

St. Monica RCIA

September 11, 2017

Introduction of our priests and the Blessing

- The Sign of the Cross
- Grace Before Meals

Your 2017-2018 RCIA Team

- Fr. Michael Guadagnoli
- Mariangela Byrne
- Greg Lensing
- Joseph Miller
- Ann & Dan O'Hearn
- Fr. Inigo Lopez
- Brett Parsley
- Jennifer Racine
- Gary & Judy Stanley

A New Convert's Perspective

Jennifer Racine

The Calendar

- Monday night classes from 7 to 9
- Attend Mass Every Week
- RCIA Retreat – Saturday, January 20, 2018
- Occasional field trips – e.g., 1st Friday at Cistercian Abbey on Friday, November 3, 2017

The Calendar

- First Confessions—before Easter if you have already been baptized, after Easter if you haven't
- Easter Vigil Mass—
the evening of **Saturday, March 31, 2018**

Interviews

- Each individual or couple need to sign up for an interview
- Interviews are with team members
- Interviews will be conducted from 6:15 PM to 6:45 PM on Mondays
- Purpose: To get general information about you and provide opportunity discussion & questions

Class Format

- Prayer and dinner
- Presentation by a parish ministry
- Catholic Basic and Saint of the Week
- Symbolon video (and Bishop Barron)
- Guest speaker on the same topic as the video

Materials

- A Catholic Bible
 - The easiest one to find is “The New American Bible”
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd edition)

Attendance & Homework

- If you miss a class for some unavoidable reason, we ask you to watch the video online and then complete some homework questions based on the video.
- Please turn your homework in to RCIA Team member Joseph Miller.
- Video instructions and homework questions will be posted on our blog.

RCIA Blog

stmonicarcaia.wordpress.com

Sponsors

- **Who is eligible to be your sponsor?**

- Each person has to have a Sponsor
- A sponsor must be Catholic.
- A sponsor must have received Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
- Your spouse can be your sponsor if he or she meets these criteria, but it is recommended to have a non-spouse as your sponsor.
- Your sponsor should be someone who can be here with you at the Easter Vigil Mass next March 31, 2018.

Confirmation Names

- When you become Catholic, one of the sacraments of initiation you will receive is the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- By long Catholic tradition, you will then take as your “Confirmation name” the name of a Catholic saint.
- So you have to decide what your Confirmation name will be a couple of weeks before the Easter Vigil

Q & *A*

Saint of the Day

St. Monica



St. Monica

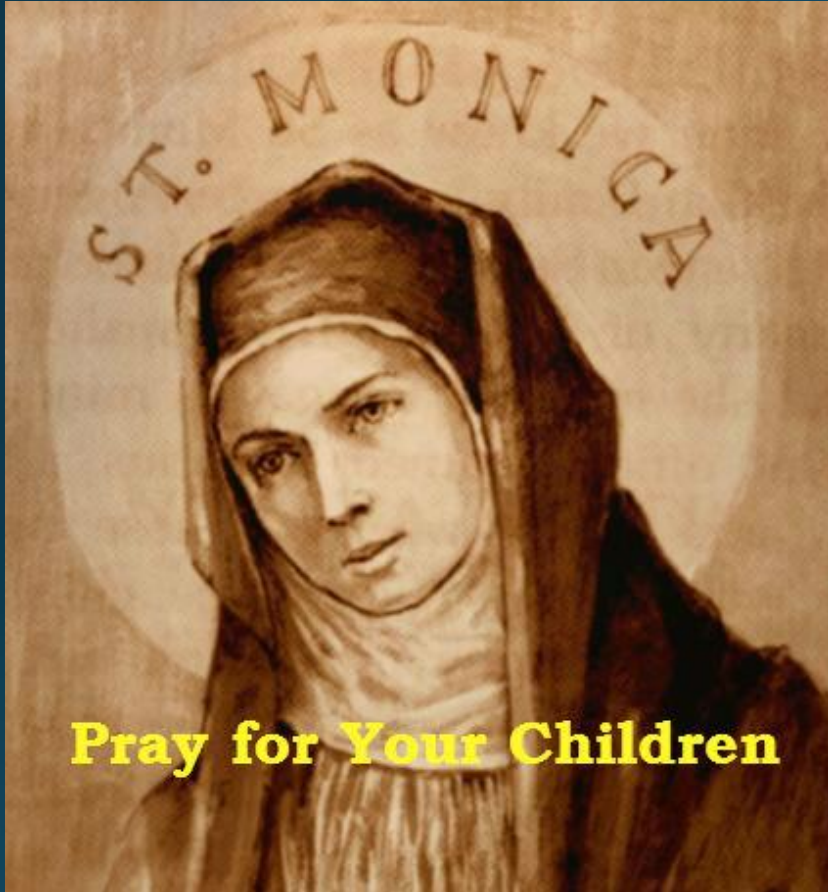
- Born 331 A.D.
- Died 387 A.D.
- Feast day: August 27



- Married to a Roman pagan, Patricius – lived in modern-day Algeria
- Honored husband but continued to practice her faith
- Had 3 children – 2 of her children joined religious orders
- Her son, Augustine, lived a worldly, sinful life – wine, women and song – and dabbled in heresy



- Known/honored for her constant praying to God for the salvation of her husband and Augustine
- Husband converted 1 year before his death
- After her husband died, she followed Augustine to Carthage, Rome and Milan – praying, encouraging Augustine
- Augustine converted in his 30's - in 386



- She fell ill and died soon after Augustine's baptism - in 387.
- **St. Monica demonstrates the Power of Persistent Prayer!**
- She is a patron saint of
 - Married women
 - Mothers
 - Alcoholics

Catholic Basic

Basics of Going to Mass

Holy Water

- What is it?
 - It is generally available at the entrances to most Catholic churches in open vessels called *stoups* or *fonts*.
 - Water that has been blessed by a priest with a prayer that asks God to bless those who use it and to protect them from the powers of darkness.
 - No power in the water – not magic – but God confers sacramental grace through the Holy Water!







St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Rogers, Arkansas



St. Joseph Catholic Church, Richardson, Texas

Holy Water

- What do you do with it? What does it signify?
 - As you enter or leave a church, dip the tips of the fingers of your right hand into the font, and then make the Sign of the Cross.
 - It signifies Christ, who referred to Himself as the Living Water. It also serves as a reminder of our baptism.
 - Also - many Catholics keep font or bottle of Holy Water at home
 - Use it in times of physical danger and against temptations from spiritual enemies.

Genuflecting

- How do you do it?
 - Simply touch your right knee to the ground for a split-second, making the Sign of the Cross while you do so if you can manage it.

Genuflecting

- Why do we do it?
 - As a sign of reverence for the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, whether in repose in the tabernacle or exposed during Eucharistic adoration.

Genuflecting

- When do you do it? There are two occasions:
 1. When you enter a church, genuflect just before you enter the pew for the first time and again as you exit the pew for the last time before you leave the church. Don't genuflect if you leave the pew temporary—such as at Communion.

Genuflecting

2. If you are passing close by, or approaching, a tabernacle with the Blessed Sacrament inside, then it is also appropriate to genuflect as you pass or approach.

Why don't they genuflect over at St. Elsewhere's Catholic Church?

- Since genuflecting is reserved for the Blessed Sacrament, you may find yourself in a church in which people only bow towards the altar before entering the pew.
- This is because many modern churches do not have their tabernacle in the main part of the church near the altar, but rather in a separate chapel.

Receiving a blessing at Communion

- At Mass, only Catholics take communion – confirmation of our faith in the Real Presence
- Non-Catholics – Can join the Communion line like everyone else. Before you reach the minister, cross your arms on your chest like an “X”. The minister will bless you instead of offering you Communion.
- It’s a great thing to be blessed by a Priest!



Q & *A*

Questionnaires