



Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

THE FEAST OF MONNICA MOTHER OF AUGUSTINE

Wed. 4 May 9:30am, 2022



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia **Monica** (c. 332 – 387) was an early North African **Christian saint** and the mother of **Augustine of Hippo**. She is remembered and honored in the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, albeit on different feast days, for her outstanding **Christian virtues**, particularly the suffering caused by her husband's **adultery**, and her prayerful life dedicated to the reformation of her son, who wrote extensively of her pious acts and life with her in his **Confessions**. Popular Christian legends recall Monica **weeping** every night for her son Augustine.

Life

Monica is assumed to have been born in **Thagaste** (present-day **Souk Ahras, Algeria**).^[1] She is believed to have been a Berber on the basis of her name.^[2] She was married early in life to Patricius, a Roman pagan, who held an official position in Thagaste. Patricius had a violent temper and appears to have been of dissolute habits; apparently his mother was the same way. Monica's alms, deeds and prayer hab-

Continued Pg.11



Welcome and Announcements:

Rev. Allison Cornell

The Word of God

The Greeting

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Gloria in Excelsis S278 Hymnal 1982 # S278

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day:

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray

All: Deepen our devotion, O Lord, and use us in accordance with your will; that inspired by the example of your servant Monica, we may bring others 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.

The Word of God *(Please be seated)*

The First Lesson: A reading from **1 Samuel 1:10-20**

Hannah was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: “O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.”

As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, “How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.” But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.” Then Eli answered, “Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.” And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your sight.” Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 115:12-18 (Read aloud in unison)

Non nobis, Domino

**12 The Lord has been mindful of us, and he will bless us; *
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;**

**13 He will bless those who fear the Lord, *
both small and great together.**

**14 May the Lord increase you more and more, *
you and your children after you.**

**15 May you be blessed by the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.**

**16 The heaven of heavens is the Lord's, *
but he entrusted the earth to its peoples.**

**17 The dead do not praise the Lord, *
nor all those who go down into silence;**

**18 But we will bless the Lord, *
from this time forth for evermore.**

Hallelujah

Gospel Lesson:

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke 7:11-17

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ

Homily

Nicene Creed: *Traditional Version (Said aloud by all, in unison)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity. Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations of the world
Jesus, Lord of life,

People: **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word. Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way. Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures. Jesus, Lord of life,

in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you and who have passed from this life into the life eternal. May we also enter your gates of glory at our appointed time.
Jesus, Lord of life,

In your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always.

Amen.

Exchange of the Peace

Presider *May the peace of Christ be always with you*

All **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People exchange socially distant signs of peace (peace sign, namaste, virtual hug)

Offertory

Presider: *But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP Rite II Prayer A

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #S129

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory**

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest

Then the Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit (+) to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also (+) that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S155

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,
Therefore let us keep the feast,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church.)

Recognition of a Birthday, Anniversary, Healing, Gratitude Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider: *Let us pray:*

Presider and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Presider: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Presider: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit. Alleluia!
Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)

its annoyed Patricius, but it is said that he always held her in respect.^[3]

Monica had three children who survived infancy, two sons, Augustine and Navigius, and a daughter, '[Perpetua of Hippo](#)'. Unable to secure baptism for them, she grieved heavily when Augustine fell ill. In her distress she asked Patricius to allow Augustine to be baptized; he agreed, then withdrew this consent when the boy recovered.

But Monica's relief at Augustine's recovery turned to anxiety as he missed his renewed life being wayward and, as he himself says, lazy. He was finally sent to school at [Madauros](#). He was 17 and studying rhetoric in [Carthage](#) when Patricius died.^[3]

Augustine had become a [Manichean](#) at Carthage. When upon his return home, he shared his views regarding Manichaeism, Monica drove him away from her table. However, she is said to have experienced a vision that convinced her to reconcile with him.^[3]

At this time she visited a certain (unnamed) bishop who consoled her with the words, "the child of those tears shall never perish." Monica followed her wayward son to [Rome](#), where he had gone secretly; when she arrived he had already gone to [Milan](#), but she followed him. Here she found [Ambrose](#) and through him she ultimately saw Augustine convert to Christianity after 17 years of resistance.

In his book *Confessions*, Augustine wrote of a peculiar practice of his mother in which she "brought to certain oratories, erected in the memory of the saints, offerings of porridge, bread, water and wine."^[4] When she moved to Milan, the bishop Ambrose forbade her to use the offering of wine, since "it might be an occasion of gluttony for those who were already given to drink". So, Augustine wrote of her:

In place of a basket filled with fruits of the earth, she had learned to bring to the oratories of the martyrs a heart full of purer petitions, and to give all that she could to the poor – so that the communion of the Lord's body might be rightly celebrated in those places where, after the example of his passion, the martyrs had been sacrificed and crowned.

— *Confessions* 6.2.2

Monica and her son spent six peaceful months at *Rus Cassiciacum* (present-day [Cassago Brianza](#)) after which Augustine was baptized by Ambrose in the church of St. John the Baptist at Milan. Monica and Augustine left for Africa and they set out on their journey, stopping at [Civitavecchia](#) and at [Ostia](#). Here Monica died, and Augustine's grief inspired his *Confessions*.

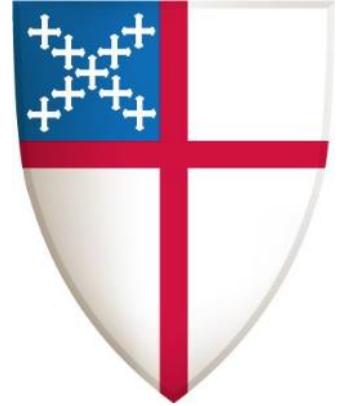
Veneration

Monica was buried at [Ostia](#) and at first seems to have been almost forgotten, though her body was removed during the 6th century to a hidden [crypt](#) in the church of [Santa Aurea](#) in Ostia. Monica was buried near the tomb of [Aurea of Ostia](#).^[5] Her tomb was later transferred to the [Basilica of Sant'Agostino, Rome](#).

[Anicius Auchenius Bassus](#) wrote Monica's funerary epitaph, which survived in ancient manuscripts.^[5] The actual stone on which it was written was rediscovered in the summer of 1945 in the church of Santa Aurea. The fragment was discovered after two boys were digging a hole to plant a [football](#) post in the courtyard beside Santa Aurea.^[6]

[Continued online](#)

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Welcome Visitor!!!

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