

# St. Monica CHURCH

*All are welcome here!*

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](http://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.**



*Youth in our Community Voices choir sing  
the goodness of the Lord on December 10, 2023.*

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord!  
– Psalm 89

December 24, 2023  
**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent**

### 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](http://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](mailto:fr.ray.fleming@dor.org)

Deacon Matt Dudek

[matt.dudek@dor.org](mailto:matt.dudek@dor.org)

Deacon Brian McNulty

[brian.mculty@dor.org](mailto:brian.mculty@dor.org)

Deacon Patrick Graybill

[patrick.graybill@dor.org](mailto:patrick.graybill@dor.org)

Jeanne Engelbrecht,  
Finance Manager

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Mary Ellen Fischer,  
Pastoral Minister

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ext. 119

Precious Fontenette,  
RCIA Coordinator

[myrtle.fontenette@dor.org](mailto:myrtle.fontenette@dor.org)

Margot VanEtten,  
Pastoral Minister

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ext. 115

Tracy Jordan,  
Secretary

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ext. 116

Angela Nkugwa,  
Music & Choir Director

[angela.nkugwa@dor.org](mailto:angela.nkugwa@dor.org)

### BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

[monicabulletin@dor.org](mailto:monicabulletin@dor.org)

Jessica Tette,  
Minister of Youth Faith Formation &  
Communications

[jessica.tette@dor.org](mailto:jessica.tette@dor.org)  
ext. 124

Carol Wynne, Director of Finance &  
Administration/ Westside Parishes

[carol.wynne@dor.org](mailto:carol.wynne@dor.org)  
ext. 121

CYO – Tami Divers

[tamidivers@icloud.com](mailto:tamidivers@icloud.com)

### Facilitation Team

John Curran - 747-2324

Connie Chau

Meg Lute

Best Batchateu

Kathy Garrant

Mary Fran Kolbuc

Bob Passalugo

[jecurran@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jecurran@rochester.rr.com)

**Did you know?** Our website, [stmonicaofrochester.org](http://stmonicaofrochester.org), is your one-stop shop for all our online offerings. On our homepage you will find links to Mass videos, social media, online giving, outreach opportunities, virtual gatherings, at-home faith tools, and more! 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](mailto:monicabulletin@dor.org).

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

### Weekly Mass Intentions

Sat, Dec 23 Royal Chamberlain - Sandy Chamberlain  
Marshall Patrick - Sandy Chamberlain  
Sun, Dec 24 Mae Stirrat - Ellen Wiest  
4pm All Parishioners  
Mon, Dec 25 All Parishioners  
Tues, Dec 26 Betty Bunce - Donna Whitehair  
Wed, Dec 27 All Souls  
Thurs, Dec 28 Hai La - Sandy Chamberlain  
Fri, Dec 29 All Parishioners  
Sat, Dec 30 John & Adelaide Freitas - Nidia Flores  
Sun, Dec 31 Linda Nash - Donna Whitehair



*Let Us Pray*

**Our Sick  
David McCrary**

*Lea Chamberlain-McCrary's husband*

**An end to racism  
All those affected by violence  
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

**Caiazza, Leonardo, & Pugliese Families**  
*Family*



**Higgins Family**  
*Barbara Higgins*

### CROSS ALTAR LIGHT



**Donald Wiegand, Sr.**  
*John Delibert*

**Robert & Jean Vane**  
*Children/Family*



**Come celebrate Christmas Eve Mass with us on  
December 24 at 4:00 pm!  
Bring a bell to ring in the birth of our savior!**

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US & THE LORD

## HOLIDAY MASSES

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

**Saturday, Dec 23: 4:00 pm Mass @ St. Monica**  
**Sunday, Dec 24: Regular Sunday morning Mass schedule**

**4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass with pageant @ St. Monica**

**Monday, December 25: 10:00 am Mass @ St. Monica**

**Saturday, Dec 30: 4:00 pm Mass @ St. Monica**  
**Sunday, Dec 31: Regular Sunday morning Mass schedule**  
**Monday, January 1: 10:00 am Mass at Immaculate  
Conception/St. Bridget's**

ALL ARE WELCOME... ESPECIALLY YOU!

### This Week at St. Monica Church: December 24-31, 2023

Sunday, 12/24	10:15 am – Mass, Church 11:30 am – ECD Mass, Church 4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Mass with Pageant, Church
Monday, 12/25	10:00 am – Christmas Day Mass, Church
Tuesday, 12/26	OFFICE CLOSED 12:10 pm –Mass, Church
Wed., 12/27	8:00 am –Mass, Church
Thurs., 12/28	12:10 pm –Mass, Church
Friday, 12/29	8:00 am –Mass, Church
Saturday 12/30	4:00 pm – Mass, Church
Sunday, 12/31	10:15 am – Mass, Church 11:30 am – ECD Mass, Church

Congratulations to Tiera Divers for graduating as a PN (practical nurse). We are so proud of you for all your hard work! May God bless you in this new chapter of your journey.



Congratulations to Chari Peter, St. Monica parishioner who was recently featured in the *Catholic Courier*. We are proud to know her and blessed to have her in our community! Read the full article here:



<https://catholiccourier.com/articles/black-catholic-grad-student-embraces-faith-defies-skeptics/>

**CHEFS NEEDED**  
**YOUTH GROUP DINNER**

→ Wednesdays 6:30 pm

→ Cook and serve dinner to teens

→ Feed physical and spiritual hunger!

→ Donate ingredients or let St. Monica's buy them

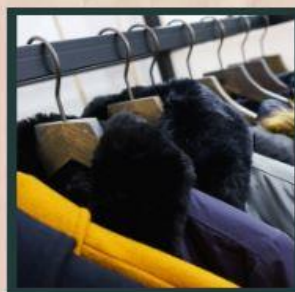
CONTACT [JESSICA.TETTE@DOR.ORG](mailto:jessica.tette@dor.org) TO SIGN UP!

# WE NEED COATS

(AND WINTER ACCESSORIES)

WE ARE IN NEED OF WARM, CLEAN COATS, HATS, SCARVES, AND GLOVES FOR ADULTS, TEENS, AND CHILDREN.

**ST. MONICA'S ANNUAL MLK DAY COAT GIVEAWAY**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2:00-4:00 PM**



Donations can be brought to the office at **34 Monica Street** Monday-Friday, **10:00am-2:30pm** -ring the bell at the front office door-

or to **Mass** to the box in the narthex until **January 10**.

To arrange another drop-off time, contact [jessica.tette@dor.org](mailto:jessica.tette@dor.org).

**THANK YOU FOR KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY WARM!**

For local emergency shelter information please go to REACH News: <https://reachadvocacy.org/>

## Follow Jesus with us:

[www.stmonicaofrochester.org](http://www.stmonicaofrochester.org)

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

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

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

## 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](mailto:monicabulletin@dor.org). Be sure to check your junk/spam folder. If the problem persists, email [monicabulletin@dor.org](mailto: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](mailto:monicabulletin@dor.org) with 10-pt Arial font and any photos.

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

## 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!



## 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, go to [dor.org](http://dor.org) online training or email [jessica.tette@dor.org](mailto:jessica.tette@dor.org) for a packet of information to help you.



## 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 House**  
585-328-3228, ext. 1555  
Toll-free: 1-800-388-7177, ext. 1555  
or by e-mail to [victimassistance@dor.org](mailto:victimassistance@dor.org).

## Our Collection: Week of December 17, 2023

	Collection Goal	Our Collection	Variance
12/17/2023	4,750	4,189	(561)
Year-to-Date	89,500	82,709	(6,791)
Online Giving/week (included in actual total)		\$453	
CMA	\$26,000	\$12,745	49%

# Creation Corner

## Let Heaven and Nature Sing!

One of the things I love about celebrating Christmas is the way the very elements of Nature herself amplify its message and become symbols of Christ's coming into the world. Their beauty and meaning adds such richness to our feast. Maybe thinking about these will gladden your Christmas too.

**Light in the Darkness.** Did you know that the two great Christian feasts' dates are determined by the heavens? Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal (Spring) equinox. And Christmas is always four days after the Winter Solstice (in our Northern Hemisphere). In days before calendars or easy communication, this was a practical way for far-flung communities to know when to celebrate --- BUT there is a deep and rich symbolism as well. The timing of Christmas itself proclaims the message. The Solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year: darkness holds sway over the earth. Three days later, the day begins to lengthen and the night to decrease: light begins to overcome darkness. An ancient Anglo-Saxon poem about Christmas plays on words, "We await the Son/sun"...and today, we all feel the darkness in this world. I think the season of Light in Darkness resonates with all of us this year in a powerful way. The very action of the heavens reminds us that the darkness cannot overcome the Light.

**Evergreen and eternal life.** It's not surprising that the evergreen pine and holly have become symbols of our great feast. Even before Christianity, their greenness in the midst of cold and dark symbolized immortal life. But, as the carol "The Holly and the Ivy" reminds us, they are also rich Christian symbols. Berries red as blood, blossoms pure white, sharp prickles on the leaves like a crown of thorns, make holly a perfect symbol of Christ's coming and redemptive mission. And the evergreen wreath, a circle—which has no beginning and no end—graces our doors with a sign of eternity. Roses, too—which are not winter plants and once were rare—have become signs of Mary's purity and Christ's innocence. We can imagine Nature conspiring to teach us, remind us, and celebrate with us.

These things add to my joy in the celebration of Christmas. When I remember their meaning, they help me think about what a vast, all-encompassing story we are part of—one that involves all of creation, from the humble farm animals to the very celestial bodies, stars--- it gives so much meaning to the carol we sing: joy to the world indeed! For heaven and nature really do sing. May we be able to hear their song and rejoice.

- Margot Van Etten

### ST. MONICA CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL GOAL:

**\$26,000**

As of this date, 72 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 think 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! Visit [www.dor.org](http://www.dor.org) to view the video and make your gift.



*Go Forth With Christ*



## Welcome, Visitors!

To all those visiting St. Monica Church/Emmanuel Church of the Deaf for the first time or the 100<sup>th</sup> time – welcome! We are blessed that you have chosen to spend your time with us here.

Whether you live in the area or are from out of town, we hope you talk with us or check out our website to see everything our parishes have to offer, including live-streamed Mass in English and ASL, youth programs, and service opportunities. This is a place where you can live out your gifts and feel a sense of purpose, and we invite you to be part of it.

Above all, we hope you feel the love of God through this community, like we have, and we hope it inspires you to share the love with others. You are a gift to us!

God bless you and Merry Christmas!

[stmonicaofrochester.org](http://stmonicaofrochester.org)



St. Monica  
CHURCH

### Free Used Children's Books and Baby Spider Plants



We have several used children's books that we will be giving away in the narthex (back of church nearest to Genesee Street) Dec. 23-24. Check them out! We are also giving away a limited number of baby spider plants with care instructions.



### St. Monica Neighborhood Businesses

Thanks for supporting our neighbors!

At Christmas, here are a few of the many nearby business owners who appreciate our patronage to keep services, jobs and wealth in the community.



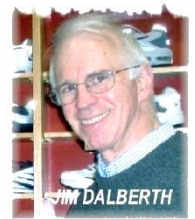
G&G STEAKOUT



ALI TAILOR



D&L GROCERY



JIM DALBERTH



CROWLEY'S



ARNETT CAFE



The WOK



EL LATINO



PEOPLE'S CHOICE



187 CAFE



BROOKS LANDING  
DINER



SUPREME SALAD BAR