

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.

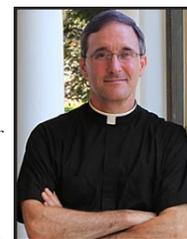
First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

FROM the PASTOR'S DESK...

LITURGICAL CATECHESIS: What is the significance of the various colors? (Part 1 of 3)

The Catholic Church uses our senses - with the aroma of incense, the sounds of the choir, the images of the Nativity and the crucifixion - to draw us deeper into the cyclical mysteries of the liturgical seasons. Colors are one way the church connects Catholics visually to a particular event or mystery. The choice is not random or simply decorative; it has specific meaning as the faithful move through the liturgical year or honor a special occasion or sacrament.



The current six liturgical colors were codified in 1570 with the promulgation of the Roman Missal after the Council of Trent. Gold and silver are allowed on special occasions.

Violet/purple symbolizes: penance, preparation, sacrifice. It is used during Advent, Lent; may be used for funeral Masses. Purple was originally associated with royalty, because it was a more expensive color to dye. Over time, it became associated with penance. Some say it is more appropriate to use violet during Advent and a more reddish purple during Lent. The red evokes the Lord's passion while the more bluish color calls to mind Mary's essential role in salvation history.

Now on to some thoughts following the recent election...

A parishioner recently gave me an article from the New York Times. The article was entitled, "It's Getting Harder to Talk About God - The Decline in Our Spiritual Vocabulary Has Many Real-World Consequences." The author started by stating that, "More than 70 percent of Americans identify as Christian, but you wouldn't know it from listening to them. An overwhelming majority of people say that they don't feel comfortable speaking about faith, most of the time."

Why is that? Doesn't it seem that Americans currently have no problem talking - in fact screaming - about practically every topic? Actually, that is not the case. I've followed discussions on such topics as censorship, self-censorship, hate speech, micro-aggression, triggers, dog whistles, etc... It doesn't seem to stop. The tone, rhetoric, and language surrounding the 2019 election - and other events leading up to it - *(Continued on Page 4)*



OUR PARISH PRAYER INTENTION for THIS WEEK

During the first Sunday of Advent may we generously attend to the Giving Tree and bring joy to so many lives.

FROM *the* OFFICE of DISCIPLESHIP *and* FORMATION

-the office of-
Discipleship and Formation

CONFESSION TIMES FOR 12/10

FIRST PENANCE - 6 PM (ARRIVE AT 5:45)

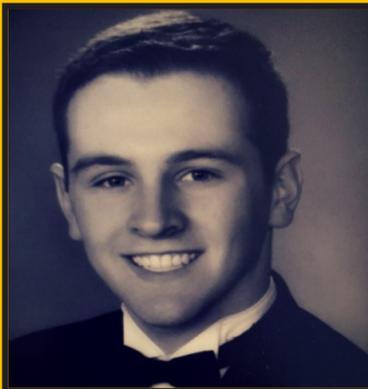
SMALL GROUPS (SUNDAY AND MONDAY) - 6:30 PM

PARISH WIDE CONFESSIONS - 7:15 TO 8:15 PM



NEWS *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN AT:
SAINTMONICAChurch.ORG



"You only need 20 seconds of courage."

**DOMINIC L. COYLE MEMORIAL 3V3
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

Friday, December 28, 2018
Saint Monica Parish Center Gym



What if each Catholic prayed for ten minutes and read five pages of a great book every day? 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

Visit 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 OCTOBER 2018

October 2018	\$62,678	56% Electronic	October YTD 2018	\$258,405	51% Electronic
October 2017	\$73,353	46% Electronic	October YTD 2017	\$277,366	47% Electronic
October Budget 2018-2019	\$69,353		October YTD Budget 2018-2019	\$270,541	

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 25, 2018

Sunday Collection	\$6,165
Electronic	\$7,801
Total	\$13,966

We have 192 families contributing electronically.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a Special Collection this weekend for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. 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)

were not exactly leading the citizenry to "The New Jerusalem."

That's a problem. What is the antidote? Injecting some grace and graciousness into the conversation might help. The challenge is that we don't know how to do that. *Learning to Speak God from Scratch: Why Sacred Words Are Vanishing—and How We Can Revive Them* is the title of the book from Jonathan Merritt. He was the writer of that New York Times article. I downloaded a copy and have been working through it. Merritt continues with some data:

"While many of our most visible leaders claim to be religious, their moral frameworks seem unrecognizable to masses of other believers. How do we speak about God in times like these when God is hard to spot? So last year, I enlisted the Barna Group, a social research firm focused on religion and public life, to conduct a survey of 1,000 American adults. This study revealed that most Americans — more than three-quarters, actually — do not often have spiritual or religious conversations.

More than one-fifth of respondents admit they have not had a spiritual conversation at all in the past year. Six in 10 say they had a spiritual conversation only on rare occasions — either "once or twice" (29 percent) or "several times" (29 percent) in the past year. A paltry 7 percent of Americans say they talk about spiritual matters regularly.

But here's the real shocker: Practicing Christians who attend church regularly aren't faring much better. A mere 13 percent had a spiritual conversation around once a week."

Over the past few weeks, I have been focusing on two original spiritual classics: *The Dialogue* from St. Catherine of Siena and *The Rule* by St. Benedict. What has struck me is the relevance of some aspects of St. Benedict's "Rule" to Merritt's book. Benedict takes speech and talking, as well as silence, very seriously. Is there something that "Holy Father Benedict" can say to us that is relevant and compelling? Is there a relevant juxtaposition of "Speaking God" and Benedict's Rule that offers a way towards a more civil discourse? Over the next few weeks, let's take a look at those questions.

Charles Zlock Jr

MARCH FOR LIFE: REGISTRATION OPEN



Donations sought for youth attending.

Registration for the St. Monica bus trip to Washington, DC for the **March for Life on Friday, January 18, 2019** is now open!

To register or get more information about the trip, see the March for Life registration webpage accessible from the parish website or contact Rosemary Friedrich at rfriedrich@verizon.net.

Can't attend the March yourself? Please consider making a donation to help defray the cost of the trip for others, especially students and children who are invited to participate at no charge. In this way, you can be involved and demonstrate your support for this peaceful witness for life. Donations can be made on the March for Life registration webpage or by contacting Maurita Buhsmer at jbuhsmer1@verizon.net.

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!

NEW ALTAR SERVER TRAINING AND SCHEDULING TO BEGIN

All parishioners in third grade or above are welcome to join the Altar Server Ministry. The schedule for the next few months will soon be going out.

Procedure: First, training for new altar servers will be held in the Church. Date will be announced soon. Second, new servers will then have the opportunity to observe our more experienced servers during the weekend Masses. They will see how servers assist the priest during Mass; guide the assembly when to stand, to sit or kneel; make sure that what is needed for the celebration is brought, carried or moved into place, among other tasks.

For more info please call the rectory at 610-644-0110 or email John Wojcik at jwojcik1@verizon.net.

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANNUAL GIVING TREE



Our parish's annual Advent service activity, **The Giving Tree**, began on **SATURDAY November 24**. The Giving Tree tags are hanging on the Christmas trees displayed in the Gathering Room of Church. All gifts and gift cards will be donated to 5 agencies who are assisting the needy in our immediate area and the Philadelphia area. Gifts are due on **December 9th**. Gift cards should be placed into the boxes located at the base of the trees. **PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS.** Thank you in advance for bringing Christ's light to those in need!

CELEBRATE WITH FR. ZLOCK: PILGRIMAGE TO GERMANY

Dear Friends ... Next year will be the 25th anniversary of my ordination to priesthood. To celebrate this occasion, I am hosting a pilgrimage to Germany and Austria – places where I worked and lived for five years earlier in life.

I would like to invite YOU to join me on this spiritual and cultural experience from September 8 – 19, 2019.

We will start out around Heidelberg where I worked during my first sojourn to Germany. We will stop over in the romantic city of Rothenberg on the way to Bavaria. On our tour we will visit the alpine village Garmisch, the home of the famous "Passion Play." We will tour several religious sites such as the Monastery in Ettal, the "Silent Night Chapel," the Black Madonna of Altoetting and enjoy the brewery in the Andechs Monastery. We also plan on seeing several castles, enjoy a Heidelberg river boat cruise and travel by cable-car to the Zugspitze - Germany's highest mountain. We will celebrate Mass together daily, plus have time for great meals and fun together.

I look forward to presenting details of the trip **twice (around mid-day and in the evening) on Saturday, December 15th**. Stay tuned for more specifics. I look forward to traveling with you on the blessed journey of faith and fellowship.

THANK YOU!



Baby Bottle Drive was HUGE Success!
211 Baby Bottles Filled -
\$10,109.17 Donated!

God bless you for your generosity and prayers! For more info or to see the testimonies of the women and families helped by Legacy of Life Foundation, go to www.legacyoflifefoundation.org.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE - THANK YOU

A very heartfelt thank you to all of the parishioners for the monetary and food donations to the Thanksgiving Food Drive for Saint Gabe's Food Pantry in Philadelphia. Sister Arleen McCann received 183 food bags and \$1025 to put towards her Thanksgiving outreach from Saint Monica's.

Also, a very special thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us to check, pack, load and deliver the cheery orange bags filled with the makings for Thanksgiving dinner. It is said that "many hands make light work" and the generous spirit of the volunteers is a blessing not only for Saint Gabe's but for our parish as well. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

WOMEN'S SOCIETY - GIFT SWAP



Let's swap some gifts, enjoy food and drinks and have some fun! Please join the women of Saint Monica Parish for the annual **Christmas Gift Exchange on Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30PM** in the school cafeteria. **All are Welcome!** Bring a wrapped gift of \$25 value. If your last name ends in: A-M please bring an appetizer; N-Z please bring a dessert. If you don't want to bring either of those things, bring wine! This is guaranteed to be a very festive night and we want to make it our best attended gift exchange ever. More info - Call Susie Sargent at 610-308-3663 or Jody Wagner at 610-220-2843. See you on December 11th!

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Due to the Holiday Schedule of our Publisher, the following deadlines are in effect for bulletin announcements:

- December 23 Bulletin announcements are due Tuesday, December 11 by 12:00 Noon
- December 30 Bulletin announcements are due Monday, December 17 by 12:00 Noon

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE for December 2

DAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Monday	9:00 am-4:30 pm	Adoration	Church
	6:30-7:30 pm	Confession	Church
	7:15-7:45 pm	Parish Rosary	Church
Tuesday	6:00-7:00 am	Confession	Church
Wednesday	8:30 am	Communion Service	Church
Thursday	6:30-8:30 pm	Advent by Candlelight	Parish Center
Friday	9:15-10:45 am	Legion of Mary	Rectory
	9:00pm-8:00am	Nocturnal Adoration	Church
Saturday	4:00-4:45 pm	Confession	Church

THE CHURCH of SAINT MONICA

WWW.SAINTMONICACHURCH.ORG

SOCIAL MEDIA



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The Church of Saint Monica, Berwyn



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@StMonicaBerwyn



Instagram
@StMonicaBerwyn

FATHER ZLOCK



Website
Frzlock.com



Facebook
Fr. Charlie Zlock



Twitter
@FrZlock

FAMILY & YOUTH MINISTRY

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



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CSMEdge
CSMLifeteen



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@CSMEdge
@CSMLifeteen



Instagram
@CSMEdge
@CSMLifeteen

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 December 2 – December 9

MASS TIME	INTENTION	PRESIDER	MUSIC MINISTRY	NOTES
5:00 pm	+ Tony Alzamora	Fr. Zlock	Cantor	<i>Special Collection: Retirement Fund for the Religions</i>
7:30 am	People of the Parish	Fr. Zlock	Quiet	
9:30 am	+ Dr. Nicholas Battaferano	Fr. Fitzgerald	Cantor	
11:30 am	+ Louis Amici	Fr. Fitzgerald	Cantor	
Monday, 3rd	+ Lawrence Schwartz	Fr. Zlock		
Tuesday, 4th	+ Claye Carroll	Fr. Zlock		
Wednesday, 5th	Communion Service			
Thursday, 6th	+ Tony Morelli	Fr. R. Rossi		
Friday, 7th	+ Dr. Matthew Stephens	Fr. Zlock		
Saturday, 8th	8:30 a.m. - +David Hatting 12 Noon - +Lawrence Schwartz	Fr. Zlock Fr. Driesch		
5:00 pm	+ Charles DiCola	Fr. Lee	Cantor	
7:30 am	+ William Hewchuck	Fr. Fitzgerald	Quiet	
9:30 am	+ James Carboni	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 Ciocca, James DiAntonio, Gavin Duffy, Rita Dunn, Margarita Elloso, Joseph Erwin, Ria Filippelli, Elaine Flynn, Hugh Gannon, Kelly Glacken, Mary Hartley, Karen Hastings, Natalie Innella, Jenna, Maya and Eva Izzi, 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

Tom Porter

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

Leader for this week: Margaret Bellew at 610-647-3856

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*