

# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



**FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

*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](http://www.saintmonica.com)

Parish Office: 732-928-0279

Email: [parishoffice@saintmonica.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintmonica.com)

Fax: (732) 928-1853

Religious Education: 732-928-4038

Email: [stmonicacd@yahoo.com](mailto: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/)

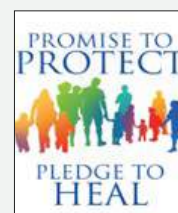
*Masses*

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway  
Jackson, NJ 08527



## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - FEBRUARY 18, 2024

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, February 17

4:00 pm Robert & Luke Noble, Jr  
(Mary & Robert Kelley)

#### Sunday, February 18

9:00 am Edward Coyle  
(Denis & Dee Balint)

11:00 am William Carragher, Jr  
(Marie Gould)

#### Monday, February 19

9:00 am No Mass

#### Tuesday, February 20

9:00 am Diana Black (Lou & Julie Holman)

#### Wednesday, February 21

9:00 am Domenick DiCicco (Janet Noordzy)

#### Thursday, February 22

9:00 am Elizabeth Scott (Kate Scott)

#### Saturday, February 24

4:00 pm Judy Giblin  
(The Bulger Girls)

#### Sunday, February 25

9:00 am Eileen Hmielewski  
(St Monica)

11:00 am Camey Falcone  
(Tommy & Carol Ammirata)

*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, 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, 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, Bob Dushanek

*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 18, 2024

**Monday, February 19, 2024** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024** Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024** Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday, February 22, 2024** 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 Mt 16:13-19

**Friday, February 23, 2024** Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday, February 24, 2024** Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

**Sunday, February 25, 2024** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10

Upcoming Lent & Holy Week Services



**Stations of the Cross**  
Fridays during Lent: 7:00 pm

**Daily Mass**  
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 COLLECTIONS  
JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

Total \$5,724.00

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

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

On Mon., February 19 there will be no 9:00 a.m. Mass  
Parish Offices will be closed.

~ ~ ~

On Mon., February 19 & Tues., February 20 there will be no Religious Education classes.



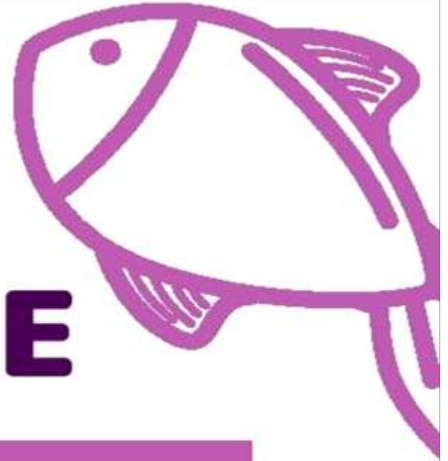
**Fridays in Lent  
7:00 p.m.**

- February 23:** Led by Adult Faith Formation Team
- March 1:** Led by Deacon John White
- March 8:** Led by Youth Group
- March 15:** Led by Women of St. Monica
- March 22:** Led by Fr. Alex Enriquez

**Lost & Found**

Are you missing something? We have accumulated a number of items. Claim yours from the table at the back of the church. Anything left unclaimed will be donated on March 1.

# LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



## Fasting

Ash Wednesday  
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

## Abstinence

Every Friday  
during Lent

Ages 14+

## How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

## Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the **physically or mentally ill** including individuals suffering from **chronic illnesses** such as **diabetes**. Also excluded are **pregnant or nursing women**.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).





**CALENDAR**

**Saturday, February 17**

- 10:00 am Baptism
- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, February 18**

- 9:00 am Mass
- 11:00 am Children's Mass
- 12:15 pm Grief Support Mtg. (LC)

**Monday, February 19**

- Parish Offices Closed
- No 9:00 am Mass
- No Religious Education

**Tuesday, February 20**

- No Religious Education
- 9:00 am Mass
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir
- 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)

**Wednesday, February 21**

- 9:00 am Mass
- 5:00 pm 1st Reconciliation Practice

**Thursday, February 22**

- 9:00 am Mass
- 6:00 pm First Reconciliation

**Friday, February 23**

- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, February 24**

- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, February 25**

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

**Monday, February 26**

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

**Tuesday, February 27**

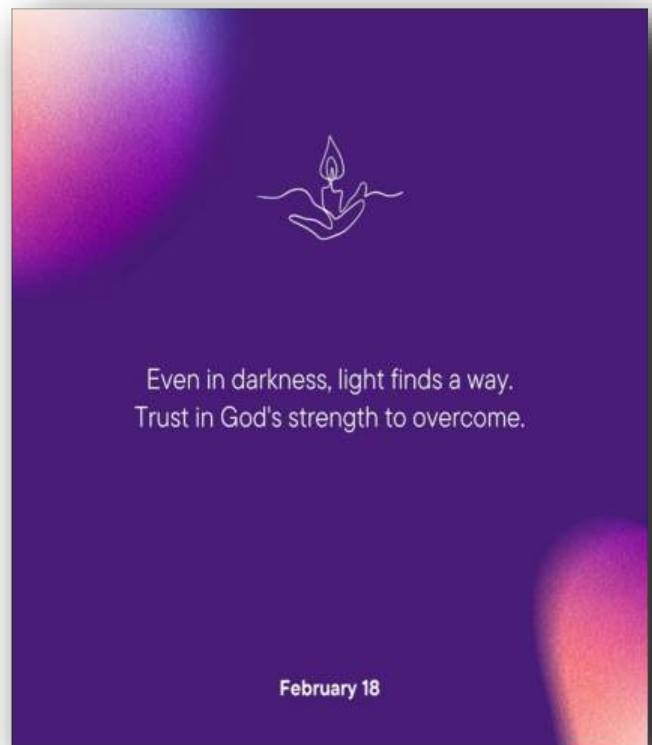
- 9:00 am Mass
- 5:30 om Religious Education
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir
- 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Kitchen)
- 7:30 pm K of C Officer Meeting (LC)

**Wednesday, February 28**

- 9:00 am Mass

**Thursday, February 29**

- 9:00 am Mass





## Eucharistic Prayer Companion for the Lenten Season & Sacred Triduum

These Eucharistic Meditations are designed to help you spend 30 minutes to an hour in meditation and silent prayer with Jesus during Eucharistic adoration. Even if you cannot be physically present in a church or adoration chapel with the Blessed Sacrament, you can unite yourself spiritually to the Eucharist as you spend this time in prayer.

Each Eucharistic Meditation will follow this format:

- ✦ Begin with the opening prayers, asking Jesus for the grace of that week. This prayer is intended to help us learn how to seek a gift from God in prayer.
- ✦ Pray with the Scripture passage provided. Be open to this encounter with Jesus.
  - ◆ Read that week's passage, usually from the Old Testament, 3–4 times slowly. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.
  - ◆ Sit with a series of reflection questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.
  - ◆ Read the next passage, usually from the Gospels, 3–4 times slowly. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you personally through this passage.
  - ◆ Spend time in silence with the Lord using the next reflection question. Allow him to speak to your heart in that silence. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.
- ✦ Pray the Closing Prayer, usually taken from the Collect for Mass.
- ✦ Reflect on the liturgical connection and *Love in Action* prompt each week.

Thank you for praying with us as we seek to spend time with our Eucharistic Lord.



## First Sunday of Lent: Turning Towards Jesus



**WORK OF MERCY:** Admonish the Sinner

**THE GRACE I SEEK:** to turn away from sin towards Jesus

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**

*Pause for a few moments, and allow yourself to become aware of Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist. Realize that, at this very moment, the Lord of Life is gazing upon you with great love. Allow yourself to receive his loving gaze. You are his beloved child. Rest in his loving gaze.*

*Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.*

**ASK FOR THE GRACE:** Jesus, help me to turn away from any sin in my life.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3–4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

**"Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit." (1 Peter 3:18)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.

During this time of Lent, Jesus is inviting us to root out sin in our lives as the first step in cultivating a culture that does not accept sin. What is one area of sin you are struggling with right now? Be concrete and specific. Give this struggle to Christ on the Cross so that he can put it to death.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3–4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through this passage.

**"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: 'This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.'" (Mark 1:14–15)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.

Repenting of sin—turning away from what distracts us from Jesus—is only half the battle. We must also make an effort to build a culture that does not accept sin. We must cast aside sinful alliance and learn to walk together with Christ. How is the Lord calling you to support others in humility as they learn to walk more closely with him? Ask him who in your life he is calling you to assist in seeking out his merciful love.

*Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.*

**CLOSING PRAYER** — Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, First Sunday of Lent)

**SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION** — At every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, offer your desire to turn away from a specific sin and focus your attention more fully on Jesus. Joining your sacrifice to his, consider praying for all those in the world who struggle with your same area of sin and are not repentant.

**LOVE IN ACTION** — In the Gospel reading above, Jesus asks us to "repent, and believe in the gospel." To believe in the Gospel message more deeply, we must immerse ourselves in the actual reading of the Gospels. Consider giving yourself a Lenten challenge to read from the Gospels for a set amount of time each day, even if it is only five minutes. Allow that prayerful reading of the Gospels to help you turn away from sin, and encourage others to do the same.



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - FEBRUARY 18, 2024



27th Annual

# CATHOLIC MEN FOR JESUS CHRIST CONFERENCE



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

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## 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 prophecies 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.

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



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

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

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 &amp; 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)

## Reflections on the Readings for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent - February 18, 2024

### REPENT AND BELIEVE

Do you ever have the experience of hearing one of the stories from the Gospels for the hundredth time and suddenly realizing how strange it is? Often, we have heard these stories since we were children, and they can go in one ear and out the other without much notice. We can go our whole life without realizing how strange Jesus really was.

This Sunday we have one such Gospel reading. Every Lent we hear this story of Jesus going to the desert for forty days to be tempted by Satan. But isn't this an odd thing for Jesus to do? Why would he intentionally go out into the desert like this?

In her wisdom, the Church gives us this reading at the beginning of Lent because Jesus is giving us an example of what the season of Lent is meant to be for us. Lent is a time to remember the reality of our life on earth. In the way that Lent prepares us for Easter, our life on earth is meant to prepare us for heaven – the eternal Easter. We are battling against evil in the desert of this world, with the hope of the resurrection on the other side. Lent draws us into this reality and prepares us for this battle.

### PRAYER

Consider the Gospel story for today. Imagine Jesus's life for those forty days, and his love for you that drove him into the desert in the first place. Then think of the moment when he emerged and began to announce his Kingdom was at hand.

Take a word that comes to mind and reflect a moment on what it means to you personally. For example, you might have been drawn to the words, "Repent, and believe in the gospel." Ask yourself what they mean in your own life. How is Jesus calling you to repentance this Lent so that you can believe more deeply that the Kingdom of God is here?

### RESOLUTION

It takes courage to admit our sins and our weaknesses. We long so deeply to be loved, and we are often afraid that our imperfections make us unlovable. This fear often prevents us from admitting our sins, keeping us enslaved to Satan and our hearts closed off from the Lord's mercy.

Recall Jesus's words to St. Faustina, "Always fight with the deep conviction that I am with you." When we remember that God is with us in our fight against sin, and that he will always love us, repentance becomes effortless. His "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). This week, call to mind the sins and weaknesses that you are ashamed to show even to God. Try to fight with the deep conviction that he is with you, and bring these things to the confessional with true repentance in your heart. Be sure to pay attention to the faith that grows in your heart as you repent. | [formed.org](https://formed.org)



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**Timothy E. Ryan, Founder (1951-2019)**

**Mark L. Sarin, Senior Director NJ Lic. No. 4134**

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