

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/)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 26, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 25

4:00 pm Vincent Reeves (St Monica)

Sunday, February 26

9:00 am Lawrence Finnerty
(Wednesday Faith Group)

11:00 am Arlene Vogel (Mary Boyd)

Monday, February 27

9:00 am Patricia Doran
(Chris & John Pascucci)

Tuesday, February 28

9:00 am Loretta Zrebiec (Husband, Tom)

Wednesday, March 1

9:00 am Leah Mahan (Herceg Family)

Thursday, March 2

9:00 am Lance Maki
(Denielle, Sway, Dee & Denis Balint)

Saturday, March 4

4:00 pm Father James Redstone
(Terry Stahlhut)

Sunday, March 5

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone
(Gerarda Fallone)

11:00 am Joseph & Josephine Zappulla
(Arlene Z Toth)

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, 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, Irene Kislán, Renee Brady, Carol Spezzano, Kevin Fitzpatrick

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 – FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The Women of St. Monica's **Italian Dinner** is today, **Sunday, Feb. 26** beginning at **2:30 p.m.**

Tickets are available after all Masses & at the door.

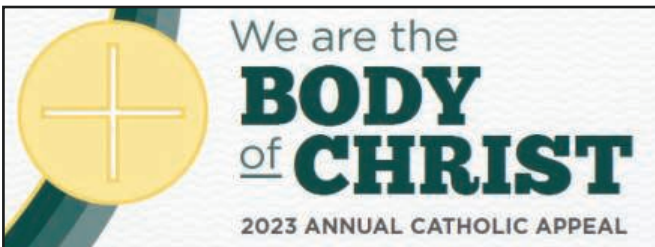
On Wednesday, March 1st there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 9:00 a.m. Mass

Stations of the Cross Friday, March 3 will be led by our Youth Group at **7:00 p.m.**

Our Lenten journey continues with the 5-week program **“No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk through Christ’s Passion”** **Sundays** beginning **March 5 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Church**

2022 CONTRIBUTION REPORTS

If you wish to receive a report of your 2022 contributions, please complete a request form located at the entrances to the Church and place in the collection basket or contact Liz Hills in the Parish Office.



Did you know? Our parish receives a rebate of dollars collected if we reach our Annual Catholic Appeal goal of \$18,000! We will earn 15% of payments to goal and 50% of payments collected over goal. Make your donation here:

<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/aca-donate-page>

or fill out a pledge form available at the entrances to the church and return to the Parish Office.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
FEBRUARY 6 - 12, 2023**

Total \$6,111.00

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

NEW TO THE PARISH?

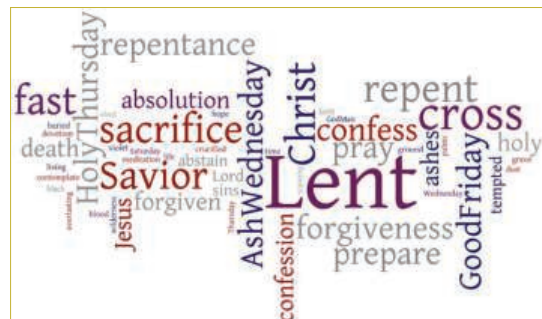
We Welcome You!

If you haven't registered, please do so by filling out a registration form available at the entrances to the church. Completed forms may be placed in the collection basket, mailed or emailed to stmonicanj@yahoo.com



PLEASE NOTE

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



THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan

ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965
or via e-mail at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

*If angels could be jealous of men,
they would be so for one reason:
Holy Communion.*

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides us through the last hours of Christ's life. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before. **Starting next Sunday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.** For info, contact Barbara Rookey at 732-904-8152 or email barookey@gmail.com

ANNUAL ITALIAN DINNER

Sunday, February 26 at 2:30 pm

The menu includes: spaghetti & meatballs; sausage, peppers & onions; lasagna; antipasto salad; bread & butter; dessert; coffee & tea.

**Tickets \$10 for Adults
Children 5 & under admitted free**

**Proceeds will be used to purchase
Missals for the parish.**



Italian Dinner!

Intercessions for Life

**February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent Time**

May every human person,
from conception to natural death,
be recognized as precious
and beloved
in the eyes of the Lord.
Lord hear our prayer.



CALENDAR

Saturday, February 25

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, February 26

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
12:00 pm Baptism
12:15 pm Grief Support (Little Church)
2:30 pm Italian Dinner
3:00 p.m. Rite of Election (St. Robert Parish)

Monday, February 27

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, February 28

9:00 am Mass
1:00 pm Meeting (Little Church)
5:30 pm Religious Education Classes
7:30 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, March 1

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

Thursday, March 2

9:00 am Mass

Friday, March 3

6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. (LC)
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross/Youth Grp.

Saturday, March 4

9:30 am 1st Communion Retreat
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, March 5

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
11:15 am RCIA Dismissal (Little Church)
12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Mtg. (LC)
1:15 pm Grief Support (Little Church)
6:30 pm Lent Program "No Greater Love"

Monday, March 6

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, March 7

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

Wednesday, March 8

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Confirmation Practice
7:00 pm Grief Support (Little Church)

STORIES THAT UPLIFT

Matthew 4:1-11

1st Sunday of Lent - Year A

Fr. Michael Brizio, IMC

Website: www.frmichaelbrizio.com

In the Australian bush country grows a little plant called the "sundew."

It has a slender stem and tiny, round leaves fringed with hairs that glisten with bright drops of liquid as delicate as fine dew.

Woe to the insect, however, that dares to dance on it. Although its attractive clusters of red, white, and pink blossoms are harmless, the leaves are deadly. The shiny moisture on each leaf is sticky and will imprison any bug that touches it.

As an insect struggles to free itself, the vibration causes the leaves to close tightly around it. This innocent-looking plant then feeds on its victim.

** The power of all temptation is the prospect that it will make me happier if I follow it, but at the end it will be my downfall. †*



The First Sunday of Lent



Getty Images

February 26, 2023

A Brief Examination of Conscience Based on the Ten Commandments

I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.

Have I treated people, events, or things as more important than God?

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church, or people?

Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Do I go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation? Do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes worship to God, joy for the Lord's Day, and proper relaxation of mind and body? Do I look for ways to spend time with family or in service on Sunday?

Honor your father and your mother.

Do I show my parents due respect? Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible? Do I criticize them for lacking skills I think they should have?

You shall not kill.

Have I harmed another through physical, verbal, or emotional means, including gossip or manipulation of any kind?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another?

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Have I gossiped, told lies, or embellished stories at the expense of another?

You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse.

Have I honored my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love?

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Am I content with my own means and needs, or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily?

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.

In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,

I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.

I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,

and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In his name, my God, have mercy.



St Gabriel Possenti

DATES: MARCH 1 1838 - FEB 27 1862

FEAST DAY: FEBRUARY 27

The 11th of 13 children of a distinguished Italian lawyer who served the Papal States, Francesco Possenti was a bright, joyful youth, despite losing his mother when he was 4. During his education at the Jesuit college in Spoleto, he was seriously ill twice and vowed to become a religious if he recovered. Although he felt called to serve the Lord through the priesthood, but took his time to act upon this feeling. It was after the death of his favorite sister in 1856 that he entered the Passionist novitiate, taking the name Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows. He is known to have been extraordinarily patient and kind, completing all that was expected of him with a bright spirit. Unfortunately, he never reached ordination, as he died of tuberculosis at 24 years old. St. Gabriel Possenti was canonized in 1920 and is the Patron of clerics and youth.

“

My life is a continuous delight; what I experience inside these sacred walls is almost inexpressible; the 24 hours of the day seem to me like 24 short instants; really my life is full of delight.”

-ST. GABRIEL POSSENTI

”



Catholic
Current

Quote translated from the original writings of St. Gabriel in Italian.

Ghezzi, B. (2000). *The Voices of the Saints: A Year of Readings*. Double Day Press, New York.

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SAINT OF THE WEEK

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 26, 2023



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MAY 13, 2023 | SATURDAY | 7PM

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FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS AND INQUIRIES:

EMAIL: BLDTRENTON.MADZ2023@GMAIL.COM | CONTACT: TM (609) 954-2300

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.

Grief Support

For those grieving the loss of a loved one or close friend. This is a Catholic centered Support Group offering a caring, compassionate, and confidential environment to support your journey from grieving to healing. For registration and details contact John White 848-992-1652 or jlwhite2271@gmail.com

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 1ST Sunday of Lent - February 26, 2023

INTO THE DESERT

We begin our Lenten readings in a most appropriate place: the desert. In the desert, life is stripped to basics and everything, including our weakness, is exposed. We are forced to stand alone and vulnerable before God. Our faith is put to the test. Little wonder, then, that Jesus went to the desert to fast and pray before plunging into his public works. It's there, amid the rocks and reptiles, that the devil comes to him with three temptations.

When we read about the temptations, it's easy for us to dismiss them as having no relevance to our own lives. When was the last time you were tempted to change stones to bread, for instance?

While the specifics of the temptations don't resonate with us, the lure of pushing God aside, of making him secondary in our lives, lies at their heart--and that is a common temptation for all of us. For example, when we struggle with daily concerns of how to pay our bills or provide for our families, we are tempted to turn from God's way and pursue our own path. That's, in a sense, what the devil was suggesting to Jesus when he told him to turn stones to bread.

The same is true with the other two temptations. The devil was urging Jesus to prove his identity by jumping off a building. We often want God to prove he is God by giving us exactly what we want, when we want it. And just as the devil tempted Jesus with the glory and power of this world, so he tempts us, deep down, to crave power, wealth, and fame and the lifestyle they provide. We are drawn to the ways of the world and both covertly and overtly deny our faith if we think we can get away with it.

This Lent, we are called to remember the primacy of God and to turn to him in our moments of weakness and need.

PRAYER

Picture Jesus sitting beside you and saying the same three responses he gave to the devil. He says: "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." "The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Which of these three responses of Jesus speaks the most to you and your life right now? How so?

RESOLUTION

Considering the statement of Jesus that relates most to your life now, find at least one practical way to implement Jesus' teaching this week. | formed.org



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