

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



FEBRUARY 4, 2024

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
Deacon John L. White

We invite you to celebrate with us

website: www.saintmonica.com
Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Email: parishoffice@saintmonica.com
Fax: (732) 928-1853
Religious Education: 732-928-4038
Email: stmonicacd@yahoo.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
1st Thursdays 7pm
or by appointment

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



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 4, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 3

4:00 pm Frances Perrotta
(Barbara & Joseph Constantine)

Sunday, February 4

9:00 am Edward Coyle
(Carol & Tommy Ammirata)
11:00 am Claire Ahem
(Karen & Marv Badach)

Monday, February 5

9:00 am Ann Dolan (Mary Boyd)

Tuesday, February 6

9:00 am Vonreaden Family
(Petercsak Family)

Wednesday, February 7

9:00 am Eileen Hmielewski (Merwin Family)

Thursday, February 8

9:00 am Shirley Siwec
(Linda Siwec & Family)

Saturday, February 10

4:00 pm Mimma Constantine
(Barbara & Joseph Constantine)

Sunday, February 11

9:00 am James E Deefendorf, III
(Eileen & Jack Fecht)
11:00 am Intentions of the Rookey Family
(Ernie & Barbara Rookey)

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, Frank Diolosa, Theodore Dunyak, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Tripp Ravenfeld, Marie Gould, Christopher Diolosa, Steve Andolora, Doris Garbarino, 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, Patrick Abeel, Robin Trombino, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Eileen Morello, Elaine Stemmler, Tom Martin, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Jennie D'Angelo, Paul Hetteroth, Cheryl Vega, Irene Kislán, Renee Brady, Carol Spezzano, Michael Seiler, Shannon Hubert, Ronald Nuzzola, Ray Kijowski, Nicholas Biddle, Matthew Biddle, Dennis Shwiner

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 4, 2024

Monday, February 5, 2024 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Ps 132:6-7, 8-10 Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11 Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40 Mk 7:14-23

Thursday, February 8, 2024 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40 Mk 7:24-30

Friday, February 9, 2024 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15 Mk 7:31-37

Saturday, February 10, 2024 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22 Mk 8:1-10

Sunday, February 11, 2024 Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 Lk 7:16

SAINT MONICA
2024 Lent & Holy Week
Services



Ash Wednesday, February 14

9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Service
7:00 pm Mass
(Ashes will be distributed at all)

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent: 7:00 pm

Daily Mass

Thursday February 15
Tuesday - Thursday February 20 - 22
Monday - Thursday February 26 - March 21
Monday through Wednesday March 25 - 27
9:00 am

Adoration/Benediction

Wednesday, March 6
following 9:00 am Mass

Lenten Penance Service

Wednesday, March 6
7:00 pm

Adoration/Benediction/Confessions

Thursday, March 7
7:00 pm

Tenebrae Service

Wednesday, March 27
7:00 pm

Holy Thursday, March 28

(No 9:00 am Mass Today)
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 pm
Church remains open for Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament until
10:00 pm

Good Friday, March 29

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord
Holy Communion
Veneration of the Cross
3:00 pm
Stations of the Cross: 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday, March 30

Blessing of Easter Food 11:00 am
(No 4:00 pm Mass)
Easter Vigil Service 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday, March 31

Masses:
9:00 am and 11:00 am

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
CONTRIBUTIONS JAN 15 - 21, 2024**

Total \$5,227.80

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

In honor of World Marriage Day 2024

Fr. Alex will confer a
Blessing of Marriages at all Masses
next weekend, Feb 10 & 11- See Page 5



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St Monica is in need of volunteers to assist with general maintenance of our facilities. If you're handy and available to offer your time and talent periodically on your schedule, please contact Liz Hills in the parish office at 732-928-0279 or parishoffice@saintmonica.com.



Truly, in the Eucharist, he shows us a love which goes "to the end" (cf. Jn 13:1), a love which knows no measure.

Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 11

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE



**SOUPER BOWL
SOUP & CHILI SALE**
February 10 & 11 after all masses
Homemade soups: \$5.00 & \$7.00
Homemade Chili: \$5.00
**Proceeds to benefit
St. Monica Church**

Organized by the Women of St. Monica
For Questions contact Mary Ann
732-740-4785

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 4, 2024



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 23, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead --- from **Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, until Holy Thursday morning, March 28, 2024** --- the Catholic Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent ending with the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. The model Jesus gave us for “these forty days” was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert --- alone, fasting and in intense prayer --- beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those forty days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

1. The days of FAST (only one full meal) and ABSTINENCE (no meat) are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below. ALL OTHER FRIDAYS OF LENT are days of ABSTINENCE.

The pastor of a parish has the faculty to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish and the Diocesan Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.

2. Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include: the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also included in the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.
3. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to FAST (only one full meal) as noted above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to ABSTAIN: this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.
4. The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the intentional failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered a serious matter.
5. The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year --- often called “**Easter duty**” --- for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 17-18, 2024, to Trinity Sunday, May 25-26, 2024**. However, the Church’s law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage all Catholics, especially those who are conscious of serious sin, to go to Confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church.

We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of Penance leading to grace and joy for us all at Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David M. O’Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton

Please refresh your understanding of fasting, abstinence, and sacrifice by reading this notice from our Bishop.

CALENDAR

Saturday, February 3

- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass
- 5:00 pm Sat Choir (Parish Hall)

Sunday, February 4

- 9:00 am Mass
- 11:00 am Mass
- 12:00 pm Women of St. Monica (Little Church)
- 12:15 pm Grief Support Mtg. (Kitchen)

Monday, February 5

- 9:00 am Mass
- 4:30 pm Religious Education
- 6:15 pm Religious Education

Tuesday, February 6

- 9:00 am Mass
- 5:30 om Religious Education
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir
- 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)

Wednesday, February 7

- 9:00 am Mass
- 9:30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, February 8

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am Funeral
- 7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Saturday, February 10

- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass/Marriage Blessing

Sunday, February 11

- 9:00 am Mass /Marriage Blessing
- 11:00 am Mass /Marriage Blessing
- 12:15 pm Grief Support Mtg. (LC)

Monday, February 12

- 9:00 am Mass
- 4:30 pm Religious Education
- 6:15 pm Religious Education

Tuesday, February 13

- 9:00 am Mass
- 5:30 om Religious Education
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir
- 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)

Wednesday, February 14

- Ash Wednesday
- 9:00 am Mass with Ashes
- 4:30 pm Service with Ashes
- 7:00 pm Mass with Ashes

MARRIAGE DAY & MARRIAGE WEEK

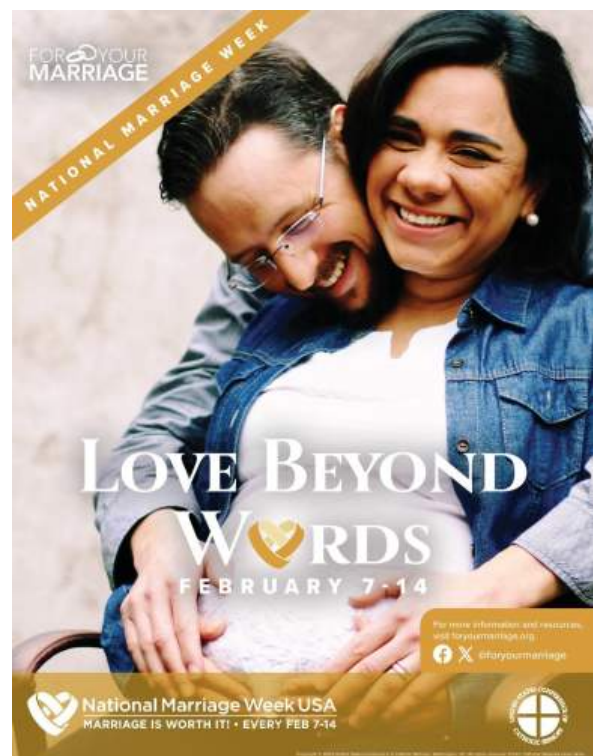
The Beauty of Catholic Marriage

This year *World Marriage Day* is being celebrated on Sunday, Feb. 11th, and *National Marriage Week* is from February 7th to the 14th.

Catholic Marriage is unique among other marital relationships because it is a sacrament that makes Christ present in our world. The relationship between husband and wife mirrors the relationship of Jesus Christ for his people.

Pope Francis says, “Married love clearly reveals that the vocation of the human person is to love one other person forever and that the trials, sacrifices and crises in the life of the couple or the family are stages for growth in goodness, truth and beauty.”

There will be a blessing for all married couples at every Mass next weekend, Feb. 10 & 11. Please join us.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 4, 2024



27th Annual

CATHOLIC MEN FOR JESUS CHRIST CONFERENCE



Join Us

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023 | 8 AM - 3 PM

Doors open at 8 AM for bagels and coffee; Lunch also included

ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH | 19 CHERRY TREE FARM ROAD | MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748

Check out this great line-up of speakers!



Joe Klecko

New York Jets NFL Hall of Famer is an American former professional football player who was a defensive lineman in the National Football League (NFL), primarily with the New York Jets and was a member of the Jets' famed "New York Sack Exchange". He also appeared on EWTN Life On The Rock show. He is a member of Catholic Athletes for Christ and speaks on the subject of manhood and faith. Klecko was a guest on Blessed2Play hosted by Ron Meyer where he talked about his Catholic faith and career in the NFL.



Bishop David M. O'Connell, CM

We are pleased to have our Bishop, the Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, return as the presider and homilist for celebration of the Holy Mass.



Tim Glemkowski

Catholic Evangelist

Tim Glemkowski is the CEO of the National Eucharistic Congress. Previously, he served in the Archbishop's Office for the Archdiocese of Denver as the Director of Strategy, helping to set up the archdiocese for a time of apostolic mission. Tim authored Made for Mission: Renewing Your Parish Culture, which was released in Fall 2019 through Our Sunday Visitor. He is an international speaker who has also consulted for many organizations, dioceses, and parishes. His writing has appeared in numerous print and web-based theological and catechetical publications. Tim and his wife, Maggie, live in Littleton, CO with their four young children.



Xavier Reyes-Ayral

Speaker, Author, Evangelist

Best selling author of, "Revelations - the hidden secret messages and prophesies of the Blessed Virgin Mary," along with being a nationally sought after podcast guest and speaker. He studied eight years in France under the Churches world renown expert and theologian on Mariology, Fr. René Laurentin. He's a 4th degree Knight of Columbus and Grand Knight, but, most of all, a devoted husband, father and Catholic Man for Christ and His Church.

YOUNG MEN'S TRACK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CATHOLIC ATHLETES FOR CHRIST

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Hosted by Joe Klecko and Dan Duddy!

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Order tickets at CatholicMenForJesusChrist.org or send your check with a self-addressed envelope to: Catholic Men For Jesus Christ PO Box 266 Clarksburg NJ 08510

The Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

National Marriage Week

February 7 - 14

This year's theme is "Love One Another."

This is a wonderful opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family.

This week we pray for all married and engaged couples, that they may strive daily to faithfully and lovingly live out their marriage vows, bearing witness to the love God has for each of us.



International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

February 8, 2024

With encouragement from Pope Francis, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General designated February 8th as an annual day of

prayer, reflection, and action against human trafficking. On this day, we remember and pray for survivors and victims of modern-day slavery. We pray that we may work together to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge that is present in all our cities and neighborhoods.



February 8th is also the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita. Born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869, St. Bakhita was kidnapped and enslaved as a child. Eventually she was sold to an Italian diplomat and taken to Italy, where she valiantly asserted her freedom with the help of the Cannossian Sisters of Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit. She lived out the rest of her life as a Cannossian sister, sharing her empowering testimony of human freedom and dignity. In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita, noting that in this saint, "we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation."

World Day for the Sick

February 11, 2024

We pray for all those suffering from illness, especially those whose health has been impacted by the Coronavirus. We also pray for their caregivers and family members.

A NIGHT OF WORSHIP

PRAISE & WORSHIP
ADORATION
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A CONCERT

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NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

“This Is My Body”
THE SHOCKING TRUTH

Jesus said, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.” This teaching was so shocking that many of his followers left at that moment! Jesus did not call them back to clarify, because he knew they understood correctly. He was actually telling them to eat his flesh and drink his blood.

As Catholics, we believe Jesus’ words literally, not symbolically. The substance of the bread and wine transform into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ at every Mass. We call this miracle the Eucharist.

Scan to explore Church teaching on the Eucharist! eucharisticrevival.org

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABORTION

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats

The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep, and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms.

It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child, and friends of the mother.

You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear. Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats are a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and men experience the mercy and compassion of God.

If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one of our retreat weekends.

For more information, contact Judy
Warenkiewicz at 732-536-6871.
All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Rachel's VINEYARD
Healing the pain of abortion - one weekend at a time

In the midst of the darkness
of this world, lean in to the
Lord with all your strength.
Let Him guide you.

The Eucharist - St Monica**Masses & Reconciliation**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am--3:30 pm

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am

Holy Days As Noted

Reconciliation -Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 pm
 -1st Thursday of the month 7:00 pm
 -or by appt.

Exposition of the Holy Sacrament &**Benediction**

1st Wednesday of each month 9:30 am

1st Thursday of each month 7:00 pm with

Confessions

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 Deacon John White 848-992-1652 or dcnjohnw@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

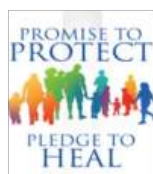
Children are expected to receive a Catholic-Christian upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to participate in ongoing Religious Education classes. Our program includes grades 1-8. Please contact Karen Badach, Coordinator of Religious Education 732-928-4038 or stmonicaccd@yahoo.com

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.



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 someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at: abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org

Reflections on the Readings for 5th Week in Ordinary Time — February 4, 2024

COMFORT, COMFORT MY PEOPLE

There are times when the Scripture readings seem to completely contradict each other. Today we hear Job's deep lament of his sufferings from the Old Testament, while in the New Testament we read about Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law and the whole town of Capernaum. The first addresses profound suffering, while the second is a story of abundant healing.

This apparent contradiction draws us into one of the great mysteries of life—the meaning of suffering. How can a good God allow evil? If God desires to heal us, why does he let us suffer? The answers to these questions Christ fully discloses on the Cross. Today we will ponder this mystery briefly, but these are questions we wrestle with throughout our lives as we wait for Heaven where “every tear will be wiped away.”

Though we may never fully understand suffering, we can be certain that God desires to heal us and bring value into our suffering. He sent us his only Son to suffer and die for our salvation, and through this mystery we can glimpse how suffering can make us more like him. But we first need to ask for him to heal us in our suffering. We see Jesus beginning that work today in the little town of Capernaum, and he longs to continue that same work in each of our lives.

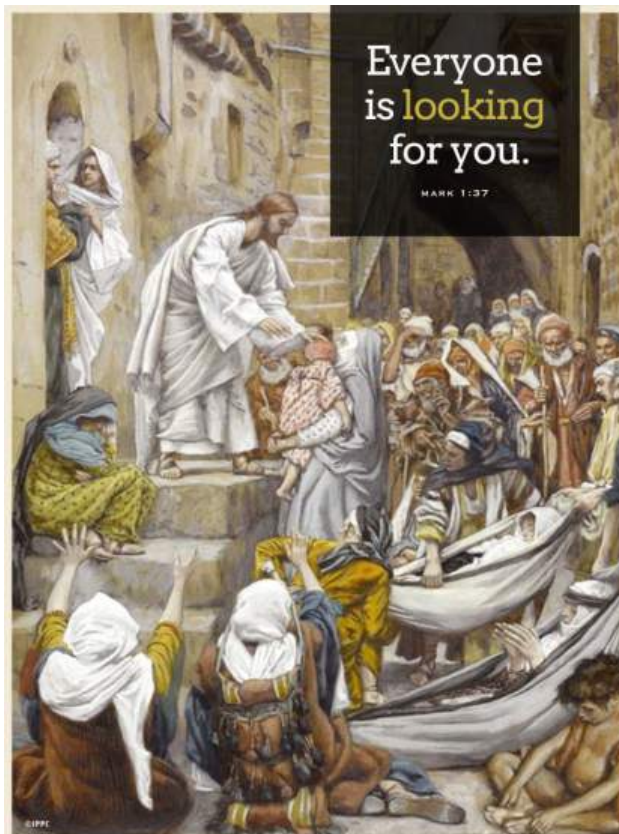
PRAYER

Let's reflect on these words from the Gospel reading from today. Call to mind the scene of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law. Then imagine the whole town coming to his doorstep with all of their needs for healing. What needs do you need to bring to the Lord in your own life?

Take a word that comes to mind and reflect for a moment on what it means to you personally. For example, you might have been attracted to the words, “He approached.” Ask yourself what they mean in your own life. How do you feel when you imagine Jesus approaching you? Do you trust him? Do you want him to approach you in this place? How can you allow him to approach you in the places you desire healing?

RESOLUTION

St. Therese of Lisieux said, “For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.” Ask God today to teach you to pray. Ask him to help you turn towards Heaven with a cry of love throughout your day. What practical thing can you do this week to look towards God and let him approach you in his great love? | formed.org



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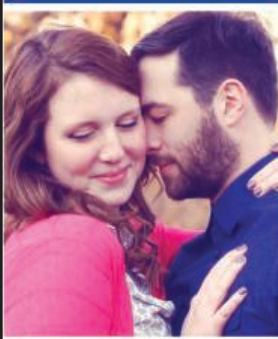


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Deacon Christopher Buono, Manager

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