

What's Inside!

Parish Mission Retreat

Justice & Peace

Community Life

Spiritual Care & Engagement

Worship

Holy Week & Triduum

Stewardship

As we begin our Lenten journey, we are invited into a season that leads us from death to life. Lent is not only a time of repentance, but a call to choose life—to turn our hearts toward the God who desires that we may truly live. Through prayer, fasting, and acts of mercy, we walk with Christ toward the cross, trusting that even in sacrifice, God is at work bringing new life.



In this holy season, we remember the path to resurrection often passes through the tomb. Lent asks us to release what binds us, to step out of darkness, and to believe that God's power is strongest where life seems most fragile. As we accompany Jesus through suffering and into the joy of Easter, we open ourselves to the promise of the risen Christ—who calls each of us by name, invites us out of the tomb, and offers life that cannot be taken away.

ALL WE
THAT YOU MAY LIVE

Lent & Triduum 2026

stmonica.net/lent



@StMonica90403

HOLY GROUNDS



We offer something for every season of life...whatever you may be facing. Discover Lenten and Stations resources, thoughtful devotionals, and one-of-a-kind rosaries.



PARISH MISSION RETREAT Ellie Hidalgo

THREE PARTS

Monday, Mar. 23 · 7p
Tuesday, Mar. 24 · 7p
Wednesday, Mar. 25 · 7p

Livestream Available: stmonica.net/mission

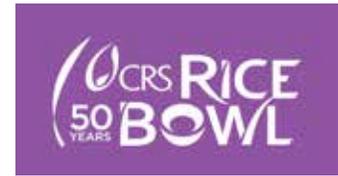
We're delighted to welcome Ellie Hidalgo for our Parish Mission Retreat this Lent. Ellie is co-director of Discerning Deacons, where she helps engage Catholics in thoughtful discernment around women and the diaconate and the renewal of the diaconate for our time.

An experienced parish minister, Ellie brings 12 years of ministry at Dolores Mission Catholic Church in East Los Angeles, a Jesuit parish deeply committed to immigrant advocacy, restorative justice, and community organizing. She has also accompanied women in diaconal ministry in Latin America and participated in global synodal gatherings in Rome, including a 2023 symposium at the Jesuit Curia.

Ellie holds a Master's in Pastoral Theology from Loyola Marymount University and is now based in Miami, Florida. We're grateful she's joining us and look forward to the wisdom and perspective she brings to our community.

CRS RICE BOWLS

stmonica.net/crs · Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we'll grow together and renew our souls. Pick up your Rice Bowl and Lenten calendar, assemble the cardboard box, and join us at crsricebowl.org for daily reflections.



RACE 4 VERONIKA'S PLACE

stmonica.net/r4vp · Race 4 Veronika's Place supports those living with HIV or AIDS in Kenya, raising funds through the LA Marathon on March 14 and 15. Donate or sponsor a runner through our webpage.

SERVING LOCALLY

stmonica.net/homeless · Mark your calendars for March 7 and April 4 at St. Francis Center and March 28 at the St. Robert Center.

SECOND SUNDAYS FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE

stmonica.net/second · St. Monica collects non-perishable food for Westside Food Bank and gently used clothing for St. Robert Center. Donations can be dropped off in the Grand Pavilion Patio every Second Sunday.

YMA

stmonica.net/yma · Young Ministering Adults (20s & 30s) hosts service opportunities, Vespers on Tuesdays, and fellowship opportunities throughout Lent.

FILM CLUB OSCAR NIGHT

stmonica.net/film · Get your tickets for our annual Oscar Night on Thursday, March 12. Also, stop by our Coffee & Doughnuts Oscar preview after the morning Masses on Sunday, March 8 to catch up on the Oscar buzz.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

stmonica.net/boutique · Boutique Group: We gather on Wednesdays at 9a in the Duval Center. Share and learn new skills.

stmonica.net/patrick · St. Patrick's Day Party: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with traditional music and food on March 15 at 7p in the Grand Pavilion.

stmonica.net/glo · GLO LGBTQ+ Ministry: Join the St. Monica GLO LGBTQ+ community for Lenten Grace on Mar. 8, an evening of fellowship, food, and faith following the Sunday 5:30p Mass.

LIVING OUR LENTEN CALL THROUGH SERVICE

Service to others is at the heart of Saint Monica Preparatory's mission and our call to live faith in action. This year, our school partnered with the parish's annual Thanksgiving Feast by assembling snack packs for those in need while over 40 students volunteered and served our community that day. SMPREP students also hosted a blood drive with the American Red Cross that helped save more than 150 lives, organized a Christmas toy drive for the Joy Jewels of Youth Foundation, and assembled toiletry kits for the St. Robert's Center during January's Catholic Schools Week. Through these meaningful acts of generosity and compassion, our Mariner families live out the Lenten values of sacrifice, service and care for our neighbors. Allison G. '26 reflects, "It's powerful to witness how a single day of service can make such a meaningful difference for so many people."

Take the next step in your journey, visit us at saintmonicaprep.org.



TAIZÉ PRAYER Saturdays, 5p · Church Taizé Prayer is a unique form of contemplative prayer created by an ecumenical monastic community in the French countryside. Simple chants or songs, repeated many times, foster a reflective atmosphere and communicate core truths of faith that speak gently to both the mind and the heart.

DAILY CONFESSIONS

Monday–Friday, 5:30p–6:30p · Church

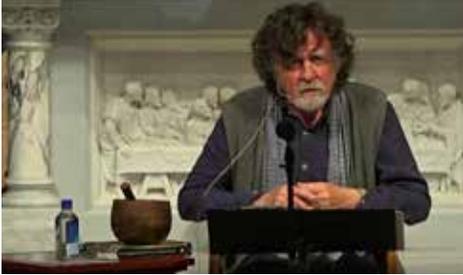
Saturday, 4:30p–5:30p · Church

Confessions during Lent offer a grace-filled opportunity for ongoing repentance and renewal. By regularly receiving God's mercy, we prepare our hearts to more fully embrace the joy of Easter. This Lent, St. Monica offers extended hours for Reconciliation.

DIVINE MERCY

Fridays, 3p · Online

stmonica.net/divinemercy · This devotion focuses on God's mercy and love. By accepting God's mercy and returning it to those around us, we are obeying the two greatest commandments given to us by Jesus: Love God and love your neighbor. **Jesus, I trust in you!**



JIM FINLEY

LENTE MORNING RETREAT

stmonica.net/finley · In our time together, Jim will help us to understand how prayerfully reflecting on the events of Christ's life can help us to become more aware of and responsive to God's presence in the joys and sorrows of our daily lives. The event will include brief periods of shared silent prayer and an opportunity to discuss the themes presented. The retreat is March 7, 9a–12p, and will take place in the Church. There is no need to register in advance.

LENTE REFLECTION BOOKS

stmonica.net/reflection · Journey with us as a community with our Lenten Reflection Book—created by parishioners, faculty, staff, and students in St. Monica Catholic Community! Read reflections on the readings in each day of Lent.



FRIDAY ADORATION

Fridays, 5:15p–6:30p · Church

Adoration is a quiet encounter with Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7p · Church & Livestream

Stations of the Cross is a prayerful journey through Christ's Passion. We will be guided through and meditating on each station.

Different ministries will host each Friday in Lent:

Feb. 20: **Green Team / Peace & Justice**

Feb. 27: **Scripture Encounter**

Mar. 6: **Celtic Stations of the Cross**

Mar. 13: **SMPREP**

Mar. 20: **St. Phoebe Ministry**

Mar. 27: **Faith Formation**



FRIDAY FISH FRY

6:00–9:00p · Grand Pavilion

Enjoy a delicious meal and great company—classic meal with crispy fish, fries, coleslaw, and tartar sauce, plus an option for hearty clam chowder. Come share a meal, connect with friends, and make it a night of good food and even better conversation.

Select proceeds will be donated to our pilgrimage partners in the Holy Land.

LENTE SMALL GROUPS

stmonica.net/share · Lent is a special time for reflection, renewal, and conversation. Our daily reflections throughout Lent this year will be provided by our own parishioners. They will be provided on the website and printed versions will be available in the parish office. This collection of reflections is a meaningful way for our community to journey through this holy season. We also offer opportunities to share in small groups, either in person and via Zoom, to connect with others, share faith through conversation, pray, and reflect. All are welcome!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

stmonica.net/vbs · Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls at Vacation Bible School. Join us as we trek into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God, June 15–19 from 9a–Noon.

EASTER EGG HUNT!

Check the Weekly Witness and announcements for details to come about the Faith Formation Easter egg hunt!



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY LENTE RETREAT & LENTE LUNCHEON

stmonica.net/always · The Always Beginning Lenten Retreat & Luncheon for adults 65+ will be held on Friday, March 6, in Caruso A/B from 10a–Noon, followed by Mass at 12:10p and a complimentary luncheon in the Grand Pavilion. Reservations required by March 3: Layla at (310) 566-1543.

FORGIVENESS RETREAT

stmonica.net/spirit · *Coming Home to Grace: A Retreat on Forgiveness* is on Saturday, March 14, at 9a in the Spirituality Center, inspired by the Prodigal Son, Rembrandt's art, and Henri Nouwen's writing. RSVP today!

MONTHLY SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

stmonica.net/spirit · Lent is the perfect time to start a new spiritual practice! Monthly Spiritual Direction, offered through the St. Monica Spirituality Center, provides the ideal space and time to explore your relationship with God. Accompanied by a trained spiritual director once a month for ten months, this journey promises profound spiritual growth.

HOLY WEEK & TRIDUUM

HOLY WEEK

Seder Dinner · Saturday, March 28
6:30 p.m. Grand Pavilion

Palm Sunday · March 29

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

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

Chrism Mass · March 30 · 7:00 p.m.
Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Daily: 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 28 · 3–5 p.m.

Monday, March 30 · NO CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, March 31

7:00 p.m. Communal Liturgy
of Reconciliation

Wednesday, April 1 · 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 2

8:30–10:00 a.m., 1:30–3:00 p.m.

NO CONFESSIONS
ON GOOD FRIDAY OR HOLY SATURDAY

TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday · April 2

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Adoration at the Altar of Repose
following Mass until Midnight
in the Grand Pavilion

Midnight Night Prayer

Good Friday · April 3

Noon & 7:00 p.m. Solemn Liturgy

Holy Communion &
Veneration of the Cross

3:00 p.m. Taize Prayer
& Stations of the Cross

GOOD FRIDAY IS A DAY OF
COMPLETE FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Holy Saturday · April 4

7:00–10:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

This Mass satisfies Easter obligation.
There will be no 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Easter Sunday · April 5

CHURCH: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

OUTDOOR: 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

ADDITIONAL PARKING:

Stacked: California Ave,
between Lincoln & 7th St.

Lot: 1212 7th St.
SGI Buddhist Center

EASTER GIFTS

During the Lenten season we ask you to reflect upon the blessings you have received throughout this year and to consider an Easter gift **IN GRATITUDE** for these blessings in your lives.

GIVE ONLINE

The easiest way to share your blessings is online: Make a one-time gift or establish a recurring gift. stmonica.net/give

BRING YOUR GIFT TO MASS

All registered households will receive a Easter letter from Msgr. Torgerson with a return envelope for your offering. Checks can be made payable to St. Monica Catholic Community and placed in the offertory at Mass or mailed to:

725 California Ave.
Santa Monica, CA 90403

PLANNED GIVING

This Lent, consider ways to make a meaningful impact through charitable giving:

Qualified Charitable Distributions

(QCDs): If you're 70½ or older, you can make a tax-efficient gift directly from your IRA.

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs):

Recommend a grant from your fund to support St. Monica's mission.

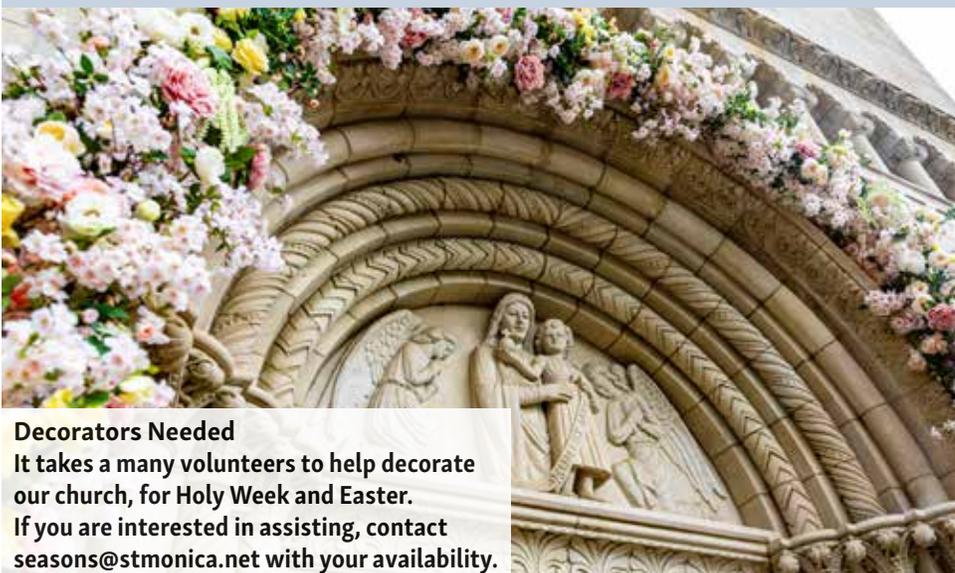
Legacy Gifts: Include St. Monica in your will or trust to ensure your blessings continue for generations.

Explore **employer matching gifts**, **vehicle donations**, or gifts in **honor of a loved one** to deepen your Lenten journey. Every gift, large or small, brings hope and transformation to our parish and beyond.

For giving inquiries, contact **Merrick Siebenaler** at (310) 566-1514 or merrick@stmonica.net.

Together in Mission stands as a lifeline for underserved parishes and schools who struggle to meet their most urgent needs. stmonica.net/TIM

Your annual pledge helps **62 parishes and 79 schools** remain vibrant centers of faith, worship, and Catholic education.



Decorators Needed

It takes a many volunteers to help decorate our church, for Holy Week and Easter. If you are interested in assisting, contact seasons@stmonica.net with your availability.