



Saint Monica Church

The First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2016

1001 Camino Pablo
Moraga, CA 94556

Office Hours :

Mon - Thurs: 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Fri: 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Sat - Sun: Closed

Phone: 925.376.6900

Fax: 925.376.9796

Office Email:

office@stmonicamoraga.com

Bulletin Email:

communications@stmonicamoraga.com

Website:

www.stmonicamoraga.com

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00
and 11:00 a.m.

**Children's Liturgy of the
Word:** Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

Daily Mass:

Monday - Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Adoration:

Friday 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Confessions:

Saturdays, 4:00-4:30 p.m. or
by appointment: 925.376.6900

Faith Formation:

Grades K-5 x 203

Grades 9-12 - e-mail:

saintmonicamoraga@gmail.com

Our Vision/Mission Statement

VISION: We, the community of St. Monica Parish, are Jesus Christ embodied.

MISSION: St. Monica Church fosters spiritual growth and vibrant participation through a welcoming Christ-centered community where everyone is valued.

BAPTISM: Please contact Sr. Mary Teresa at children@stmonicamoraga.com or (925) 376-6900 x203.

CONFIRMATION: Preparation for teens begins in Grade 9. Please contact Michele Berrios at saintmonicamoraga@gmail.com.

MARRIAGE: The couple should contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date to arrange a meeting with Fr. Wayne.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK / COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND:

For anyone experiencing chronic illness or preparing for medical treatment, surgery, etc. or if you would like to receive communion at home, please contact Sister Mary LaSalette to arrange an appointment at (925) 376-6900 x112.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) : Anyone who is not Baptized, or is Baptized in another faith, and is interested in inquiring into the Catholic Faith, please contact Father Wayne at x103.

St. Monica Pastoral Team:

Rev. Wayne Campbell, x103, Pastor
frwaynecampbell@comcast.net

Sr. Mary Teresa, O.P., X203, Children's Faith Formation, children@stmonicamoraga.com

Sr. Mary La Salette, O.P. x112, Pastoral Care
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Tricia Holloway, x104, Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@stmonicamoraga.com

WELCOME TO VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS

(If you would like to register in the parish, please fill out this form and put it in the collection basket and we will mail you a registration form or you may fill one out—they are located at the church entrances.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Reflections...

Dear Parishioners:

Welcome to the Season of Advent! There's not much about this season that speaks to the cultural ways we live the holidays. More than ever these days, it seems like "***We need a little Christmas***". We need something!

Our world is a bit disordered. Actually the way things are today is not very different from the way things were at the time of Jesus. God breaks through our craziness and ill behavior to bring us His gifts of peace and goodness. What is our world today? It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out things are wrong – very wrong. First of all, I do not know how anyone could think that things are just fine today. Not according to God. The recent elections show how unable we are to produce two candidates who are NOT just seriously flawed. And the inability for so many to **not** see that in both candidates there is evidence of how desperate things really are.

We live in a culture of very different opposing values. Fear, I believe is at the very heart of why so many folks believe in what they believe to be true. Fear is disguised but, nevertheless, it is still fear. The Coming of a messiah is a strong contrast to the ills of today. We cannot do it on our own. Our world is still full of sin and weariness. Babies are still aborted and at the other end of the spectrum is the neglect of the elderly rich and poor. Loneliness is a strong hallmark of those who strive to find any remedy to the emptiness of the soul. Refugees still fear deportation and the very hallmark of our society seems to be shrouded in uncertainty. The demise of community in America is at the core of the problem. The US Bishops this week stood out again strongly to protect the lives of those who have fought to find safety in this country. How blessed are we who have been part of the welcome of our refugee family. Their delight in being here is beyond anything most of us have felt in years. And the transformation of the lives of those parishioners who have helped them get settled is meaningful.

We wait! We wait for God. He is always disguised. He cannot be found in the endless consumption of the marketplace. Sometimes it just seems like we are trying to fill empty holes in our lives with things that cannot do it. Make room for the One who could not find room to be born. Even God was prevented from coming by lives that were too full for His presence. Are we too busy for God? Do we make room for Him in our lives? Do we need to say "no" to more events and invitations? Do we need to prioritize our values so that they reflect a spiritual part of our lives? Do we need to spend more time cultivating relationships than we do taking care of maintaining our lifestyle? I hardly meet anyone who tells me that they are satisfied with the amount of time they spend with family and friends. They usually feel neglectful in this regard.

Are we patient? God takes a while to be born. Even Jesus waited 30 years before he began his public ministry. Think about that. Thirty years to get ready for his public life. So often we are so impatient with ourselves and others. We abandon projects or people if we don't receive what we think we should have in a timely way. It takes a whole lifetime to get ready for God. It's never quite yet! When things don't work out on our schedule – could it be that God has a different time schedule for us? We are not ready until we are ready! Many times we do not see the finished product when we want to see it.

Giftng ourselves and our experiences is more preferable than giving things that can be bought and consumed. Memories of gatherings and relationship really nourish the spiritual life. Toys get broken and gifts can pile up and gather dust. The heart seeks experiences which nurture the soul and give one a sense of well-being. The culture seems unable to provide surety and comfort. The great prophetic voice of Isaiah in the messianic prophecies cries out "*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people*" says the Lord. The comfort of a Savior. The comfort of mercy and healing.

Pray to prepare for Christmas by celebrating Advent. I have tried for years to try to get people to remember that Christmas does not start until Christmas Eve. We have no Christmas parties here at the Church because it is Advent. The parties can start on Christmas Eve and last through the Christmas Season. As I often said, "Don't follow Macy's calendar about the holidays – follow the Church's". There is a people beauty in Advent. Waiting for God. Waiting for Love. Waiting for Salvation.

A Blessed Advent and Warmest blessings of the Feast.

Father Wayne

Reflections, Notices, Events

The Pivotal Players - Bishop Robert Barron
TUESDAYS - 7:30 pm in the PEACE Room
ALL ARE INVITED!

There will be NO showing this week.
We will resume on December 6

Dec 6: G. K. Chesterton - The Evangelist

How does one engage a culture that is befuddled by Christ and suspicious of the Church? The life and witness of this 19th century literary convert shows that the fundamental disposition of effective evangelism is joy & life in Christ is a day-to-day encounter with an abundant and surprising offer of grace.



Reconciliation

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Advent Reconciliation Service
Monday, December 12th
at 7:00 pm

Prepare yourself for the coming of Jesus by participating in the Parish Advent Reconciliation Service. All parishioners are invited for a time of confession and forgiveness. Parents are encouraged to bring their children who have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

MASS INTENTIONS

*If you have a special anniversary or other special date during the month of **December and January** for Mass Intentions, please contact the office.*



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The Parish Office will re-open
Monday, November 28th.



2017 Offertory Envelopes

Saint Monica has contracted with *Our Sunday Visitor* to provide us with new offertory envelopes. Beginning DEC 2016, your offertory envelopes for JAN and FEB will be delivered to your homes by mail. You will continue to receive envelopes every two months instead of receiving the entire year's supply at once.

Please let the office know as soon as possible if you have an address change or other change that will affect your account.

Thank you for your cooperation! We hope you will find this new method convenient for you. Please let the office know if you have any questions.

The new Today's Missals for Advent - Lent are now available for sale in the office.

\$2.00 per copy

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Thursday, December 8
A Holy Day of Obligation



Masses at
9:00 am,
4:00 pm & 7:00 pm.

Notices and Events

Saint Monica Christmas Outreach 2016

Please bring gifts by the weekend of December 10th and 11th and place gifts in empty crib in the sanctuary. Please label all donations so they get to the right charity. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE INDIVIDUAL CHARITIES, NOT ST. MONICA. Thank you!

A Friendly Place Manor: A drop-in center for homeless women run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.
Need: Christmas gifts for women (e.g. scarves, gloves, hats, jackets, sweatshirts, sweatpants, or gift sets of soap/perfume).

Bay Area Crisis Nursery: Their mission is child abuse prevention. They provide short term residential care for children to give parents time to focus on solving a crisis.
Need: Books for older children and toys for two year olds.

Birthright: An international pregnancy service that supports pregnant girls and women who need help providing positive alternatives to abortion.
Need: Maternity tops and slacks in any size. Also maternity underwear.

The Gabriel Project of the Diocese of Oakland: Is a parish based outreach that seeks to bring the love of Christ to women in difficult and crisis pregnancies.
Need: Maternity and baby items; gift cards to any store selling maternity/baby items.

Catholic Worker – Night on the Streets: Their needs are simple: to care for those homeless and poor.
Need: Overwhelming demand for sleeping bags (30 degrees is preferred) and blankets.

St. Mary's Center: St. Mary's Center works with extremely low income seniors, children and families.
Needs: *New adult* underwear and socks –large sizes- male and female. Sweat suits, single blankets, stainless forks and spoons, and inexpensive bath towels and wash cloths.

St. Vincent de Paul Visitation Center for Women and Children: Drop in center for women and children offering showers, laundry facilities, clothing, diapers and formula.
Need: New children's clothes and new toys for Christmas, travel and full-size shampoo and conditioner, razors, lotion, soap, other personal hygiene items, socks and underwear for women and children.

Monument Crisis Center of Contra Costa County: An emergency food pantry and community support center.
Need: Cash, checks, credit card donations to buy food or food donations of fresh, packaged or canned foods; diapers (especially sizes 4-6); gift cards of small denominations (\$10-\$20) to Safeway, Food Maxx, Walmart, Target; knit hats and mittens; and new sleeping bags are needed for homeless clients and others without beds.

St. Monica Refugee Family.

Need: Gift cards for Target or Lucky.

Eucharistic Adoration



Come and have a silent audience with our Lord every Friday in the Church from **1 to 8 p.m.** We can always use more people during the early hours of the afternoon, but you are always welcome whenever your schedule allows. **There will be no Adoration on 12/23.** We look forward to having you visit our Lord in Adoration before and after these dates especially in view of our country and all the commotion. Enjoy the serenity and quiet peacefulness as you place your challenges before Him.

Notices and Events

TO ALL WOMEN OF THE PARISH



SAINT MONICA WOMEN'S GUILD

IS PLANNING THEIR

ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

On Tuesday, December 13th

At the Orinda Country Club, Terrace Room

Cost \$35.00

SOCIAL HOUR WILL BEGIN AT 11:30

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 12:15

Flyers have been mailed to all members.

Please RSVP no later than December 2nd

SPACE IS LIMITED

For additional information, please contact

CHARLENE CRISTO @ 925-376-1591

SOUP TO SERVE



Next meeting: Friday, December 2nd

Soup making will begin the first Friday in December.

You are invited to gather at the 9:00 Mass, first to be nourished with the Body and Blood of Jesus. THEN - and only then - are we truly able to give to the Body of Christ - the poor - what we have just received at Mass. This makes it one of the most unique ministries in the parish. All are welcome to attend! No prior experience necessary, just show up and be ready to help, share stories and laugh.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Sonja Crumbaugh at 247-0155

or scrumbaugh@comcast.net or Maura Clogher at 376-9328 or mclogher@comcast.net

Week At A Glance

Sunday, November 27

3:00 - 5:00 pm PR Advent Fair

Monday, November 28

9:00 am C Daily Mass

7:00 - 9:00 pm CR Cancer Support Group

Tuesday, November 29

9:00 am C Daily Mass

Wednesday, November 30

9:00 am C Daily Mass

Thursday, December 1

9:00 am C Daily Mass

Friday, December 2

9:00 am C Daily Mass

9:45 am K Soup to Serve

1:00 - 8:00 pm C Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, December 3

7:30 - 9:30 am PR Men's Fellowship

Sunday, December 4

C: Church, CH: Chapel; CL: Classroom, CR: Conference Room, K: Kitchen, PR: Peace Room, REC: Rectory, YC/FR : Youth Center/'Fireside Room', ---: Off-site

Calling All Women!

MagnificatSOTI, a Ministry for Women invites you to join them at a



Prayer Breakfast

DEC 3, 2016, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

St. Mary's Church

2039 Mt. Diablo Blvd., WC

Please note the change in time and location!

Join us in welcoming Mrs. Christine Watkins MTS, LCSW as our speaker. We will be inspired by this well known speaker, author, spiritual director and television host as she tells us of her salvation from life as an atheist to a life centered in Christ through her physical and spiritual healing by Jesus through His Mother, Mary.

Tickets are \$25/\$30 after Nov. 26.

Go to www.magnificatsoti.org for more information about our guest and tickets or call Jennifer at **503-709-8449** for reservations.


Mass intentions	
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26	
5:00 pm	In Memory of Rosemarie Kamer
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27	
7:30 am	For the Intentions of St. Monica Parishioners
9:00 am	In Memory of Terrisita Minoza
11:00 am	In Memory of Julia Aquino & Orlando Juni, Sr.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28	
9:00 am	In Memory of Monica Farren
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29	
9:00 am	In Memory of Vera Amerio
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30	
9:00 am	In Memory of Sue Lundgren
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1	
9:00 am	In Memory of Helen, Frank, Sabina & Frank Jr. Pagni
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2	
9:00 am	For the Intentions of Norma Mendizabal
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3	
5:00 pm	In Memory of Rita Fox
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4	
7:30 am	For the Intentions of St. Monica Parishioners
9:00 am	In Memory of Hector & Irene Migneault
11:00 am	In Memory of Rosemary Erving

Collections	
Sunday, November 20th	\$ TBA
2nd Collection - Campaign for Human Development	\$ TBA
Thanksgiving Collection - St. Vincent de Paul, Moraga	\$TBA

Stewardship*
 Last weekend our stewardship of \$ TBA went to **Elizabeth House.**
 This weekend our stewardship will go to **Order of Malta Clinic.**
 Next weekend our stewardship will go to **STAND.**

*normally equals 5% of plate collection + average of month's EFT/wk

Together we pray ...	
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK	
Ed Ahearn	Ruby Luna
JT Amador	Joan Marable
Harriet Anderson	Maryann McCauley
Leah Bailey	Tom McCormack
Evelyn Ballment	Lorry Midura
Chris Carlson	Jerry Moran
Jeff Dickson	Joan Muer
Joseph DeTrane	Toni Newhoff
Catherine Fowler	Evelyn Nosenzo
Martha Grisier	Erline Paille
Joan Haines	Joan Raftery
Jon Hill	Mary Resnick
Marjorie Hills	James Sherman
Brian Kamer	Marion Skrivanich
Terry Kolhede	Genevieve Smith
Eleanor Lewis	Juanita Whitting
Jeff Lewis	John Whittington



Praying for the sick is a Spiritual Work of Mercy.

Sunday Scriptures


November 27, 2016 Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9;
 Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

December 4, 2016 Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2,7-8,
 12-13,17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Stewardship

“For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given.



HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE: Dec. 4th

TBD