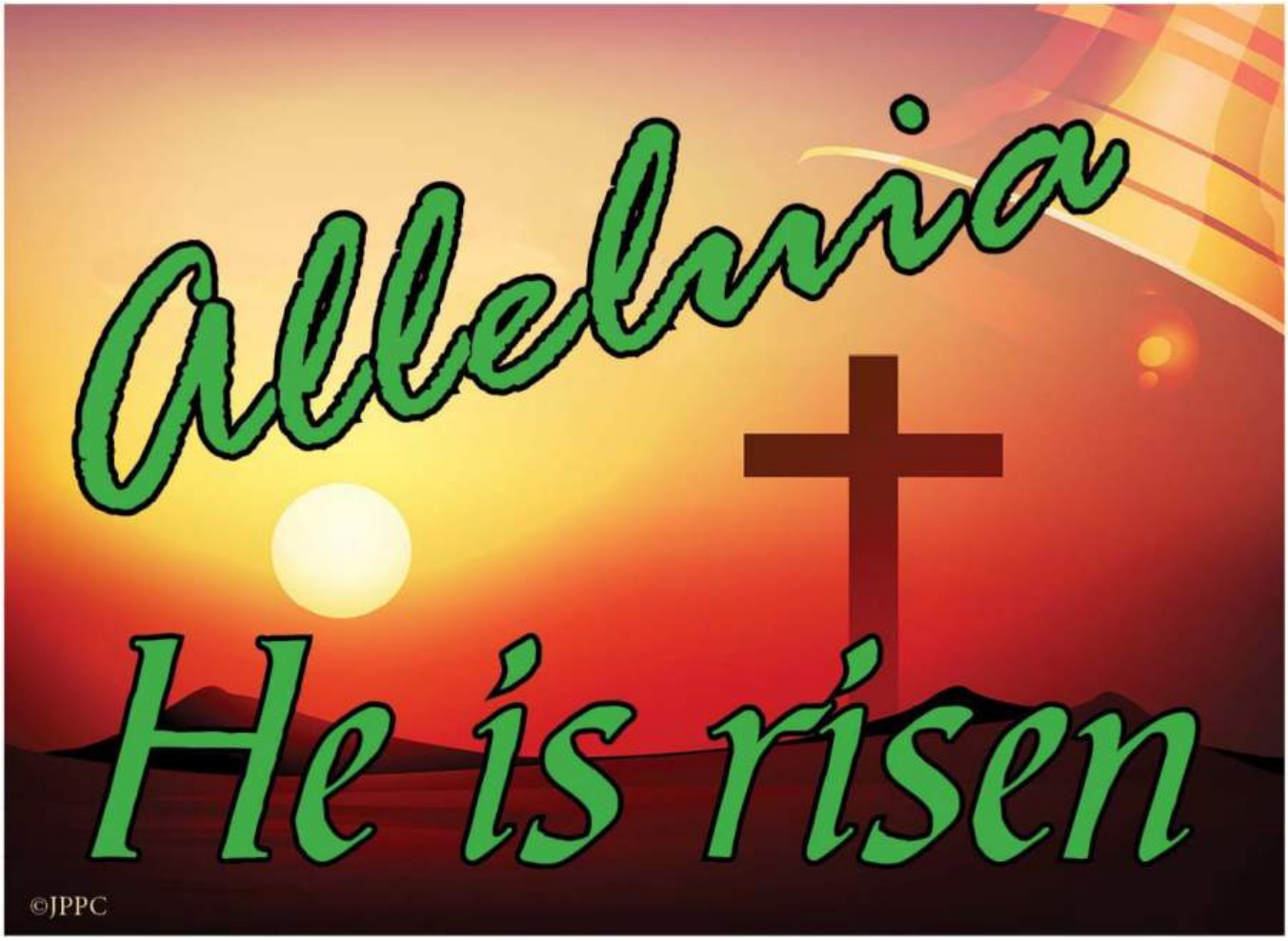
Church of Saint Monica



March 31, 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
Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Email: parishoffice@saintmonica.com
Fax: (732) 928-1853
Religious Education:732-928-4038
Email: stmonicaccd@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.

Masses

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

679 W. Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527

Confessions

Saturdays
3:15 pm
to 3:45 pm
1st Thursdays 7pm
or by appointment

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord - March 31, 2024

Mass Intentions

Holy Saturday, March 30
8:00 pm Easter Mass Remembrance Intentions

Easter Sunday, March 31
9:00 am Easter Mass Remembrance Intentions
11:00 am Easter Mass Remembrance Intentions

Monday, April 1
9:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, April 2
9:00 am Edward & Janet Cullen (Piacentino Family)

Wednesday, April 3
9:00 am Rita Vitiello (Josephine Frulio)

Thursday, April 4
9:00 am Pasquale Fallone (Gerarda Fallone)

Saturday, April 6
4:00 pm Michael DeLuca (Calsetta Family)

Sunday, April 7
9:00 am Irene Glad (Bereavement Ministry)
11:00 am Maria Delio Rudnick (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, 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 Stemmle, Tom Martin, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Jennie D'Angelo, Paul Hetteroth, Cheryl Vega, Irene Kislan, 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 – March 31, 2024

Monday, April 1, 2024 Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday, April 2, 2024 Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:13-35
Thursday, April 4, 2024 Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:35-48
Friday, April 5, 2024 Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a Jn 21:1-14
Saturday, April 6, 2024 Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 Mk 16:9-15
Sunday, April 7, 2024 Acts 4:32-35 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31

Pastor's Message for Easter 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Happy Easter!

Thank you for your presence and prayers as we celebrate this special feast. I especially extend a warm welcome to anyone who is visiting with us from other places or faith backgrounds. As we gather today on this holy day, we celebrate the beautiful gift of life with which God has blessed each of us. If you are with us today but do not worship with our community on a regular basis, I welcome you home to the Catholic Church and extend an invitation to visit with one of the Deacons or Staff to answer any questions you may have about our faith. We are here to serve you and to guide you in the journey of the beauty of our faith.

If you or a loved one would ever like more information about becoming Catholic, please feel free to speak with one of the Deacons or Faith Formation Staff. We look forward to walking with you on your journey of faith.

Easter calls us to promote with renewed vigor the sanctity of human life with grateful and joyful hearts. Easter calls us to move beyond the tomb with the conviction to share the good news of the Resurrection with one another. Easter calls us to courageously follow Jesus Christ, the risen one, and to boldly proclaim that out of darkness and suffering comes new life. This Easter let us rise up to meet our society with the witness of our faith.

It is my hope that in this coming year we discover new ways to share this Easter faith, the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. I pray that you and your loved ones have a blessed Easter! When you come before the Lord, please pray for me, for our Deacons, for our Staff, and for our Parishioners. Know that we will pray for you, your loved ones, and your intentions. We may not see each other each day but let us meet each other daily in our prayers!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. Alexander Enriquez, Pastor

Financial Stewardship Collections
March 11 - 17, 2024

Total $4,585.78

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

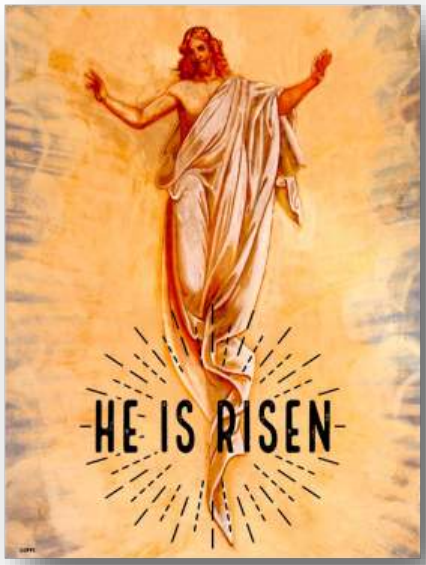
Knights of Columbus

St Monica Pancake Breakfast

Save the date: Saturday, April 6th

The Knights of Columbus will be cooking up a storm to raise money for our Church. Specifically, for components for our sound system. Breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice, and coffee. At $5 per head, you can't beat it.

Tickets are available on a first-come first-serve basis, and we recommend you buy your tickets early. Tickets will be available after all Masses March 23 & 24. Breakfast will be served in our parish hall 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. For questions, please contact Dennis Gibson at 732-814-0851



NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

SOCIAL MEDIA

"Are you Going?"

Parishes from every corner in our nation will gather at the feet of Jesus, boldly anticipating a new Pentecost in Indianapolis at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. Your life—and our Church—will never be the same. Get your pass at https://eucharisticcongress.org
#NationalEucharisticCongress #EucharisticRevival

K of C Founder's Day

Are you ready for the baseball season? Did you know that the Founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Michael McGivney, was also a heck of a baseball player? We know that in one game with his seminary team, he scored three runs, contributing to a big victory of 23-6. He paved the way for a long history of baseball players who would join the Knights, including Connie Mack, Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Mike Sweeney and Shane Victorino. Catholic gentlemen 18 years and older can join online at **www.kofc.org/join**. Use Promo Code **BlessedMcGivney** for one year of free membership. Our local Council is **#11529**.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Faustina Kowalska

August 25, 1905 – October 5, 1938
Feast Day—October 5

On Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated the weekend after Easter, the Gospel tells the story of when Jesus appeared in a locked room where the disciples were hiding.

John 20:19-23

Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them
his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when
they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again,
"Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed
on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

We recognize St. Faustina as the Saint of the Week this week, even though her feast is in October, because of her role in spreading the message of Divine Mercy. Jesus appeared to her many times and spoke of his great and unfathomable mercy to those who would trust in him. Jesus told St. Faustina that he wanted the Sunday after Easter to be celebrated as a "Feast of Mercy," as a refuge for all souls, especially poor sinners.

Calendar

Saturday, March 30
Holy Saturday - No 4:00 pm Mass
11:00 am Blessing of Easter Baskets
8:00 pm Easter Vigil
Sunday, March 31
Easter Sunday
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
Monday, April 1
No 9:00 am Mass
No Religious Education
Parish Offices Closed
Tuesday, April 2
No Religious Education
9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm Adult Choir
7:00 pm Baptism Prep (Little Church)
7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Parish Foyer)
Wednesday, April 3
9:00 am Mass
9:30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, April 4
9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm Adoration/Benediction/Confessions
Friday, April 5
6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. (LC)
Saturday, April 6
8:00 pm Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser (Parish Hall)
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass
Sunday, April 7
Divine Mercy Sunday
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass /Children's Mass
12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Mtg. (LC)
6:30 pm Unlocking the Bible (Church)
Monday, April 8
9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Education
6:15 pm Religious Education
Tuesday, April 9
9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Education
7:00 pm Adult Choir
7:30 pm Legion of Mary (LC)
Wednesday, April 10
9:00 am Mass
Thursday, April 11
9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Parish Hall)

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to "help our neighbor in their spiritual needs." (*U.S.Catholic Catechism for Adults)*

The seven Spiritual Works of Mercy will be listed below over the next weeks. After each work of mercy there also will be suggestions and words of advice for living them out in our daily lives.

Admonishing the sinner

Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.

- In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times
- Don't judge, but guide others towards the path of salvation (see Mt 7:1-2)
- When you correct someone, don't be arrogant. We are all in need of God's loving correction
- We should journey together to a deeper understanding of our shared faith .
- "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's

Easter Sunday–The Resurrection of the Lord

Getty Images

What is Easter?

The Easter Vigil is the "Mother of All Vigils." Easter Sunday, then, is the greatest of all Sundays, and Easter Time is the most important of all liturgical times. Easter is the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday of Easter to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death, expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian, Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the Resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty [too] is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith" (1 Cor 15:14).

"What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be but a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or of some other kind; . . . So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible. It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious. It is sown weak; it is raised powerful. It is sown a natural body; it "Easter is the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection from the dead, culminating his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church." is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual one. So, too, it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living being,' the last Adam a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one" (1 Cor 15:36-37, 42-49).

The Octave of Easter comprises the eight days, which stretch from the first Sunday of Easter to the Second Sunday of Easter. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. In a sense, every day of the Octave is like a little Sunday.

The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "east." The sun that rises in the east, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time and is lit for all liturgical celebrations.

Catholic Current

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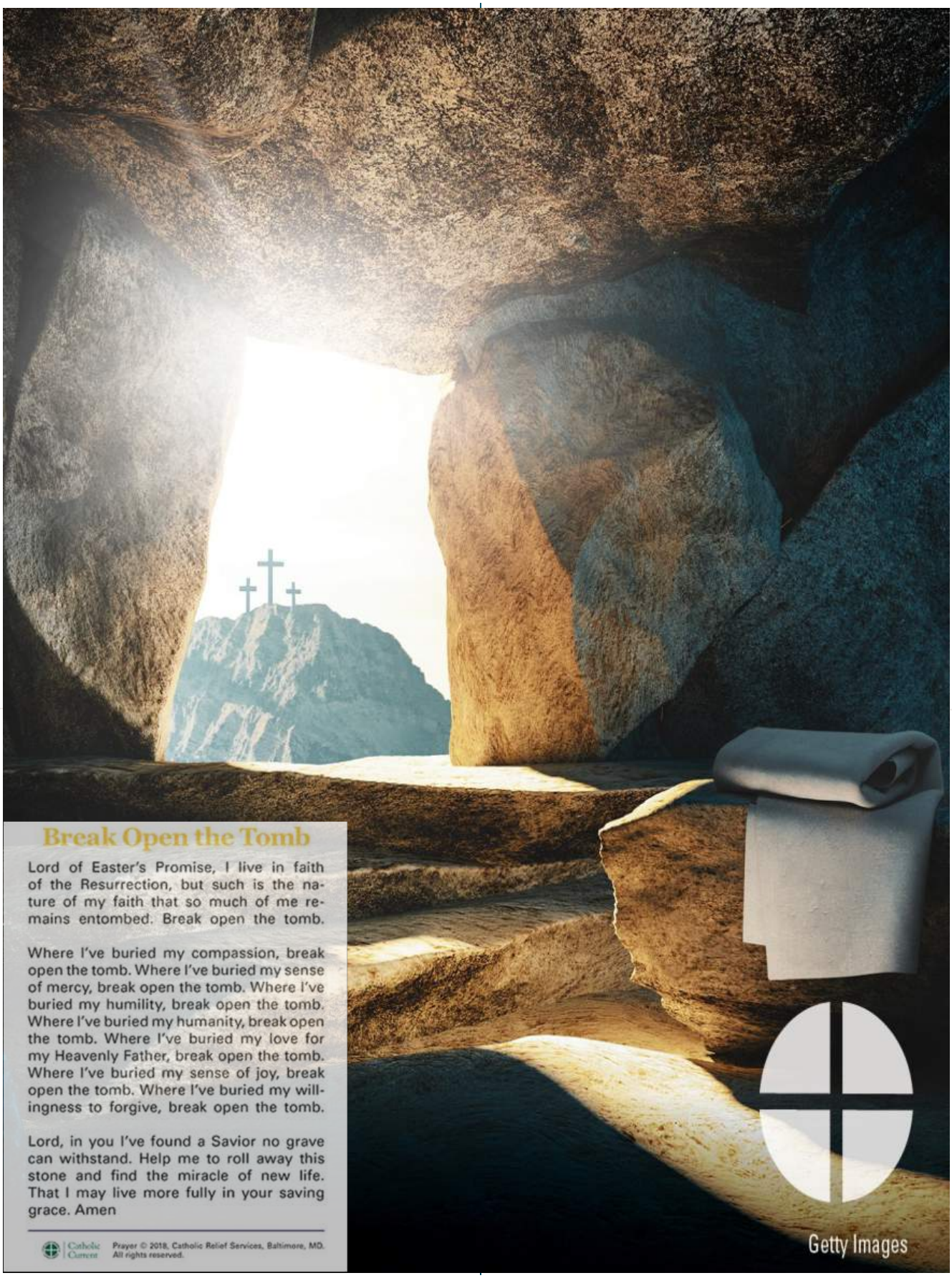
BULLETIN



Break Open the Tomb

Lord of Easter's Promise, I live in faith of the Resurrection, but such is the nature of my faith that so much of me remains entombed. Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my compassion, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my sense of mercy, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my humility, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my humanity, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my love for my Heavenly Father, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my sense of joy, break open the tomb. Where I've buried my willingness to forgive, break open the tomb.

Lord, in you I've found a Savior no grave can withstand. Help me to roll away this stone and find the miracle of new life. That I may live more fully in your saving grace. Amen

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NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Easter Sunday: Seeing and Believing

THE GRACE I SEEK: to recognize the power of Christ's Resurrection in my life

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 see that you can bring life out of death and that you seek to make all things new by your Resurrection from the dead.

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.*

> **"They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." (Acts 10:39b–41)**

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

How can you allow Jesus to put to death anything in your heart that prevents you from trusting God and his plan of love for your life? Ask Jesus to help you deepen your communion with God and become an even more effective witness to the transforming power of his Resurrection!

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

> **"When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed." (John 20:6–8)**

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

How can you exercise the gift of faith in every area of your life, trusting completely in God's plan for you? How is Jesus inviting you to leave the "tombs" of your past so that you can walk in greater freedom during this Easter Season?

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 — O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. 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, Easter Sunday, Mass During the Day)

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 Resurrection. Ask for a deepening of Christ's grace so you can be his light for others.

LOVE IN ACTION — During Easter, we are called to be instruments of new life for all our brothers and sisters, especially through choices of love and solidarity. May each of us leave the tombs of our doubts and fears so that we can help meet the spiritual and material needs of others, especially through our prayers, offerings, and acts of charity and accompaniment, which are powerful channels of grace for all hearts.

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 - 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

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.

Reflections on the Readings for Easter Sunday - March 31, 2024

CALLED TO BE WITNESSES

Happy Easter! This is truly a day to rejoice and be glad. In fact, the Catechism tells us that Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the "Feast of feasts." It is the day that we look forward to all year long, in much the same way that we look forward to Heaven our whole lives long. Today we celebrate what Jesus has done for us and the ultimate destiny he won for us this day. Easter is all about Heaven!

When we truly enter into the mystery of Christ's Resurrection, hope should grow in our hearts. This hope is what turns us into witnesses. When we realize what Christ has done for us, our hearts will naturally overflow with love for others. So how can we get in touch with the reality of the Resurrection this Easter? How is Jesus calling you to witness to the hope and joy of the Resurrection?

PRAYER

Let's ponder the Gospel story for today. Put yourself in the place of Peter and John who received the Good News of the Gospel from Mary Magdalene. Think of the fear and loneliness that must have filled their hearts before she came to them. Then think of the hope that must have begun to grow in their hearts upon seeing the empty tomb. What an important moment in the history of our Church – the witness of the Resurrection to our first Pope!

Take a word from the Gospel that comes to mind, and reflect on what it means to you personally. For example, the phrase, "he saw and believed" might have stuck out to you. Ask yourself what this means in your own life. When have you seen and believed the power of Jesus's Resurrection? In what moments have you come to believe in him?

RESOLUTION

We are called to be witnesses to Jesus's Resurrection. In fact, St. Paul taught that our whole faith hinges on whether or not Jesus was raised from the dead. This is the crux of our hope, and it is the hope we are called to share with others. If Jesus Christ is truly risen, then we can be truly risen in him. This is such a joyous day because it is proof that God longs to fulfill all of our desires for him.

We have fifty days of Easter to celebrate and reflect on this great truth. This Easter season, how can you live the reality of the Resurrection more deeply? What can you do to share this reality with others? |*formed.org*

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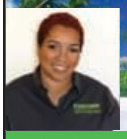

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