

A CONTINUOUS CATHOLIC PRESENCE SINCE 1854

Lord's Peace Faithful people of Saint Monica and St. Blaise

I would like to talk to you about a few things that are happening within our Parish. But first, I want to check in with you and your family. If you are receiving this letter, it is because you and your family are part of this family of God and are important to this part of His Kingdom. If you haven't returned to Sunday Mass, or have fallen out of the practice, please come back. You are missed by the Lord Jesus and by us. Secondly, if you are in need of something, or need assistance, please let us know. The faithful folks of Saint Monica and St. Blaise want to be of assistance, and you are the neighbor that Jesus commands us to love and help.

Saint Monica and Saint Blaise Merger Update

For 3 1/2 years Saint Monica and St. Blaise have been working together to build the Kingdom of God. During these years we have worked together in remarkably difficult times. With the Lord we have accomplished amazing things and we have certainly become stronger by working together. The Diocese has informed me that it is now time to formalize this relationship. As we have shared, and as you have seen through the Diocese, our two Churches will formalize this relationship by becoming one overarching parish in January. This parish will encompass the uniqueness of Saint Monica, St. Blaise and Saint Monica Catholic Academy. We already do almost everything together, so this process is in many ways a formality. After the merger, nothing will be changing. Our Churches, School, Sacraments, staff, and essential ministries will continue. Our unique charisms of Total Eucharistic Piety and Radical Service to the Poor will continue as they do now.

The unique charisms of the Churches and School

- 1. Total Eucharistic devotion*
- 2. Radical service to the poor*

Fruit of these Charisms

- 1. Eucharistic Adoration continued throughout Covid time*
- 2. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered in beautiful ways both in the restored St. Blaise and in the Christmas Church.*
- 3. 1000s of meals were prepared and those in need received aid.*
- 4. Many young families have joined our Churches in these years.*
- 5. Our school has grown and now serves a more diverse group of students.*

We Would Like You to Participate in the Process

Your feedback moving forward continues to be valuable. We will host 2 Town Hall meetings in August: *August 20th at 6pm St. Blaise & August 23rd at 6pm Saint Monica*. Until then, you are invited into the process of presenting a possible new Saint to oversee our work as our new collective patron saint and general parish name (This will not change the name of the two churches or the school. It will only be for the administrative parish that will preside over the three entities). There are some obvious Saints for us to consider, however you are invited to list any Saint or devotion which you believe will be a suitable patron.

- St. Augustine, the son of St. Monica
- St. Joseph, Protector of the Church
- Blessed Carlo Acutis
- Most Blessed Sacrament
- St. Padre Pio

Peace of Christ,
Fr. Schreck

How to Participate in offering possible a new Patron Saint and Parish Patron

1. Respond online or detach the form by July 12, 2022
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LVRB8XR>
2. Any recommendation should consider our primary charisms of Total Eucharistic Devotion and Radical Service to the Poor.
 1. Any recommendation should be a Saint or Blessed, a proper name of Our Lord or Our Lady, a name that is not already in use in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for a Church or a new parish or school. (a complete list can be found on diopitt.org)
 2. We may not use our current names
3. The Church councils will sort the results and present them to the Bishop for his consideration. Up to 20 names may be submitted.
4. At the Town Hall meetings we will review the accepted names from the Bishop and further deliberate.
5. A final list of recommendations will be sent to him for his decision.

TIMELINE THE MERGER PROCESS GUIDELINES FOR THE JANUARY 2023 MERGERS

JUNE, 2022	JUNE 24 – JULY 12	JULY 18 - 22	AUGUST 2022	END OF AUGUST	SEPT 1 – 11	OCTOBER 4	OCTOBER 13	END OF NOVEMBER <i>TENTATIVE</i>	JAN 1, 2023 <i>TENTATIVE</i>
<p>Administrator, Clergy Team, Staff & Advisory Councils meet with Parish Services to review the Completing the Merger Process.</p> <p>Parish Services Consultant meets with Administrator & Advisory Councils for a follow-up after the June 14 meeting.</p>	<p>Parishioners receive the 1st communication & are invited to submit names for the new parish.</p> <p>Administrator begins weekly communication on June 25/26 re: Completing the Merger Process in the bulletin & on the website.</p>	<p>Administrator & Clergy Team consult with Advisory Councils to submit 20 potential names for the new parish for the preliminary review by Bishop Zubik.</p>	<p>Administrator, Clergy Team, Staff & Advisory Councils prepare the Parish Assembly.</p> <p>The 2nd communication is created for parishioners to offer final input on the new parish name & feedback/questions on the assembly.</p>	<p>Parish conducts Town Hall Meetings</p> <p>St. Blaise Aug 20 @ 6pm</p> <p>Saint Monica Aug 23 @ 6pm</p> <p>The 2nd communication is sent to parishioners.</p>	<p>Parishioners submit final input on names for the new parish & offer feedback/questions on the Parish Assembly.</p>	<p>Administrator submits final Merger Documents to the Diocese.</p>	<p>Bishop Zubik consults with Priest Council to consider all mergers.</p>	<p>Bishop Zubik announces & issues the Decree for the new parish.</p>	<p>New Parish begins.</p>

Please Respond online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LVRB8XR>
or Place this form into the Collection
Deadline for all Submissions is July 12, 2022

Your Name: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Phone: _____

Parish that you currently belong: Saint Monica Saint Blaise

Do you attend weekly Mass: Yes No Sometimes I am homebound or in a facility

Proposed Patron Saint for the collective Churches

Why would this Saint, and their intercession, be significant for the Churches of Saint Monica and St. Blaise?

Is there anything that you need assistance with?

5 Possible Saint Profiles

Saint Joseph

Protector of the Church, Terror of Demons

Over the past 3 years our blest parishes of Saint Blaise and Saint Monica have more actively fed the poor, increased the ways we teach our children, continued the act of Adoring our Lord. Even while the walls put up by the world our ability to do these simple things. It is no coincidence that at the same time we dedicated space on both campuses to honoring the Good Saint Joseph. First, by naming the core of our parish and ministry the St. Joseph Adoration Chapel. Next, by building areas to ask the Good St. Joseph to guide and protect the faithful people of our little grouping. These spaces are now a part of the normal parish life at both Churches.

We have been given the opportunity to become familiar with St. Joseph's quiet example of saying yes to the Father through his actions as opposed to his words. Obedience, patience, hope, protecting the Son of God from worldly threats, and the courage to trust in the things presented to us in prayer. His faithful action of service to Jesus and Mary is a perfect example to us of how to live our lives. Joseph today actively defends the church from attacks whether they are internal or Demonic in origination.

God himself trusted Joseph with the personal safety and teaching of his son and the protection of Blessed Mary. The Good Saint Joseph is already our protector on earth and can be, if asked our intercessor in heaven.

Blessed Carlo Acutis

In proposing Bl. Carlo Acutis as patron of our unified parish, we hope to profess and honor in a special way these hallmarks of our faith. Bl. Carlo, who died at age 15 in 2006 and was beatified in 2020, has been called by Pope Francis "a model of holiness in a digital age."

He taught himself computer coding so he could create a website documenting Eucharistic miracles and spread devotion to Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration (www.miracolieucaristici.org) He attended daily Mass from the time he was 7 and spent time each day in adoration.

Blessed with a vibrant charity, he defended classmates who were being bullied, invited friends who were suffering because of their parents' divorce or domestic problems to his home, tutored classmates who were struggling with schoolwork, witnessed to those who were experimenting with drugs or addicted to pornography, spent time with the elderly, "hunted" for litter in parks or on the beach to beautify the world, brought food to the homeless, and used his allowance to buy them sleeping bags or clothes.

He started teaching catechism at age 11, seeking to inspire others to strive for sanctity. To make the faith practical for his students, he created a "Holiness Kit", that featured practical ways of living the Catholic life. This young saint is already a patron at the school, his feast day is October 12.

Most Blessed Sacrament

Worshiping God first and above all else is the call of every Christian. With particular fervor these Churches have made the constant worship of Jesus in the Holy Mass and the Most Blessed Sacrament the first priority. With more than three decades of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration and reverent celebrations of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Eucharistic Jesus is the core of all our efforts.

Our Churches enjoy constant and varied miracles, as individuals and as institutions. Our Catholic Academy has survived for more than 130 years and is thriving and growing. Miraculous cures are received, marriages are mended, children return to the faith, the poor are comforted, and the lost found. We know that all of these miracles are gifted to us because we have placed Worship of the One True God in the Eucharist at the core of our lives, works, and sufferings.

May the Heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacle throughout the world, even until the end of time.

Saint Augustine

Just as his mother, Saint Monica, helped to inspire and guide the parish community that was created in our previous merger, Saint Augustine's patronage will provide us with encouragement and edification as we continue this journey of faith.

Augustine was the wayward, not baptized son, who Saint Monica begged God to convert for 30 years. The story of his conversion, as told in his book *Confessions*, is considered one of the greatest testimonies of all time. For decades he preferred to chase the fame and pleasures of this world, but the goodness of God and the prayers of his mother ultimately prevailed.

After his conversion he became a priest, Bishop, teacher of the faith and a role model for the power of God's grace to win and convert souls. He is already part of the devotional life at Saint Monica Church and his feast day is August 28.

St. Padre Pio (St. Pius of Pietrelcina)

Padre Pio, was a humble Capuchin priest who lived from 1887- 1968. For last 50 years of his life in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, at Our Lady of Grace Friary. He was blessed by God in many wonderful and mysterious ways; The most dramatic was the stigmata and he bore these wounds of Christ for fifty years. Among his other gifts were perfume, bilocation, prophecy, conversion, reading of souls, and miraculous cures. People are still being cured through his intercession in ways that cannot be explained by medicine or science. More important, if less spectacular, are the spiritual healings that take place in all parts of the world. Saint Pio is a powerful intercessor. He is already a part of the devotional life at St. Blaise Church and feast day is September 23.