

St. Monica Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston
8421 West Montgomery Rd., Houston, TX 77088-7116
Fr. John Ayang, S.O.L.T., Pastor
Fr. David Mumba, S.O.L.T., Parochial Vicar
Dcn. John Lane, Permanent Deacon

First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2010

Scripture Readings

Monday

1 Peter 5:1-4
Matthew 16:13-19

Tuesday

Isaiah 55:10-11
Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday

Jonah 3:1-10
Luke 11:29-32

Thursday

Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25
Matthew 7:7-12

Friday

Ezekiel 18:21-28
Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday

Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 9:28b-26

Parish Life and Organization

Parish Numbers

Office—281-447-5837
Rectory—281-447-7671
Hall—281-448-2082
C.C.E.—281-447-5837
Fax—281-447-8410
Email – stmonica@sbcglobal.net
Website - www.stmonicahouston.com
St. Vincent De Paul-281-447-3212

Choir Rehearsals

Teen Choir - Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Voices of Praise - Tues. 7:30 p.m.
Gospel - Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Prayer & Sacramental Life

Confessions: Sat., from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in addition to Mon., 6:15 p.m.- 6:45 p.m. or by appointment.

Marriages: Minimum 6 months preparation required. Contact Fr. John or Deacon Lane before setting a wedding date.

Baptisms: To register your child, please call the church office. All registration must be submitted to the church office 1 week prior to the class date.

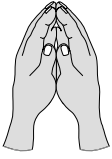
Masses Schedule:

Sat. Vigil - 6:00 p.m.
Sun. - 8:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Mon. - 7:00 p.m.
Tues., Wed., Thurs., &
Fri. - 9:00 a.m.
Sat. - 8:00 a.m.

Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Monica Catholic Church, recognize ourselves as a community of God's children called to holiness through Baptism and the Eucharist, to share the love of Christ through the message of the Gospel. Our mission is to pray and worship, teach and share Christ's saving message as we evangelize, build up, and nurture communities of faith; serving in Christ's name as we journey with each other to the fullness of eternal life.

Please remember to pray for the sick & Shut-in!



Sick: Christopher Adams, Richard Anderson, Tom Andreoli, Linda Avila, Sr., Maria Blount,, Joyce Brantley, Elmore Breaux, Sr., Kathy Burbee, Hisae Casey, Mary Chapa, Kelly Crosby, Sr. Eileen Dougherty, George Estes, John Estorge, Mary Lou Farrell, Fr. Jim Flanagan, Joseph Francis, Willie Goldsmith, Melvin Gotch, Linda Green-Timmons, Fr. Joe Hadgkiss, Paul Harper, Delphie Holcombe, Mary Jenkins, Isabella Jones, Fr. Ralph Jones, Shebra-Dean Jones, Theola Joseph, Evelyn LaCour, Angela Landry, James Landry, Dorothy Leblanc, Dwight Leblanc, Overton Leblanc, Tillie Lopez, Robert Malonson, Sr., Courtney Mathis, Jack Meunier, Georgia Meyers, Wanda Milburn, Larry Montgomery, Sr., Junies Mouton, Ethel Moss, Susan Neubauer, Richard Padilla, Michael Page, Fr. Jack Purtell, Alfonso Ramirez, Dorothy Richardson, Rosalinda Sanchez, Mary Sanders, Monica Sanders, Leocada Serbin, Jacqueline Sheehan, Fr. Tom Showalter, Alma Siner, Mary Lee Skipper, Edith Hodge Smith, Frank Smith, Daryl Spencer, Pearl Syon, Barbara Tatum, Andrew Tolliver, Israel & Paula Trevino, Tinity Vaughn, Shelia White, Mary Earline Williams

Shut-in: Rose Andrews, Mandoria Daigle, Ray Gafford, Gwen Harper, Lessie Johnson

Special Intention: Robert Smith, Gwen Smith

Next Week Ministers of the Mass (February 27th & February 28th)

Altar Servers

6:00 p.m. Jonathan Moss Sr. & Jonathan Moss, Jr.

8:00 a.m. Joshua Harrell, Gerald Adams, and
Bria Adams

11:00 a.m. Dennis Jones, Tony Carter-Samuels, &
Dejia Gunter

Lectors

6:00 p.m. Harry Hill & Earl Adams

8:00 a.m. Doris Barrow & Jeff Spiller

11:00 a.m. Gail Leblanc & Kimberly Fleeks

Money Counters

6:00 p.m. Team 1 **8:00 a.m.** Team 1

11:00 a.m. Team 1

Extraordinary Ministers

6:00 p.m. Jose Hernandez, Wayne Jones, David
Smith

8:00 a.m. Byron Johnson, Helen Jones, Dwight
Leblanc, Carolyn Parker, Dorothy Leday

11:00 a.m. Lillie Gobert, Ursula Johnson,
Shirley Phillips, Anthony Richards, Willie Richards

Hospitality Ministries

6:00 p.m. Cathy Johnson

8:00 a.m. Byronne Hearn

11:00 a.m. Nancy Hay & Gwendolyn Jenkins

Mass Intentions (February 20th - February 26th)

Sat. **02/20/2010** **6:00 p.m.** — **✠ James Moss, Jr.**

Sun. **02/21/2010** **8:00 a.m.** — **John & Theola 69th Wedding Anniversary**

11:00 a.m. — **The People of the Parish**

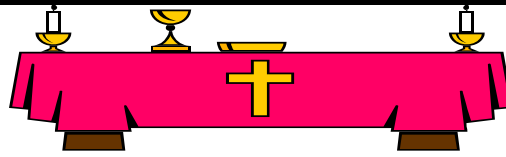
Stewardship Reflection

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the Promised Land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

Sick and Homebound

Parishioners, if you know of anyone sick at home or in the hospital, contact Fr. John. Please leave the following information: the person's name, phone number, home address or name of hospital.

Announcements



Eucharistic Adoration

Our weekly Eucharistic Adoration will be on Wednesdays and Fridays after the weekday Masses.

Hospitality Ministry

Greeters, the February schedule is available in the vestibule of the church in the rack next to the secretary's office. The Hospitality Ministry wishes to thank our church family for the candy donations. Please continue to support us.

Southwest Liturgical Conference Attendees

If you attended the Southwest Liturgical Conference in January 2010, there will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd at 7 pm in the CCE building. This meeting is to discuss and brainstorm information obtained at the conference.

Praying the Rosary During the Lenten Season

St. Monica's Vocation Ministry invites our parish family to join us in praying the Rosary (30 min) before every Mass during Lent.

Black and Indian Mission

This weekend, we are asked to support the church's evangelization efforts among African Americans and Native Americans. Your financial contribution supports Catholic communities on reservations, in rural areas and inner cities. Your financial support funds evangelization programs that are strengthening the faith, continuing the legacy and sharing the mission with children and adults here at home.

Lectors and Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors and Ministers of Holy Communion, if you did not attend the January 28th meeting there will be another meeting on Friday, March 5th after the Stations of the Cross. The purpose of this meeting is to prepare for re-commissioning. Please do not be absent, for it will make you ineligible to continue your ministry.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday during the Lenten Season beginning Friday, February 19th at 6:00 p.m. The "Stations of the Cross" represents the sorrowful journey that Jesus made with the cross on His shoulders, to die on Calvary for the love of us.

St. Monica Family Movie & Game Night

"Night at the Museum 2" will be shown at St. Monica center on Friday, February 26th. Come out and fellowship with a good movie, dominoes, cards, and board games. The youth of St. Monica will be selling food and drinks! All are invited ... bring a friend(s)!



Announcements

St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us by saying "Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.."



When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts and into our lives.

ST. MONICA FOOD PANTRY 2ND ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are very excited about St. Monica Catholic Church's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2010 at Longwood Golf Club.



The goal is to eventually make this event our major SPRING fundraiser to compliment our major FALL fundraiser. The entire parish is invited to assist. Visit www.stmonicagolf.webs.com for more information regarding the tournament or contact Doris Barrow @ 281-804-4037 for additional information.

Knights of St. Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary

Ladies Auxiliary Initiation

"The KPC Ladies Auxiliary, Court #151 will be having an initiation on Sunday, February 28, 2010 at St. Monica Church, immediately after the 11:00 a.m. mass. If you are interested in joining this noble order, please contact Grand Lady Norma Woodson as soon as possible at (832) 646-5842 or (281) 820-7907. Thank you."



Don't Give Up Symposium

Today, black men make up 41 percent of the inmates in federal state, and local prison, but black men are only 4 percent of all students in American institutions of higher education. These statistics are alarming, but can be changed if you Don't Give Up. You are invited to The Don't Give Up Symposium on Saturday, February 27, 2010 from 2-5 P.M. at Houston Community College, Room B104, 1265 Pinemont Drive, Houston, Texas 77018. Come out and hear the true story of Elizabeth Gonzales, and how she did not Give Up on her son, a graduate of the United States Airforce Academy and Professional Pilot. You will also hear a motivation presentation by Trevin Thomas and Dr. Glenn Chambers Jr. a Professor at Texas A&M University.

African American Breast Cancer Walk

On April 10th, Sisters Network, Inc. is hosting the Stop the Silence 1st National African American Breast Cancer 5K Walk/Run at Emancipation Park. This event is aimed at increasing awareness of breast cancer and replacing fear with hope as participants from across the country walk together to find a cure. The Sister Network Inc. is a leading voice and only national African American breast cancer survivorship organization in the United States. St. Monica would like to form a local team of ten or more participants. If you or someone you know is interested in supporting this event, please contact the church office or visit www.sistersnetworkinc.org.



Announcements

CCE—Continuing Christian Education & Youth Ministry



Sacramental Preparation

Reminder: On Thursday, February 25th there will be a Confirmation class as well as a 1st Communion class at 7 pm.

RCIA

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please call the church office.



"Follow Me..." 2010 Diocesan Services Fund

Our 2010 Diocesan Services Fund begins next weekend in every parish throughout the Archdioceses of Galveston-Houston. Our theme this year is "Follow me..." We are called to be Christ to those sick or in need, to teach, to reach out. The Archdioceses of Galveston-Houston needs your compassion and generosity. Your gift to DSF enables us to reach out to people in your parish and in the Archdiocese through more than 60 important programs.

*This past week, all registered parishioners have received a letter from His Eminence, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, along with a personalized pledge card, inviting you to head Christ's call and follow him by your participation in this year's Diocesan Services Fund. Please complete the enclosed pledge card and return it in the mail in the special envelope provided or bring it to Mass. If you prefer, you may go online at www.archgh.org/dsf to make your donation. Your generous gift will allow our Catholic community to continue many vital programs and services. Our parish goal for this year is **\$37,000**.*

Virtus—Safe Environment

*Preventing child sexual abuse is the goal of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. "Protecting God's Children for Adults" educates clergy, staff and volunteers who work with children about child sexual abuse and the ways to create safe environments for children. Clergy, staff and volunteers (ages 16 and above) who have regular contact with children and youth are required to attend training. All other adults are invited and encouraged to participate as part of the church's commitment to make the world a safe place for all our children. The workshop will be **Saturday, February 27th** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (3 hours). Please be prompt, you will not be allowed to enter once the in-service begins. Please sign up on line at virtus.org—click on registration. For more information contact Helen Jones at 713-681-5589.*

Food for Thought!

How well am I using Lent to hear God's voice in a deeper way than before?

*Announcements*Lenten Season:

- ✦ Lent has a dual character: preparing catechumens for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion) by the Rite of Election, catechesis, and scrutinizes; as well as preparing the faithful by word of God, prayer, and penance, to renew their baptismal vows.
- ✦ The journey through Lent is called an “Ascent to the Mountain of Easter.”
- ✦ Lent has a penitential tone. As such, the *Gloria* and the *Alleluia* are omitted in the liturgies.
- ✦ Altars are not decorated with flowers.
- ✦ Musical instruments are used only as low-keyed accompaniments. (They may be used in full on the 4th—*Laetare* = *Rejoice*—Sunday only.)
- ✦ Ash Wednesday is a universal day of fast and abstinence.
- ✦ A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Penance, as well as an individual celebration, is highly encouraged.
- ✦ There will be a Communal Penance Service at St. Monica Parish.
- ✦ We will pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 6:00 p.m.

F Y IFast (small meals, no snacks):

* What days are we to fast?

There are two major days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Self-imposed observance of fasting on all weekdays of Lent is strongly recommended.

* How are we to fast?

We are to fast with only one meal a day, but it does not forbid that a little bit (of food) be taken in the morning and evening (for example, we can exchange the evening meal with lunch).

* Who are to fast?

Those who have reached the age of 18 and are not yet 60.

Abstinence (no meat)

* What days are we to abstain?

We are to fast from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during the Lenten Season. Abstinence from fresh meat on all Fridays of the year (excluding solemnities like Christmas which may fall on a Friday) is especially recommended.

Bulletin/Announcements

Deadline - Wed. by 2 p.m.

In writing, email

(stmonica_dre@sbcglobal.net) or by fax
(281-447-8410).

No announcements will be taken over the phone. There will be no exceptions.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Please do not eat candy or
chew gum during Mass.
Please do not stick gum
under the pews.**

**DON'T TRASH GOD'S
HOUSE**

From the Pastor's Desk:

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Ash Wednesday, we began our Lenten journey of the ascent to the mountain of Easter. We listened to how Mother Church invites us to use the three-pronged weapon of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving to fight sin in our lives and bring ourselves to that conversion and newness of life that makes us acceptable to God our Father.

This weekend, we are given a clear example of how Jesus did it, conquering the three major temptations that usually dog our lives: inordinate desire for bodily needs, insatiable quest for material wealth, and the prideful pursuit of fame. Jesus relied on the word of God to emerge victorious. When have you faced temptations in your life? What gave you the courage to overcome? Let us pray for courage and perseverance in times of trials, remembering that man does not live on bread alone ..., and that we should worship God alone, and him alone should we serve.

I thank all of you once again for your prayers. I had a wonderful trip to and from Nigeria. My family and friends send their greetings and prayers. Please, pray for them too. Please, join the parish family every Friday during Lent, for Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m. And don't forget the delicious fried fish dinners in the hall, before the Stations.

All heads and representatives of Liturgical Ministries who attended the Archdiocesan Liturgical Conference are invited to a Share-Your-Experience meeting on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, in the CCE building at 7 p.m. Lectors and Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, who did not make the first orientation meeting, plan to attend the second and final meeting on Friday, March 5, 2010, at 7 p.m. Those who do not make the orientation will not be commissioned and will not be eligible to serve.

The monthly prayer service for ministries in the parish is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2010, beginning with the 8 a.m. Mass. The ministries assigned are: Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Liturgy Committee, and Altar Servers' Trainers. Bring a dish for fellowship after the service. Our Lenten Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. Check nearby parishes for other schedules. All are invited to our annual parish retreat on Saturday, March 13, 2010, beginning with 8 a.m. Mass. All who are sick will be anointed with the oil of healing at all the Masses on the weekend of March 13 / 14, 2010. Bring your sick to the healing mercy of God. May God bless you today and everyday.

Fr. John Ayang, SOLT

Parish Kitchen

If you have borrowed any of the orange serving trays from the parish kitchen, please return them immediately. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Things to Remember:

Please link your Randall's Remarkable Card to 3614

Please use your Kroger Share Card

Please support our Recycling Program.

Please bring non-perishable food items for our Food Pantry


Collections

Last Week - \$6,222.30


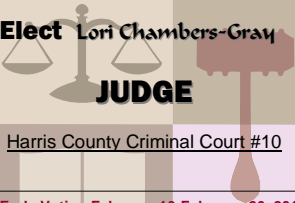
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 Primary Election March 2, 2010

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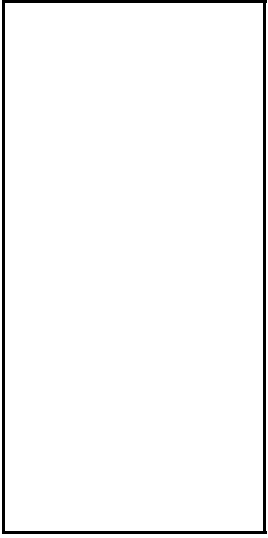
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St. Monica Religious Articles
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 Sundays after 8 a.m. & 11 a.m.
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