

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/)

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - DECEMBER 25, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm Christmas Mass Intentions

10:00 pm Christmas Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 25

9:00 am Christmas Mass Intentions

11:00 am Christmas Mass Intentions

Monday, December 26

9:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, December 27

9:00 am Anne M Berardone
(Arlene Toth)

Wednesday, December 28

9:00 am Intentions of Zia M Gould
(Marie & David Gould)

Thursday, December 29

9:00 am Gail Westerdahl
(Jim & Duke Campbell)

Saturday, December 31

4:00 pm Diane Black (Debiak Family)

Sunday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary

9:00 am Joyce Klotz
(Andrew & Joan Myhal)

11:00 am Nick DeLuca
(John & Caroline White)

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, Paul Hetteroth, John C Purfield

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 25, 2022

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

*“Behold a new and wondrous mystery.
My ears resound to the Shepherd’s song,
 piping no soft melody,
but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn.
 The Angels sing.
The Archangels blend their voices in harmony.
 The Cherubim sing their joyful praise.
 The Seraphim exalt His glory.
Bethlehem this day resembles heaven;
hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices;
 and in place of the sun,
enfolded within itself on every side, the Sun of
justice. This day He Who is, is Born.”
 St. John Chrysostom*

This day also resembles heaven, as we
 sing in praise:

Glory to God in the highest!

Christ the Savior is born!

May God bless you this Christmas,
may all darkness in your lives be
removed by the light of Christ.

May your hearts be filled
with the Joy of Christ’s birth
and may you be missionaries of that
joy to all the world. Amen. †

Father Alex

Rev. Alexander Enriquez, Pastor

Parish of St. Monica



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
DEC 5 - 11, 2022**

Total \$5,871.27
*Thank you for your contributions as we support
the ministries, programs and facilities of our
parish.*

Religious Retirement Collection \$ 648.00

CATHOLIC ANNUAL APPEAL 2022

Goal: \$18,000.00
Pledged: \$14,303.00 (79% of Goal)
Paid: \$13,997.00 (78% of Goal)
Total Donors: 78
Total Gifts: 90
Average Gift: \$158.92

We are \$4,003 away from our goal deadline
to receive our rebate. Please be generous.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

On Monday, December 26, there is no
9:00 am Daily Mass.
Parish Offices will be closed.

There are no Religious Education classes
Monday December 26
or Tuesday, December 27.

MASS SCHEDULE

*New Year’s Eve
Saturday, December 31
4:00 pm
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Sunday, January 1
9:00 am and 11:00 am*

STORIES THAT UPLIFT
John 1:1-18
Christmas - Year A
Fr. Michael Brizio, IMC
Website: www.frmichaelbrizio.com



When a little boy named Davis came to Christmas morning Mass with his parents, he was surprised to find that Baby Jesus was not in the Nativity set. His parents immediately went into the sacristy and asked the pastor who had removed the Baby Jesus. The pastor rushed to the crib only to realize that some miscreants had stolen the Baby from the manger after the Midnight Mass.

Later, during the morning Mass, the pastor informed the congregation of the theft and told them that he couldn't understand the motive behind such a callous act. Then, he asked them to see that the Baby Jesus was returned. The manger, however, remained empty.

Later that afternoon, depressed and sad, the pastor was walking through the wintry streets when he saw his neighbor, little Tommy. Shabbily dressed against the cold, Tommy was proudly walking with a new, bright red wagon. The pastor knew how much his parents must have scrimped and saved to buy him the wagon.

With a surge of Christmas spirit, the pastor wished Tommy a Merry Christmas and congratulated him on his beautiful Christmas gift. It was then that he noticed that Tommy's new red wagon wasn't empty. The Baby Jesus stolen from the church lay on a pillow in the wagon. The pastor was disappointed. He told Tommy that stealing was wrong, and that the entire parish had been hurt by his action.

Wiping from his cheeks the flowing penitential tears, Tommy said, "But, Father, I didn't steal Jesus! It wasn't like that at all. I've been asking Jesus for a red wagon for Christmas for a long time, and, you see, I promised him when I got it, he'd be the first one I took out for a ride. I kept my promise and now I am on my way to the church to bring Baby Jesus home!"

** Each Christmas invites us to take Jesus to our home, because the only inn where he cares to find shelter is the inn of our hearts. If, like the pastor in our story, we have misjudged others, we can take Jesus home with us by asking their forgiveness. If someone has hurt us, we can forgive him or her. Let's make this a Christmas of reconciliation, love, peace, and joy. †*

CALENDAR

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Mass
10:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

Monday, December 26

Parish Office Closed
No 9:00 am Mass
No Religious Ed Classes

Tuesday, December 27

No Religious Ed Classes
9:00 am Mass
7:30 pm Adult Choir (Church)
8:00 pm K of C Officer Mtg. (Little Church)

Wednesday, December 28

9:00 am Mass
7:00 am RCIA (Little Church)

Thursday, December 29

9:00 am Mass

Friday, December 30

7:30 pm AA Meeting (Parish Hall)

Saturday, December 31

New Year's Eve
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 1, 2023

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

Monday, January 2, 2023

Parish Office Closed
No Religious Ed Classes
No 9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

No Religious Ed Classes
9:00 am Mass
7:30 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

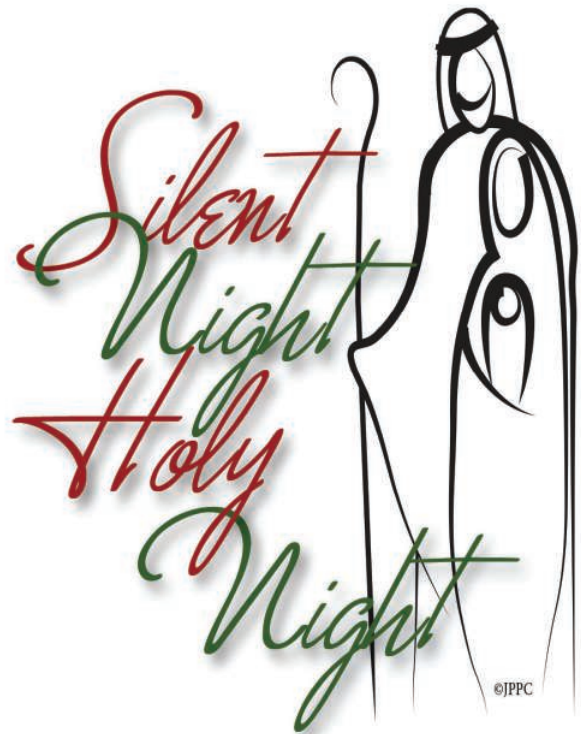
9:00 am Mass
9:30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm RCIA (Little Church)

Thursday, January 5, 2023

9:00 am Mass

Friday, December 23

6:00 pm Youth Group (Little Church)
7:30 pm AA Meeting (Parish Hall)





*Let all creation
Sing Hosanna to the King!*



Saint of the Week

St. Stephen, First Martyr

First Century

Feast Day—December 26

Christianity's first martyr was probably a Greek Jew. Stephen's story is recounted in the Acts of the Apostles. He was among the first seven deacons chosen to serve the Hellenist Christian community in Jerusalem. But the wonders he worked rattled local Jewish leaders. Witnesses at his trial before the Sanhedrin gave false testimony, and Stephen defended

himself with a stirring speech recalling the long history of Israel's relationship with God and calling the Jews "stiff-necked people" who "always oppose the Holy Spirit." As he was stoned to death outside the city, he cried out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He is the patron of bricklayers, stonemasons and numerous individual Christian churches.



“ Just as Jesus on the Cross entrusted himself to the Father without reserve and pardoned those who killed him, at the moment of his death St Stephen prayed: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit”; and further: “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” (cf. Acts 7: 59-60). Stephen was a genuine disciple of Jesus and imitated him perfectly. With Stephen began that long series of martyrs who sealed their faith by offering their lives, proclaiming with their heroic witness that God became man to open the Kingdom of Heaven to humankind. ”

— Pope Benedict XVI, *Angelus*, December 26, 2005



Quote from Pope Benedict XVI, copyright © 2005, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City State. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Copyright © 2014, Catholic News Service—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

Image: *The Stoning of Saint Stephen*, Rembrandt Hamensz. van Rijn, LACMA



Parish Staff

Reverend Alexander Enriquez,
Pastor

Deacon Christian Knoebel,
Permanent Deacon

Ernest Rookey, Music Ministry

Karen Badach, Coordinator
Religious Education

Liz Hills, Business Manager

Parish Office: 732-928-0279
stmonicanj@yahoo.com

Religious Education Office: 732-928-4038
stmonicacd@yahoo.com

Facebook: facebook.com/ParishOfStMonica

Website: www.saintmonica.com

679 W Veterans Hwy, Jackson, NJ 08527

Saint Monica Parish

We invite you to celebrate with us



merry CHRISTMAS



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 Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 2022

GOD HAD THIS PLANNED

When we think of the story of Christmas, we usually think of the “infancy narrative” of Luke’s Gospel: Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, no room in the inn, Jesus laid in the manger, angels and shepherds. This is the familiar account of Christ’s birth, and we are surrounded by reminders of it during the Christmas season--songs and stories and images.

Today’s Gospel reading tells the Christmas story in a different way. Instead of the manger and angels and shepherds, Luke tells about the Word of God, present and active at creation. .This Word is not only with God, but is God; he is the Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. And it is this divine Word of God who took on flesh and came to us as a tiny baby that night in Bethlehem in order to make his dwelling among us. The beginning of the Gospel of John gives us the profound and beautiful reality of the familiar Christmas story.

It might not be what we’re expecting to hear as we celebrate Jesus’s birth, but this reading draws together the beautiful images and themes of Christmas--light, hope, salvation, God with us--and shows us that this was God’s plan from the very beginning. God always knew that he would become man in order to draw us to himself. This is the good news that the prophet Isaiah talks about in today’s first reading. It is the powerful saving work of God that we sing about in today’s Responsorial Psalm. It is the full revelation of God that the author of the letter to the Hebrews writes about in today’s Second Reading. This is the hope and joy of Christmas.

PRAYER

Today’s Gospel reading reminds us that God is in control. There is nothing in our lives that he can’t handle. There is nothing we are facing that is too chaotic to be conquered by his peace. Let’s take some time to pray with the prologue from John’s Gospel and surrender to God’s sovereign plan.

Picture the newborn Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the manger. Now consider the proclamation that today’s Gospel makes about this infant: he has always been and always will be, through him everything was created, he is the light of the world, he saves us and makes us children of God, he reveals the full glory of the Father, he is God. What are you not entrusting to him completely? Where do you need to surrender more fully to his plan? Offer these things to him.

RESOLUTION

We live in a busy world filled with noise and chaos. Ask God how he wants to help you find the quiet and peace to be present with him, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. What is one concrete thing you can do each day this week to spend time with the babe in the manger? |formed.org



JACKSON SERVICE STATION



Tune-Ups • Brakes • Welding
Front Ends • New State Jersey Inspection

Over 29th Year ~ Complete Automotive Services ~

COUNTY LINE & BENNETTS MILLS ROAD
(732) 367-2882

DISCOVER THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE 

Rely on the Knights of Columbus to protect your family's future.

Dan McGeehan
732-597-3832 • daniel.mcgeehan@kofc.org
FB: <http://fb.me/danmcgee Hankofc>



LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE
LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

732-719-7250

OLIVERIE
FUNERAL HOME

A Life Celebration® Home

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Serving Ocean & Monmouth County
125 S. Cooks Bridge Road
Jackson, NJ 08527
G. Oliverie, Mgr., N.J. Lic. #3833



2014-2022 Pursuit of Excellence Recipient



2015 & 2019 Community Service Award



11 years in a row!

Sponsor Support

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY, OUR SPONSORS




Our sponsors pay for our parish bulletin. Help us support them, thank them, and show them the **Finding FABER** app when you visit their establishments.

catholicmatch®

New Jersey 

CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ

Morgan
basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service

French Drains
Foundation Repair
Mold Remediation

All Work Guaranteed

732-777-7888

www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com

RIDESHARE ZONE

S top
A sk
M atch
I nform

#WHATSMYNAME

In-Home Senior Care

We provide all kinds of assistance, from personal care to light housekeeping. We keep seniors in their own homes and enable them to live independently.



Comfort Keepers.
Elevating the Human Spirit™



(732) 530-3636
697 Broad Street
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

fully licensed and insured

www.comfortkeepers.com/centraljersey

Serving St. Monica's Parish Since 2001

Mallory's Army Foundation

United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...
Don't Just Teach Kindness... **BE KINDNESS!**

www.MallorysArmy.com

(973) 440-8657 • info@mallorysarmy.org

It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:

Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.



 Message and data rates may apply.

George S. Hassler Funeral Home

Brian T. Hassler
Manager
N.J. Lic. No. 4054

George S. Hassler
Owner & Director
N.J. Lic. No. 3193

Offering Pre-Planning Programs
Handicap-Accessible Facility
Original Family Owned and Operated
Since 1978

Parishioners
732-364-6808
contact@hasslerfuneralhome.com
www.hasslerfuneralhome.com



980 Bennetts Mills Rd.
Jackson, NJ



Serving Ocean, Monmouth and Mercer Counties



Stefania "Stef" Fernandes
Broker Associate | Accredited Stager

Parishioner
Parlo Italiano
Falo Português
Hablo Español

732.598.5850 mobile
SFernandes@ERACentral.com

210 Route 539 • Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

609.259.0200 office 609.259.7027 fax

www.StefSellsNJ.com

Each ERA® Office is Independently Owned and Operated

We're Welcoming **NU** Patients!

FREE Invisalign Consultation
FREE ZOOM Whitening Pen
to all new patients



NU PATIENT SPECIAL
\$79⁰⁰
Includes Cleaning, Exam, X-rays
& Oral Cancer Screening (\$404 value)

NU FAMILY DENTAL

Noelle Signoriello, DMD • Unum Rahmat, DMD

1 Kathleen Dr., Jackson • 732-363-6633 • www.nufamilydental.com



POINT BAY FUEL
HEATING AND COOLING

Fuel Oil • Gasoline • Diesel • Furnaces • Boilers • HVAC
BUDGET • SALES • SERVICE

800-349-FUEL (3835)



Scott Rusbarsky, Parishioner
732-733-4211
www.fivestarpainting.com



RICHARD D. MEINDERS, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

WILLS • TRUSTS • ESTATES • REAL ESTATE
2002 Route 70, Suite 2, Manchester, NJ 08759

732-408-0900 • www.lawrdm.com

Serving Jackson Families

TIMOTHY E. RYAN HOME FOR FUNERALS

Peace of Mind and Heart before, during and beyond

DeBow Chapel, 150 W. Veteran's Hwy., Jackson
732-928-0032 • 732-901-3200

Timothy E. Ryan, Founder (1951-2019)
Mark L. Sarin, Senior Director NJ Lic. No. 4134

www.ryanfuneralhome.com



I have always
believed that
funeral service
was a vocation
and not simply
a career.
... *Tim Ryan*