

# St. Monica Church

## Year in Review 2018

January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

### January 2018

- *Community Table* refreshments following 9:00am Mass involves 6 teams of (5-9 people).
- *Small Christian Communities* (4 continuing parish groups) meet and read Scripture together.
- *Airport Seniors* continues as a regular monthly activity at Olympia Restaurant.
- *Contemplative Prayer* (Mondays 5:30pm chapel) year-round Adult Faith Formation group.
- *Blue Bag collection* for SWEM programs. Parish gathered a total of 2,903 lbs. of food in 2018.
- *St. Monica Social Justice Committee* prepares first of three meals for 2018 REACH Home shelter.
- *Prayer Shawl Ministry* (Thursday afternoon 1:30pm; rectory) operates throughout the year.
- *Annual MLK Coat Drive*: Parish youth distribute 150 coats and serve warm refreshments.
- *Luminary Display* with refreshments at St. Monica commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- *Memories Dinner* at rectory features parishioner-prepared foods having a special memory.
- *Diocesan Catholic Ministries Appeal* goal reached and surpassed: \$20,284 (112 donors).
- Upper-level church brick repairs, lighting replacement in church and school projects completed.

### February 2018

- *Soup Supper* provides social warmth and sustenance for Saturday churchgoers through May.
- *American Black Catholic History Month* commemorations.
- *Social Justice Committee* serves its second of three wintertime dinners at REACH Home.
- *Sacramental preparation* for Grades 2 and higher for Children's Faith Formation.
- *Music Fest Baked Foods Sale* provides first fund-raiser for the July 2018 event.
- *Bible Study* with Deacon Brian McNulty provides Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation.
- *Mardi Gras Pancake Supper* with the Nate Rawls SWAN band held in the narthex.
- *Ash Wednesday Midnight Mass* and All Night / Day Vigil with distribution of ashes.
- Sister Barbara Moore, RSM, D.Min., presents *Nicodemus, A Lenten Faith Journey*.
- *Blue Bag* collection for REACH Home totaled nearly five hundred individual undergarments.
- Recruitment for *Children's Faith Formation* activities (4 hours time over the course of a month)
- Diocesan advocacy (*Dream Act*) for 800,000 young persons nationally at risk for deportation.
- *Library Ministry* makes reading materials available in the library next to the sacristy.
- *Always Our Children* (USCCB document) discussion on LGBTQ acceptance within churches.

### March 2018:

- *Stations of the Cross* conducted Friday evenings in church with Deacon Matt Dudek.
- Documentary film *I am Not Your Negro* about author and social critic James Baldwin.
- *Blue Bag* collection of food for the Southwest Ecumenical Ministry (SWEM) programs.
- Altar server (acolyte) training begins.
- "*Hope for Spring*" Dinner at Valicia's Restaurant boosts morale after a long winter.
- *Hands of Christ* recognition to Rebecca May, Vanessa Fulmore, Lillian Cook & Rayelle Merrell
- *Airport Seniors* expand to welcome younger parishioners at their monthly luncheons.
- Diocese-wide *Day of Penance* with sacrament of Reconciliation.
- *Palm Sunday Breakfast*, cosponsored by St. Monica, held at Rochester Presbyterian Home.

- *Girl Scout Sunday* celebrates St. Monica youth (Carol Yacono Harrison, scoutleader)
- St. Monica ministries recruitment for the variety of parish opportunities.
- *Holy Week* services and youth portrayal of the Passion of Christ
- Four catechumens received into the Church at Easter Vigil.
- School building fire safety updates; windows improvements for rectory; boilers reviewed.

### **April 2018**

- Easter Sunday includes Easter Egg Hunt following Mass.
- Parishioners join in *Clean Sweep* neighborhood cleanup effort sponsored by the City.
- St. Monica *Creation Stewards* support the Pachamama Alliance to reverse global warming.
- *Blue Bag* collection of personal care items benefits *Mary's Place* serving newly-arrived refugees.
- *Parish Meeting* updates the actual progress of *St. Monica 2020* (Growing the Parish).
- *Welcome Ministry's* photo directory project begins with photos taken by Royal Chamberlain.
- *Bloomin' Optimists* coordinate landscape restoration series (Apr. - Oct.) at Rapids Cemetery.
- Parish Archives completes research phase with University of Rochester for southwest RC parishes.

### **May 2018**

- Third Annual *John Jay Singers* performance at St. Monica Church followed by reception.
- Parishioner and Korean War Veteran Charlie Arnell greeted at airport following *Honor Flight*.
- St. Monica embroidered zip-up jackets and shirts available for sale.
- *Blue Bag* collection for SWEM summertime food options.
- *Our Lady of Fatima Procession* held on church grounds with social gathering afterward.
- Buses depart from St. Monica starting point for rally in Albany supporting climate concerns.
- Parishioner David Huddleston coordinates *Shred Fest* document recycling at church parking lot.
- Parishioners attend drama presentation at Aquinas Institute of *Tolton: From Slave to Priest*.
- Legion of Mary parish group promotes attendance at *Magnificat Rochester* series.
- Plant sale of spring flowers and bushes at St. Monica benefits local WSFM vendors.
- Baked Foods Sale #2 raises funds for Music Fest. Total funds raised amounted to \$1,317.65
- *SWEM Stroll* walkers assemble at St. Monica to raise funds for local food needs.
- Parish youth join others for the annual flower planting involving 70 planters along Genesee St.
- Energy-efficient new lighting for church studied; consultation about possible air conditioning.

### **June 2018**

- Celebration of First Holy Communion with five communicants.
- *Blue Bags* for *Patrick Place*, a comfort care home for persons during their last stage of life.
- *Westside Farmers Market* starts its eleventh year at the St. Monica parking lot with 16 vendors.
- Parishioner Frank Staropoli develops "*A White Guy in Rochester*" blog to bridge racial issues.
- Anna and Robert McDonald celebrate their 50th Anniversary of marriage.
- College awaits successful St. Monica graduates Rebecca, Vanessa, Lillie and Rayelle.
- *20-Week Club* fund-raiser, coordinated by parishioner Dorothy Schwind, begins for 2018.
- *St. Monica Scholarship Fund*, guided by parishioner Barbara Higgins, enlists applicants.
- *Beep Baseball* incorporates players with visual handicaps with coaching by David Divers.
- Parishioners join *ROC the Walk* at Genesee Valley Park in support of environmental awareness.
- *Beats at Brooks* outdoor musical series held at Brooks Landing with parishioner involvement.

**Summary Financial Information** for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

<b>Assets</b> (excluding buildings)	\$926,470
<b>Liabilities</b>	(\$69,976)
<b>Net Fund Balance:</b>	\$856,494
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	\$624,304
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>	(\$533,269)
<b>Capital Expenses:</b>	(\$163,725)
<b>Excess Revenue over Expenses:</b>	\$ 23,862

**July 2018**

- The six teams of *Community Table* volunteers take a well-deserved break for summer.
- Students from the *Rochester School for the Deaf* enhance parish gardens with a layer of mulch.
- Parishioners pass out flyers in neighborhood and prepare for the *St. Monica Music Fest*.
- *Blue Bags for SWEM's* "summer backpack" supplemental food program.
- *Blooming Optimists* coordinate an outdoor choral event held at the restored Rapids Cemetery.
- Girl Scouts from Saint Monica harvest raspberries for St. Peter's Kitchen and get TV coverage.
- Patrick Johnson of the *Fuller Center* speaks at St. Monica enlisting support for home-building.
- *St. Monica Music Fest* brings neighborhood together with music, food and fun for its tenth year.
- *West Side Farmers Market* features ASL-interpreted "Walk with a Doc" medical information.
- Broken school windows replaced; trip hazard at perimeter of driveway fixed; bushes trimmed.

**August 2018**

- Sisterhood Anniversary celebrations: Joan Marshall, SSJ (60 yrs.) & Donna DelSanto, SSJ (25)
- *Youth Choir*: Madeline, Maya, Lexi, Isabella & Bella sing National Anthem at Red Wings game.
- *Blue Bag* Back-to-School supplies gathered for *St. Peter's Kitchen*.
- *Creation Stewards* semiannual brainstorming session on environmental issues held at rectory.
- Coast-to-coast home-building *Fuller Center for Housing* cyclists get housing & food at rectory.
- *R Community Bikes* assists weekly at Market and perform tune-ups for Fuller Center bikes.
- *Vacation Bible School* "Off the Map" adventure theme includes 65 campers and volunteers.
- Vanessa Fulmore earns *Danielle Downey Scholarship* for her golf skills & community service.
- *ROC n' Rally* voter registration event promoting safe communities held at church parking lot.
- Westside Farmers Market includes yoga, dining opportunities and library services.
- St. Monica School graduating Class of 1968 holds reunion and picnic.
- *Blooming Optimists* engage college freshmen for REACH urban land reclamation project.

**September 2018**

- *Annual St. Monica Parish Picnic* at Genesee Valley Park combines fun, food and fellowship.
- *Blue Bag* collection for *SouthWest Ecumenical Ministries'* food distribution programs.
- *St. Peter's Kitchen 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament* includes St. Monica supporters.
- Parishioner Bob Passalugo develops *Suddenly Single* ministry for persons experiencing loss.
- *Welcome Ministry* completes photo sessions for the St. Monica Directory and editing begins.
- Three 4-week sessions begin for *St. Ignatius Spiritual Exercises* at Mercy Spirituality Center.
- *Creation Stewards* celebrate Pope Francis' *Season of Creation* with ecology information & tips.
- Deaf Catholic pastors from U.S. and Africa visit Rochester and celebrate Mass at St. Monica.
- *St. Monica CYO* basketball season begins at the school hall / gym.
- *Creation Stewards* host climate refugees who share their stories with videos at the rectory.
- *St. Monica Scholarships* (\$1,000 each) awarded to Aquinas' Gianna Glasgow and Micah Divers
- *Legion of Mary* resumes its Fall programming and offers visitations to the homebound.
- Safety planning now part of Buildings & Grounds group; stained glass window repair begins.

## October 2018

- *Soup Suppers*, coordinated by Pete Witkowicz, return for cold weather season.
- *Blue Bags* gathering of nutritious beverages and snacks for *Teen Empowerment*.
- Saddiqa Ruth, Lazarus Fazal's wife, is sworn in for US Citizenship at naturalization ceremony.
- *Catholic Ministries Appeal* process begins with parish goal set at \$20,621.
- Poor weather moves Halloween *Trunk and Treat* indoors for all to enjoy in the narthex.
- Parishioner Dave DeMers gathers items for November's Silent Auction.
- Wedding Anniversaries: Joaquim and Fatima Flores (60th); Maria and Anthony Dambra (40th)
- *Youth Pizza Party and Movie* held at the rectory.
- Geothermal energy study conducted with DOR Architect input (not deemed feasible).
- *Westside Farmers Market* finishes with average 251 shoppers per week despite challenging weather.

## November 2018

- *20-Week Club's Fall Dinner and Silent Auction* held at the Diplomat Banquet Center.
- *Parish Meetings* focus on Finance Report and discussion of new staff position.
- *Blue Bag* collection of 78 double and queen-sized blankets for *St. Peter's Kitchen*.
- Parishioners join neighbors to celebrate 10 years of sustained growth at Brooks Landing.
- Session 2 of *Ignatian Spirituality* begins with over 30 participants from combined parishes.
- Return of *Bible Study* series for 2018-19 with Deacon Brian McNulty on Sundays after Mass.
- *Legion of Mary Annual Auxiliary Function* held at St. Monica with prayers and reception.
- Middle school retreat "*Do not say I am too young.*" about Catholic Social Teachings and Justice.
- Thanksgiving dinner and conviviality for parishioners offered at St. Monica rectory.
- *National Black Catholic Heritage Month* celebrates with Cultural Foods Buffet.
- Thanksgiving Eve Mass held in church at 7:00pm
- *Social Justice Committee* begins its 2019 series of meals prepared for REACH Home shelter.
- *Remembrance Mass* commemorates those who passed away during the year.
- Major projects set for next FY: church lighting; air conditioning; school rescue windows; doors.

## December 2018

- *Fair Trade Sale* in the narthex of handmade Christmas gifts benefits the artisans.
- *Blue Bag* collection gathers a record 70 complete Christmas meals for SWEM distribution.
- *Nativity Pageant* on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm Mass delights extended parish family.
- Christmas celebrated with Emmanuel Church of the Deaf with ASL & spoken interpretation
- Cristina, Bereket, Timmy and Sophia join parish ministry as altar servers.
- Veteran gift-wrappers wrap gifts at Barnes & Nobles and receive cash tips for parish.
- Parish Directory with photography by Royal Chamberlain reaches final editing stages.
- Gathering coats for annual January distribution for Genesee Street neighbors.
- Four *Small Christian Communities* (4-8 people each) continue to meet regularly.
- There were fourteen new Catholics baptized at St. Monica this year.
- Digitized historical St. Augustine, OLGC, Ss. Peter & Paul and St. Monica documents sent to DOR Archives.
- New Year's Eve dinner for REACH prepared and served by *Social Justice* members.

## FULL AND PART-TIME STAFF FOR 2018:

Rev. Ray Fleming {Pastor for Saint Monica, Emmanuel Church of the Deaf and Immaculate Conception / St. Bridget}; Deacon Matt Dudek; Deacon Brian McNulty; Mary Ellen Fischer (Pastoral Minister); Jennifer Lafler (Youth Faith Formation, Music Director, Parish Communications, and Sacramental Preparation); Glenn Corson (Contemporary Choir Director); Carol Wynne (Director of Finance & Administration for West Side Parishes); Mark Shevlin (Regional Business Manager); Deborah Hymes (Parish Secretary); Paul Mitrano (Maintenance Supervisor); Groven Glenn (Custodian)  
Website: ([www.stmonicaofrochester.org](http://www.stmonicaofrochester.org)) ; Facebook

## LITURGICAL, SACRAMENTAL and FAITH FORMATION

Mass times: Tuesday 12:10pm; Wednesday: 8:00am; Thursday 12:10pm; Friday 8:00am; Saturday 4:00pm; Sunday 9:00am; 11:00am Emmanuel Church of the Deaf (American Sign Language with voice interpretation)

Father Ray Fleming celebrates Sunday Mass at Immaculate Conception once-monthly and exchanges with Father Robert Bradler who then presides at St. Monica.

- *Liturgy of the Word for Children*: during 9:00am Sunday Mass; conducted in adjoining chapel
- *First Friday Mass, Anointing and Breakfast* (monthly)
- *Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* (Saturdays 1:00pm - 4:00pm) weekly
- *Stations of the Cross*: Friday evenings in Lent
- *St. Monica Contemporary Choir; Gospel Choir; Youth Choir*
- Anyone seeking Baptism for their child, please contact Matt Dudek or Jennifer Lafler.
- Mass Intentions: Contact Deborah Hymes at the Parish Office (235-3340)
- CASE (Creating a Safe Environment) certification: Contact Jennifer Lafler (235-3340)

## PARISH MINISTRIES AND ACTIVITIES DURING 2018

### **Diocesan-mandated:**

*Finance Council*: Carol Wynne <[carol.wynne@dor.org](mailto:carol.wynne@dor.org)> Director of Finance & Administration  
Finance Council members: Fr. Ray Fleming Mike May, Gerry Murty, Larry Hayes, Lourdes Perez-Albuerne, Stanley Ekiyor and Paul Tremblay

*Facilitation Team* (pastoral council): Fr. Ray Fleming <[fr.ray.fleming@dor.org](mailto:fr.ray.fleming@dor.org)>

- Best Batchateu, Connie Chau, John Curran, Mary Fran Kolbuc, Meg Lute & Bob Passalugo

*Buildings, Grounds & Safety Committee*: Mark Shevlin <[Mark.Shevlin@dor.org](mailto:Mark.Shevlin@dor.org)>

Members: Bob Boyd, John Curran, John DeMott, Fr. Ray Fleming; Mark Juba, Paul Mitrano, Bob Mulcahy, Bob Passalugo, Mark Shevlin, Pete Witkowicz and Carol Wynne

### **Liturgical, Music and Adult Faith Formation:**

*Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors ; Funerals* : <[mary.ellen.fischer@dor.org](mailto:mary.ellen.fischer@dor.org)>

*Altar Servers*: Deacon Matt Dudek <[matt.dudek@dor.org](mailto:matt.dudek@dor.org)>

*Black Catholic / African-American History events* : Diane Lourette <[dlourette@monroecc.edu](mailto:dlourette@monroecc.edu)>

*Contemplative Prayer Group (weekly)* : Marilyn Catherine <[mcatherine@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mcatherine@rochester.rr.com)>

*Library Ministry* : Doris Meadows <[dmeadows@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dmeadows@rochester.rr.com)>

*Small Christian Communities* : Dorothy Siegel <[kenanddor@yahoo.com](mailto:kenanddor@yahoo.com)>

*Youth Faith Formation, Children's Liturgy & Youth Ministry* : <[jennifer.lafler@dor.org](mailto:jennifer.lafler@dor.org)>

*Adult Contemporary Choir* : Glenn Corson <[gncorson@gmail.com](mailto:gncorson@gmail.com)>

*Gospel Choir and Youth Choir* : Jennifer Lafler <[jennifer.lafler@dor.org](mailto:jennifer.lafler@dor.org)>

*Legion of Mary (2 groups)* : Gerry Murty (436-1284) <[momdadmurt@frontiernet.net](mailto:momdadmurt@frontiernet.net)>;  
Mike Melfi (309-3198); Brendalyn Bynoe (315-6554);  
*Southwest Rochester RC Parish Archives*: John Curran <[jecurran@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jecurran@rochester.rr.com)>  
*Prayer Shawl Ministry*: Karal Marling  
*Creating a Safe Environment* training for ministry with vulnerable persons (contact Jennifer)

### **Parish Growth and Socialization:**

*Saint Monica 2020 (Growing the Parish)*: Bob Boyd <[rboyd3@gmail.com](mailto:rboyd3@gmail.com)>  
*Community Table*: Andrea Ehmann <[andreaehmann@frontier.com](mailto:andreaehmann@frontier.com)>  
*Hospitality Ministry*: Sue Staropoli <[suestar1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:suestar1@rochester.rr.com)>  
*Special Events* : Karen and Bob Engle <[robertgengle@gmail.com](mailto:robertgengle@gmail.com)>  
*20-Week Club (Annual Dinner & fund-raiser)*: Dorothy Schwind <[rschwin1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rschwin1@rochester.rr.com)>  
*First Fridays Mass, Anointing and Breakfast* <[mary.ellen.fischer@dor.org](mailto:mary.ellen.fischer@dor.org)>  
*Saturday Soup Suppers*: Peter Witkowicz <[pwitkowicz@rochester.rr.com](mailto:pwitkowicz@rochester.rr.com)>  
*Suddenly Single*: Bob Passalugo <[bpass22@icloud.com](mailto:bpass22@icloud.com)>  
*Church Office Volunteers*: Deborah Hymes: 235-3340, <[deborah.hymes@dor.org](mailto:deborah.hymes@dor.org)>  
*Welcoming Committee*: Debbie Diederich <[ddiederich@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ddiederich@rochester.rr.com)>

### **Parish Outreach:**

*Social Justice Committee*: Dan Lill <[danlill@gmail.com](mailto:danlill@gmail.com)>  
*Saint Monica Refugee Resettlement Team*: Dan Lill <[danlill@gmail.com](mailto:danlill@gmail.com)>  
*St. Monica Annual Music Fest*: Karen and Bob Engle <[robertgengle@gmail.com](mailto:robertgengle@gmail.com)>  
*Westside Farmers Market*: Jackie Farrell <[westsidemarketrochester@gmail.com](mailto:westsidemarketrochester@gmail.com)>  
*St. Peter's Kitchen*: Bob Boyd and JoAnn DeMott <[jnj\\_demott@juno.com](mailto:jnj_demott@juno.com)>  
*Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. Coat Give-Away*: Mary Fran Kolbuc  
*Our Lady of Fatima* procession within neighborhood (contact Parish Office)  
*Creation Stewards* (environmental): Marilyn Catherine <[mcatherine@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mcatherine@rochester.rr.com)>  
*Pachamama Alliance* (environment) Sue Staropoli & Patricia Woehrlen <[padricia@gmail.com](mailto:padricia@gmail.com)>  
*Genesee Street Flower Planters* annual restocking: John DeMott <[jnj\\_demott@juno.com](mailto:jnj_demott@juno.com)>  
*Gardening Angels* (parish gardens): Contact John DeMott and John Curran  
*Bloomin' Optimists* (cemetery and property restoration): John Curran <[jecurran@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jecurran@rochester.rr.com)>

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*Idea-to-Reality* process: Parish ministry and activity development since 2006 have relied heavily on parishioner initiative. If you have a suggestion, then work with a Facilitation Team member to develop an Idea-to-Reality conceptual framework. Blank copies are available in the narthex.

Please consider making a bequest in your will on behalf of Saint Monica Church.

