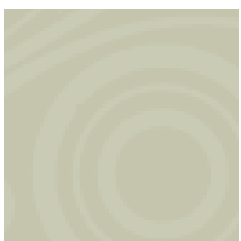


discover st. monica



st. monica
catholic community

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About St. Monica

Mission and Goals

The mission of St. Monica is *to form loving disciples who will transform the world*. You are invited to embrace this mission and participate in our community and beyond with its inspiration. We also have five expectations of our parishioners summarized in these actions: worship, grow, service, connect, give. See p. 7 for details.

In 2015, the *St. Monica Strategic Vision 2020* was developed as a result of a comprehensive review of the needs of the parishioners, an analysis of our current activities, the impact of the changes in our surrounding community, and best practices from Christian communities across the nation. Our strategic plan has seven key goals for our parish over the next five years:



1. Be a welcoming place of worship
2. Serve as a catalyst for ministry and service
3. Create a place for spiritual formation
4. Provide opportunities to connect
5. Ensure prudent stewardship of resources
6. Promote leadership development
7. Encourage fidelity to Catholic doctrine

Review the entire document at www.stmonica.net/strategicplan

History

Our church was established as Saint Monica Parish in 1886, when Santa Monica was still an unincorporated part of L.A. County and of Ballona Township. Both the city and the church were named for Saint Monica.



The parish was originally located on what is now the Third Street Promenade between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Ave. Fr. Patrick Hawe served as the first resident pastor until 1923. During his tenure, the church flourished, and he had planned to build a new and larger church, but died on August 30, 1923 before that goal could be realized. (Picture of Patrick Hawe and original parish in 1900.)

Monsignor Nicholas Conneally was Fr. Hawe's successor and served until 1949. Soon after becoming pastor, Msgr. Conneally moved the rectory to a house on Fourth Street near the original church and sold the original parish site, after which the original church was razed.

Until the present church was completed in 1925, services were held at a former Protestant church at the corner of Arizona and Lincoln, the site of the present Santa Monica Boys Club. The new Saint Monica was dedicated by Bishop John J. Cantwell on July 11, 1926. Its cost was reported to be \$340,000.

St. Monica Catholic Elementary School and St. Monica Catholic High School trace their origins respectively to 1899 and 1901 when the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary opened a small school in 1899 near the corner of Third and Arizona Streets in Santa Monica. In 1930, the elementary school became what is now St. Monica Catholic Elementary School and was transferred to its present site on 7th Street. In September 1938, the Sisters consented to sell the Academy and staff a high school, now St. Monica Catholic High School. Currently we have a combined total in all grade levels of approximately 800 students. See p. 24 for more about our schools.



Additional land was acquired and several buildings were built throughout the ongoing years to accommodate the growing community until St. Monica encompassed the entire city block of Lincoln Boulevard, California Avenue, Washington Avenue, and 7th Street. Those buildings include the Gymnasium, the Trepp Center, the former Pastoral Center, and the Duval Center.

In January 1994, the Church suffered extensive damage in the Northridge earthquake forcing its closure until repairs could be made. During that time, Mass was held in the Gymnasium. The restored church was reopened on Holy Thursday, April 13, 1995.

In 2007, St. Monica embarked on an aggressive capital campaign for \$27 million to meet the needs of the growing community and aging buildings. The Pastoral Center was demolished in early 2012 to make room for the Caruso Community Center, Grand Pavilion, Simon Center, and two-and-a-half level subterranean parking garage. These buildings and the parking garage were completed in the fall of 2013.



Leadership Structure

Under the leadership of Archbishop José Gomez, St. Monica is one of the largest parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. It is one of 81 parishes in the Our Lady of the Angels Pastoral Region under the leadership of Auxiliary Bishop Edward Clarke. Go to www.la-archdiocese.org for more information.

Our parish community is governed by the pastor, staff, and various councils made up of parishioners including a finance council and a parish council. We engage as many parishioners and school families as possible.

The role of our finance council is to assist the pastor and parish staff in planning the budget and in overseeing and controlling the financial affairs of the parish including the schools. They are accountable to the pastor who has the responsibility for final decisions.

The role of the parish council is to make recommendations about pastoral matters, as well as propose solutions to pastoral problems. Their organization includes six ministry councils: 1) Administration, 2) Adult Education and Enrichment, 3) Community Life, 4) Pastoral Care and Social Justice, 5) Worship and Liturgy, and 6) Youth Education and Faith Formation. Two people from each of the ministry councils, along with the pastor, the parish administrator, the executive advisor (the immediate-past chairperson), the chairperson, the vice chairperson, and 4 at-large members appointed by the pastor, make up the parish council for a total of 21 members. The term of office for the parish and ministry councils is two years. A parish council chairperson is elected by the council, and that chairperson appoints a vice chairperson among council membership.



The Catholic Parishes *of the City of Santa Monica*

St. Anne Church and Shrine + St. Clement Catholic Church + St. Monica Catholic Community

Changing demographics, limited funds, and fewer priests are challenging the Catholic Church worldwide, causing many dioceses to combine parish services, functions, and schools. Those conditions are also true in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. To provide more efficient and effective methods to serve the Catholic parishioners in Santa Monica, St. Monica, St. Anne Catholic Church and Shrine, and St. Clement's Catholic Community have formed a collaboration to share resources, learn from each other, and become a unified voice and presence in Santa Monica. This collaboration is not intended to merge the three parishes into one. Instead, the goal is to provide excellent services to each community by identifying redundancies and sharing resources, while each parish retains its own character. Throughout the year, the three parishes also collaborate on various events and activities for outreach and faith formation. Watch the bulletin or listen for announcements at Mass for upcoming events. For more information, go to www.smtriparish.org.

St. Anne is located at 2011 Colorado Ave..

St. Clement's is located at 3102 3rd St.

Stewardship

Stewardship is one of those “churchy” words that may not be part of your regular vocabulary. Simply put, stewardship is recognizing that everything we have is a **GIFT** from God; living a life of **GRATITUDE** for those gifts; and then **GIVING BACK** in gratitude for those blessings in our lives.

St. Monica relies on strong, committed and generous parishioners who share their gifts of time, talent, and treasure with the parish community:

- **Time:** Whether it's a few hours a week or an hour every day, we are called to consider filling our time with acts of prayer, meditation or service. Look for opportunities in the following pages.
- **Talent:** Volunteer and share your unique gift or talent. There are over 100 ministries at St. Monica – something for everyone! Getting involved is a great way to meet other parishioners and make new friends. See Page 18 for the many volunteer opportunities we offer.
- **Treasure:** Prayerfully consider what you can give financially to St. Monica. Generosity is not measured by the size of the gift, but by the size of the giving heart! The following are some ways you can give back in gratitude to St. Monica:
 - **Give Online:** The easiest way to make your gift to St. Monica is via credit or debit card. Visit stmonica.net/give to make a one-time gift, or set up a regular, recurring gift (e.g., consider matching your weekly cup of coffee) at stmonica.net/recurringgifts.
 - **Cash or Check:** Make checks payable to St. Monica Catholic Church and place your envelope in the offertory basket or mail to the parish office.

See more giving opportunities at stmonica.net/give.

St. Monica relies on your generosity—of time, talent and treasure—to continue the mission and ministry of the Santa Monica community, and for our brothers and sisters around the world.

For any questions about stewardship and giving, contact **Merrick Siebenaler** at **(310) 566-1514** or merrick@stmonica.net.

“For it is in giving that we receive.” -St. Francis of Assisi

Meet our Priests



Reverend Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson, Pastor

A native of Los Angeles, Msgr. Torgerson was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1965. After his first assignment at Holy Trinity Parish in San Pedro, he moved in 1971 to New York and completed a Masters in Religious Education at Fordham University. He came back to serve the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as Director of Youth Ministry for 11 years and then as Director of Religious Education until 1987. Monsignor has been in residence at St.

Monica for over 30 years and has served as pastor for over 25. He is an avid golfer and you can often find him in the early hours of the morning riding his bike along the beach.



Fr. Ian Hagan, Associate Pastor

Although originally from Kansas City, Fr. William Ian Hagan seems to fit the profile of a native Angeleno better than most: his hobbies include vegan cooking, swimming, motorcycles and growing his own organic vegetables. And, of course, surfing. Now 51, Hagan became a Catholic 18 years ago through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults program, after feeling God “whisper” to him to go into a church one morning while on the way

to the airport. As a priest, he looks forward to being able to celebrate the sacraments for his brothers and sisters. What will make serving as a priest in Los Angeles special? “It is a truly perfect snapshot of the universal Church, diverse and multicultural, all gathered into one big metropolis,” he said. The newly ordained Father Hagan celebrated his first Mass at his home parish of St. Julie Billiart in Newbury Park on Sunday, June 3. As his first parish assignment St. Monica should give him plenty of opportunities to keep surfing!



Fr. Prosper Hedagbui, Associate Pastor

With six siblings, including two brothers and four sisters, one of whom is a police woman, Fr. Prosper was born in Ghana on Jan. 12, 1982 to a big family. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2009, and served at the Cathedral St. Peter Claver in the Diocese of Jasikan, and served as Associate Pastor, then Administrator, and finally Pastor. In 2014, Fr. Prosper studied Social Community at Gregorian University. Fr. Propser

feels strongly called to serve people, because he loves to see people smile, and enjoys encouraging people. He loves steaks and hamburgers with vanilla shakes, although he asks to hold the chillies. While he does not know how to swim, he enjoys soccer and ping pong. .



Fr. David Guffey, CSC

Fr. David grew up in Mt. Carroll, Illinois, where both his parents and sister (with her husband and six children) still live. He received a BA in American Studies in 1984 and a Master of Divinity in 1990 from the University of Notre Dame and an MFA in film and television production at Loyola Marymount University in 2008. He was ordained a priest of Holy Cross in 1991. Although

he resides at St. Monica and regularly preaches and presides at sacraments, his full-time job is National Director of Film, Television and Video for Family Theater Productions, where he has worked since 2008. He is a Notre Dame football enthusiast, a Dodgers fan, and film buff.

Expectations

To fulfill our mission and build an engaged parish, we foster lasting, mutually-rewarding relationships with God, our parishioners, and the community. By building engagement, we foster a sense of belonging within the parish that starts with the principles of “what we receive,” “what we give,” “do we belong,” and “how can we grow.” While we welcome everyone regardless of where they are in the journey of life, we also want to provide well-defined expectations for their journey at St. Monica.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF EACH PARISHIONER OF ST. MONICA:

WORSHIP

The central focus of our worship is the Eucharist and celebration of the Sacraments. Our community is expected to attend Mass regularly, spend time in daily prayer, and to be people of sacred Scripture.

SERVE

The work of our parish depends on all of us and goes far beyond our pastor and parish staff alone. We convert spiritual energy into action through outreach and service, especially to those who have far less. We serve one another and our wider community in ministry following Catholic social teaching to care for and be present with others.

GROW

We seek opportunities to learn and grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and build our spiritual life by participating in retreats, workshops, faith-sharing communities, and pastoral care to the sick and needy. We support the faith formation of our youth.

CONNECT

We appreciate each other and take time to compassionately connect with our fellow parishioners and community. We invite others to enjoy our welcoming and diverse environment and offer hospitality and friendship. We pray for, comfort, and support members of the parish in times of need.

GIVE

To support and grow our community, we give our time, talent, and treasure to the extent that we are able. God is generous with us, and we are called to be generous in return.

WHAT MEMBERS CAN EXPECT FROM US:

A Welcoming Place of Worship

All are welcome at St. Monica where people can worship and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through active participation in liturgy, thought-provoking homilies, and inspirational music. We make every effort to permeate our parish life with hospitality and respect for the diversity of our community.

A Catalyst for Ministry and Service

We offer a variety of opportunities to be involved in ministry, build relationships, and make a difference in the world.

An Environment for Spiritual Formation

Our parish provides a safe environment to grow in faith through prayer, meditation, retreats, scripture reflection, faith sharing groups, and vibrant sacramental life.

Opportunities to Connect

We offer many opportunities for adults, young adults, and youth to connect, make friends, and have a joyful experience through worship, service opportunities, and community life events.

Prudent Stewardship of Resources

We strive to prudently manage our resources and give back responsibly to our community. Our financial condition is transparent.

Leadership Development

We promote the vocation and formation of ordained ministers, religious life, and strong lay leadership. Collaborative decision making processes include consulting with parish councils, volunteers, and other subject matter experts.

Fidelity to Catholic Doctrine

Our parish is faithful to the foundational teachings of the Church and the Gospel message.

Adult Faith Formation & Enrichment

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

www.stmonica.net/rcia

RCIA is the process by which people can question, search, and inquire into the Catholic faith. It is a journey which leads many to seek full membership in the Catholic Church. There is no set timetable; on average the process takes between eight to twelve months. Those who enter the process are expected to attend Mass on Sunday, attend a weekly RCIA session, and become increasingly more involved in parish activities. Contact Suzette Sornborger at suzette@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1541. If you're interested in volunteering as a sponsor, see p. 16.

Cornerstone Retreats

www.stmonica.net/cornerstone

Cornerstone is a 26-hour retreat that provides men and women with the opportunity to reflect, renew, and strengthen their faith while meeting others in our Christian community. The retreats are held separately for men and woman and are hosted on the St. Monica campus by parishioners who have participated in past Cornerstone retreats. While there is no required fee to attend, we appreciate donations to help defray the costs of the event. Retreats are usually scheduled within the months of January through March. Pick up a bulletin or listen for announcements after Mass starting in December or January. Contact Suzette Sornborger at suzette@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1541.

Christian Meditation

This group meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the St. André Bessette Chapel for a night of meditation. Contact Suzette Sornborger at suzette@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1541.

Parish Retreat (formerly called Parish Mission)

Each year, usually during Lent, a guest speaker is invited to present a particular theme or topic to the entire community for three consecutive days. Also called a parish revival or renewal, this is a great opportunity for parishioners to gather together to refresh and renew their faith. Contact Suzette Sornborger at (310) 566-1541 or suzette@stmonica.net.

Voices of Faith

Held throughout the year, Voices of Faith is an educational event during which several speakers present on a variety of topics. Watch the bulletin or listen for announcements at Mass. Contact Suzette Sornborger at (310) 566-1541 or suzette@stmonica.net.

Adult Fellowship Groups

20s and 30s

www.stmonica.net/yma

Young Ministering Adults (YMA) provides spiritual, educational, and social activities for singles and couples in their 20s and 30s as well as programs that support young adults as they discover new roles in family, work, society and the Catholic Church. Find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/YMA. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

35 through 40s

www.stmonica.net/ttf

The Thirty-Five Through Forties Ministry (TTF) offers social opportunities, spirituality nights and retreats, book clubs, educational offerings, and outreach activities for singles and couples ages 35–49. It's a great way to find and form community. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

50 and over

www.stmonica.net/primetime

The Primetime Ministry provides fellowship, educational and spiritual activities for adults 50 and over including retreats, special events and social outings. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

Senior Adults

www.stmonica.net/alwaysbeginning

The Always Beginning Ministry invites all adults 65 and over for social and spiritual fellowship. Activities include luncheons, retreats, theater matinees and *Coffee Talk with Fr. Mark*. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Boutique Crafts Group

www.stmonica.net/boutique

The Boutique group meets weekly during the months of February through November to stitch, knit, crochet, quilt, and craft items while sharing refreshments and good conversation with one another. At various times of the year they sell their crafts after Mass with all proceeds donated to the parish. They meet on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Duval Center. All skill levels welcome! Contact Nancy Sharpe at (310) 451-9598.

Gay and Lesbian Outreach

www.stmonica.net/glo

Celebrating over 20 years at St. Monica, the Gay and Lesbian Outreach is a fellowship group where gay and lesbian people of faith are welcomed to explore their spirituality and share their experience, strength, and hope with one another through prayer and social opportunities. Find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/StMonicaGLO. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

Film Club

www.stmonica.net/filmclub

Celebrating over 20 years at St. Monica, the Gay and Lesbian Outreach is a fellowship group

Peace and Justice

Habitat for Humanity

www.stmonica.net/habitat

Our ministry sponsors local volunteer builds with Habitat for Humanity throughout the year. We're an active part of the Habitat LA Catholic Coalition, helping to find and build a house every year. No construction experience necessary. To help support these efforts, community events are held throughout the year at St. Monica to help raise funds. For information about volunteering, see p. 20. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Holiday Outreach

www.stmonica.net/holidayoutreach

Com ehelpp spread joy at the holidays! Each year, St. Monica partners with 1) St. Joseph Center Family Program in Venice for our Adopt-a-Family program to ensure that St. Joseph families have a holiday dinner, a family gift, and toys for their children. 2) Conducts our annual Angel Toy Drive to provide toys and gifts for local children and teenagers in need. 3) Hosts a holiday party at St. Monica for the families from the St. Joseph Center. Go to p. 19 to learn more about the volunteer opportunities available for these special outreach activities. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Holy Cross Africa Ministry

www.stmonica.net/hcam

Our Africa ministry seeks your help in various activities and events in support of our sister parish, Holy Cross Church, just outside of Nairobi in Dandora, Kenya. Each year, usually during the summer, we send a team to Africa to spend time with the parishioners at Holy Cross as well as bring needed supplies such as sporting equipment for the children and medical supplies. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

JustFaith Ministries

www.stmonica.net/justfaith

JustFaith Ministries is a series of programs used in over 1,000 churches to help bring awareness of Catholic Social teaching, our faith's call to justice, and prepare individuals and parishes for the work of social ministry. In the JustFaith course, participants attend weekly sessions, two retreats, and four immersion experiences over a 27-week period from September through April. You must register to participate. In addition to the JustFaith course, there are programs, outings, service opportunities, speakers, and worship experiences scheduled throughout the year for the entire community. Registration fee. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

Faithful Citizenship

Throughout the year, this ministry provides information and resources that help our parishioners to engage responsibly as faithful citizens and respond as faith-filled Catholics to the public and civic challenges that we encounter, either through voting, our legislative advocacy of key issues, or direct services to others to address the challenge. Listen for announcements at Mass or watch the bulletin for critical issues we should all be aware of. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

Serving the Hungry and Homeless

Throughout the year, we serve the poor and the homeless in our local community in the following ways: 1) Preparing and serving hot meals at three transitional shelters (P.A.T.H., Samoshel, Turning Point) each month. 2) Preparing lunches and distributing clothes & toiletries every six weeks at the St. Robert's Center Weekend Food Pantry. 3) Collecting food through our monthly Loaves and Fishes food drive for three local food banks (Westside Food Bank, St. Joseph Center Food Bank, and St. Robert's Center Weekend). Food donation bags are distributed on the first Sunday of the month and food is collected on the second Sunday. See p. 20 for information on how you can participate in these ministries! Contact Christine at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Speaker Events

Throughout the year, St. Monica sponsors events with well-known speakers such as Fr. Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, Sr. Helen Prejean, the nun whose story is documented in the book and movie, *Dead Man Walking*, and Jack Jezreel, founder of JustFaith. Listen for announcements during Mass and watch our weekly bulletin for upcoming events.

Thanksgiving Dinner and Clothing Boutique www.stmonica.net/thanksgiving

For over thirty years, one of our largest outreach efforts to the poor is our annual Thanksgiving Dinner & Clothing Boutique, which is held at St. Monica on the day before Thanksgiving. Hundreds of volunteers come together each year including every grade level from our two schools and all parish ministries to provide a hot meal for close to 1000 individuals in a family atmosphere, and cold weather clothing and supplies for those suffering financial hardship, all for free. Announcements begin in October. See p. 20 for volunteer opportunities. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

Music and Liturgy

Mass Schedule

Our regular weekly Mass schedule is listed below. You can find the schedule of celebrants on the back page of our weekly bulletin. For special schedules during Lent and Advent, as well as various holidays and Holy Days of Obligation, check the bulletin or the home page of our website. Ordinarily on holidays such as Fourth of July, Labor Day, Memorial Day, and Thanksgiving, we celebrate only one Mass at 9:00 a.m. unless the holiday falls on a Sunday or on New Year's Day when we celebrate Mass at 10:00 a.m. (to let folks sleep in!)

Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday: 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., and 12:10 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Note: We provide low-gluten hosts for those who make a request. See the sacristan at least 15 minutes before Mass begins.

Liturgical Ministries

www.stmonica.net/liturgicalministries

In addition to our priests, it takes a great number of lay people to do the work of our liturgical life. We have over 500 individuals who serve as lectors, eucharistic ministers, hospitality ministers, altar servers, sacristans, and musicians.

Our renowned music ministry is an integral part of every liturgical celebration at St. Monica. Each of our liturgies has a unique character and speaks to people with varying tastes in music, from very traditional to contemporary Christian.

Sunday

- 7:30 a.m. Contemplative/Traditional Music
- 9:30 a.m. Family/Contemporary Music
- 11:30 a.m. Family/Traditional Music
- 1:15 p.m. Youth/Contemporary Music
- 5:30 p.m. Young Adults/Contemporary-Modern Music
- 7:30 p.m. Contemplative/Eclectic Folk Music

Saturday

- 5:30 p.m. Contemplative/Traditional Music

For information on how to volunteer in one of our liturgical ministries, go to p. 16. Contact Dale Sieverding at dale@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1520.

Prayer and Devotions

First Friday Adoration

On the first Friday of every month, we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for quiet meditation and prayer in the St. André Bessette Chapel from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Contact Dale Sieverding at dale@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1520.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary School Staff Lounge. We invite you to come and join in prayer and discussions and to find out how you can become involved with a special devotion to the Blessed Mother and service to the community. Contact Blanca Villalobos at bv53@me.com.

Rosary

Parishioners gather to pray this devotional prayer to honor Mary, the Mother of God, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Monday through Friday, with the exception of holidays. Contact Dale Sieverding at dale@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1520.

Taizé Prayer

All are welcome for peaceful, meditative prayer, and sing in the tradition of Taizé on Saturdays during the season of Lent before the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Prayer in the Taizé style of worship is quiet and reflective, deeply peaceful, and joyful, including simple songs and chants, readings, silences and prayers. Songs are sung many times over as a prayer of the heart. The focus of Taizé is on Christ and the cross, reconciliation, and prayers for the suffering throughout the world. Check the bulletin or listen to announcements at Mass for specific dates and times. Contact Cesar Marquez at themusicministry@aol.com.

Sacraments

Anointing the Sick

www.stmonica.net/anointing

Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament that is offered to those who may be suffering mental or physical illness or may need last rites. If you wish to be anointed, call the Parish Office at (310) 566-1500 and one of the priests on duty will arrange a convenient time to visit you whether in your home, nursing home, or hospital. Additionally, we annually schedule the Sacrament of Anointing during Mass.

Baptism

www.stmonica.net/baptism

Baptisms for infants are scheduled throughout the year on Sunday afternoons with the exception of Lent, when no baptisms are held. We ask that all parents and godparents attend a baptism preparation class either at St. Monica or another parish. The schedule for both baptisms and the preparation class as well as the registration form can be found on our website. Register your child online at least two months in advance. If your child is age 7 or older, see p. 21, or you are an adult and have never been baptized, see p. 9. Contact our sacrament coordinator at sacraments@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1523.

Confirmation

www.stmonica.net/confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation, along with Baptism and Eucharist, is one of the three sacraments of initiation. At Confirmation the Holy Spirit strengthens the baptized Christian and endows her or him with gifts to carry out our mission to be Christ in the world and to continue building God's kingdom. To be fully initiated into the Catholic Church, one needs to be baptized, confirmed and receive first Eucharist. At St. Monica we have programs for both teens and adults. See p. 21 for information for our program for teens. Adults would participate in our RCIA process (see p. 9). Contact Suzette Sornborger at suzette@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1541 or Dominik Gnirs at dominik@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1543.

First Holy Communion (Eucharist)

www.stmonica.net/firstcommunion

Children receive two years of instruction before receiving Communion in 2nd grade. We also have classes available for children and youth who are above 2nd grade. Classes for adults are included in our RCIA process (see p. 9). Contact Suzette Sornborger at suzette@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1541.

Marriage

www.stmonica.net/marriage

Weddings are celebrated on Fridays at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Weddings are not celebrated on Sundays at St. Monica. The first step in marriage preparation at St. Monica is to attend one of our Marriage Information Nights that are generally held on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Couples who wish to be prepared here for a wedding elsewhere are also welcome.

After attending the Marriage Information Night, wedding arrangements begin with an interview of the couple by a priest of the parish. At least one of the parties should be a baptized Catholic who either lives within our parish boundaries or is an active, registered parishioner of St. Monica for at least one year. Understand that we allow weddings at St. Monica if you do not live within the parish boundaries and are not a registered member, however preference is given regarding reserving dates to active and registered parishioners. Contact our sacrament coordinator at sacraments@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1523.

Reconciliation (Confession)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation, also called Confession, must be received before First Communion (Eucharist). Children and youth receive two years of instruction before receiving Reconciliation in 2nd grade. Classes are also available for children and youth who are above 2nd grade. Adults would participate in our RCIA process (see p. 7)

Schedule during Ordinary Time: Monday through Friday: 5:30–6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 4:30–5:00 p.m.

Note there is no confession scheduled on holidays. During Lent and Advent, check the website or the weekly bulletin for additional times and dates including communal celebrations.

Religious Life and Vocations

www.LAVocations.org

Discerning a priestly or religious vocation can be a challenge. If you would like to speak to someone about a priestly or religious vocation, call Fr. Ian Hagan, Regional Representative for the Office for Vocations at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles at (310) 566-1505.

Support and Pastoral Care

Active Duty Prayer Board

www.stmonica.net/prayerboard

On our website we include a prayer board where we remember and pray for parish family members and friends who are on active duty in the armed forces. If you wish to add someone to the prayer board, contact Marcus Johnson at marcus@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1532.

Bereavement and Grief

www.stmonica.net/bereavement

St. Monica offers a peer support group for those who are grieving the death of a loved person. The group is facilitated by bereavement ministers who have also experienced a loss and have received training to effectively and sensitively facilitate the group. Members in the group join together to pray, reflect, and share their experiences. If you would like to volunteer as a bereavement minister, contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick

www.stmonica.net/eucharisticministry

In this ministry, Eucharistic Ministers (EM) bring Communion to Catholics in area nursing homes and convalescent centers, individual homes, and the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center. If you or a loved one would like to have an EM visit you, contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531. If you wish to volunteer, see p. 19.

Funeral Ministry**www.stmonica.net/funerals**

If a loved one has been called home by God and you would like to schedule a funeral or memorial service, contact Gary Denk at funerals@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1558.

“Hope at the Door”**www.stmonica.net/hope**

Hope at the Door is a ministry that provides referral support to people dealing with housing, food, and employment challenges. Hope at the Door can connect people in need with local agencies or organizations that can help them stabilize their lives, and can occasionally provide some limited financial assistance. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

Pastoral Guidance

If you would like to meet with a priest, contact our parish office at (310) 566-1500.

Phoenix Ministry (For separated and divorced) www.stmonica.net/phoenixministry

Phoenix Ministry is a peer support group for those struggling with separation, divorce or annulment. In a confidential, small group format with a facilitator, participants are free to share about the many challenges faced at the time of the dissolution of a marital relationship. Our facilitators are men and women who have had the experience themselves of working through a separation or divorce. Meetings are scheduled from October through April. Registration fee. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

Stephen Ministry (Peer Support)**www.stmonica.net/stephenministry**

Stephen Ministry provides one-to-one pastoral care for individuals experiencing a wide range of life's stressors at no cost. Go to www.stephenministries.org for more on the history and programs of Stephen Ministries. If you need a Stephen Minister, call (310) 566-1575 and leave a message. A Stephen leader will return your call within 24 hours to set up an appointment. For information on volunteering as a Stephen Minister, see p. 19.

Volunteer Opportunities

In Our Church

Administrative Support

This is an area where there is something for everyone. It is a great way to get to know the staff and other parishioners. We can always use help in preparing mailings, counting the offertory collection, placing envelopes in the pews, answering phones, filing, purchasing and organizing office or food service supplies, archives, etc. Contact Felipe Sanchez at felipe@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1502.

Always Beginning Luncheon Volunteers

Do you like spending time with seniors? We need you! St. Monica hosts First Friday luncheons and retreats for our older parishioners. Volunteers are needed to help set up the event, prepare the meal, greet our guests, and clean up. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Art and Environment (Church Decorating)

Volunteers are needed to decorate the church and other liturgical venues for special seasons--primarily Easter and Christmas--under the guidance of special events and interior design professionals. Listen for announcements at Mass or check the bulletin in the months leading up to Lent and Advent for sign-ups. Contact Dale Sieverding at dale@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1520.

Altar Servers

The server assists the priest during the Mass and other liturgical ceremonies. You must be in the 5th grade or older and have been baptized and received First Holy Communion. Training is provided. Contact Lynda Auer at lynda.auer@stmonicaelem.com or (310) 451-9801.

Audio Visual Assistant

Learns all of our audio visual operations and assists ministry volunteers in the set-up and operation of audio visual equipment. Helps to trouble shoot large events with A/V. Assists with inventory and care of equipment.

Bereavement Ministers

Bereavement Ministers use their excellent listening skills and compassionate hearts to support those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. They facilitate support groups, reach out to the bereaved, and host the annual Mass of Remembrance. Because of the sensitive nature of the ministry, Bereavement Ministers complete a training program that includes content knowledge about the grieving process, active listening skills, and small group facilitation techniques. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Buildings & Grounds

Join our team of professionals in any of the construction trades, facilities and property management, real estate, interior design, and risk management to help us develop and monitor our master site plan and our long range deferred maintenance plan, security, and disaster preparedness plans. Contact Felipe Sanchez at felipe@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1502.

Choirs and Music

www.stmonica.net/music

We have opportunities available for both musicians and vocalists for music that ranges from traditional to contemporary Christian. People of all ages, both youth and adults, are welcome to serve in this ministry. An audition may be required. Contact Jeffrey Bonilla at jeffrey@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1521.

Disaster Preparedness

If you live nearby, you may consider joining our disaster preparedness team. This team of volunteers will assist us in a variety of roles and tasks during a natural or civil disaster. Contact Felipe Sanchez at felipe@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1502.

Eucharistic Ministers at the Altar

www.stmonica.net/eucharistic-ministers

Eucharistic Ministers, along with the priest and deacon, minister the Body and Blood of Christ during Communion. To qualify, you must: 1) be a practicing Catholic and fully initiated (Baptized, Confirmed, and Eucharist); 2) be a registered member of St. Monica; 3) have a mature demeanor with a willingness to serve others; and 4) attend scheduled training and ongoing formation opportunities. Contact Dale Sieverding at (310) 566-1520 or dale@stmonica.net. If you wish to volunteer as a Eucharistic Minister for Catholics who are in area hospitals, convalescent centers, or are homebound, see p. 19.

Graphic Design/Desktop Publishing

If you have experience with Adobe Creative Suite and in particular, InDesign, Photoshop, and/or Illustrator, we have several opportunities throughout the year for which we could use your assistance. We have both one-time tasks as well as others that could become a regular weekly commitment. Web development skills welcome also! Contact Merrick Siebenaler at merrick@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1514.

Hospitality Ministers

www.stmonica.net/hospitality

Hospitality Ministers welcome parishioners and visitors at the entrance to our church and assist with collection, direction, and safety during Mass. Contact David Giuliano at davidgserve@gmail.com or (818) 540-6253

Lectors**www.stmonica.net/lectors**

Lectors proclaim the Word of God during Mass. Must be comfortable with public speaking and proficient with diction, enunciation, pronunciation, and projection. Training is offered several times during the year as well as ongoing formation opportunities. Contact Dale Sieverding at dale@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1520.

Offertory Counting

If you have a strong record of participation in the parish, we invite you to join our faithful team of collection counters every Monday for two hours. Contact Felipe Sanchez at felipe@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1502.

Parking Ministry

This ministry is the first line of hospitality ministry in our parish. We need patient, assertive, and friendly people to help guide parishioners with their parking on Sundays and for special events and holidays. A great way to meet people! Contact Felipe Sanchez at felipe@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1502.

Photography Ministry

We are always in need of photos from various events and activities throughout the year to be used in parish communications including our weekly bulletin and website. You do not need to be a professional photographer. Just have a camera that takes high resolution images and have an eye for good quality photos! Contact Merrick Siebenaler at merrick@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1514.

RCIA Sponsor**www.stmonica.net/rcia**

We need sponsors throughout the year who are willing to walk the journey of faith with participants in our RCIA process. You don't need to be a super Catholic--being an ordinary Catholic who loves his/her faith is sufficient. We provide training and support. Contact Geoconda Ruiz-Hoffman at rciasponsors@yahoo.com.

Faith Formation

Volunteers are needed to either teach or be an assistant in various classes for ages 3 through grade 8. All are required to be fingerprinted through Live Scan and VIRTUS trained in compliance with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Archdiocesan Formation Certification is also available. Contact Suzette Sornborger at suzette@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1541.

Sacristans**www.stmonica.net/sacristans**

Sacristans work together to take care of the details of preparing behind the scenes for each Mass which includes putting out the sacred vessels, organizing the liturgical books, and seeing to the proper amount of bread and wine. After Mass, they make sure the sacristy is cleaned up and in good order. Contact Dale Sieverding at dale@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1520.

Stephen Ministerswww.stmonica.net/stephenministry

Stephen Ministers are individuals who have received 50 hours of intense training to provide one-to-one confidential pastoral care for individuals at no cost. After training, a Stephen Minister is assigned to someone of the same sex with whom they will meet once a week. They also attend group supervision meetings every two weeks. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

Teen Ministry (Grades 9-12)www.stmonica.net/teen

We need help in several areas including leading small groups, organizing special events, retreats, and service projects along with our special events coordinator, and working with our Youth Mass coordinator to help make the 1:15 p.m. Mass a liturgy that inspires and connects for our teens. All are required to be fingerprinted through Live Scan and VIRTUS trained in compliance with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Contact Dominik Gnirs at dominik@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1543..

In the Local Community

Adopt-a-Familywww.stmonica.net/adopt-a-family

During the Advent season, we need help providing food and gifts to families in need. Come help with sign-ups, answer questions, and collect and organize the gifts for delivery. Requests for volunteers begin in November. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Angel Toy Drivewww.stmonica.net/toydrive

During the Advent season, volunteers are needed to help promote the toy drive, collect toys after Mass, sort the toys, and package them for delivery to local schools and agencies. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Eucharistic Ministers to the Sickwww.stmonica.net/eucharisticministry

Eucharistic Ministers bring communion to Catholics in area nursing homes and convalescent centers, individual homes, and the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center. Training is provided. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Habitat for Humanitywww.stmonica.net/habitat

Volunteer opportunities for this ministry include participating in local builds, volunteering at the Habitat Restores, and planning and organizing community events to promote and support this ministry's outreach. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531. *See page 11 for more information.*

Helping the Homelesswww.stmonica.net/shelters

Help prepare and serve a meal to residents of the following transitional shelters: P.A.T.H. (People Assisting the Homeless) on the first Sunday of each month, Samoshel on the second Sunday of the month, and Turning Point on the third Sunday of the month. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Loaves and Fishes Food Drive**www.stmonica.net/loavesandfishes**

Help with our monthly food drive by 1) purchasing groceries, 2) sorting the food and loading into trucks for transport, 3) distributing food bags after Mass, and 4) helping promote the drive. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Thanksgiving Dinner & Clothing Boutique**www.stmonica.net/thanksgiving**

This large outreach event requires hundreds of volunteers for various jobs, during weeks and months in advance and on the day before and after Thanksgiving. Volunteer opportunities include carving turkeys, cooking, serving, sorting clothing and cold weather supplies, directing foot traffic, meeting and greeting, setting up, cleaning up, promoting the event, and many other duties. Announcements begin in October for sign-ups. Contact Delis at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

St. Joseph Center Holiday Party

Each year we host a Christmas party at St. Monica for the children and families of the St. Joseph Center. "Elves" are needed to help with hospitality, parking, running games, arts & crafts projects, serving food, and taking photos. Sign-ups begin in November. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

St. Robert's Weekend Food Pantry

Every six weeks, St. Monica volunteers at St. Robert's Center, a weekend food pantry in Venice, making sandwiches, sorting clothes, and organizing hygiene supplies. Contact Christine Gerety at christine@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1531.

Globally

Holy Cross Africa Ministry**www.stmonica.net/hcam**

In addition to organizing various fundraising activities and collection drives for items such as medical supplies and sporting equipment for children, there is also an annual mission trip to visit with our sister parish, Holy Cross Church, in Dandora, Kenya, usually during the summer. Contact Delis Alejandro at delis@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1530.

Youth & Family Faith Formation

Faith Formation

www.stmonica.net/religiouseducation

We offer a comprehensive program of religious education classes for children ages 3 through Grade 8 including sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist during the school year. We also offer special sessions, resources, and faith formation programs throughout the year, designed to include parent participation to help strengthen the faith life of the whole family. There is a registration fee. Financial assistance is available. Check the website for the full schedule. Contact Suzette Sornborger at suzette@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1541.

Teen Ministry: Always Confirming (Grades 9-12)

www.stmonica.net/teen

We've named it "Always Confirming" as we firmly believe that faith formation is a life-long process and doesn't end when we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Throughout the school year, they meet twice a month as well as participate in an overnight weekend retreat and various other special activities that include sports, service projects, and gatherings that include parents. An additional component of this program is preparation for Confirmation, a two-year process. All teens must register to participate. Teens who have already been confirmed are especially welcome as participants or peer leaders. There is a registration fee. Financial assistance is available. Contact Dominik Gnirs at dominik@st.monica.net or (310) 566-1543.

Parent Faith at Home Series

www.stmonica.net/faithathome

Join other parents throughout the year in conversation to share ideas, explore how to further connect with your children, and to discuss everyday challenges and resolutions as we support our domestic church, our Christian "village." Meets after the 9:30 Mass while the Religious Education classes for Early Childhood and Grades 1-8 are in session. Contact Suzette Sornborger at suzette@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1541.

Family Mini Retreats

We gather throughout the school year with families who have children in a particular grade level to share story, faith, fellowship and to have fun. During the summer our retreats are designed for intergenerational families. Contact Suzette Sornborger at suzette@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1541.

Our Schools

St. Monica Catholic Elementary School

www.stmonicaces.org

St. Monica Catholic Elementary School is a vibrant coeducational community rooted in the Roman Catholic tradition that offers an academically rigorous and spiritually nurturing curriculum. Serving families on the Westside since 1930, the elementary school provides its students with challenging core academic coursework in addition to Spanish, music, art and physical education instruction. Students may also benefit from participation in after-school sports, enrichment classes, and affordable childcare. Contact admissions@stmonicaelem.com to schedule a tour.



St. Monica Catholic High School

www.stmonicachs.org

St. Monica Catholic High School is a coeducational parish school that provides a challenging college preparatory curriculum that includes over 20 AP/Honors courses. Established in 1937, the high school offers a safe, close-knit campus where students of diverse interests, cultures, and faiths thrive as a community. As part of a nearly 600-member student body, St. Monica students are able to find their individual voice and build upon their strengths through involvement in over 50 co-curricular clubs, teams and organizations. Graduates of St. Monica Catholic High School matriculate to competitive colleges and universities across the country and ultimately carry out the parish mission, "to form loving disciples who will transform the world." Contact the Admissions Office at (310) 394-3701, x1305 to schedule a tour.



School Leadership

Kevin McCardle
Neil Quinly
James Spellman
Ed Stokx

President
Principal, St. Monica Catholic Elementary School
Principal, St. Monica Catholic High School
Schools Advisory Board Chair

Parish Directory

Parish Office (310) 566-1500
Fax: (310) 566-1510
Email: info@stmonica.net
Web: www.stmonica.net

Mailing Address:
St. Monica Catholic Community
725 California Ave.
Santa Monica, CA 90403

You can reach most of our staff members via email by using **[firstname]@stmonica.net** with the exception of those marked with an asterisk*.

Leadership Team

Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson	Pastor	(310) 566-1503
Rev. Ian Hagan	Associate Pastor	(310) 566-1505
Rev. Prosper Hedagbui	Associate Pastor	(310) 566-1571
Delis Alejandro	Pastoral Associate	(310) 566-1530
Felipe Sanchez	Director of Administrator	(310) 566-1502
Suzette Sornborger	Pastoral Associate	(310) 566-1541
Dale Sieverding, SLD	Director of Worship	(310) 566-1520
Merrick Siebenaler	Director of Development & Strategic Comm.	(310) 566-1514

Staff

J.M. Baez	Audio/Video Director	(310) 566-1527
Hilda Banuelos	Receptionist	(310) 566-1500
Jeffrey Bonilla	Director of Music	(310) 566-1521
Dorothy Butcher	Sacraments	(310) 566-1523
Daniel Clarke	Maintenance	(310) 566-1511
Donna Damian	Finance Coordinator	(310) 566-1506
Gary Denk	Funerals	(310) 566-1558
*Gary Gallati	Receptionist	(310) 566-1500
Loreena Garcia	Development & Comm. Coordinator	(310) 566-1514
Patricia Garcia	Executive Assistant	(310) 566-1503
Christine Gerety	Assoc. Director, Outreach & Pastoral Care	(310) 566-1531
Dominik Gnirs	Assoc. Director of Faith Formation	(310) 566-1543
Brendan Harper	Dev. & Stewardship Associate	(310) 566-1513
Marcus Johnson	Ministry Assistant	(310) 566-1532
Gail Lyons	Receptionist	(310) 566 1500
Mark Neal	Assistant Facilities Director	(310) 566-1555
Valerie Shore	Director, Stewardship & Development	(310) 566-1552
Lydia Saenz	Receptionist	(310) 566 1500
Audrey Shaw	Business Office	(310) 566-1507
Scott Spatola	Technology Director	(310) 566-1515
*Michael Hampel	Chief Finance Officer	(310) 566-1534

Holy Grounds at St. Monica

Now serving certified organic Heirloom coffee from Urth Caffe at Holy Grounds, our coffee shop and book/gift store. And if you're not a coffee drinker, we also serve organic tea, smoothies, baked goods, pastries, sandwiches, as well as Ghirardelli hot cocoa. We also have a diverse selection of Catholic and Christian music, sacred books, and gifts for all occasions and liturgical seasons. Whether you're celebrating a baptism, graduation, birthday or other milestone, this is the place to find a book or gift that's just right! The entrance to Holy Grounds is on California Ave. in the Caruso Community Center.



Contact Geo Gonzalez at geo@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1508.

Regular Hours

Monday–Friday: 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

Phone: (310) 566-1565

www.stmonica.net/holygrounds

Stay Connected with Us!

There are several ways to stay connected with us when you are away from St. Monica beyond our website at www.stmonica.net!



Like us on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/StMonicaCC725.



Follow us on Twitter:

Msgr. Torgerson at [@MsgrLloyd](https://twitter.com/MsgrLloyd)



St. Monica Catholic Community at [@StMonica90403](https://www.stmonica.net)

Subscribe to our podcast on iTunes and listen to a weekly homily while on the go at www.stmonica.net/audio



Check out our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/StMonica90403



Watch us online at www.stmonica.net/live. We livestream the Sunday 5:30 p.m. Mass each week as well as special events.



Facility Rentals

Consider St. Monica for your next special event! We can provide the perfect setting for your wedding rehearsal dinner, reception, or any other special event! We have a venue for every occasion and can accommodate groups as intimate as 10 and celebrations of over 300. Our facilities include the Caruso Community Center, perfect for smaller events, and the Grand Pavilion, best for larger groups, which includes the full use of a stainless steel industrial-sized kitchen and state-of-the-art audio visual equipment.

Rental Features

ROOM	MAX. CAPACITY*	AV	KITCHEN
Grand Pavilion and Grand Patio	450	•	•
Grand Pavilion Section	130	•	•
Grand Patio Only	varies	•	•
Caruso Community Center A and B	68	•	
St. Andre Bessette Chapel	71	•	
Caruso Community Center C	16	•	
Duval Center	75	•	

* For theater style seating. Capacity is reduced for banquet or reception style.

If you're interested in taking a tour of the facilities, contact our assistant operations director, Mark Neal, at mark@stmonica.net or (310) 566-1555. You can also submit a facility reservation request at www.stmonica.net/rentals

Notes

WASHINGTON AVENUE



7TH STREET



WEEKENDS & EVENINGS ONLY

LINCOLN BOULEVARD

CALIFORNIA AVENUE

**Our Mission: To form loving disciples
who will transform the world**

 st. monica catholic community

725 California Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90403 | www.stmonica.net