



SAINT MONICA (AD 322–387), also known as MONICA OF HIPPO

She was an early Christian saint and the mother of St. Augustine of Hippo. She is remembered and honored in most Christian denominations, 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 Saint Monica weeping every night for her son Augustine.

LIFE: Because of her name and place of birth, Monica is assumed to have been born in Thagaste (present-day Souk Ahras, Algeria). She is believed to have been a Berber on the basis of her name. She was married early in life to Patricius, a Roman pagan, who held an official position in Tagaste. 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 habits annoyed Patricius, but it is said that he always held her in respect.

Monica had three children who survived infancy: sons Augustine and Navigius and daughter Perpetua. 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 joy and relief at Augustine's recovery turned to anxiety as he misspent his renewed life being wayward and, as he himself tells us, lazy. He was finally sent to school at Madauros. He was 17 and studying rhetoric in Carthage when Patricius died.

Augustine had become a Manichaeon 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.

At this time she visited a certain (unnamed) holy bishop who consoled her with the now famous 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 had the joy of seeing 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."

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

Mother and son spent 6 months of true peace at Rus Cassiciacum (present-day Cassago Brianza) after which Augustine was baptized in the church of St. John the Baptist at Milan. Africa claimed them, however, and they set out on their journey, stopping at Civitavecchia and at Ostia. Here death overtook Monica, and Augustine's grief inspired the finest pages of his *Confessions*.

VENERATION: Saint 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 St. Aurea of Ostia. It was later transferred to the Basilica of Sant'Agostino, Rome.

Anicius Auchenius Bassus wrote Monica's funerary epitaph, which survived in ancient manuscripts. 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. A translation from the Latin, by Douglas Boin, reads:

Here the most virtuous mother of a young man set her ashes, a second light to your merits, Augustine. As a priest, serving the heavenly laws of peace, you taught [or, you teach] the people entrusted to you with your character. A glory greater than the praise of your accomplishments crowns you both – Mother of the Virtues, more fortunate because of her offspring.

MASS INTENTIONS AUG. 26 TO SEPT. 3, 2017

Saturday, August 26: St. Monica's Feast Day / Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 Antonio Bei By wife Gabriella Bei & Family
Rob Brodrick By Helen Donahue & Bill Smith
Annita Caucci Forlini By Luisa Forlini

Sunday, August 27: Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time / St. Monica's Feast Day

8:30 Santa Monica By Piccolino Family
11:00 In Loving Memory: Fioravante Rotiroti, Anna Maria Fiori.

Monday, August 28: St. Augustine

8:00 Ignazio Ciampini By his wife Ernesta Ciampini

Tuesday, August 29: The Passion of St. John The Baptist

8:00 Kim Hyunsook Bona By Sohpee, Catherine & Stella

Wednesday, August 30: Weekday Mass

8:00 Luigia & Guerrino Ciambella By daughter Rosa

Thursday, August 31: Weekday Mass

8:00 Margarite & Amiliani Emard By Rosa & Phillip Emard

Friday, September 1: Weekday Mass / First Friday of the Month

8:00 Special Intentions for all Parishioners

Saturday, September 2: Our Lady's Saturday

4:00 In Loving Memory: Alessandro Palladini, Pietro Di Meglio.

Sunday, September 3: Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 Valerio Mechetti By Jordan Piccolino
Pasquale & Rosa Ferrara By Michele & Vincenzina Ferrara
11:00 Ascenzia & Luigi Fiori By daughter Berardina
Giuseppe Mansi By Ida Onesi & Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of August 19-20, 2017 totaled \$2,621.35. Special collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada totaled \$1,140.90.



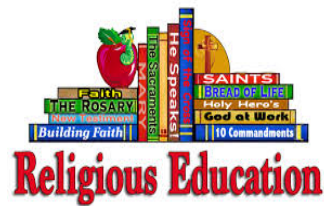
Adult Faith Enrichment – Upcoming events



Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Cape

Join us for a day-long pilgrimage to **Our Lady of the Cape Shrine** in Trois-Rivières on **Saturday, September 30** from **8:00 AM to 5:30 PM**. We will meet at the parish and depart promptly by bus for a day of prayer and fellowship. Cost is **\$30 for adults** and **\$20 for children**. Bring your own lunch and snacks, or purchase them at the cafeteria. Tickets will be on sale at the main church entrance after all the **weekend Masses** beginning this week, **Aug. 26-27**. Space is limited, so get your tickets soon! For information, please contact Sr. Lorraine at (514) 481-0267 or llebert@vidotron.ca

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information.



**FAITH FIRST
CLASSES WILL BEGIN THE
WEEKEND OF
SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2017**

**PLEASE NOTE: we are still
accepting registrations until
NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER
3rd (CLOSING DATE)**

The cost of program is \$100 for one child, \$125 for 2 children, and \$145 for 3 or more. Please note that your child will not be denied access to the program if you are unable to pay the fee. For further info, please contact Jennie Parsons-Armstrong at (514) 481-0267 or by Email: jennie.armstrong@bell.net

**(only 4 spaces left in the Sunday grade one class).
Registration forms for the 2017 /2018 season are available at the entrances of the church, church hall, and rectory.**

ST. MONICA'S CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

St. Monica's Contemplative Prayer Group will meet every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in the parish rectory beginning September 26th.

After listening to a talk on the spiritual journey, we meditate together for up to half an hour. Please join us!

For information, please contact Audrey Booth or Barbara DeLorenza at the parish office 514-481-0267.

