and may all be consoled.

NEW ADORER NEEDED

Take an opportunity to spend time with God in prayer. We have two openings for a new adorer, 2:00– 2:30 P.M. and 2:30-3:00 P.M., or one person 2:00 P.M.-3:00P.M.

Contact Robyn Stlrobyn@yahoo.com or 573.270.5018.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 16 in the vans in front of church from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. To schedule an appointment, call 800.747.5401 or online using donor code 9241 www.bloodcenterimpact.org. Let us make our goal of 30 and provide the school with more for their technology fund.



BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/GOLF/LACROSSE

Registration is now open. Visit Stmonicasports.siplay.com

ADULT VOLLEYBALL

All adults are invited to play volleyball in the St. Monica Gym on the following Sundays, February 23 and March 8 from 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

SCOUT NEWS:

Congratulations to our Scout Leaders who were presented the "Spark Plug Award" at the Boy Scouts of America New Horizons District Dinner for their inspiration and creativity to the youth in St. Monica's scouting programs.

Cub Scouts-Ron Faltus and Boy Scouts-Kurt Fatzinger

WEEKLY CALENDAR

FEB 2 CHILDREN'S LITURGY
FEB 3 PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR
FEB 5 PSR
FEB 6 ADULT CHOIR
FEB 9 CHILDREN'S LITURGY

ST. MONICA PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION GRADES

1-8 DIRECTOR—Mr. Jim Combs....314.434.2173

FEB 5 CLASS#20, 1ST COMMUN. PARENT MTG 6:50 P.M.

FEB 12 CLASS#21

FEB 19 CLASS#22

FEB 26 CLASS#23 ASH WEDNESDAY ATTEND MASS

PRO-LIFE MEETING

The Pro-life Committee Wednesday, February 19 in the cafeteria at 7:00 P.M.

LADIES GUILD

Ladies of the parish are invited to **GAME NIGHT** Monday, February 10. Come enjoy good food and fun with the Ladies Guild in the newly renovated church hall starting at 7:00 P.M. Use the front parking lot and stairs because the elevator is not yet in service.



Join the men of St. Monica and St. Richard Parishes for the next **ACTS RETREAT** March 26-29. Because of these retreats, lives are changing, men are becoming stronger in their faith and bonding with men within our parishes. Acts is for all men. If you are looking for a spiritual renewal, a deeper faith, and a stronger connection to the men in your community, Registration sheets will be available at the church entrances shortly. For information, contact: Fred Ward, Director at 314.609.6189 or Doug Westall, Co/Director at dougless.westall@gte.net

ROAR NEWS:



Stop by our ROAR table (Retailers Offering Added Rewards) after any Mass to support our ongoing fundraiser! The program is easy. You purchase the gift certificates from us and we receive a portion of the proceeds. Questions, or to volunteer contact MJ 314.541.6167 or mjr617@gmail.com.

REMINDER FOR SIGN USAGE

If you would like to have a message on the sign outside on the parking lot facing Olive you must get the okay from Fr. Weber first before your message goes up. The Parish Office number is 314.434.4211 and his extension is 336.

SVDP PANTRY AT ST. MONICA

The pantry needs shampoo, mac & cheese, rice and canned ravioli/spaghetti.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Our SVDP is reaching out to the parish for volunteers to assist our neighbors in need. We need people to answer the help line and direct people on assistance. We need helpers to drive, lift or rake. We need volunteers to make a phone call to a lonely person, offers of assistance with advice on legal/medical/budgeting matters or volunteer at a SVDP Thrift Store. Call Jeanne Schultz 314.432.6988 or Ed McAllister 314.392.9306.



BIBLE STUDY

Adult Faith enrichment classes January 29 at Drury Inn 7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M. The book we will use is “Paul – a biography” by N T WRiGHT. Purchase it on eBay or Amazon. A video presentation for the explanation of the text of the letters, and the book will give the context of the letters. We meet every Wednesday. When the room in the basement is available the meetings will be there. Call Deacon Martin or send an email if attending. This assures seating. It is ok if you can attend some if not all classes. There are seven letters.

BIRTHRIGHT

On this first weekend in February, there are envelopes in the pews for BIRTHRIGHT. Please use these to make a contribution this month to show your love for mothers and their babies who need your help



CASSEROLES FOR ST. PATRICK CENTER

We need casseroles for this Wednesday, February 5 and Friday, February 7. You may use the freezer in the vestibule room to drop off your casseroles at your convenience. Contact Vicki Westall at 314.920.9749 if you need help. Thank you for your generosity!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Sign up in the vestibule for an hour to witness and pray at St. Louis Planned Parenthood with other parishioners Friday, March 13 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Carpooling is possible. Do something special during Lent. For information contact dbomkamp@sbcglobal.net or juliola-gos@sbcglobal.net.

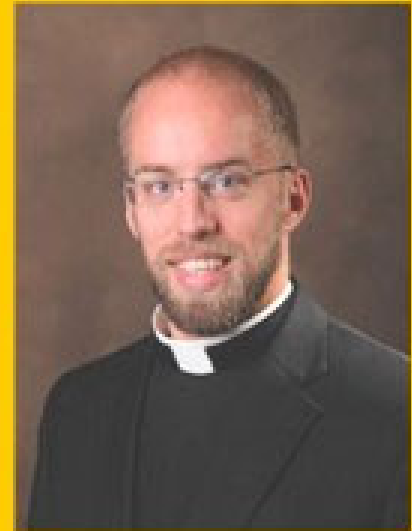
Men! Come to the Zechariah Prayer Breakfast

9 — 11:30 am, 8:30 registration

Saturday **FEB. 22, 2020**

May Room, Cardinal Rigali Center

20 Archbishop May Dr. 63119



**FR. WILLIAM
DOTSON**

FR. WILLIAM DOTSON has been the pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in St. Charles since 2017. He also serves as a member of the Public Policy Committee of the Missouri Catholic Conference and as a chaplain for the St. Charles City Police Department..

COME TO BREAKFAST! IT'S \$15.00, PAYABLE AT THE DOOR.



ARCHSTL.ORG/RENEWAL

Advance reservation of a breakfast is required, at (636) 296-2903 or

On-Line at **STLRENEWAL.ORG/ZPB**

EMAIL: **GARY.WHITLOCK@ATT.NET**



INFORMATION SHEET

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