

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:
[@StMonicaParish](https://twitter.com/StMonicaParish)
Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
ParishofStMonica/](https://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 11, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 10

4:00 pm Diane Black (Dave & Marie Gould)

Sunday, December 11

9:00 am Dario Orrico
(Ciro & Ada Trematerra)

11:00 am Jim Scott (Kathy Reynolds)

Monday, December 12

9:00 am Robert Mazzo (Lena Mazzo)

Tuesday, December 13

9:00 am Arlene Vogel (St Monica)

Wednesday, December 14

9:00 am Brian Hornickel
(John & Chris Pascucci)

Thursday, December 15

9:00 am Greg Vitiello
(John & Chris Pascucci)

Saturday, December 17

4:00 pm John Kwoka (Cousin Christina)

Sunday, December 18

9:00 am Loretta Zrebiec
(Husband, Tom)

11:00 am Nick DeLuca
(Bereavement Ministry)

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, Sue Herrmann

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 – DECEMBER 11, 2022

Monday: Zec 2:14-17; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36

Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



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

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES

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.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
November 21 - 27, 2022**

Total \$ 5,470.00

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

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

ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving is a way to simplify your giving and provide steady, consistent support that helps St Monica be ready with programs, services and ministries for families in our community and the maintenance of our facilities. Your recurring gifts helps strengthen our parish and sustain our ministries through the year.

It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

-Visit our website www.saintmonica.com and scroll down to "Online Giving".

-Contact Liz Hills in the parish office 732-928-0279 or stmonicanj@yahoo.com

-Scan the QR code below:

Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 11, 2022

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**Annual Christmas Tree Sale
Fundraiser**

This project is in support of St. Jude's Children'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 intersection 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



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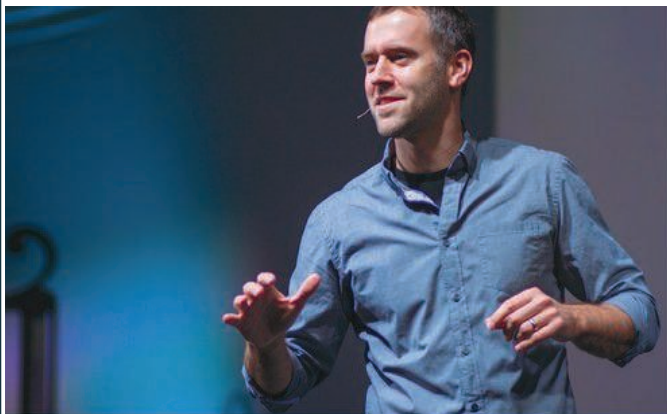
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Dec. 14 | 7:00 PM
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Intercessions for Life

**December 11th
The Third Sunday of Advent**

For all victims of human trafficking:
That they may find hope and healing
in the Lord who proclaims
liberty to captives
and release to prisoners;
Lord hear our prayer.



CALENDAR

Saturday, December 10

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 11

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
12:15 pm Grief Support (Little Church)
6:30 pm Simbang Gabi - Rosary/Mass

Monday, December 12

9:00 am Mass
1:00 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)
4:30 pm Religious Education
6:15 pm Religious Education
8:00 pm Simbang Gabi - Rosary/Mass

Tuesday, December 13

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

Wednesday, December 14

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

Thursday, December 15

9:00 am Mass

Friday, December 16

5:00 pm Social Concerns Drop-off (LC)
7:30 pm AA Meeting (Parish Hall)

Saturday, December 17

12:00 pm Grief Support (Tentative-Church)
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 18

9:00 am Mass
9:00 am Social Concerns Distribution (LC)
11:00 am Children's Mass
12:00 pm Decorate Church

Monday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 20

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

Wednesday, December 21

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

STORIES THAT UPLIFT

Matthew 11:2-11

3rd Sunday of Advent - Year A

Fr. Michael Brizio, IMC

Website: www.frnicholasbrizio.com



The great astronomer, Galileo, was born near Florence, in the year 1564.

He confirmed what Copernicus had said, namely, that the earth goes round the sun, and not vice versa. His discoveries greatly enlarged our knowledge of the universe. Yet he spent his last years in darkness.

When summoned before the inquisition he wrote: "Alas, poor Galileo, your devoted servant, totally and incurably blind; so that this heaven, this earth, this universe, which by my observations and demonstrations, I have enlarged a thousand-fold beyond their previous limits, are now shriveled for me into such a narrow compass as is filled by my own bodily sensations."

** Galileo reminds us of John the Baptist. Like Galileo, he ushered in a new age, the age of Jesus. And like Galileo he died in darkness. †*



ADVENT .WEEK THREE

Third Sunday in Advent



Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, *The Visitation of the Virgin to Saint Elizabeth*, the Met Museum

In the Gospels this week, we hear about Mary visiting her kinswoman Elizabeth. Elizabeth was much older than Mary and it was a miracle she had also conceived a baby. Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah were parents of John the Baptist. Unlike Mary, Zechariah did not believe when an angel revealed to him that his wife would bear a son and name him John. When he doesn't believe the angel, he is struck dumb until he confirms the name John at his son's circumcision. Elizabeth is the patron saint of pregnant women and infertile couples.

"Zechariah's doubts and his need for explanations contrast with the 'yes' of Mary, who asks only to know how everything spoken to her was to come about. Zechariah could not overcome his desire to control everything; he could not abandon the mindset of someone needing to be responsible for making things happen. Mary did not hesitate or think about herself; instead, she surrendered herself; she trusted."

(Pope Francis, September 5, 2019)

Prayer in Times of Seeking God's Will

PSALM 27:7-9, 13-14

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;

have pity on me, and answer me.

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks;

your presence, O Lord, I seek.

Hide not your face from me;

do not in anger repel your servant.

You are my helper: cast me not off;

forsake me not, O God my savior.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord

in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord with courage;

be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

—From *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*



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BULLETIN INSERT



What are the "O" Antiphons of Advent?

The Roman Catholic Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

DECEMBER 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

DECEMBER 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

DECEMBER 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

DECEMBER 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

DECEMBER 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the
shadow of death.

DECEMBER 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the
dust!

DECEMBER 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*



third SUNDAY OF ADVENT

■ LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ... Come Lord Jesus, be our light! We rejoice as we prepare our hearts to welcome you.

■ READ THE GOSPEL for the Third Sunday of Advent (Cycle A) Matthew 11:2-11

"The poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

■ REFLECT WITH A STORY

John the Baptist sent his friends to go find Jesus, and to ask him if he was really the Messiah. Rather than just answering with a simple yes or no, Jesus told them to tell John: "The deaf can hear, the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

Jesus is not speaking in code. He is telling us he has come to reach out to the poor and suffering. As his disciples, we are called to do the same.

Who are these people in our world today? They are family members who are sick or lonely. They are our classmates who are bullied. They are the men and women on our streets who don't have a place to sleep at night. And they are the families around the world who, because of poverty or violence in their countries, struggle to make it through each day.

Moo Kho is one of these people. She lived in Myanmar, a country in Asia, but fled to the United States with her husband and child after her village was burned down. She was given the opportunity to work at a candle-making company in the United States, Prosperity Candle, which pays her enough so that she can afford food and a safe place for her family to live.

Moo Kho had the Good News proclaimed to her when she was offered a place to live and work in the United States. We can prepare the way for Jesus by reaching out and welcoming those who are most in need, like Moo Kho.



Photo by Erin Mackey/CRS

PRAY

Jesus, help us prepare our hearts for your coming at Christmas by caring for people in our family, school, neighborhood, and for others in need throughout the world. Amen

REFLECT

What is one way that your family can reach out to someone in need before Christmas?

ACT

This week, proclaim the Good News by preparing a meal or care package for someone who doesn't have what they need to make it through each day.

GIVE

Let Christ's light shine on a world in need. Purchase beautiful candles made by Moo Koo and other women at Prosperity Candle. Visit crsfairtrade.org.

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

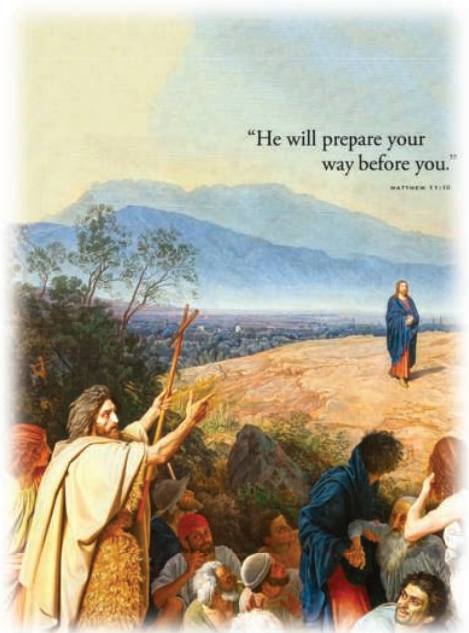
Reflections for the 3rd Sunday of Advent—December 11, 2022

AN UNEXPECTED MESSIAH

Who hasn't felt discouraged at some point in life? We all know how it feels when things don't go the way we want or expect. John the Baptist was feeling that way in today's Gospel. He is languishing in prison, wondering if all that he said and did had any meaning. Jesus didn't fit the common image of the Messiah. He wasn't a great political leader who would overthrow the Roman oppressors and restore Israel to glory. John's faith is shaken and so he tells his followers to seek out Jesus and ask him, "Are you the one?"

In response to John's question, Jesus tells him (and us) to look at what he was doing: healing the sick, raising the dead, bringing the good news to the poor. John would have immediately recognized those actions as the ones Isaiah prophesized that the Messiah would do on his arrival. By focusing on those deeds, John would have known that indeed Jesus was the one. Even though the plan wasn't going the way John thought it would, he could be comforted by knowing God was powerfully at work.

Sometimes God doesn't work in our lives the way we expect either. Like John, we can get discouraged and wonder why God is allowing certain struggles and difficulties to happen. That's when we, too, have to realize that the mission of Jesus is not to establish an earthly kingdom, but to restore us to the fullness of life. When we find ourselves feeling dispirited, we need to consider that perhaps God has us exactly where he wants us to be for our perfect good and perfect growth in holiness.



PRAYER

Picture yourself as one of John's disciples. John has sent you out to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" What kind of answer are you expecting? How do you feel when Jesus says to you, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." How do you feel about going back with that answer? How do you think John is going to respond? Now ask God to show you how Jesus's answer can make a difference in the way you think about Jesus.

RESOLUTION

Ask the Lord to show you areas in which you might be blind, unclean, deaf, or dead. As you gain insights, pray that these areas be healed. formed.org

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