

SAINT MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH



Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am
Saturday 4 pm
Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527



Our Parish is Served by:

Reverend Alex Enriquez, Pastor
Deacon Christian Knoebel

We invite you to celebrate with us

Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Religious Education: 732-928-4038
Fax: (732) 928-1853
Email: stmonicanj@yahoo.com
website: www.saintmonica.com

The Church of St. Monica is a warm, accepting, and caring parish that worships God, teaches and lives the message of Christ, seeks to support and strengthen family life, and serves those in need through parish ministries and organizations.

Confessions

Saturdays
3:15 pm
to 3:45 pm
or
by appointment

Twitter:
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Facebook:
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ParishofStMonica/](https://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - NOVEMBER 27, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 26

4:00 pm Diane Black
(Bereavement Ministry)

Sunday, November 27

9:00 am F Joseph Carragher
(Marie Gould)
11:00 am Nick DeLuca
(Barbara Clifford & Michael Taksey)

Monday, November 28

9:00 am John & Margaret Piacentino
(Piacentino Family)

Tuesday, November 29

9:00 am Edward & Janet Cullen
(Piacentino Family)

Wednesday, November 30

9:00 am Mary & Terry Meehan
(Piacentino Family)

Thursday, December 1

9:00 am Harold Hubers (Mary Boyd)

Saturday, December 3

4:00 pm Sylvester Cascio
(Cascio & Anzalone Families)

Sunday, December 4

9:00 am Ernest J Rookey
(Ernie & Barbara Rookey)
11:00 am Ann Dolan (Mary Boyd)

To secure your intentions, please contact the Parish Office.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Chuck Smith, Toni Hetteroth, Brian Scott, Dianne Smith, Douglas Merwin, Carol Spezzano, Baryt Schone, Fran DeLuca, Frank Diolosa, Theodore Dunyak, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Baby Tripp Ravenfeld, Marie Gould, Christopher Diolosa, Steve Andolora, Doris Garbarino, Bettina Morell, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, John Jennings, Arlene Toth, Deborah MacInnes, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Glory D'Acunto, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Joey Brune, Phillip Wenz, Tina Sherry, Patrick Abeel, Robin Trombino, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Denis Balint, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Eileen Morello, Elaine Stemmler, Rose Thompson, Tom Martin, Sarah Thomas, Christos Lambrou, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Cathy Sedano, Jennie D'Angelo, Jake Higgins

Contact the Parish Office to let us know of anyone to be remembered in prayer, so we may include them or, if they can be removed.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK – NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 4:18-22

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12



Church of St Monica
2022 Advent/Christmas/New Year
Schedule of Services



Immaculate Conception Mass

*Thursday, December 8
(holy day of obligation)*

9:00 am and 7:00 pm

Advent Parish Penance Service

*Thursday, December 8
7:45 pm*

Daily Masses:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am (through December 22)

***Simbang Gabi – Christmas Novena,
Rosary & Masses***

Sunday, December 11

Rosary 6:30 pm

Mass 7:00 pm

and

Monday, December 12

Rosary 8:00 pm

Mass 8:30 pm

Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24

4:00 and 10:00 pm

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25

9:00 am and 11:00 am

New Year's Eve - Sat., December 31

4:00 pm

Solemnity of Mary - Sun., January 1

9:00 am and 11:00 am

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
November 7 - 13, 2022**

Total \$4,797.99

*Thank you for your contributions as we support
the ministries, programs and facilities of our
parish.*

MASS INTENTIONS

Intentions for the living and deceased will be remembered at all Christmas Masses. Intention envelopes will be mailed in our Christmas mailing. Additional envelopes are available at the entrances to the church and from the Parish Office. Intentions may be returned in the collection basket or dropped off at the Parish Office no later than Dec 18.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Should you need Communion brought to you at Mass, kindly alert an usher before Mass.



Sanctuary Candle this week:

A Special Intention

Requested by Marie Gould

Thank you to the Women of St. Monica for purchasing the 2023 issue of *Breaking Bread* for the parish.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - NOVEMBER 27, 2022

SANTA IS COMING



Questions? Contact Santa's Helper
Ron Borrello at 732-713-8841

CHRISTMAS YOUTH CHOIR



Practices begin on Wednesday,
November 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.
The remaining practices will be held
Weds. at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Dec. 7
Dec. 14
Dec. 21

Intercessions for Life

November 27th -- First Sunday of Advent

For all the faithful: May the Lord help us build a culture of life
in vigilant expectation of His return.

Lord, hear our prayer.

WOMEN OF ST. MONICA



Christmas Around the World Sun., Dec. 4th from 2-5 p.m.

Join in the fun when we go
around the world on a culinary Christmas
journey. Sign up in the back of the Church to
reveal what food from your heritage you will
bring to share.

This has always been a great way to meet new
people, try new foods, and build friendships.

Donations received from this event will be
used for parish needs. Any questions, please
contact Theresa Calsetta at 732-299-0261

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Annual Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser

This project is in support of St. Jude's Chil-
dren's Hospital and other local charities. 🌲

Reasonably priced and quality Christmas
Trees, grave blankets, and wreaths will be
available for purchase between the hours of 12
pm to 8 pm on weekdays and 10 am to 9 pm
on weekends at Glory's Deli located at the in-
tersection of Rt. 527 & Rt 526. 🌲

Please come out and support this Christmas
tradition and help those in need. For further
information please contact Chris Vega at 917-
575-0551 or cvega@gbuildres.com 🌲

CALENDAR

Saturday, November 26

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, November 27

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
12:15 pm Grief Support (Little Church)

Monday, November 28

9:00 am Mass
1:00 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)
4:30 pm Religious Education
6:15 pm Religious Education

Tuesday, November 29

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Education
7:30 pm Adult Choir (Church)
8:00 pm K of C Officer Mtg. (LC)

Wednesday, November 30

9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm RCIA (LC)
7:00 pm Christmas Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, December 1

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Christmas Pageant Practice (Church)

Friday, December 2

5:30 pm Christmas Pageant Practice (Church)
6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. (Little Church)
7:30 pm AA Meeting (Parish Hall)

Saturday, December 3

9:00 am Breakfast with Santa (Hall)
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 4

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
1:15 pm Grief Support (Little Church)
2:00 pm Christmas Around the World

Monday, December 5

9:00 am Mass
1:00 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)
4:30 pm Religious Education
6:15 pm Religious Education

Tuesday, December 6

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Education
7:30 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, December 7

9:00 am Mass
9:30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm RCIA
7:00 pm Youth Christmas Choir Practice

Thursday, December 8

Immaculate Conception
9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm Mass
7:45 pm Advent Penance Service

Friday, December 9

7:30 pm AA Meeting (Parish Hall)

STORIES THAT UPLIFT

Matthew 24:36-44

1st Sunday of Advent - Year A

Fr. Michael Brizio, IMC

Website: www.frnichaelbrizio.com



Martin, the Cobbler, is Leo Tolstoy's story about a lonely shoemaker who is promised in a dream that Christ will come to visit his shop. The next day Martin rises early, gets his shop ready, prepares a meal, and waits.

The only one who showed up in the morning was an old beggar who came by and asked for rest. Martin gave him a room he had prepared for his divine guest. The only one to show up in the afternoon was an old lady with a heavy load of wood. She was hungry and asked for food. He gave her the food he had prepared for his divine guest.

As evening came, a lost boy wandered by. Martin took him home, afraid all the while he would miss the Christ. That night in his prayers he asked the Lord, "Where were you? I waited all day for you."

The Lord said to Martin: "Three times I came to your friendly door, three times my shadow was on your floor. I was a beggar with bruised feet. I was the woman you gave food to eat. I was the homeless child on the street."

** Advent is an alarm clock, a moment of truth to wake us up to the impending gift of a new beginning, and to alert us of the presence of Jesus in the world and in us. †*

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Lessons & Carols



*A festival of music and Scripture
in celebration of God's Incarnation*

Thursday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m.
Dorothy Marron University Community Chapel
Free and open to the public
Holiday refreshments to follow

For more information, contact the Office of Campus Ministry.
732-987-2600 | robmacreynolds@georgian.edu | jschaffer@georgian.edu
900 Lakewood Avenue, Lakewood, NJ 08701

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**Knights of Columbus
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Part One

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the Diocesan Festival Choir
with Orchestra of St. Cecilia

Friday, December 2, 2022 7:30 p.m.

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121 Bridge Avenue
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732-747-08123



Happy New Year

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR.

It's a time of great anticipation as we await the arrival of Christ on Christmas morning. In fact, the word Advent comes from the Latin word *ad-venire* that means coming or arriving.

Just as in Lent, the liturgical color of Advent is purple. Both of the seasons prepare for great feast days in the Church year. The purple color also connotes the penitential dimension of the season as Advent is a time of preparing, quieting and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. The altar is also meant to be decorated in a more restrained manner during this season.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. Right in the middle of Advent, several Marian feasts are also celebrated. They are the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).

"At Christmas, we on earth receive Jesus, the bread from heaven. It is a bread that never grows stale, but enables us even now to have a foretaste of eternal life. . . I want to come to Bethlehem, Lord, because there you await me. I want to realize that you, lying in a manger, are *the bread of my life*. I need the tender fragrance of your love so that I, in turn, can be bread broken for the world." (Pope Francis, Homily, Dec. 24, 2019)



Getty Images



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ADVENT WREATH PRAYER



Photo by Philip Lauderer/CRS

All gather around the Advent wreath

LEADER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Christ Jesus,

During these 4 weeks of Advent, we reflect on how we can prepare our hearts to better follow you. We pray that your light guides us, especially in moments of darkness. We pray, too, for those around the world who struggle on their own journeys, wherever they live. Each week, as we light another candle on the wreath and approach the celebration of Christmas, let us remember that you are the light of the world, that you lead all people on their journeys and that you bring all people from darkness into light.

ALL: Christ, let your light guide all those who journey. *Light the appropriate candle(s).*

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Luke (2:1-5)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph, too, went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

LEADER: We hear in this reading that Mary and Joseph had to journey to Bethlehem to enroll in a census while Mary was pregnant. Like the Holy Family, who struggled on their journey to find a place for their child to be born, millions around the world also face challenging journeys. They are forced to leave their homes when violent conflict erupts without warning. Women may walk miles each day just to get water. Farmers must find new ways to support their families after a storm, drought or war destroys their crops.

ALL: Christ, let your light guide all those who journey.

LEADER: Loving God, together with those around the world who struggle on their journeys, we gather around this wreath and pray with joyful hope that the light of Christ will illuminate our paths.

We praise you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ, light of the world and hope of all nations.

We ask your blessing throughout the Advent season for those of us gathered here and for those who journey throughout the world. We ask all this through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Eucharist - St Monica**Masses & Reconciliation**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am
 Saturday 4:00 pm
 Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am
 Holy Days As Noted
 Reconciliation Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 pm
 or by appt.

Exposition of the Holy Sacrament & Benediction

1st Wednesday of each month 9:30 am

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Baptisms

Celebrated outside of Mass. Parents and godparents are required to attend our Baptism preparation program. Please call the parish office to register.

Visits to the Sick and Homebound

May be arranged by calling our parish office.

Knights of Columbus Council #11529

Catholic Men coming together selflessly for others through Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Visit our Website at www.kofc11529.org.

St Vincent de Paul Society

Emergency Assistance Helpline: 732-370-0098

Bereavement Ministry

Please contact the parish office for more information.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Fridays 7:30 - 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

For those seeking full membership in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish office.

Youth Group

Open to all children of St Monica registered families and we would love to have you join us. For more information, contact Theresa Calsetta 732-299-0261.

New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Registration forms may be downloaded at www.saintmonica.com. Please contact the parish office for further information.

Adult Faith Formation Core Team

Our mission is to encourage and support parishioners in their lifelong learning in the faith in order to grow closer to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit through discipleship and evangelization.

Marriages

The Catholic Dioceses of New Jersey requests a one year period of preparation for marriage in the church. Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Religious Education

Children are expected to receive a Catholic-Christian upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to participate in ongoing Religious Education classes. Our program includes grades 1-8. Please contact Karen Badach, Coordinator of Religious Education 732-928-4038 or stmonicaccd@yahoo.com

Legion of Mary

Members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick and assisting with pastoral needs.

Women of St Monica

Ministry of Catholic women of the parish striving to fulfill their spiritual needs, sharing their faith, promoting community and conduct fundraisers throughout the year and enhance parish life in a variety of ways.

Ancient Order of Hibernians

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is an Irish Catholic fraternity looking for members to bond in Brotherhood, Unity & Christian Charity. Contact Patrick Jockel (609) 489-9221 or at patrickaoh@hotmail.com

Reflections on the Readings for the 1st Sunday of Advent - November 27, 2022

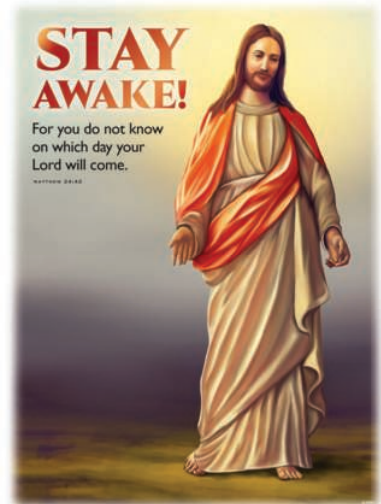
A NEW YEAR

Happy New Year! If this strikes you as a bit premature, it isn't really because this Sunday marks the start of the new Church year. In the Catholic Church, the first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the cycle of readings, holy days, and holidays for roughly the next 365 days. It's also the time of year not only when we are called to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, but also when we are asked to examine our lives and take stock, spiritually speaking.

The readings for today all carry a common theme: Wake up! Wake up from the slumber that keeps marriages mediocre, careers unfulfilling, moral lives stagnant. Wake up to the possibility of a new beginning, a new way of living that welcomes Jesus into the cribs of our days, the mangers of our souls. We are told to awaken from the slumber that is robbing us of a deeper and more meaningful relationship with our God, and begin to live the new and abundant life that we have been promised.

Sometimes people use today's Scripture passages, especially those in the Gospel about two men working in the field and one being taken away, in light of a relatively new and profoundly un-Catholic theology of the "Rapture," which says that the faithful will be taken to heaven and the unbelievers "left behind." We will see that the opposite is true. It is those who are left behind in covenant with God who are saved, and, like in the days of Noah, it is those who are unfaithful who will be swept into exile from God.

This Advent, we not only want to make a new beginning with the Church, but we also want to be sure that we are with those who are "left behind" in covenant with God at the end of all time.



PRAYER

Take a deep breath and close your eyes. Allow yourself to become still. Now imagine that you have just learned that you are going to die very soon. What is your first thought? What is your first feeling? Hold that thought and the feeling as you take another deep breath. Now see Jesus talking directly to you. Hear him say, "There is still time. Wake up! Stop sleeping your life away!" What areas of your life come to mind as you hear Jesus? Now see him gently touching you on the shoulder and saying, "You have time. So stay alert. Go and...." What is he asking you to do? Listen carefully for his guidance.

RESOLUTION

During this first week of Advent, choose one activity that will take you out of the "slumber" of commercialism and busyness, and "awaken" a new zeal for the faith. You might attend daily Mass one morning, pray the rosary over the noon hour, or read Scripture instead of watch TV. Make a choice based on what you heard Jesus tell you to do during our prayer time. | formed.org



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... *Tim Ryan*