



## St. Monica Catholic School

*A Mission Ordered Towards Reaching Eternal Life*

January 16, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katherine Doud  
(269) 345-2444, ext. 266  
[kdoud@stmonicakzoo.org](mailto:kdoud@stmonicakzoo.org)

### **Catholic Schools Week has St. Monica students thinking about religious vocations**

*Kids contemplate joining the priesthood and becoming teachers of the faith*

**Kalamazoo, MI (January 16, 2015)** – “Which priest once worked as a newspaper carrier?” “Who was the first African-American priest to be ordained in the Diocese of Kalamazoo?”

These are a couple of the “fun facts” students at St. Monica Catholic School, in Kalamazoo, will be matching with a panel of Diocesan priests and deacons during a special Vocations Day Panel Discussion, scheduled at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at the start of Catholic Schools Week, a national celebration scheduled Jan. 25-31.

In preparation for Vocations Day, St. Monica third graders have been thinking about what they want to do “when they grow up.” Some are already talking about joining the clergy, while others are excited about sharing their Catholic faith through other professions.

“I would like to be a priest like Father Larry Farrell and Father James Adams, so I can serve God,” said Ben Childers, speaking of two Diocesan priests.

“It would be fun to wear a cassock and celebrate Mass,” Ben continued. “If I become a priest, I would like to serve at St. Monica Parish, so I could help out at the school.”

Alex Stanek, another third grader, has her heart set on teaching. And not just any grade. “I want to teach second grade,” she says, firmly, “because it reminds me of my First Communion.”

Grace Wolf says she wants to return to St. Monica and teach Kindergarten after college. “I would teach the kids what I learned from my Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Maureen Shubnell,” Grace said.

Vocations Day is just one of a week’s worth of events scheduled at St. Monica, in celebration of Catholic Schools Week. This annual commemoration – celebrated in Catholic schools nationwide -- is sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The week will kick off with a student-led Mass at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25 in St. Monica Church, followed by a breakfast in the school gym. The gym walls will be covered with art work in a “Building

On Your Faith Art Extravaganza” that will include works by students, parents, school friends and parishioners.

The keystone event will be an All-Schools Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Paul Bradley, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo and other Diocesan priests and deacons, at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28 in the gym of Hackett Catholic Prep, located at 1000 W. Kilgore Rd. Close to a thousand students, teachers, parents and staff are expected to attend, including students from St. Monica Catholic School, St. Augustine Cathedral School and Hackett Catholic Prep in Kalamazoo; Vineyard Academy in Richland; St. Catherine of Siena preschool in Portage; St. Ann preschool in Augusta; St. Margaret Catholic School in Otsego, St. Mary Catholic School in Paw Paw; Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Three Rivers and St. Basil Catholic School in South Haven.

The week will also include:

- Patriot’s Day (Jan. 27) – when students show pride in their country by wearing a red, white and blue top with their uniform bottoms.
- Hat Day (Jan. 29) – a day students wear funny hats, and bring personal care items which will be donated to Catholic charities.
- Bowling Day – always a favorite, as students are bussed to a local bowling alley and are allowed a uniform holiday.

This special week will conclude on Saturday, Jan. 31 with one of the year’s favorite events: the “Winter Carnival,” which will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school. Classrooms are decorated in carnival colors, games are played, refreshments such as cotton candy are served and a silent auction helps raise money for important school projects. This project is sponsored by the Boosters, the school’s parent support agency.

St. Monica Catholic School offers education to students in preschool through grade 8. It is under the auspices of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo and is part of the Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo.

### ### ### ### ### ### ###

