

St. Monica CHURCH

All are welcome here!

Weekend Masses

Saturday at 4:00 pm

Sunday at 10:15am + Livestream

Emmanuel Church

of the Deaf:

Sunday at 11:30 AM



Daily Masses

Tuesday & Thursday: 12:10pm

Wednesday & Friday: 8am



Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

9:00am-3:00 pm

Join us Online!

www.stmonicaofrochester.org

Visit our website to get connected to all our online resources, including Mass, faith activities and reflections, online giving, and ways to get involved.

Parish Office

Rev. Raymond Fleming, Pastor

(585)-235-3340

fr.ray.fleming@dor.org

Deacon Matt Dudek

matt.dudek@dor.org

Deacon Patrick Graybill

patrick.graybill@dor.org

Emanuel Colon, Multi-Parish
Finance Director

emanuel.colon@dor.org

Jeanne Engelbrecht,
Finance Manager

jeanne.engelbrecht@dor.org

Mary Ellen Fischer,
Pastoral Minister

mary.ellen.fischer@dor.org
ext. 119

Precious Fontenette,
RCIA Coordinator

myrtle.fontenette@dor.org

Margot VanEtten,
Pastoral Minister

margot.vanetten@dor.org
ext. 115

Tracy Jordan,
Secretary

tracy.jordan@dor.org
ext. 116

Angela Nkugwa,
Music & Choir Director

angela.nkugwa@dor.org

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS
Due by 4pm Sunday prior

monicabulletin@dor.org

Jessica Tette,
Minister of Youth Faith Formation &
Communications

jessica.tette@dor.org
ext. 124

Brian McNulty
Deacon: Senior Status

Parish Pastoral Council

John Curran - 747-2324

Jake Hart

Meg Lute

Best Batchateu

Mary Fran Kolbuc

Bob Passalugo

jecurran@rochester.rr.com

34 Monica Street (at 831 Genesee St.)

Rochester, NY 14619

Office: (585) 235-3340

Fax: 235-8315

Emergency Line: (585) 723-6531

www.stmonicaofrochester.org

Walk with us on:



St. Monica Roman Catholic Church of Rochester Vision and Mission

We are a Resurrection people rooted in our rich Catholic heritage. We are growing in the *SPIRIT*, as individuals and as a faith community. We answer the CALL to LIVE

OUT our Baptismal VOCATION in our daily lives, bringing the LIGHT of Christ's presence to our families, workplaces, neighborhoods, and the WORLD.

We dare to LIVE the LIFE of Jesus Christ, transforming discouragement into HOPE, fear into LOVE, isolation into COMMUNITY.



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
— Isaiah 61

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday
of Advent

Visit our website and follow us on social media for even more ways to stay connected to our community. For help or to join the parish email list and receive our weekly news, email monicabulletin@dor.org. If you were receiving the weekly parish email and are no longer receiving it, please check your email settings and make sure you allow emails from monicabulletin@dor.org.

**Confessions by appointment –
call office at (585) 235-3340 to schedule.**

Weekly Mass Intentions

- Sat. Dec. 13 Domenico D'Onofrio – Sara D'Onofrio & Family
SSJ Sisters, Associates & Collaborators for their Jubilees & Anniversaries – The Oxford St. Community
- Sun. Dec. 14 Janie Mescall – Bob & Joy Boyd
- Tues. Dec. 16 Phil Chilson – Jean Button
- Wed. Dec. 17 Lynn Fender – Gerry & Kathy Murty
- Thur. Dec. 18 All Parishioners
- Fri. Dec. 19 Thomas Bostick - Family
- Sat. Dec. 20 Diane H. Salamone – Family
- Sun. Dec. 21 Rev. James Engle – Bob & Karen Engle
Carlos Perez-Albuerno – Lourdes & Evelio Perez-Albuerno



We are looking for a baby to star in our Christmas pageant! Our beautiful tradition here at St. Monica's is to have a real baby play the baby Jesus in our Christmas pageant, and in our community, you'll find a whole host of proud former baby Jesus actors! The baby is held by Mary (a teenager) on the altar for the pageant (about 15 minutes). Do you know a baby between 2 and 10 months old of any gender who would make a great Jesus? Parents can email our pageant director at jessica.tette@dor.org to sign their baby up.



Let Us Pray



**Our Deceased
Henry McGinnis**

**Those who are housing vulnerable
An end to racism
An end to war
God's creation**



THOSE IN THE MILITARY

CJ Arnell, Joshua Bartlett, Zachary Bartlett, Jarid Cook, Andrew Chmiel, Andrea Gerard, David Englert, Richard Lewis, Angela Aviles Lewis, Andrea Christ, Terry Redfield, Jr.

Lamp Intentions for December

SANCTUARY LIGHT

Battisti, Leonardo & Pugliese Families

Pugliese Family



Higgins Family

Barbara Higgins

CROSS ALTAR LIGHT

Don Wiegand, Sr.

Family



Robert & Jean Vane

Children/Family

We Need Weekly Mass Intentions!

Please consider scheduling Mass intentions during the week.
Please call or stop by the office to schedule. Thank you!

This Week at St. Monica Church: Dec 14-21, 2025

Sunday, 12/14	10:15 am – Mass, Church 11:15 am – Family Faith Formation, Dining Room 11:30 am – ECD Mass, Church
Monday, 12/15	6:00 pm – Pastoral Council Meeting, Rectory 4:45 pm – Virtual Contemplative Prayer (contact Dorothy Siegel to join: kenanddor@yahoo.com or 880-5519)
Tuesday, 12/16	12:10 pm – Mass, Chapel
Wed., 12/17	8:00 am – Mass, Chapel 5:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal, Church 6:30 PM – Youth Group, Dining Room
Thurs., 12/18	12:10 pm – Mass, Chapel
Friday, 12/19	8:00 am – Mass, Chapel
Saturday, 12/20	4:00 pm – Mass, Church
Sunday, 12/21	10:15 am – Mass, Church 11:15 am – Family Faith Formation, Dining Room 11:30 am – ECD Mass, Church 1:30-3:30 pm – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Church

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US & THE LORD

HOLIDAY MASSES

**ST. MONICA CHURCH · EMMANUEL CHURCH OF THE DEAF
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION/ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH**

All Masses ASL interpreted.

Christmas Eve Mass Tuesday, December 24:

4:00 pm with pageant @ St. Monica Church

Christmas Day Mass Wednesday, December 25:

10:00 am @ Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church

New Year's Day Mass Wednesday, January 1:

10:00 am @ St. Monica Church



**ST. MONICA CHURCH
EMMANUEL CHURCH OF THE DEAF
34 GENESEE ST.
ROCHESTER, NY 14619**



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION/
ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH
445 FREDERICK DOUGLASS ST.
ROCHESTER, NY 14608**

ALL ARE WELCOME... ESPECIALLY YOU!

CMA Goal:
\$25,000
60 Donors
\$13,437 pledged
53% of goal



As of this date,
 60 families have contributed to the CMA. We thank those who have given generously and ask all who have not yet given to prayerfully consider doing so. The CMA helps our Church and our parish in so many ways. Please consider all the ways that God has blessed you and your family, and how the Church has brought goodness into your lives. Join our appeal and give back what you can so that we remain strong and able to do God's great work!

Seeking a Children's Liturgy Leader

Have you ever considered leading Children's Liturgy of the Word? This is the Holy Spirit calling YOU! Jessica is in search of a children's liturgy leader for one Sunday of the month (either 1st or 3rd Sundays). Lead by yourself or bring a friend to help you. Help our young children know the great love of God. CASE training is required! Contact Jessica.tette@dor.org to answer the Holy Spirit's call!



Creation Corner

Ready for Holiness?

"Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy," Pope Francis wrote in his exhortation on "the call to holiness in today's world." "Holiness involves finding balance in prayer time, time spent enjoying others' company and time dedicated to serving others in ways large or small. ...needless to say, anything done out of anxiety...will not lead to holiness."

Scripture proclaims: "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Jesus says, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31). "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

An Advent Centering Prayer Practice

- Find a comfortable and quiet 'away' place to sit.
- Choose a word as a symbol of your intention to be present with God, such as "Jesus," "Immanuel," "Peace," or "Joy."
- Begin with a deep calming breath and silently introduce your word as your consent to God's active presence within and all around you.
- When you notice your thoughts drifting, gently and without judgment, resistance, or reaction, return to that sacred word that symbolizes your faith in God.
- After the prayer period ends (e.g., after 5, 10, or 20 minutes) remain in silence for a little longer. Conclude with a meaningful line of scripture, a brief prayer, or the sign of the cross.



Follow Jesus with us:

www.stmonicaofrochester.org

[@stmonicaofrochester](https://www.facebook.com/stmonicaofrochester)

[@stmonicachurch](https://www.instagram.com/stmonicachurch)

[St. Monica Church - Mass](https://www.youtube.com/StMonicaChurch)

Our Collection: Week of Dec. 7, 2025

Physical collection:	\$3,783
Online giving:	\$741
Total collection this week:	\$4,524
Weekly expenses:	\$10,516
Weekly Surplus/ Deficit :	(\$5,992)
CMA goal: \$25,000 • Given: \$13,437 • 53%	

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE PARISH? WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

You are welcome at St. Monica Catholic Church! **Do you want to know more about how to join the parish?**
 Call the parish office today at 235-3340.
 It's that easy!

VOLUNTEERS:

All volunteers who encounter youth and vulnerable adults need to complete online Creating a Safe Environment training, background check and sign a Code of Conduct every three years. To complete the online course, email jessica.tette@dor.org for training instructions..

Bulletin

Did you sign up to receive the bulletin by email but are no longer receiving it? Please check your email settings to ensure you allow emails from monicabulletin@dor.org. Be sure to check your junk/spam folder. If the problem persists, email monicabulletin@dor.org.

Our links in the bulletin are live! If you are viewing this bulletin electronically, hold down Ctrl and click links in the bulletin to visit those sites.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS:

Please send submissions by 4pm on Sundays: monicabulletin@dor.org with 10-pt Arial font and any photos.

How do I give my offering?

1. Weekly offering envelopes, cash, or checks can be brought to Mass or mailed to

St. Monica Church
34 Monica St.
Rochester, NY 14619



2. **OSV Online Giving:** Visit our website (<https://www.osvhub.com/stmonicaofrochester/giving/funds>) for secure one-time or recurring online giving.

3. **Text 2 Give:** Text your donation amount to 226-7514.

Thank you for supporting our community and ministries!

Emergency Food: If you need emergency food, you can contact St. Peter's Kitchen at (585) 235-6511 or go to 681 Brown Street Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 9 AM to 11 AM.



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Victims of sexual abuse should always report to the civil authorities.
 To receive help and guidance from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Deborah Housel

585-328-3228, ext. 1555

Toll-free: 1-800-388-7177, ext. 1555
 or by e-mail to victimassistance@dor.org.

Social Justice News

Prison Ministry of Upstate NY (PMUNY) is an interfaith organization that delivers messages of love and hope to incarcerated individuals in various upstate facilities serving both male and female inmates. We at St. Monica have been asked to participate in this effort by writing brief, anonymous notes of encouragement to our brothers and sisters during the year beginning this Advent. An example note written in English or Spanish is: "Dear Friend of Jesus, I pray daily that the Lord Jesus will be in your heart and in your life. Blessings, Your Sister in Christ". More details to follow, but for more info, go to www.pmuny.org.

From Pope Leo on the mistreatment of migrants: <https://www.reuters.com/world/pope-leo-decries-grave-crime-mistreatment-immigrants-2025-10-23/>

'Papa Omar' was everyone's favorite neighbor. Then ICE took him. *From the Democrat and Chronicle – December 6, 2025*

Shortly after Omar Ramos Jimenez moved into a new 19th Ward neighborhood several years ago, he slipped Christmas cards into the mailboxes of each of his neighbors. It was his way of saying hello and expressing gratitude for his new community. He quickly became a reliable presence. "Papa Omar," neighbors said, is the guy who clears your sidewalk and puts down salt during icy Rochester winters. Everyone on the block has an open invite to the Day of the Dead parties Ramos Jimenez and his wife Maria Bocanegra throw in their home each year. He will pause yardwork to have a real conversation with you. His 15-year-old son, Antonio, is the neighborhood's boy scout. His daughter Cassandra is a prominent immigration advocate in Rochester. "If I had to pick the best citizens in our neighborhood, it would be them," neighbor Chris Linser-Cartwright said.

Ramos Jimenez was arrested by ICE on Dec. 3 while reporting to the agency's Buffalo field office for what he believed was a routine check-in, his family said. He is originally from Mexico but has lived in Rochester for over 20 years, and has spent the last decade trying to claim asylum.

Hundreds of protesters gathered in frigid temperatures outside of Spiritus Christi Church in Rochester on Dec. 5 to demand his release. "We came together a few months ago, when (ICE) came into our community and tried to snatch roofers off of a roof," said the Rev. Myra Brown. "... And we made them leave. And now they have come for one of our own. When I got the news, I was so angry. We are a sanctuary city. We stand behind the foreigner. We stand behind the sojourner. We welcome the stranger. This is our city and this is our story and this is our history. How dare they come into our community and snatch and detain and attempt to deport people that we have declared are worthy to stay."



Cassandra Bocanegra said her father has been under ICE supervision for over a decade. Immigration officers, the family claims, lied to Ramos Jimenez, telling him he needed to visit the field office so they could install a new reporting app on his phone. When he arrived Dec. 3, he was immediately arrested. "He has built a life here," Bocanegra said. "... He is more than just another number. He's a community member. He's a friend. He's Papa Omar. He's not just my father. He's the community's father."

'We have to say no más.' Rochester has gone head-to-head with the Trump administration's aggressive immigration agenda several times this year. Local police were reprimanded for assisting ICE officers in March, earning Rochester a visit from Trump's border czar the following month; protesters thwarted an ICE raid in September; and the city recently defeated a federal lawsuit attempting to overturn its sanctuary city status.

Several local officials at the rally took aim at President Donald Trump for his "diabolical" enforcement tactics. His administration has repeatedly claimed deportation efforts are focused on criminals who are the "worst of the worst." Thousands of people nationwide, however, have been arrested at green card interviews, during workplace raids or outside of their children's schools.

"None of the people the federal government claimed to be targeting were family men," City Council President Miguel Melendez said. "Roofers, farmworkers, construction workers. These are not the individuals they say and they use in their propaganda to justify their actions. The people they are targeting look like you and me." Other community members called on lawmakers to pass legislation that would abolish immigration detention centers in New York and prevent local or state officials from working with ICE. Ibero-American Action League President Angelica Perez-Delgado urged the community to resist complacency. "I remember in January saying, 'There's no way they're going to get away with this,'" she said. "And then we said it again ... And here we are guys, 11 months later, and they're still getting away with it. We cannot build tolerance to this inhumanity. We are the city of Frederick Douglass. We are the city of Susan B. Anthony. We have to say *no más*. It stops here. It stops here."

-Kayla Canne covers community safety for the Democrat and Chronicle with a focus on police accountability, government surveillance and how people are impacted by violence. Follow her on Instagram @bykaylacanne. Get in touch at kcanne@gannett.com.

St. Monica Neighborhood Connection ♥ Jesus, who is my neighbor? † This Advent we can bring the light of Christ's presence when we SHOP SMALL. Especially deserving are two unpretentious eateries in St. Monica's neighborhood. Both are SMALL businesses with BIG hearts.

Brooks Landing Diner owner Tiffany Eady has a bulletin board for customers to post a pre-paid meal receipt. Anyone in need can take a receipt and enjoy a free meal. No questions asked. The diner, at 904 Genesee St., is open every day except Sunday, from 7am to 2pm.



People's Choice Kitchen owner Evangela Stanley's window sign offers a meal to anyone, asking only what they can afford. Her charity fund collects to buy families food at Thanksgiving and gifts for kids at Christmas. The restaurant, at 575 Brooks Ave, is open every day except Sunday, 11am to 6pm.

