

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/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 15, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 14

4:00 pm Father James Redstone
(Margie & Family)

Sunday, January 15

9:00 am Valerino Grandilli
(Bereavement Ministry)
11:00 am Dakota Neron
(Deborah Zollo)

Monday, January 16

9:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, January 17

9:00 am Grace Hubers (Mary Boyd)

Wednesday, January 18

9:00 am Fr Richard Milewski (St Monica)

Thursday, January 19

9:00 am Maryann Cerbie
(Lana & Frank Castellano)

Saturday, January 21

4:00 pm Diane Black (Diane Brown)

Sunday, January 22

9:00 am Intentions of Samantha, Jerry &
Brendan Luma
(Piacentino Family)
11:00 am Intentions of Lucas & Ava Anthony
(Piacentino Family)

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, 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, Cheryl Vega, Taylor Dlugosz, Cameron Dlugosz, Domenick DiCicco

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 – JANUARY 15, 2023

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Is 8:23 — 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Monday, January 16
 No 9:00 am Mass
 Parish Offices are closed



Monday, January 16 & Tuesday, January 17
 No Religious Education Classes



January 19 & 20
 National Prayer Vigil for Life



January 20
 March for Life, Washington, DC
 &
 Mass for Life - 11:00 am
 St Robert Bellarmine, Freehold



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
 December 26, 2022 - January 1, 2023**

Total \$4,679.00

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

PLEASE NOTE

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

2022 CATHOLIC APPEAL

Last call to contribute to the 2022 Catholic Appeal

In order to meet our goal of \$18,000, the diocese must receive donations before January 31, 2023. We currently need \$3,747 to meet our goal. Once the goal is met, we will receive a rebate of 15% of the \$18,000 and 50% of any amount over our goal. Pledge cards are available at the entrances to the Church.

We wish to thank all who have contributed.



On Jan. 20, 2023, the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton will come together in prayer and solidarity to proclaim the sanctity of all human life.



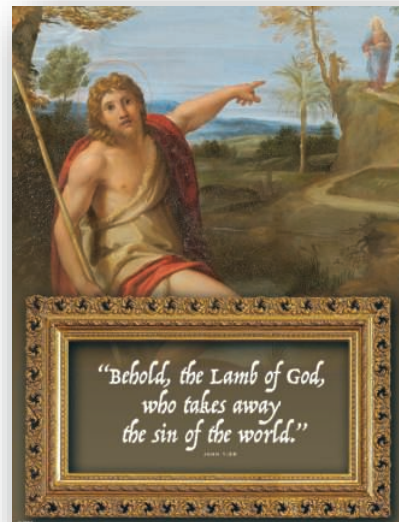
All are invited to a *Mass for Life*

CELEBRATED BY Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M. | BEGINNING AT 11 a.m.



Mass will be livestreamed on [YouTube.com/trentondiocese](https://www.youtube.com/trentondiocese)

St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, Freehold



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 15, 2023

A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR ANYONE INVOLVED IN MUSIC MINISTRY
Choirs, Cantors, Music Directors, Music Ministers,
Band Directors, Musicians, etc.

AN EVENING WITH
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MUSIC MINISTRY WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2023
St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
685 Hooper Ave
Toms River, NJ 08753
(In the Church)

7:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Meet & Greet with Steve

7:30 PM - 8:50 PM
Talk/Music/Teaching



Registration is free!
REGISTER HERE

Questions? csaga@diocesoflorida.org
ANYONE WHO REGISTERS BEFORE JAN 25 2023
WILL BE ENTERED INTO A PRIZE DRAWING!

diocesoflorida.org/evening-with-angrisano

Let us join in prayer with the pilgrims traveling to the March for Life in Washington, DC this week. As a Church we seek to build a culture of life in our communities and our world, where the dignity of human life is honored and respected from the moment of conception until natural death.

 HelpOurMarriage.org
RETROUVAILLE
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of Feb. 10 - 12, 2023 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit:

www.HelpOurMarriage.org
or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230.
All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Intercessions for Life

**January 15, 2023
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For all Christians:
May we live out our baptismal call to proclaim the Gospel of God's love and the dignity of every human life.
Lord hear our prayer



CALENDAR

Saturday, January 14

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 15, 2023

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

12:00 pm Pre-nuptial Mtg. (Little Church)

Monday, January 16, 2023

No 9:00 am Mass

Parish Offices Closed

No Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

No Religious Education Classes

9:00 am Mass

7:30 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

9:00 am Mass

7:00 pm RCIA (Little Church)

Thursday, January 19, 2023

9:00 am Mass

Friday, January 20, 2023

7:30 pm AA Meeting (Parish Hall)

Saturday, January 21, 2023

1:00 pm Baptisms

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 22, 2023

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

Monday, January 23, 2023

9:00 am Mass

1:00 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)

4:30 pm Religious Education Classes

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w. Communion

5:30 pm Religious Education Classes

6:00 pm Confirmation Retreat (Church)

7:30 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w. Communion

6:00 pm Eucharist Patent Mtg. (Church)

7:00 am RCIA (Little Church)

Thursday, January 26, 2023

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w. Communion

7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Parish Hall)

STORIES THAT UPLIFT

John 1:29-34

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Fr. Michael Brizio, IMC

Website: www.frnichaelbrizio.com

A gardener had a cluster of tall bamboos in one corner of his field. One day the gardener looked over the group of bamboos, stood before the tallest and said, "My dear friend, I need you." "Sir," said the bamboo, "use me in any way you want. I am ready."

"But," said the gardener, "in order to use you, I've got to split you in half." "Split me?" reacted the bamboo. "Why? I'm the nicest bamboo in this garden. No please! Use me as you like, but don't split me in half." "Well it's like this: If I can't split you in half, I can't use you."

The stately bamboo bowed its head and whispered. "Sir, if the only way to use me is to split me in half, do it." But," said the gardener, "that's only part of it. I'm going to cut off all your branches and leaves too. What's worse I will have to take away even your heart and your insides, otherwise, I cannot use you."

The bamboo bent all the way to the ground and said, "Sir, cut and prune me as you wish." So, the gardener cut down the bamboo, lopped off the branches, and leaves, split it down the middle, and then hollowed out its insides. Then he carried it out through the parched fields and brought it to a spring of water. He connected the bamboo with the spring and let it carry the water to the fields and make them fruitful.

And so it was that when the bamboo had been cut down, dismembered, and split right down the middle it became a source of great blessing to the people.

**We too are called to witness and profess our faith in Jesus by our words and deeds. But our witness will ring true if we have experienced Jesus as our Lord and if we follow his example of service to the point of sacrifice. †*

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



The end of the Christmas season was marked by the Baptism of the Lord, January 9th this year, and we have now moved into the season of Ordinary Time. Despite its name, there is nothing inherently “ordinary” about this season of the year. The term ordinary is just used because the weeks are numbered in an ordinal way—the Third Week in Ordinary Time, the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time, and so on.

Liturgical calendars were not always structured this way. In the earliest days of the Church, every Sunday was treated as an Easter Sunday—there was no distinction in the season for Christmas, Lent, and Easter. While we no longer treat every Sunday as Easter Sunday, “Sunday is the pre-eminent day for the liturgical assembly” (CCC, no. 1167). In addition to participating in the Eucharistic liturgy, in Ordinary Time, Sundays remain days that should be set aside for prayer, reflection, rest, and time with family.

Prayers for Life

The over 63 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a “throwaway culture.” However, we have great trust in God’s providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord’s help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard.

On January 23, the Church recognizes the Day of Prayer for the Protection of Unborn Children. As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or almsgiving.

Join with thousands of Catholics across the country to pray for life next Monday. For more information, and to sign up for text alerts with prayer intentions for life, please visit, www.9daysforlife.com.



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BULLETIN INSERT



Saint Sebastian

DIED C. 288

FEAST DAY: JANUARY 20

According to the many legends surrounding Sebastian, he was born in Gaul and raised in Milan. Though a Christian, he joined the imperial army at Rome about 283. He made converts of officials and jailers, effected cures and urged Christian prisoners to stay strong in their faith. He was named captain of the praetorian guards, but the emperor, upon finding out that he was a Christian, ordered his execution. Shot with arrows and left for dead, Sebastian survived and was nursed back to life. Later, he denounced the emperor for his cruelty to Christians, and the emperor had him beaten to death. A favorite subject of Renaissance artists, Sebastian is the patron saint of archers, soldiers and athletes.

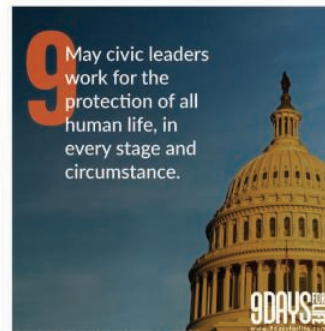


CNS Photo

9 DAYS FOR LIFE

PRAY FOR LIFE! JANUARY 19-27

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.



Join today at [www.9DaysforLife.com!](http://www.9DaysforLife.com)

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 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 15, 2023

Lamb of God

When we say the words of the *Agnus Dei*, or Lamb of God, during Mass, we are directly quoting John the Baptist.

The scene is set on the banks of the Jordan River. John has been gathering disciples by powerfully calling for repentance in light of the coming kingdom of God. One day, as he sees Jesus, he cries out, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!"

John was a great leader, but he recognized that he was not the center of the movement he had begun. He was the forerunner; the voice in the desert. John understood that his role was humbly to prepare others to follow Christ—to be a witness to the glory of God, the one who shows the way. It was not and never would be to draw attention to himself.

By calling Jesus the "Lamb of God," John sums up his entire mission: he is to prepare the way for the One who will come, to actually take away our sins, not just call us to repentance. John recognizes Jesus as the Savior and exhorts us to do the same.

John's words about Jesus would have had a powerful impact on those who heard them because they would have called to mind the sacrifices of the Old Testament, particularly the Sacrifice of Passover. In the Passover, the blood of a lamb protected the faithful Israelites from the Angel of Death. Now John the Baptist calls Jesus the lamb of the New Passover, the one who will spare all of humanity from eternal separation from God. Jesus is the perfect, true sacrifice that all the old sacrifices had been pointing toward. He is truly the Lamb of God.

PRAYER

Imagine you are standing on the banks of the Jordan River, watching John baptize the crowds. All of a sudden, you see him looking at a man who is approaching. John cries out, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" What do you think when you hear those words? Now move forward in time and imagine that John asks you to follow this man, Jesus, no matter where he goes or what he asks of you. Are you ready to make that commitment? Are you ready to follow the Lamb?

RESOLUTION

Do you truly believe that Jesus has come to take your sins away? If there is something in your past for which you are ashamed, confess it now, in the silence of your heart, and ask the Lamb to remove it from you. As soon as you are able, go to Confession. If nothing immediately comes to mind, spend time in prayer asking the Lamb to help protect you from all temptation. | formed.org



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