

St. Monica Catholic Church

*We are called to welcome and assist all to the
compassionate love of Jesus through the Eucharist*

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil - 4:30 pm

Sunday - 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Daily Masses

Tuesday - 5:30 pm

Wednesday - Friday 8:30 am

First Saturday

10:00 am

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick

Holy Day Masses

8:00 am & 7:00 pm

Confessions Saturday

3:30 - 4:15 pm

Pope's Intentions



The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the
measures necessary to prioritize the
future of the very young, especially
those who are suffering.

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December 22, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY

of
Advent



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.
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Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

**Website:
Stmonicacatholicchurch.com**

**Find us on Facebook:
St Monica Church, Palatka est 1858**

Beloved of St. Monica Happy 4th of Advent! Blessed and Peaceful Christmas!

We struggle in our frenzy to find the best Christmas gift. And yet the perfect gift is to be the person who God called us to be. Let's open the gift of our soul this Christ Mass. Mark Woods from the Times Union wrote an article "The best Christmas ever" about a miracle that happened to me 15 years ago on Christmas Day. I share part of the gift given to me... still needing unwrapping... a tear in the desert.

Nov. 12, 2004

"We can't do anything," the doctor said, leaving the room.

"It's up to you."

Father Ron stood there, looking at the soldier, trying to figure out what to do, what to say.

"Edward, you're dying." He said. "Your dog tag says you're Catholic. So I'm going to anoint you and forgive your sins."

He said a prayer. He caressed the soldier's head and hair. And then, unsure of what else he could do, he began to sing.

Never mind that Christmas was still six weeks away, he sang the same song that he sang to his mother when she was dying.

Oh Holy Night.

The stars are brightly shining.

It is the night of our dear savior's birth.

He wasn't even sure if the soldier could hear him. Then, as he sang "a weary world rejoices," he noticed something.

A tear.

A single tear rolled out of the soldier's left eye, traveling an inch or two down his cheek before stopping.

The chaplain stared at it.

He would see many tears shed in the desert. But this one tear would stick with him.

When he finished singing, he says, God tapped him on the shoulder, telling him he needed to say something else. At first he resisted. He couldn't say that, he thought. But if he didn't, who would?

So he leaned over. "Edward," he said, "I love you."

Then he kissed the soldier's forehead.

And Edward was gone.



Dec. 25, 2004

It wasn't a white Christmas in Fallujah.

It was a wet one. A brown one.

It rained, and the dirt turned to mud, only making Father Ron's homily for that day seem even more far-fetched: This has to be your best Christmas ever.

There wasn't peace on Earth, but there was silence in Fallujah. In November, one of the deadliest months of the war, there had been little time to think, to reflect. Then, all of a sudden, it seemed like there was nothing but time.

Father Ron had gone on the Internet and learned about the names in his notepad. He thought not only about them, but about the people whose names he didn't know. One day he saw the bodies of about 400 Iraqi civilians, people who wouldn't, or couldn't, get out of the city before the battle.

He began to write, about the names, about himself, about the war. He still had his doubts about why we went there. But he no longer was questioning why he was there. He had a job to do. And now that he wasn't doing it, he was bored. He missed the adrenaline rush that came with the angels. And he didn't like learning this about himself.

You have to make this the best Christmas ever, he preached. To others and to himself.

Not everyone could make it to Mass in the formal setting. So he spent much of the day making house calls. Or mess hall calls. Or, that night, a lookout call.

He was told there was a Catholic Marine who hadn't been able to receive Communion. So he went to where the Marine was, on the eighth floor of a grimy building in the middle of Fallujah.

As he climbed the stairs, the smell of the city overwhelmed him.

"You could smell death," he said.

He got to the lookout and found four battle-hardened Marines. He asked which one was the Catholic. It was the one who was smoking a cigarette.

He took him aside and gave him an abbreviated version of the homily, repeating the message that this had to be the best Christmas ever.

The 19 year old Marine looked at him like he was crazy.

But when he prepared to receive Communion, he reverently held out his hands. They were filthy. Father Ron remembers that. But more than that, he remembers the Marine held them there, as if he was making a throne for the Eucharist. And he remembers asking the Marine if he would sing with him.

On Christmas night, in a desert in the Middle East, they began to sing the same song he sang to his mother when she was dying, the same song he sang to Edward when he was dying.

Oh Holy Night.

The stars are brightly shining.

It is the night of our dear savior's birth.

At first, the chaplain led the singing. But as they went along, the Marine began to sing louder and louder, until he was belting the carol out at the top of his lungs.

OH NIGHT DIVINE!

OH NIGHT WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN

His buddies in the nearby room could hear him. The troops on the ground floor could hear him. Father Ron wouldn't be surprised if he learned one day that people on the other side of Fallujah heard him.

When they finished, the Marine opened one eye and impishly looked over at the priest.

"Padre," he said, "this *is* the best Christmas ever."

There were tears running down their faces.

More water rising in the desert. Only this time it wasn't because they were mourning a death. This time they were celebrating a birth. Celebrating it in a way you don't soon forget.

Not one year later.

Probably not ever.

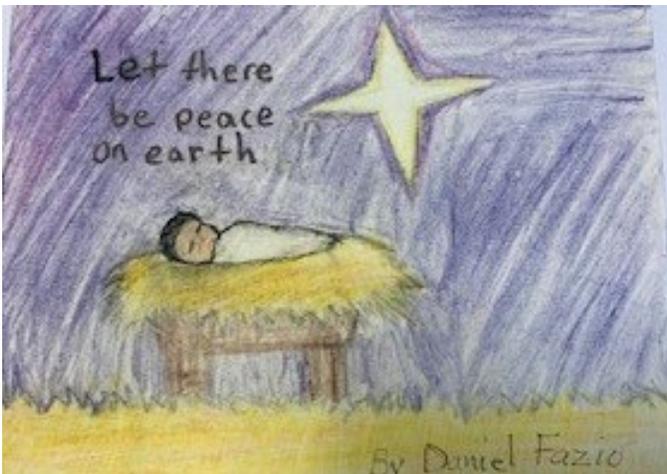
www.jacksonville.com

THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER by Mark Woods, Dec 25, 2005

Congratulations to St Monica CCF and Youth Ministry for winning
“Best Church Float”
at the Palatka Christmas Parade.



Congratulations to our Christmas Card Design Winners



Daniel Fazio



Kindra Carter

Stewardship—it's not just about giving money.
It's about giving **everything**.

And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts. —1 Peter 4:10, CEB



Due to Holiday Schedule the Bulletin had to be Submitted Early
Offertory Totals will be reported in the next Bulletin

Thank you for your generosity



The Joyful Mysteries

**“Mary pondered all of these things in her heart.”
Luke 2:19**

The rosary is a beautiful devotion that helps us ponder the life of Jesus through the eyes of his mother, Mary. Even if you don't pray the rosary often, praying the Joyful Mysteries during Advent and Christmas can bring new depth and meaning to the Christmas season. They take us from the moment the angel Gabriel announced to Mary

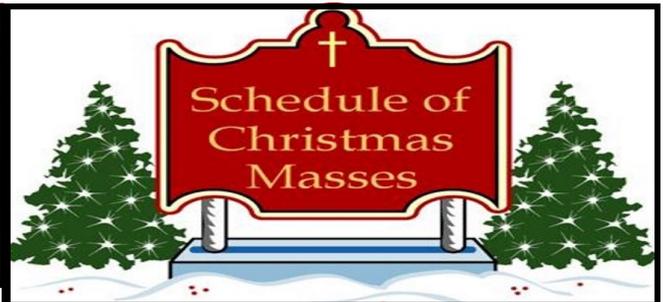
that she would conceive Jesus, to her visit to Elizabeth, to her son's birth, to his presentation in the temple, and finally to finding Jesus in the Temple.

Meditating on each mystery while you pray brings these events to light. An excellent way to deepen this experience is to pray a scriptural rosary. In it, a Bible verse is read before praying each Hail Mary. Through the verses, the story of the mystery is told through Scripture, God's own words. Praying the rosary in such a way helps you feel like you are right there at each event in Jesus's life.

If you would like to give this a try, download the free app Holy Rosary-Scriptural Edition on your smart phone, tablet, or computer. If you aren't into technology, there are paper copies in the Adult Formation Centers in the entrances of the church. Either way, ponder all of these things in your heart!



adultformation@stmonicacatholicchurch.com



Every Friday

7:30 AM to 8:30 AM

Christmas Eve December 24

4:30 PM Family Mass
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day December 25

10:00 AM

New Years Eve December 31

5:30 PM

**New Years Day
January 1, 2020**

10:00 AM

Ministry Schedules

Saturday December 28, 2019 4:30 PM

Ushers: Bill Gaines, George Schiffbauer, Earl Wallace, JJ Nichols

Eucharistic Ministers: Cris David, Ruth Boyette, Sandy Woods

Lectors: Mary Crawford

Altar Servers: Connor Phillips, Cory Donnelly

Sunday December 29, 2019 9:00 AM

Ushers: Matt Harris, Terry Gilmore, Eddie Dubeck, Gerald Donnelly

Eucharistic Ministers: Rick Carr, Lillian Morgan, Ramona Bodalski

Lectors: Stephanie Husky, Erin Fortner

Altar Servers: Grant Fortner, Joshua Carr, Kira Carr

Sunday December 29, 2019 11:00 AM

Ushers: Bill Black, Immanuel Rosado, Linus Wiesner

Eucharistic Ministers: Rita Lambert, Cheryl Meis, Lina Majesky

Lectors: Pam Mathes, Cris David

Altar Servers: Skylar Gugal, Avery Gugal

Wednesday January 1, 2020 10:00 AM

Ushers: Ricky Webb, Jim McMillan, Karen McMillan

Eucharistic Ministers: Ken Freligh, Walt Egan, Catherine Maus

Lectors: Bill Maus, Pam Mathes

Altar Servers: Mathew Webb, Joe Iovino

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Don't forget to use our code R87GP3 and get great Catholic movies, content, and education.



This Advent season, walk with Dr. Tim Gray on a journey of renewal to ready your heart for the coming of Christ. Each day of Advent, Dr. Gray will unpack the meaning of this season and its rich traditions, as well as offer practical advice for making this Advent your best yet.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
 Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
 Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
 Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
 Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
 Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Please pray for our sick

Matilda Aloia, , Lois Boucher, Joan Carter, Minda Carter, Loise Egan, Ignatius Guanlao, Tom Sczes, Darlene Sweat, Bill Walwick, Nancy Walwick, Joe Welsh, Sandy Nichols, Kevin Allred, Fred Linniger, Albert Yeager, Almo Anders, Connie Weisner, Lane Herman, Linda Barnes, Adrain Ryan, Sandra Meis, Jeff O'Berry, Cathleen Phillips, Cathy Sheridan, Denise Orr, Silvano Gallo, Billy Watson
 The prayer list will be changed each week.
 Please call weekly if you have someone that needs to be added. Thank you

Mass Intentions

Sunday 9:00 AM	December 22 Parishioners
Sunday 11:00 AM	December 22 Lourdes Guanlao
Tuesday 4:30 PM Midnight	December 24 +Doug Valenti
Wednesday 10:00 AM	December 25
Thursday 8:30 AM	December 26 Lamar & Mimi Breton
Friday 8:30 AM	December 27 + Paul Vincent
Saturday 4:30 PM	December 28 +Miguel Dejuk Yunnis

Pastor Father Ron Camarda

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Communion

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Altar Servers

Walt Egan

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Knights of Columbus

Frank Fraize
 270-315-3261

Ladies Guild

Helen Muir
hmuir22@msn.com

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).