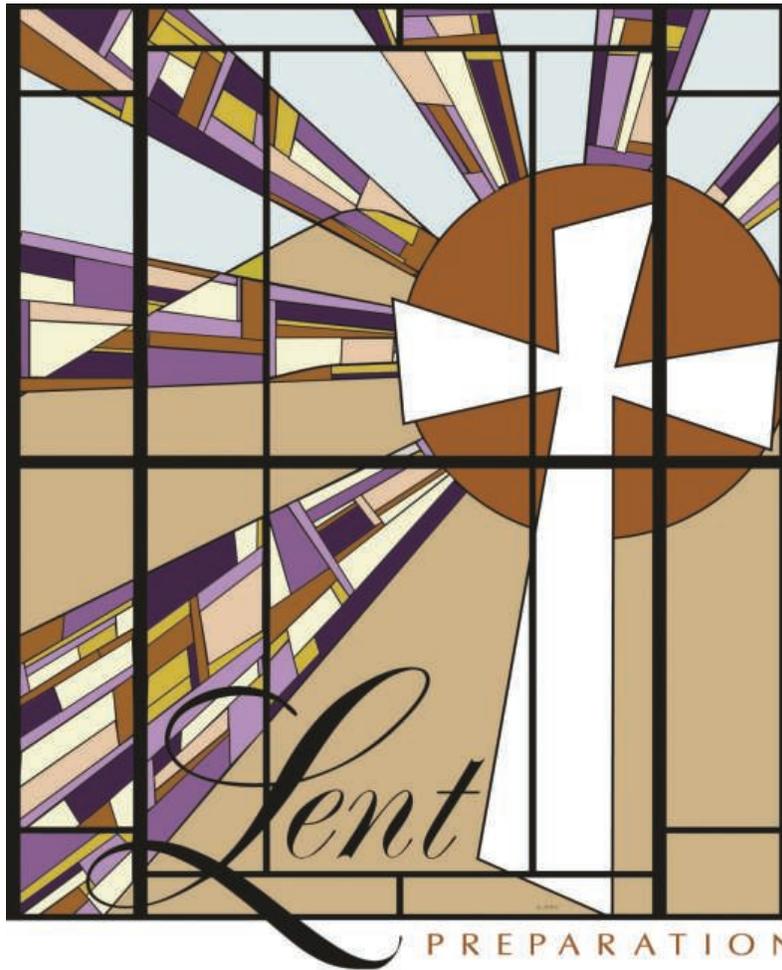


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Masses

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

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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:
[www.facebook.com/
ParishofStMonica/](https://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 5, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

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)

Monday, March 6

9:00 am Robert Witt
(Dave & Marie Gould)

Tuesday, March 7

9:00 am Josephine Zappulla
(Arlene Z Toth)

Wednesday, March 8

9:00 am Arlene Vogel
(Duke & Mary Campbell)

Thursday, March 9

9:00 am Joe Salegna
(Brian Hackett)

Saturday, March 11

4:00 pm Thomas William Hussennetter
(Louis & Mary Maralla)

Sunday, March 12

9:00 am Maria Marotta
(Tim & Lauren Goldner)

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, 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 – MARCH 5, 2023

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

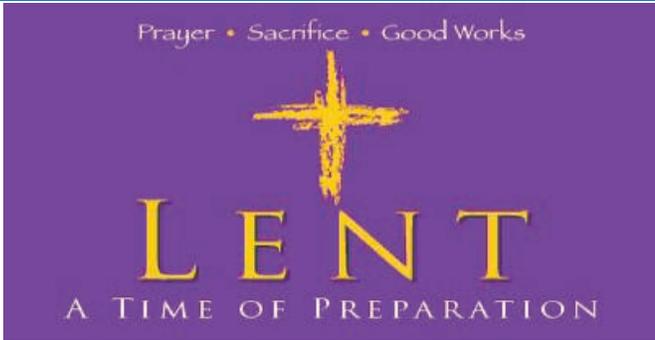
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42



LENTEN CALENDAR

- Saturday, March 4**
3:15--3:45 p.m. Confessions in Little Church
- Sunday, March 5**
6:30 --7:45 p.m. "No Greater Love" in Church
- Friday, March 10**
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross/ in Church
led by Legion of Mary
- Saturday, March 11**
3:15--3:45 p.m. Confessions in Little Church
- Sunday, March 12**
6:30--7:45 p.m. "No Greater Love" - Church
- Wednesday, March 15**
7:00--8:00 p.m. Lenten Penance Service
- Friday, March 17**
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross/ in Church
led by Women of St. Monica
- Saturday, March 18**
3:15--3:45 p.m. Confessions in Little Church
- Sunday, March 19**
6:30 --7:45 p.m. "No Greater Love" - Church
- Friday, March 24**
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross/ in Church
led by Barbara Rookey
- Saturday, March 25**
3:15--3:45 p.m. Confession in Little Church
- Sunday, March 26**
6:30 --7:45 p.m. "No Greater Love" - Church
- Friday, March 31**
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross/ in Church
led by Deacon Christian
- Saturday, April 1**
3:15--3:45 p.m. Confessions in Little Church
- Sunday, April 2**
6:30 --7:45 p.m. "No Greater Love" - Church
- Wednesday, April 5**
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service in Church

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
FEBRUARY 13 - 19, 2023**

Total \$4,476.75

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

EASTER TRIDUUM

- Thursday, April 6**
7:00 Holy Thursday Mass/Adoration until 10 p.m.
- Friday, April 7**
3:00 p.m. Good Friday Service
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross/ in Church
led by Fr. Alex
- Saturday, April 8**
11:00 a.m. Blessing of Easter Food
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil
- Sunday, April 9**
9:00 a.m. Easter Mass
11:00 a.m. Easter Mass



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 5, 2023

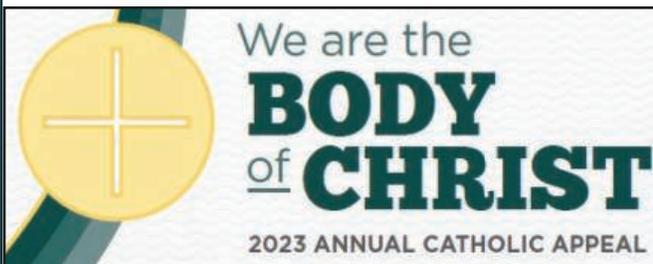
FROM THE BISHOP

Dispensation from Abstinence on St. Patrick's Day

The Holy Season of Lent brings with it the serious annual penitential obligation to abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent. This year, 2023, however, Friday of the second week of Lent corresponds with St. Patrick's Day (March 17), which has traditionally been an occasion for special celebrations. As Bishop of the Diocese of Trenton, I am granting a dispensation from the obligation to abstain from eating meat to Catholics of the Diocese of Trenton as well as to any visitors or travelers who may be physically present within the territory of this Diocese on Friday, March 17.

Those Catholics taking advantage of the dispensation, however, are asked to transfer the Friday abstinence obligation to another day of their choosing in Lent or to perform a work of charity (for example, a donation to the poor) or some exercise of piety (for example, a visit to Church and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a rosary, or some other prayer, etc.) to fulfill the spirit of the obligation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton



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.



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“The personal and moral transformation that is sustained by the Eucharist reaches out to every sphere of human life. The love of Christ can permeate all of our relationships: with our families, our friends, and our neighbors. It can also reshape the life of our society as a whole.”

**MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST
IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH, NO. 35**

Intercessions for Life

**March 5, 2023
Second Sunday in Lent**

For each expectant mother
considering abortion:
May the Lord provide for her needs
and give her the grace
and resolve
to choose life for her child.
Lord hear our prayer.



CALENDAR

Saturday, March 4

- 9:30 am 1st Communion Retreat (Church)
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, March 5

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

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 (Church/LC)
 7:00 pm Grief Support (Little Church)

Thursday, March 9

- 9:00 am Mass
 4:00 pm Confirmation
 7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Friday, March 10

- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 11

- 11:00 am Funeral
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, March 12

- 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass/RCIA Dismissal (LC)
 12:00 pm Baptism
 12:15 pm Grief Support (Little Church)
 6:30 pm Lent Program "No Greater Love"
 (Church)

STORIES THAT UPLIFT

Matthew 17:1-9

2nd Sunday of Lent - Year A

Fr. Michael Brizio, IMC

Website: www.frnichaelbrizio.com

Dr. William Stidger once told about a lovely little 90-year-old lady named Mrs. Sampson. Mrs. Sampson was frail, feeble, even sickly. But Dr. Stidger said that when he was discouraged, he always went to visit Mrs. Sampson. She had a radiant spirit that was contagious.

One day he asked this 90-year-old woman, "What is the secret of your power? What keeps you happy, contented, and cheerful through your sickness?" She answered with a line from a poem, "I had an hour of glory on a windswept hill."

Bill Stidger said, recounting this experience, "I knew she had been in touch with God and that was the whole reason for her cheerfulness."

** Listen again to her words: "an hour of glory on a windswept hill." It sounds very much like the experience Peter, James, and John had on the Mount of Transfiguration.*

Today's Gospel gives us a splendid preview of Jesus radiant in divine glory, his mortal nature brilliantly, though not permanently, transfigured; a dazzling preview of his divinity, unalloyed and perfectly pure, shining in glory like the very sun.

This was a "sneak preview," in other words, of Easter and of his final coming in glory to take us home, the triumphant climax of the epic love story between God and humanity. †



Are You Called to Lead?

Witnesses to Freedom

Peter and Paul are often seen in the Church as a complementary pair. Peter represents the institutional church, while Paul represents the charismatic or spiritual church. Both are associated with the church in Rome. But what binds them together, above all, is that they were utterly seized by Jesus' message.

The New Testament often portrays Peter as rash and headstrong. One minute he is a paragon of faith; the next, he has completely misunderstood what Jesus wants. He frequently does not seem to get what is going on, and he even denies Jesus when Jesus is about to be executed. And yet, despite his shortcomings and weaknesses, he has a heart for the Lord. He is the Prince of the Apostles, and as the first bishop of Rome, he holds a special place in the hearts of Catholic Christians.

Scripture introduces Paul as a violent persecutor of the first Christians. In fact, he oversees the execution of the man whom the Acts of the Apostles depicts as the first martyr, St. Stephen (Acts 7:58-8:1). He considers



St. Peter

himself a late addition to the Jesus movement, referring to himself as "one untimely born" (1 Cor 15:8). However, following his encounter with Christ near Damascus, he became one of the greatest missionaries in the history of the Church. Like Peter, Paul has a heart for the Lord, and when his spiritual energy is directed to the glory of Jesus

Christ, he is a powerful witness to the kingdom of God. His letters make up the bulk of the New Testament and continue to guide the Church today.

It is a beautiful testimony to the power of God that these two men, whose faults Scripture does not attempt to hide, are key figures in the story of Jesus and



foundational in the development of the Church. Sts. Peter and Paul show us the work of the Holy Spirit, who renews hearts, builds the Church, and testifies to Christ. Peter died in Rome as martyr—on a cross, according to some accounts. Paul suffered for the cause of the Gospel throughout his ministry, writing several letters from prison. He, like Peter, was martyred in Rome.

Imperfect men, seized by the Word of God and set on fire by the Holy Spirit are pillars of our Church and witnesses to freedom in Christ.

Carrying Out the Mission

Before his ascension, Jesus gave his disciples a mandate to spread the Gospel to the entire world. Sts. Peter and Paul are among the greatest examples of this missionary spirit.



St. Paul

Sts. Peter and Paul were chosen by Christ despite their weaknesses. Simon Peter was chosen to be the first pope and the rock upon which Christ would build the Church. Paul of Tarsus, who persecuted the people of

God before his conversion on the way to Damascus, shared the Gospel with the Gentiles and with Christians around the Roman Empire. Both were fervent in their mission that they were martyred for their faith. Their tombs in Rome are some of the most visited pilgrimage sites in the world. By following their example, may we respond with our whole lives to our mission.

For Reflection

Sts. Peter and Paul were called to be the leaders of the early Church, and called others to take on the mantle of leadership. In what ways is God calling you to be a leader – within your family, in society, or in your faith community?

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.

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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 stmonicacd@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 Lent—March 5, 2023

LIVING WITH CONTRASTS

We tend to believe good times will last forever. (Just look at what happened before the Great Recession of 2008.) While it's nice to be optimistic in that respect, we tend to worry that the bad times will last forever as well. The truth is that life is a series of contrasts—mountaintop experiences followed by deep valleys.

This week's Gospel, about the Transfiguration, clearly shows us that we all live amid contrasts. The disciples are so excited by what they have witnessed that they want to build tents to commemorate the event, and then, almost immediately, they are nearly paralyzed by fear. The same is true for us, especially when it comes to our faith. At times we have bright moments when all seems so clear and obvious, and then we begin to experience doubts and uncertainty. Sometimes it even seems as if God himself has withdrawn from us.

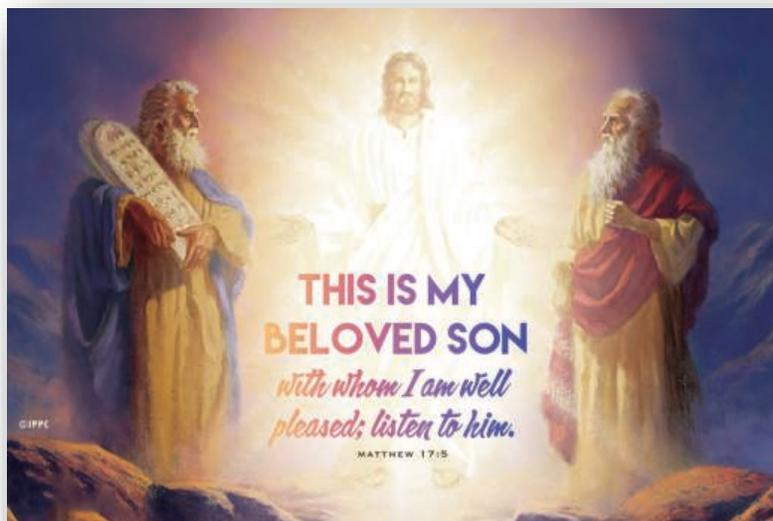
We must not be surprised by these contrasting experiences, but instead we should use this week's reading as preparation for what we will do when the contrasts occur. For us, as for Abraham in the first reading, the disciples, and all who have gone before us in faith, it is only when we listen attentively to God's beloved Son that we will have the courage and grace to deal with all that life is sure to hand us.

PRAYER

Imagine that you are with the disciples when Jesus is transfigured. You see him appear with Moses and Elijah. What goes through your mind as you witness this event? What do you feel? Excitement or fear? How does seeing Jesus in his glory change your idea of who he is? How does it change your life?

RESOLUTION

This week, think about areas of your life that need to be “transfigured” by the power of the Holy Spirit. Choose one, and ask God to help you begin to work on that area for the remaining weeks of Lent. | formed.org



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