



CHURCH OF ST. MONICA

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." - Mt 4:8-9

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

CLP

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FR. GEORGE BRENNAN

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BILL SMITH...BSMITH@STMONICASTL.ORG

RETIRED DEACONS

JIM MARTIN...JIM@JPMLLC.COM

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY VIGIL 5:00 P.M.,
SUNDAY 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M. AND 11:30 A.M.

DAILY MASS

SEE PAGE 3

CONFESSIONS

3:30-4:30 P.M. SATURDAY OR APPOINTMENT

ADORATION

WEDNESDAYS 9:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.

BAPTISMS

CELEBRATED 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH OR BY APPOINTMENT

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS—MONDAY—THURSDAY, 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. CLOSED ON FRIDAYS.

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A Message from the Pastor.....

As we begin now with Jesus in the desert: Why the Desert?

On my third retreat in the desert around Albuquerque recently, this became clear. To go to the desert is to leave a lot of things behind—people, personal routines, entertainment, cell phone and internet. All the people that give me affirmation (the good times, at least) and the things I rely on or piddle away time with, were gone. All that was left—as for Jesus—was the Father. And with the community of prayer there, I reflected on how that was enough. It felt like enough. I sensed freedom, not deprivation.

The battle is against evil—make no mistake about that. And to make it more difficult, *it's the evil within us*. That's hard for me to say, because I respect and like each of you so much. Yet I feel that because we're still here, because we haven't been taken into heaven yet, we must not be perfect. There are ways that the tricks and lies of the ancient serpent still resound in us, and come out in our actions or our deficiencies.

The 1st Sunday of Lent, we see Jesus in the desert tempted by—and overcoming—usual human distractions: satisfaction, recognition, respect. He sought instead to be in complete union with his Father. He leads us through an exemplary human life into the fullness of his Father's kingdom. He accepted his suffering as part of this great fullness. We can journey with him for 40 days now, and grow to become more loving, more devoted, more secure in God.

So as for Jesus, "Giving things up" has no value in itself. But if making a few choices to not be so automatic about food, diversions, or "passing time" instead of doing something valuable with it, can open us to focus on more satisfying things, then some "giving up" is worthwhile. Even some of our spiritual practices, reading our favorite formulas or prayers already written, can become automatic. We can spend time just offering our hearts to God, letting him speak to us. This too takes some letting go, and suffering to grow into new territory.

In this bulletin, you'll see a special offer to grow this Lent. being offered through today's electronic means: We're rebooting our Home FORMED series; and we have a special talk this Thursday from Msgr. Mike Witt, a former associate here and a now well-known historian. This will be followed by a special Spiritual Life talk by Dr. Paul Hogan of the Archdiocese. We also will finally promulgate our Pastoral Strategic Plan which will guide us the next several years, including into our grouping of several parishes under a shared pastor.

The word "Lent" is an old English word for "Springtime", so it didn't at least originally have such a dark tone as we may think of. That's our goal: to be coming awake and alive now, so we're more fully in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that a classic Lent has 3 elements: Sacrifice (What are you giving up); Prayer (the simpler, the better; instead of continually talking to God, can you quietly listen for awhile?) and Almsgiving, (charity to the poor). It's incomplete to make it just a test of our will power; the other two elements bring us closer to God, and to other people. So use "giving up" something arbitrary, to train your will. Then fast from what harms you, and others: harsh words, neglect, insensitivity, carelessness in words or actions.

Fr Tom Wyrsh

MASS INTENTIONS—FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 4

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 27
6:30 A.M.	DR. JOSEPH AND GERTRUDE VOLK
8:15 A.M.	JOSEPH PALAZZO
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 28
6:30 A.M.	JOEY O'CONNELL
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 1
6:30 A.M.	DR. JOE AND ELLEN VOLK
8:15 A.M.	RICHARD SANDER SR
THURSDAY	MARCH 2
6:30 A.M.	BARBARA HALL
FRIDAY	MARCH 3
6:30 A.M.	THE BAAK FAMILY
8:15 A.M.	MARTHA BIEDENSTEIN
SATURDAY	MARCH 4
8:15 A.M.	TERRENCE BOYLE
5:00 P.M.	JACK FARLEY
MARCH 5	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
7:30 A.M.	FOR DECEASED PRIESTS
9:30 A.M.	ROBERT F. PETERSON
11:30 A.M.	RICHARD SANDER JR

WORSHIP COMMISSION**ADORATION**

Every Wednesday, 9:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M. in the church. Come, spend an hour with the Lord. You will be surprised at how much an hour of quiet time spent with the Lord will do for your soul. He is always there patiently waiting to listen to what is in your heart. You may drop by church anytime during the Adoration period that you would like. Need information? Contact Barb DeJean either by phone 314.494.5621 or email de_jean@sbcglobal.net

STEADFAST IN FAITH**A PRAYER FOR ALL THINGS NEW**

Jesus, You call us to pray, fast and give alms. We, of the Archdiocese of St. Louis thank You for Your call this Lent to grow steadfast in our faith. In our Archdiocesan journey may we stay close to the Word and grow in virtue, so that we may find mutual affection for one another as we embrace the plan for the future of the Archdiocese. Strengthen us with the discipline of prayer, aid us in fasting from negativity and self indulgence. Stir through the Spirit, a generosity for the needs of others so that we may grow in charity. As we journey through these days of Lent, may we seek the power of the Spirit to grow through your transformative Love, Lord. Amen.

FORMATION COMMISSION

Participate in the **FORMED LENTEN CHALLENGE**. Schedule a family movie night and watch a movie together on FORMED. Have a conversation about the content. The top 10 movies on FORMED are: Joseph of Nazareth; Mary of Nazareth; Ignatius of Loyola; Joan of Arc; Restless Heart; Padre Pio—Miracle Man; The Bible Collection—Paul; Bernadette; Guadalupe; Mother Teresa.

Sign-up for **FORMED**. Visit [FORMED.org/sign-up](https://formed.org/sign-up), enter the parish zip code, then your name and email. Already have an account? Visit [FORMED.org](https://formed.org), click sign-in, enter your email, and click the link in your email to be in. Download the free FORMED app on your phone to have unlimited access.

ST. MONICA'S CYC BASEBALL, SOFTBALL AND GOLF REGISTRATION open for boys and girls. Contact Felix Ferrisse, stmonicalax@gmail.com for lacrosse. To register, <https://stmonicastl.org/athletics/>

ST. MONICA GIRL SCOUT TROOPS 3987, 2602, and 942 will sell cookies after Masses the weekend of March 4 and 5. The Raspberry Rally (a new cookie) will be available February 27. Contact any Girl Scout.

COAT DRIVE March 5-12. Please help Girl Scout Troop #3987 by donating your new or lightly used cold weather items for the International Welcome Center to help people who need winter wear. Collection baskets are in the church lobby, gym lobby, and school office. Contact Georgia Arnold, troop leader for questions or information 314.640.3451.

CARE PACKAGES—St. Monica's 8th Girl Scout, Cece Williams has chosen for her Silver Award to create NICU care packages for new families entering Mercy Hospital's NICU. Here is a list of items she is collecting: individual Kleenex packets, hand lotion, hand sanitizer, notebooks, pens, new children's book (for parents to read to their newborn. This promotes bonding when they are unable to hold their baby yet). **All items must be new (not gently used) to enter the NICU. We are collecting items now until July 2023.

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE SATURDAY, MARCH 4

Join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet at 10:00 A.M. at the Carondelet Motherhouse for their Lenten prayer service *In the Wilderness: Seeking God's Way*. This prayer service is free, but registration is required by February 27, csjsl.org/events/lent-prayer-service.

SOCIAL AND SERVICE COMMISSION



PRAYERS FOR HEALING...

Rebecca Damazyn, David Feldman, Billie Greif, Bill Guiot, Bob Huseman, Donna Jones, Terri Janon, Joan Koester, Patricia Kurane, Gavin Lain, Patricia Mohan, Joe Mueller, Lesley Riesmeyer, Tony Rosas, Candy Ross, Helen Sander, Beth Schobel, Rose Slee and Marilyn Williams.

OUR SYMPATHY TO Jon Lindell and his family on the death of his mother, Janice Lindell and to Dennis Anderhalter and his family on the death of his mother, Elizabeth Anderhalter. May they be living with God and may all be consoled.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Zoe Olivia Eubanks, daughter of Adam and Maria Eubanks who was recently baptized into our Parish Community.

WELCOME TO Dennis Tahirovic and Morgan Dunnegan (Chase Park Ln); to Lucas and Katie Smith (Amber Creek) who recently joined our Parish Community.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: canned meats, macaroni and cheese, hearty soups/stews, canned pasta and jelly.



THE ST PATRICK CENTER casserole pans are in the main vestibule available for pickup and sign-up. Casseroles are needed for Wednesday, March 1 and Friday, March 3. For information contact Cherie Crowe at cherie@croweclan.org.

RACHEL'S VINEYARDS ONE DAY OF HOPE AND HEALING ABORTION RETREAT for women, men and Couples Saturday, March 18, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. For women only retreat Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Visit our Abortion Healing Ministry page under the "About Your Healing Journey" section, www.archstl.org/hope-healing

RECYCLING please do not use the paper recycle bin as we have been attempting to have them emptied but with no results so far.

THANK YOU to all who participated in our Blood Drive. We had 31 units of blood given, including 3 double reds. Giving blood also helps provides funds for our school technology. Next blood drive on April 30.

ST. MONICA'S NEW BULLETIN COMPANY is LPI. To receive bulletin electronically visit: <https://www.parishesonline.com/organization/st-monica-parish-63141>. Click the subscribe button and enter your email address and name. If you have any problems call the Parish Office, 314.434.4211.

ST MONICA VBS 2023

Save the Date -- July 17-21

Theme: Parachute with the Angels and St. Catherine Laboure.

Open to children PreK-3 to 6th grade (Fall '23 school year).

Registration will begin after spring break. Adult volunteers are needed and several committee positions remain open.

Information and planning meeting Thursday, March 2 at 7:00 P.M. in the Church Hall. Contact Monica Feldman, monicaleed@hotmail.com or Rosemary Shaw, rosemary.shaw@sbcglobal.net for more information.



UPCOMING 150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

March 1, Wednesday – Monsignor Michael Witt will speak of the history of the area (even before St. Monica), the history of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and of St. Monica parish. Event will be held at 7:00 P.M. in the Church Hall.

March 10, Friday – ACTS team will present “Through the Eyes of Mary” version of live Stations of the Cross at 7:00 P.M. in the Church.

March 17, Friday – Knights of Columbus will present the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 P.M. in the church.

March 23, Thursday – Dr. Ed Hogan will present on “Becoming a Spiritual Companion.” Event will be at 7:00 P.M. in the church.

LENTEN SERIES FOR ADULTS begins on Sunday, March 5 and continues 4 more Sundays after our 9:30 A.M. Mass in Mary's Room. We will use St. John Paul II's letter On the *Christian Meaning of Human Suffering*. Cost is \$10 for the Book. Sign up sheets at all entrances to the Church or contact Fr. Tim, 314.434.4211 ext 338.

A warm **THANK YOU** to Heather Martin Cooper for the wonderful liturgical concert she performed Friday, February 17. Accolades go out to the Adult and Children's choirs, singers, and instrumentalists also. The performance was very enjoyable and a great time was had by all. Special thanks to Diann Bomkamp and her committee for the reception that followed.



ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

STEWARDSHIP FEBRUARY 12: Envelopes \$9,363.00; Loose \$939.84; Online Giving \$8,708.36; Black and Indian Mission \$35.00; Candlemas Day \$5.00; Pro-Life \$30.00; School \$20.00; St. Vincent De Paul \$110.00; and Tithing for the Poor \$20.00.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS—If you would like to receive a copy of your 2022 contribution statement please call the Parish Office at 314.434.4211 or pgreaves@stmonicastl.org and request your copy.

ONLINE GIVING—Need information? We use Our Sunday Visitor. Visit www.stmonicastl.org to enroll. Click on the Online Giving icon to walk you through the program. Save time and help the parish reduce expenses at the same time. For help call the Parish Office, 314.434.4211 or email pgreaves@stmonicastl.org

WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE is 8:00 A.M. Monday unless otherwise specified for holidays. To book the 4th page contact the Parish Office 2-3 weeks in advance.

ROAR (Retailers Offering Added Rewards) See us after Mass and check out our gift cards. This program is our only ongoing fundraiser for the parish. Questions, or to place an order call MJ Reinhardt 314.434.3312.



Ladies of the Parish, Come Join Us for Our

Soup Supper

Monday, March 13, 2023

6:30 pm in the Church Hall

The Ladies Guild will be hosting a soup supper along with
a talk by Dr. Susan Lenihan, Ph.D. on

The Role of Women (Mothers & Grandmothers) in Today's Church

Enjoy a soup supper on us!

We'll have many varieties of homemade soups
from which to choose so bring your appetites.

After supper enrich your Lenten experience by listening to
an enlightening talk by Dr. Lenihan and spending some
quality time with other lady parishioners.

If you have any questions, call Teresa at 314-275-8974. No need to RSVP,
but bring a can of soup for our St. Vincent DePaul food pantry.

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