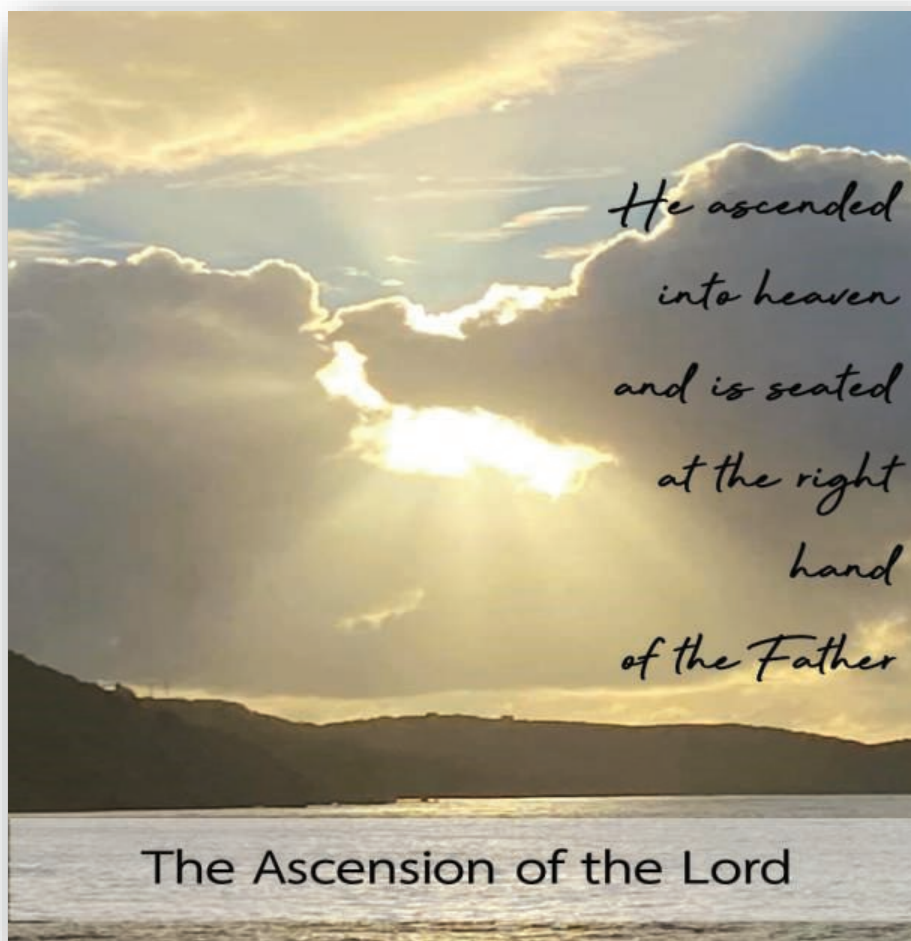


# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



**MAY 12, 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)**

*Confessions*

Saturdays

3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

1st Thursdays 7pm

or by appointment

Facebook:

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

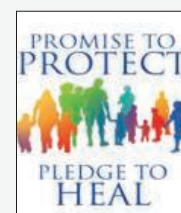
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*Masses*  
Mon. to Thurs. 9 am  
Saturday 4 pm  
Sunday 9 am & 11 am

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Jackson, NJ 08527



*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.*



**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - MAY 12, 2024**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, May 11**

4:00 pm Mother's Day Intentions

**Sunday, May 12**

9:00 am Mother's Day Intentions

11:00 am Mother's Day Intentions

**Monday, May 13**

9:00 am Lucy Piacentino (Piacentino Family)

**Tuesday, May 14**

9:00 am Intentions of Linda Piacentino  
(Rich Piacentino)

**Wednesday, May 15**

9:00 am Margaret Anderson  
(Piacentino Family)

**Thursday, May 16**

9:00 am Parishioners (St Monica)

**Saturday, May 18**

4:00 pm Sylvester Cascio & Joseph Anzalone  
(Anzalone Family)

**Sunday, May 19**

9:00 am Erika Sanyigo  
(Holly & Raymond Pietrucha)

11:00 am Sophie Bove  
(Edward & Elizabeth Schultz)

*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, Dianne Smith, Frank Diolosa, Theodore Dunyak, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, 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, 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, Laura Stoyer, Ruth Biele

*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 - May 13, 2024**

**Monday, May 13, 2024** Acts 19:1-8 Ps 68:2-3b, 4-5acd, 6-7b Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ps 113:1-8 Jn 15:9-17

**Wednesday, May 15, 2024** Acts 20:28-38 Ps 68:29-30, 33-36 Jn 17:11b-19

**Thursday, May 16, 2024** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Jn 17:20-26

**Friday, May 17, 2024** Acts 25:13b-21 Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday, May 18, 2024** Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b Ps 104:1-2a, 24, 35c, 27-28, 29bc-30  
Rom 8:22-27 Jn 7:37-39

**Sunday, May 19, 2024** Acts 2:1-11 Ps 104:1,24,29-30,31,34 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 Jn 20:19-23

**2024 MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE**

Once again members of St. Monica's Youth Group will be offering for sale beautiful 10" hanging baskets and potted plants on Mother's Day Weekend. Come on out and enjoy these beautiful plants that are suitable for all your gift giving needs! There will be lots of colors and arrangements to choose from after and between all Masses on Mother's Day weekend, May 12.

*Cash and checks made payable to St. Monica* will be accepted. For info or any questions, please contact Theresa Calsetta at 732-299-0261.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GRATITUDE**

Thank you to Karen Badach, our Catechists, and all our volunteers for their time, effort, and sacrifice they have freely given this program year. You showed by example what it means to be faithful Catholics, and the parish community says a grateful

**Thanks!!**

Many thanks and much appreciation to our Knights of Columbus for setting up and breaking down our religious education classrooms throughout the year. For your ongoing dedication to faithfully helping our parish, the parish community says

**Thanks!!**

*May the Lord reward you  
with many blessings.*

*Thank  
You*

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS  
APRIL 22 - 28, 2024**

Total \$4,742.60

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

St Vincent de Paul \$ 416.00

**PRAYER FOR MOTHERS**

*For all mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, and mother-like figures in our lives, may God bless them abundantly, we pray to the Lord.*

*For all those longing to be mothers, may You console them through their hard times and bless them with the gift of conception, we pray to the Lord.*

*That government leaders make good decisions to support mothers at all stages of motherhood, we pray to the Lord.*

*May we be inspired by Mary Our Mother to journey with Jesus, in good times and in challenging times, we pray to the Lord.  
Amen.*







## The Seventh Sunday of Easter The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

MAY 12, 2024

### Happy Mother's Day!

We wish all our mothers a happy and healthy Mother's Day!

Loving God,  
as a mother gives life and nourishment  
to her children,  
so you watch over your Church.  
Bless our mother.  
Let the example of her faith and love shine forth.  
Grant that we, her family,  
may honor her always  
with a spirit of profound respect.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



### Our Lady of Fatima

We celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13.



Mary appeared to three peasant children near Fatima, Portugal, six times between May 13 and October 13, 1917, and asked for prayers for world peace and an end to World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia. She entrusted the children with three secrets, regarding devotion to her Immaculate Heart, a vision of hell, and a "bishop in white" shot by soldiers firing bullets and arrows. Many connect the third secret to the attempted assassination of Blessed Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981, and the pope thanked Mary for guiding the bullet and saving him. At the Vatican, Pope Francis has stood before the statue of Our Lady from the Fatima shrine and formally entrusted the world to Mary.

**CALENDAR**

**Saturday, May 11**

Ascension of Our Lord  
 Mother's Day Flower Sale  
 12:00 pm Outdoor Rosary  
 3:15 pm Confessions  
 4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, May 12**

Ascension of Our Lord  
 Mother's Day Flower Sale  
 9:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Mass  
 1:30 pm Wedding

**Monday, May 13**

9:00 am Mass

**Tuesday, May 14**

9:00 am Mass  
 7:00 pm Adult Choir  
 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)

**Wednesday, May 15**

9:00 am Mass  
 7:00 pm Finance Cmte Mtg (Little Church)

**Thursday, May 16**

9:00 am Mass  
 7:00 pm Men's Prayer Group (Church)

**Saturday, May 18**

Pentecost  
 3:15 pm Confessions  
 4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, May 19**

Pentecost  
 9:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Mass

**Monday, May 20**

9:00 am Mass

**Tuesday, May 21**

9:00 am Mass  
 7:00 pm Adult Choir  
 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)

**Wednesday, May 22**

9:00 am Mass

**Thursday, May 23**

9:00 am Mass  
 7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Parish Hall)  
 11:00 am Mass



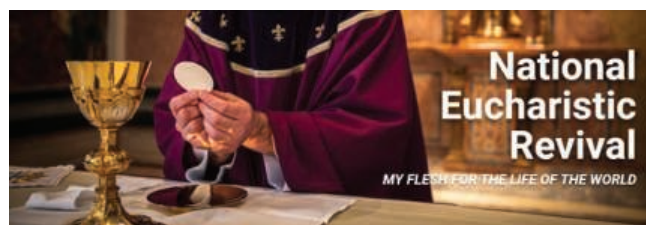
NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
 Pilgrimage**

**AN HISTORIC JOURNEY**

Throughout the National Eucharistic Revival, local communities are gathering tinder in response to God's invitation for renewal, calling on the Holy Spirit to bring the flame.

In keeping with this vision, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will accompany Jesus from city to city, lighting hearts on fire along the way. Then, at the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024, all these flames will blaze together.

**Explore the interactive map below** to follow the four routes across the United States and register for one of the many free events coming to an area near you!







# Ascension of The Lord

*So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them,  
was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right  
hand of God.*

*Mark 16:19*



## The Ascension of the Lord: Moving from Fear to Love



**THE GRACE I SEEK:** to rise above my insecurities about proclaiming the Gospel to a world so much in need of God's love

**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 fearlessly proclaim the Gospel to the world.

**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.

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight." (Acts 1:8–9)**

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

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he did not abandon us! He promised to give us his Spirit so that we could boldly share in his saving mission. How can I be more faithful in my discipleship today, asking for the grace to overcome fears that may hold me back? How might our Lord be calling me to walk by faith rather than sight to be his instrument in new ways?

**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.

**"Jesus said to his disciples: 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.'" (Mark 16:15–16)**

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

Jesus' "Great Commission" is clear: go forth, preach, teach, and baptize! Ask Jesus to help you identify a place in your life—your workplace, your neighborhood, even within the walls of your home—that needs the Gospel. How can you witness to the Kingdom in that place in an authentic way? Consider in a special way the welfare of the most vulnerable—including the unborn and the elderly—who are often forgotten and yet are so close to the heart of God.

*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** — Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. 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, Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord)

**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 radiate the light of the Gospel. Ask for a deepening of the grace to be Jesus' light for others.

**LOVE IN ACTION** — Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify one person in your life that most needs to hear the Good News of God's love and mercy, then find a way to be a witness of his love and mercy for them, either in person or in writing.



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - MAY 12, 2024



### FIX IT PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Fix It Program** volunteers assist residents of Ocean County who are 60 years of age or older by performing minor home repairs, which if neglected would adversely affect their health and/or safety. The program's dedicated volunteers provide all services **FREE** of charge. However, residents must pay for materials. The **Fix It Program** is made possible through grants from the Ocean County Office of Senior Services and is registered with the Volunteer Center of Ocean County. This is a great opportunity for both skilled and unskilled volunteers to give back to their communities and help seniors maintain independence in their homes.

### TYPES OF SERVICES **FIX IT** VOLUNTEERS PERFORM

- Install grab bars and safety hand rails
- Repair minor electrical problems (such as faulty light switches)
- Do minor carpentry repairs
- Do minor plumbing (such as leaky faucets and running toilets)
- Change storm windows and doors
- Weather stripping and caulking
- Replace batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Change light bulbs
- Change furnace filters and air conditioner filters
- Install curtain and drapery hardware
- Fix small appliances
- Perform seasonal outside jobs

Please contact:

Judy Minetree

**Fix-It** Program Coordinator

Catholic Charities Diocese of Trenton

725 Mantoloking Road, Brick, NJ 08723 - 732-363-5322 x3234

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Sunday, May 19, 2024 - 4:00 PM

Sacred Heart Church, 343 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ

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After the Rain - Sarah Quartel

Earth Song - Frank Ticheli



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

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 &amp; 11:00 am

Holy Days As NotedReconciliation 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 - Thursday 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**

Did you know that the Founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Michael McGivney, was also a heck of a ballplayer. He paved the way for a long history of baseball players who would join the Knights, including Connie Mac Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio. Catholic gentlemen 18 years and older can join online. Use Promo Code BlessedMcGivney for one year of free membership. Our local Council is #11529.

**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 [stmonicacd@yahoo.com](mailto: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 conducting fundraisers throughout the year and enhancing 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)

## *Reflection on the Readings for the Ascension of the Lord – May 12, 2024*

### THE GREAT COMMISSION

This Sunday we are presented with a Gospel reading that should deeply challenge us. These are readings that remind us of who we really are—disciples of Jesus Christ. We are not only his friends, called to stay near to him, but we are also his missionaries, called to go out and to spread his Good News.

Not only are we sent out to share the Word, but Jesus says that we will even perform signs in his name. When we read words like this from Jesus, there's usually a small voice inside of us that says, "That was back then, but stuff like that doesn't happen now." But that voice is not from the Lord. In the scripture today, our Lord clearly calls us to have faith and says that those who believe in his name will be accompanied by miraculous signs.

So we have to ask ourselves, what does it really mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Does our Church today look like the lives of the early Christians who healed the sick, raised the dead, and cast out demons? Do we really believe that even though Jesus Christ ascended, he is alive in us and can work with us to proclaim the gospel?

### PRAYER

Let's return to the Gospel story for today. Put yourself into the place of a disciple who is hearing these words from Jesus. Imagine that he is speaking them to you, and then you see him ascend into Heaven. What are the things that stir in your heart? Are you fearful, excited, anxious, despairing, joyful, etc.? Do you believe the words that he said? Do you trust that he will still be with you somehow?

Take the word that comes to mind and reflect on what it means to you personally. For example, the phrase "the Lord worked with them" might have stuck out to you. Ask yourself what this means in your own life. Is the Lord trying to assure you that he desires to work with you when he sends you out? Or perhaps reminding you that it was he working with you that accomplished things that you have already done in your life for his kingdom?

### RESOLUTION

To live the Gospel we have to respond to the Great Commission from Jesus. This is the proposition he makes to every one of his disciples— follow me, go out to all the world and tell the Good News with me! This can seem terrifying, but in reality it is just more Good News. God not only wants to love us, he wants to love others through us. He wants to invite us to be intimately wrapped up in his plan for the salvation of souls. And if we truly get in touch with the deepest desires of our hearts, we realize that this is the life we truly long for. The Church teaches us this truth in *Guadium et Spes*: "Man...cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." | [formed.org](http://formed.org)





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732-597-3832  
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**Ellen Bollinger**

[ebollinger@jppc.net](mailto:ebollinger@jppc.net) (917) 488-2035



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