

**St. Monica's Episcopal Church**  
**Naples Florida**  
**Diocese of Southwest Florida**

**2020 PARISH PROFILE**

# PRAYER FOR THE PARISH

St. Monica's Episcopal Church  
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*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on St. Monica's, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

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# An Invitation

To the priest contemplating a new pastorate, the parishioners of St. Monica's Episcopal Church in Naples, Florida, offer this Parish Profile for careful consideration. Our patron saint, St. Monica, made it her life's work to bring her husband, Patricius, and her children, Augustine, Nazigius and Perpetua, to the Christian faith through prayer. She prayed especially for Augustine's conversion.

We the parishioners of St. Monica's, believing in the words of the Feast of St. Monica's prayer, follow the example of St. Monica in focusing on prayer as a very integral part of life at St. Monica's.

“O Lord, through spiritual discipline, you strengthened your servant Monica to persevere in offering her love and prayers and tears for the conversion of her husband and of Augustine their son. Deepen our devotion, we pray, and use us in accordance with your will to bring others, even our own kindred, to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen”

Praying is extended after worship services through prayer chains, prayer lists, opening and closing of meetings and activities, Healing Ministry, Stephen Ministers, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Parish Nurses and Daughters of the King. Several years ago, we participated in a prayer program, *Unbinding Your Soul* by Martha Grace Reese, which established prayer partners. Some parishioners have maintained their prayer partner relationships. The Holy Family Chapel was completed to provide an easily accessible, quiet area for prayer.



Icon by Nicholas Papas



Holy Family Chapel

# Who We Are

St. Monica's is a small, intimate parish with a pre-Covid-19 average Sunday attendance of 194. Following the initial suspension of in-person worshipping during the COVID19 pandemic, we opened the sanctuary for limited in-person worship in May (2 Sunday morning services), gradually increasing attendance and reinstating the Saturday, 5 pm, service in October to 66 live attendance and 192 who attend via our YouTube live stream. Fewer than 20% of our parish members are part-time residents or "snow birds" from all over the country. We pride ourselves as having open hearts and open arms for all who enter our faith community. We constantly strive to improve our welcoming hospitality.

We went through a transition in 2017 with the retirement of our pastor and the election of the Rev. Eric Cooter as Rector who was called in July 2020 to the Diocese of Oklahoma to serve as Canon to the Ordinary.

Currently, while in transition, our staff includes a Priest-In-Charge along with a supportive staff of 4 lay people that includes an Office Administrator, Music Director, Sexton, CPA/Comptroller, and two volunteer Parish Nurses.

During the years of 2018 - 2020, in order to organize our outstanding outreach programs, we developed the SWEEPS Organization as a Connection Ministry to engage our parishioners with numerous ministries that appealed to their varied interests. These Ministries offer a wide range of opportunities for outreach, service and fellowship:

- S... ..... Service
  
- W... ..... Worship
  
- E.....Evangelism
  
- E.....Education
  
- P... ..... Parish Life, Pastoral Care
  
- S... ..... Stewardship.

Primarily a neighborhood parish located in North Naples, some members travel from Marco Island, Bonita Springs, Estero, and South Ft. Myers. A third of our members have attended St. Monica's for 11 or more years; a third for 5-10 years, and a third for 3 years or fewer.

A third of our members were raised in the Episcopal/Anglican tradition. Over half come from the Roman Catholic tradition. We have all found a true church home here where all are welcome.

# Our Location



Perched on the Gulf of Mexico in southwest Florida, Naples is well known for its resort atmosphere, world-class culture, and sophisticated dining, but it's also a family destination that appeals to nature lovers and beach aficionados. The greater Naples area has a population of over 365,000. The beach on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico is more than 10 miles (16 km) long and is known for its cleanliness and pristine white sand.

Tourism, especially eco-tourism, is a major industry. Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Rookery Bay, the Southwest Florida

Conservancy, the Naples Botanical Garden, and the Naples Zoo are all huge draws for tourists to our area, and for our residents as well. The Naples Municipal Airport and Southwest Florida International Airport serve our travelers. Cultural activities include the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra concerts and others at Artis-Naples, the Baker Art Museum, and over 100 art galleries. Naples is home to the Naples Players, Opera Naples, Theatre Zone, and the Gulfshore Playhouse. Additional cultural activities are located nearby in Bonita Springs and Fort Myers. Florida Southwestern College, located in Fort Myers, also has a campus in Naples. Florida Gulf Coast University is also located in Fort Myers.

# Diocese of Southwest Florida

We are a constituent member of the worldwide Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church in the United States. The Diocese of Southwest Florida's 78 congregations total over 31,000 baptized persons who share an exciting pilgrimage of ministry and mission. The Diocese extends along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, from Brooksville in the north to Marco Island in the south.

The Rt. Rev. Dabney Tyler Smith was consecrated as Bishop in 2007, and in 2014 he was one of the four final candidates for Presiding Bishop. At diocesan convention of 2020, Bishop Dabney Smith called for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor.



The diocesan offices and conference rooms are located at DaySpring, in Parrish, Florida, a beautifully wooded retreat and conference center. Our Diocese has a relatively low apportionment (10%) compared with other dioceses in The Episcopal Church. For more information, visit the website of the diocese at [www.episcopalswfl.org](http://www.episcopalswfl.org).

# St. Monica's Beginnings

St. Monica's history began in 1991 when it was formed as a mission outreach of St. John's Episcopal Church and the Naples Deanery. St. Monica's first worship services were held in the community room of the North Collier Hospital and, subsequently, in an office building near Valewood Drive and Immokalee Road. We were accepted into the diocese as a mission church of the Diocese of Southwest Florida in 1992.

On October 2, 1994, the first service was held in what is now our parish hall. In 2005, three classrooms were added to our formation wing. Late in 2005, our Vestry realized that we could not do the ministry God had called us to without more space. We began planning for the construction of our current worship space, which seats 260. The first worship was held there in July 2010.

In 2006, the Chapel of the Holy Family was named and blessed. The icons of the Holy Family of Jesus and the Holy Family of St. Monica were commissioned and blessed at the same time.

Changes to the parish hall included adding restrooms to two classrooms, for safety of the children, and a porch was enclosed to create a library. In 2016, The Chapel Garden was dedicated for burial of cremains of parishioners and family and an area was designated for pet cremains.

Our founding priest in 1991 was the Reverend John Adler who served as Vicar. In January 2000, the Reverend Kathryn Schillreff, was called as Vicar, leading us to Parish status in the diocese in 2002. She continued her call as first Rector until her retirement in December 2016.

Our second Rector, the Reverend Eric Cooter, served us from March 2018 - June 2020 before being called by the Diocese of Oklahoma to serve as Canon to the Ordinary.

# St. Monica's Campus



The parish hall has a fully functioning commercial kitchen. The campus has been upgraded post Hurricane Irma with the replacement of our tile roofs and new HVAC systems.

Although not in the immediate plan for the future, expansion of the current worship building will provide for a permanent worship space, music room, nursery, and welcoming and fellowship space. This phase of construction also includes plans for more classroom and office space as needed.

In addition, outdoor space has been designated for a labyrinth.



St. Monica's



Memorial Garden

## St. Monica's Today

Throughout our 29-year history, St. Monica's Episcopal Church has established a community anchored in an Episcopal-Anglican faith representing all ages. More than 60% of parishioners hold college or graduate degrees. More than 60% of members are retired.

## Worship at St. Monica's

St. Monica's is broad church in style, centered on two Rite II services, and also a 7:45am Sunday Rite I service. In addition we offer a contemplative prayer on Wednesdays at 11 a.m., followed by a less formal, more contemplative healing service in the chapel at 12 noon. Each service includes Holy Eucharist. We also say Morning Prayer on Fridays at 8:30 am.\* We have a variety of educational and social activities throughout the

week and host a number of local organizations on campus. We tend to be a theologically and socially liberal community. We prayerfully invite all seekers, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or country of origin.

*\*Please note that these services are pre-Covid-19 worship times.*

## Music Ministry

The Music Ministry program at St. Monica's has many different facets. The primary focus is to be a servant of the liturgy by providing music appropriate to enhance scriptures and themes of every service. Other important facets include presenting music that inspires, uplifts, educates, and encourages congregational and community participation while at the same time reflecting the liturgical and cultural traditions of the Episcopal church.

Our Music Ministry program is directed by Dr. Ronald Doiron (Director of Music Ministries-Organist/Choirmaster) and is supported by the church budget and St. Monica's Friends of Music. Pre-Covid-19, our adult choir (approximately 28 singers, including section leaders) and our Handbell Choir (14 ringers playing our 3-octave set of Malmark Handbells) regularly present anthems and voluntaries during our services from September through May. Our Friends of Music Concert Series includes an annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, and Epiphany Evensong, and other programs offered to encourage of the greater Naples community to attend. Past programs include solo vocal recitals, instrumental concerts by local junior high and high school students, and programs presented by other local professional musicians, i.e., 6-8 flautists who perform together as *Flute Cocktail*. Our Friends of Music Program also provide financial support for the hiring of professional instrumental musicians to enhance our All Saints' Day, Christmas Eve, and Easter Day services, as well as our Advent and Epiphany programs. We will resume normal music ministry programs as soon as it is safe.

Please visit our website at <http://www.stmonicasnaples.org/worship/music> for more information and current activities.



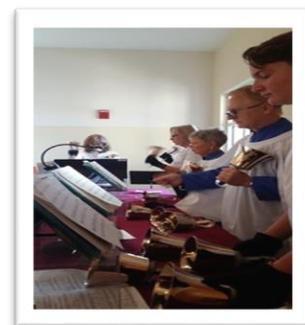
Pre-Covid-19 Choir



Covid-19 Choir



Special Services Choir



Handbell Choir

*\*Please note: All photos are pre-Covid-19 unless otherwise noted.*

# Financial Health

The 2020 Annual Budget was developed by the Treasurer and Rector with input from various staff and ministries. It was then presented to the Finance Committee for a recommendation and the Vestry for approval. The budget was adopted by voting members at the Annual Meeting.

Coronavirus attendance restrictions curtailed in-person church services from early March until the end of May. Limited in-person worship began in May, and we continue to offer live-streaming service on Sundays. Our total parish financial support is reduced, but the Paycheck Protection Program and trimming expenses has helped us navigate the 2020 financial year. We are confident and optimistic that we will regain our financial support and re-engage our members in 2021.

We have a mortgage debt of approximately \$272,000. There is an endowment of \$73,766 and savings and restricted funds totaling \$54,983.

## 2020 OPERATING BUDGET

REVENUES	\$559,415	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$559,351
Open Plate Offerings	\$14,000	Pastoral Staff	\$149,650
Current Year Pledges	\$440,000	Administration	\$139,435
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$60,000	Worship	\$75,796
Rental Income	\$37,400	Christian Formation	\$18,666
Fundraising/Other Income	\$6,015	Communications	\$4,000
Flower Income	\$2,000	Welcoming, Hospitality & Fellowship	\$2,000
		Facilities	\$88,070
		Land, Building & Equipment	\$34,800

TOTAL PLEDGE	\$440,000
Pledging Units	150
Pledge by Size	
\$0 - \$499	10
\$500 - \$999	17
\$1,000 - \$1,999	47
\$2,000 - \$2,999	17
\$3,000 - \$4,999	33
\$5,000 - \$9,999	20
\$10,000 +	6

## Heavenly Day Pre-School

Laura Rodrigues and her Heavenly Day Pre-School contracts for classroom and common area space for 30+ children ages 2-5. She and her certified pre-school teachers provide safe and dependable care and stimulating educational opportunities in a Christian environment. We support the presence and activities of the Heavenly Day Pre-school students at St. Monica's. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/heavenlyday/preschool>.

# St. Monica's S.W.E.E.P.S. Program

## Service

- New Horizons
- Guadalupe Soup Kitchen - provides free lunch to in Immokalee, FL.
- Baby Basics
- Meals of Hope
- St. Matthew's House



Guadalupe Soup Kitchen



Baby Basics



Meals of Hope

## Worship

- Lectors
- Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes
- Ushers
- Music
- Altar Guild
- Flower Guild



Baptism



Confirmation

*\*Please note: All photos are pre-Covid-19 unless otherwise noted.*

## Evangelism

- Quarterly Newcomers events, “Circle of Friends”
- Welcoming to service team
- Weekly service video team
- Live Streaming via YouTube
- Weekly e-News
- Constant Contact messaging



Coffee Hour

Circle of Friends

## Education

- Youth Group
- Sunday School
- Christian Education Sunday mornings for children and adults
- Bible Studies on Wednesday and Friday mornings
- St. Monica's Speaker series



Sunday School students sharing what they have learned with the congregation.



Youth Group

*\*Please note: All photos are pre-Covid-19 unless otherwise noted.*

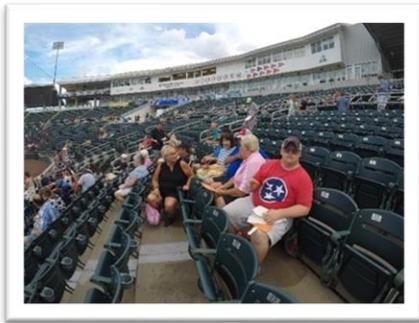
## Parish Life

St. Monica's campus is now open for small gatherings of not more than 25 percent of the room capacity and outside groups that agree to meet following CDC and Diocese of Southwest Florida guidelines.

## Hospitality and Fellowship

- Women's dinners
- Coffee hour hosts
- Kitchen
- Special events
- Trunk or Treat
- Baseball game night
- Sunset at the beach
- Church at the beach

## We Have Fun and Like To Eat



Baseball Fun in Ft. Myers



Sunset at the Beach

*\*Please note: All photos are pre-Covid-19 unless otherwise noted.*



Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis - Blessing of the Animals



Trunk or Treat 2019



Potluck Dinner 2019

*\*Please note: All photos are pre-Covid-19 unless otherwise noted.*

## Stewardship

Stewardship is a year-long process. Pledge cards are included in welcome packets for new members. An annual dinner is held in the fall, but is being postponed until early 2021 due to Covid-19



Parishioners writing Stewardship letters

*\*Please note: All photos are pre-Covid-19 unless otherwise noted.*

# Women of St. Monica's

The mission of the Women of St. Monica's is explained in the following:

Individually, woman to woman, we:

- Forge connections that foster friendship, sisterhood, and light heartedness;
- Offer opportunities to share their lives and experiences;
- Provide venues to discover, affirm, and deepen their spirituality;
- Introduce ways to engage in the ministries of the church.

As women of the church, we:

- Welcome new people and serve as an entry point into our faith community;
- Support the programs of the church with their time, talent, and treasure;
- Minister to the needs of others;
- Nurture one another.

As women of the world community, we:

- Love one another as God loves us;
- Reach out generously with prayers, gifts, leadership, and service;
- Empower others by their example to extend the light of God's love.



May 20, 2018 Kentucky Derby Women's Dinner

*\*Please note: All photos are pre-Covid-19 unless otherwise noted.*

# Outreach / Partnership Ministry

## Baby Basics

Our Baby Basic team stores diapers for Baby Basics at The Meals of Hope warehouse and distributes them on the first Wednesday of each month to qualified families in need in our area.

## Meals of Hope

This agency provides nutritious meals which are distributed by its accredited food bank partners to people in need of food. St. Monica's assists in the packaging and distribution of this food.



## St. Matthew's and Immokalee Friendship House

Their mission is to provide housing for the homeless, food for the needy, and an opportunity to change lives in a spiritual environment. We provide "Soup of the Month" where St. Monica's members prepare soup to be delivered each month.

## Making Face Masks for Immokalee Farm Workers

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the farmworkers in Immokalee became a hot spot due to their living conditions and lack of personal protective equipment. Provided with material and patterns, parishioners make and deliver reusable, washable face masks to Immokalee for children and adults.

## Habitat for Humanity

Members of St. Monica's give their time and talent to assist Habitat in building strength, stability, self-reliance, and shelter in the Naples area.

## New Horizons

We provide space for this non-profit organization dedicated to helping at-risk children and teens who are growing up in an environment of poverty, academic failure, and hopelessness. We have 12 students who come to our parish hall after school for tutoring and mentoring. During the holidays St. Monica's parishioners provide Christmas gifts, while the parents receive gift cards.

*\*Please note: All photos are pre-Covid-19 unless otherwise noted.*

# Health and Healing Ministry

- St. Monica's provides space each week for Al-Anon, Men's Alcoholics Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous mutual support groups.
- Partnership with David Lawrence Center for Mental Health programs and services.



# International Ministry

St. Monica's parishioners participate financially to support Episcopal Relief and Development.

We participate in a Deanery program to support a shelter/school, the Albergue de Bueno Samaritano in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic by adopting students and paying their annual tuition.

Tumaini USA provides support for orphans in Tanzania providing dresses for girls allowing them to attend school and providing funding for bicycles allowing for transportation to attend school. Women at St. Monica's donate fabric and sew dresses, and ship the dresses and money for the bicycles to Tanzania.

Miracles in Action provides jobs to families and builds schools in Guatemala. Parishioners knit hats to keep children warm in the mountains. Annually, the Women of St. Monica sponsor a jewelry show where items made by the women of Guatemala are sold.

# St. Monica's is a Healing Place

## Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care Team is a lay-led ministry that keeps in touch with parishioners who are sick and in need of special prayer. Eucharistic Visitors provide the sacrament of Communion to those in homes, hospitals, and care centers.

Our Healing Ministry is an active source of spiritually centered healing. Stephen Ministers and members of our Healing Team administer the biblical, traditional laying on of hands accompanied by prayers to anyone seeking a healing experience. Every Wednesday at noon we offer a Healing Eucharist in the Chapel of the Holy Family.

Our pastoral outreach team, supported by the Daughters of the King and Stephen Ministry, have been working together during the pandemic making phone calls to all parishioners in the effort to connect with everyone during this time of continued physical distancing.

## Daughters of the King

We have established the St Monica's Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King, that began its service in February, 2020. Our mission is to be an extension of Christ's kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism. Due to the pandemic, they are meeting via Zoom twice a month for service, prayer, and discussion.

## Stephen Ministry

St. Monica's became a Stephen Ministry congregation in 2003. Stephen Ministers provide compassionate, prayerful, care with God's help to those going through a difficult life event. We have a relationship with a minister at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church to provide program support. St. Monica's ministers also provides support services to neighboring St. Mary's Episcopal Church parishioners.

# Staff

The Reverend Edward P. Gibbons - Priest-in-Charge

Dr. Ronald Doiron - Director of Music

Laura Stamper - Parish Administrator

Maria Hayes - Comptroller

Cesar Guzman - Sexton

Betty Gamel - Volunteer Parish Nurse

Beth Moss - Volunteer Parish Nurse

# Vestry

Matt Devlin - Senior Warden

Tom Coté - Junior Warden

Ray Lapierre - Treasurer

Cooper Dearborn - Youth Representative

Carol Hedman - Service - Local Mission

Beth Moss -Clerk/Secretary, Education Commission Co-Chair

Don Fuggi - Stewardship Commission Co-Chair

Heidi Varsames - Parish Life Commission Co-Chair

Jenny Wise - Education Commission Co-Chair

Stacey McCurdy - Evangelism Commission Co-Chair



2020 Vestry

St. Monica's Vestry is a dedicated 10-member committee, including a youth representative. Each member is elected to a three-year term. The Rector appoints a senior warden. The Vestry selects a junior warden, treasurer and recording secretary.

## Our Vision For St. Monica's

How does a parish congregation of 300 begin the next chapter in its story? We are confident that God's spirit is already moving to send a new rector to love and lead our congregation. God can and does work miracles in the midst of what may seem rudimentary. Our search process, for example, is run by a committee that is human. Even with all its limitations and practical structuring, we trust that it can be an instrument of God, meeting both the human and holy needs of those we represent. Grounded in our past and filled with anticipation of new growth, we hope to engage and inspire current members and with the Holy Spirit draw new members into our faith family. We are hopeful to call a rector who embraces the mystery of worship, church life, and the sacraments. We hope our next rector can simultaneously honor God and his people by faithfully observing liturgical traditions, enthusiastically supporting parish activities, and authentically presiding over our Lord's supper.

# Our Next Rector

We pray for an experienced and energetic rector who will inspire us to welcome new members in all stages of life and who can direct our ministries and projects successfully. He or she can help us to continue what we have created as the S.W.E.E.P.S. ministries. We envision worship opportunities and parish activities that are transformative and intergenerational. With an increasingly digitally connected congregation (YouTube, Zoom, Facebook, etc.), we also envision programs that communicate with social media, our website, and mobile applications to meet our members wherever they may be. We hope that what our next rector continues and creates here at St. Monica's, will become a model and an inspiration to the wider Church of effective ministry to family members of all ages in the 21st century.

We are a prayerful and inclusive community and we will invite our next rector to join us as we continue to embrace diversity. We are blessed with energetic, ambitious, and motivated parishioners who call St. Monica's their spiritual home.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have had to scale down and reformat our worship services and ministries in order to follow the CDC and Diocese of Southwest Florida guidelines. Not knowing what the future holds for social gatherings the new rector will need to be creative in partnership with our lay leaders, as to how we connect with our faith community to keep them grounded in our faith. As a result of the pandemic pause, we recognize the opportunity to re-energize and re-engage as we reopen to our community.

## OUR NEXT RECTOR WILL BE...

- Christ-centered;
- Energetic, passionate, and collaborative;
- Has recent experience in using the latest resources in liturgy, music, and Christian Formation;
- Versatile, joyful, and flexible;
- Respectful of different opinions and willing to collaborate and incorporate other ideas;
- Committed to helping us grow our community involvement;
- Relational with children, youth, and families.

## OUR NEXT RECTOR WILL...

- Have a contagious faith;
- Be willing to love our parish and love The Episcopal Church. Inherent in that love, we look for compassion, forgiveness, and understanding;
- Deliver sermons that not only challenge our intellect, but also stir our hearts to respond to God's call;
- Have a command of biblical history and scripture to share Christ's message with us in informative, positive and encouraging ways. We enjoy humor and enlightenment in the way our rector shares Christ's message with us;
- Be committed to self-care: have a spiritual director.

## OUR CHALLENGES AND HOPES

Among our most pressing concerns:

- attracting young families with children;
- engaging our current members;
- welcoming all ethnically diverse families in our area;
- maintaining financial stability;
- increasing outreach;
- increasing pastoral care.

We hope to:

- continue to grow in numbers;
- continue to provide a meaningful journey to seniors and youth members;
- enjoy everyone in our church family;
- nurture our music program;
- grow our reputation as a helping and giving community.

# PARTICIPATE IN OUR SEARCH

Thank you for your interest in St. Monica's search for a new Rector. If, after reviewing this information, you feel called to enter into a process of mutual discernment with us, please follow the application process found on page 23.



# Application Process

Please submit the following materials:

1. Resumé/CV
2. A copy of your updated OTM profile
3. A letter of interest that highlights how you feel you meet the needs of St. Monica's and why you may be called to serve as our Rector

Email all documents in PDF format to:

The Rev. Canon Richard Norman  
Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida  
Email: [rnorman@episcopalswfl.org](mailto:rnorman@episcopalswfl.org)  
Questions: 941-556-0315

**DEADLINE:** February 4, 2021

# Search Timetable

Candidate application materials accepted by the Canon to the Ordinary.

Approved candidate list submitted to Search Committee by the Canon to the Ordinary.

Search Committee reviews candidate materials (including reference checks).

Candidate interviews.

Search committee provides Vestry with final candidate list.

Vestry conducts interviews.

Final candidate submitted to Bishop for consent. Welcome the new Rector and celebrate the new ministry.

