



Third SUNDAY of Advent

December 13, 2020

St Monica Catholic Church
114 South 4th Street
Palatka, FL 32177
386-325-9777

Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances
give thanks,
for this is the will
of God for you
in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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“We are called to welcome and assist all to the compassionate love of Jesus through the Eucharist.”

Beloved of Saint Monica on this most **joyful** Third Sunday of Advent,

The responsorial psalm today is not a psalm but actually the words of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She bursts into **joy**. She speaks of love. Her words are in response to the greeting (the Ave Maria) of Elizabeth. Mother Mary reflects God's mission statement in which the poor, the hungry, the outcast, and the humble will receive abundant mercy and **joy**. The rich, the well fed, the arrogant and the prideful will all be sent away empty handed when it comes to eternal life.

*“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed...”* Luke 1:46-54

Jesus has a similar mission statement he develops from Isaiah. He quotes the Prophet Isaiah, but he makes the words his own. Today these words are fulfilled in your hearing them.

*“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because God has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring **glad tidings** to the poor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the Lord
and a day of vindication by our God.”* Isaiah 61:1-11

How has God anointed you?

How does your soul proclaim the greatness of the Beloved?

How does your spirit **rejoice** in God your Savior?

Isaiah speaks as the Bride and Groom of the Anointed One. God will not clothe us with fig leaves like Adam and Eve to cover their sins, but with a robe of salvation and a mantle of justice. We are clothed in the Body, Blood and Love of Jesus as his Beloved. Look at the woman above the tabernacle. She speaks as the Bride of Christ, the Christ who is coming soon:



*I **rejoice** heartily in the Lord,
in my God is the **joy** of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.*

I hope to see some of you at the Reconciliation Service this coming Thursday at 5 pm. We will have 4 to 7 priests. It is a great gift and **joy** to be able to hear Jesus proclaim to us after our humble confession,

*“God the Father of all mercies, through the death
and resurrection of his Son has sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness
of sins and to reconcile the world to Himself. Through the ministry of the Church,
may God grant you pardon and peace. And I forgive you of all your sins in the name
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!”*

Please don't try to make a good confession. God uses the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an opportunity to lavish upon us an abundance of blessings, mercy, love, compassion and forgiveness. Maybe we should say the same thing that we say before we receive communion as we approach the sacrament of confession, “Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof (or soul), but only say the word and my soul will be healed. Jesus asks us to be his bride forever and to become One Body. He encourages us, “*Do not be afraid. I love you.*”

I pray you hear the following words some time during Advent:
“Your sins are forgiven. Go in **peace.**” And we will respond with great **joy!**

Love, **joy, peace,
Father Ron +**



Grow Strong in Your Faith

With Karen Lee



Have you ever thought of going to confession as something like washing your windows? You walk by your windows every day. One day, you look and notice that they need cleaning. As each day goes by, you notice them getting dirtier and dirtier. You keep putting off cleaning them because it is something you don't enjoy doing. Then one day, you finally take the time to clean them. It is amazing! The whole world looks better! You feel so good, you wonder why you didn't clean them sooner.

Confessing your sins doesn't have to seem like a chore. Actually, it is a wonderful opportunity. It gives you time to see how your relationship with God is doing. Are you doing your best to be the person God created you to be? Is there anything in your life that is getting between you and God? Or between you and other people? Realizing you have lost your way is the first step in finding your way back home to God. And saying our sins out loud to another person, especially someone who is standing in the place of God Himself, makes them more real to us—something that needs healing. The spiritual guidance we get in return from the priest is priceless. Finally, hearing the actual words of forgiveness brings peace to our souls.

I was blessed to be with a young man in RCIA after he made his first confession. I asked him what he thought about his experience. His face was glowing and he exclaimed, "I feel like a balloon filled with helium—lighter than air!"

Try looking at confession in a different light. Not a chore to be done, but a wonderful opportunity. You may even find yourself going more often! There will be an Advent Reconciliation Service this Thursday, December 17, at 5:00 p.m. You can also go to confession any Saturday before Mass from 3:30-4:15 or you can call the office at (386)325-9777 and make an appointment.

Christmas Eve Vigil

Masses

4:00 PM

8:00 PM

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10:00 AM

Reservations Recommended

Please visit our website stmonicacatholicchurch.com to reserve your seat or you can also call the Parish Office to submit your reservation at 386-325-9777.

We will be live streaming all of the Christmas Masses on Facebook and uploading to website

God Bless

Masks required at all Masses



Thursday December 24, 2020 4:00PM

Ushers:

Eucharistic Minister:

Lectors: Stephanie Huskey

Altar Server:

Thursday December 24, 2020 8:00PM

Ushers: Joe Iovino, Avery Gugal

Eucharistic Minister: Mary Iovino

Lectors:

Altar Server: Skylar Gugal

Thursday December 24, 2020 Midnight

Ushers: Bill Black

Eucharistic Minister: Catherine Maus

Lectors: Pam Mathes, Bill Maus

Altar Server: Frank Fraize

Ministry Christmas Mass Schedule

Volunteers needed for all Christmas Masses. We need Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and individuals to record the Masses. (Training for recording available)

Please Call the Office to Volunteer

Friday December 25, 2020 10:00 AM

Ushers: Steve Woods

Eucharistic Minister: Ramona Bodalski

Lectors: Sandy Woods, Ken Freligh

Altar Server:

There will be **NO Mass** on
Tuesday December 15,
2020.

Mass Intention for that day will
be said by Father Ron privately.

Thank you for your understanding

**ST. MONICA RELIGIOUS ARTICLES
AND GIFT SHOP IS NOW OPEN!**

Located in the Parish office
Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00PM
(and by appointment on weekends)

New Items for Christmas !!



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In person Bible Study
will resume on
January 5, 2021. Father
Ron may record a few
live classes throughout
Advent and Christmas.

BEST
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EVER

This Advent, join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team for LET YOUR SOUL SHINE
—a free email program that will help you rediscover the beauty and joy of the Gospels

Advent Penance Service



*Thursday December 17
at 5:00 PM*

Stewardship is...



Gifts for December 5 and December 6

Offertory:
\$ 7,593.00

Outreach to Poor:
\$ 5,557.00

Mass Attendance: 159
Drive Thru: 11

The good stewardship of our
parishioners at St. Monica Church
makes all that we do possible!

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through ParishSOFT Giving.

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For text giving send a text
message with the amount of
your donation to 386-230-0169



We had our
yearly fire
extinguisher
inspection

All fire extinguishers and the hood
in the kitchen have been inspected,
cleaned and replaced if needed.

Total Cost: \$1,080.00

Thank you for your continued
support of St Monica

Stewardship Prayer

My church is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am friendly.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am
a generous giver.
It will bring other people into its worship and
fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of
fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble
spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with
these same things.

Therefore Lord, I ask for the strength and courage
that I may dedicate myself to playing my part in
being all the things that I want my church to be.

Amen

The St Monica Food Pantry



Volunteers always needed to help distribute food at their drive thru giveaway.

Every Saturday Morning
from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Please consider giving a few hours of your time just once a month!

A Journey into the Heart of the Iraq War with Navy Chaplain Father Ron Moses Camarda.



On Sale Now on the St. Monica Webpage or in the Parish Gift Shop

All proceeds benefit St. Monica.

\$20.00 per copy

Great Gift for Christmas



St Monica Youth Ministry Schedule

December 19
Christmas Party
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 13, 2020

LEARN

LECTIO: PRAYER—AN INTIMATE DIALOGUE

St. John of the Cross, Doctor of the Church, had a deep desire to help others grow in prayer. In honor of this mystical saint, join Dr. Gray as he dives into the simplicity and mystery of prayer.



Don't forget to use our code **R87GP3**

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Masses For The Week



Saturday, December 12
+ Ann Lininger

Sunday, December 13
Parishioners
+ Lupe Rash

Tuesday December 15
+Susan Walwik

Wednesday, December 16
+Theresa & Herbert Luhr
+Ann & Fred Sylvester

Thursday, December 17
+ Susan Walwik

Friday, December 18
+ Brother Charbel (Chad Allen)

Prayer Requests

Louise Egan, Sue Wilson,
Fred Lininger,
Edna Blandford, Angie Spena,
Laura Hall, Andy Hall, Gary Rummel,
Adrienne Fennell, Bill Gaines

Please call the office at 386-325-9777 if you
know someone that needs prayers.



Judy Newman 12th

Kimberly Kurtz 12th

Adrienne Fennell 13th

Bob Lee 14th



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Please donate at your local parish or by mail at:

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
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Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

retiredreligious.org

Above, from left: Sister Alice Garcia, SSCJ, 91; Brother Martin Gonzales, OCSO, 95; Sister Theresa McGrath, CCVI, 86; Sister Anne Cecile Muldoon, OSU, 93; Abbot Emeritus Peter Eberle, OSB, 79.
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Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 4:30 pm

Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Drive Thru Communion

10:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Daily Masses

Tuesday - 5:30 pm

Wednesday - Friday 8:30 am

Confessions

**Saturday 3:30PM —4:15 PM
or by appointment**

Anointing of the Sick

First Saturday of Every Month

10:00 AM



Mass

Sunday 9:00 AM

Fr Ron Bible Study

Tuesday 6:15 PM

Rosary

Friday 7:45 AM

Holy Hour

Friday 9:00 AM

This Week's Daily Readings

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for December

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.





Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 19, 2020 4:30 PM

Ushers: Steve Woods, Bill Black
Eucharistic Minister: Sandy Woods
Lectors: Cheryl Meis, Ken Freligh
Altar Server: Bill Maus

Sunday, December 20, 2020 9:00 AM

Ushers: Eddie Dubeck, Frank Fraize
Eucharistic Minister: Joe Grasso
Lectors: Mary Mundy, Mary Jo Perry
Altar Server: Daniel Fazio

Sunday, December 20, 2020 11:00 AM

Ushers: Betty Poteet
Eucharistic Minister: Joyce Fitzsimmons
Lectors: Rita Lambert, Pam Mathes
Altar Server: Avery Gugal

*Don't forget to follow
St Monica Catholic Church
on Facebook and Instagram
@stmonicapalatka*



Our Parish Staff

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Attention—The Diocese of Saint Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with all allegations in a prompt, confidential and thorough manner.

To Report Abuse, call:
Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator
904-262-3200, ext. 129, or the
Department of Children and Families
at 1-800-96-Abuse (800-962-2873).

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