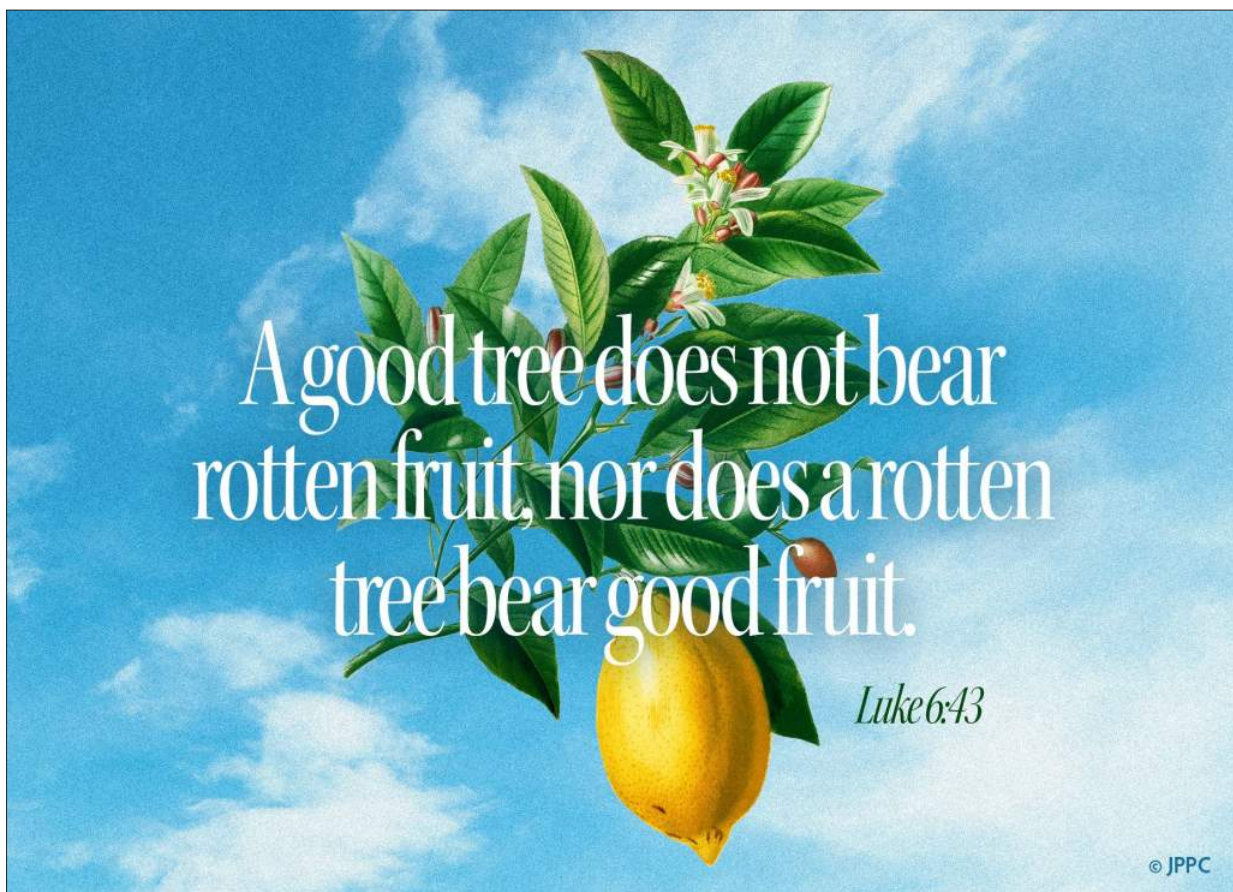


CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



March 2, 2025

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

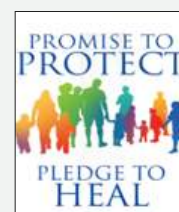
website: www.saintmonica.com
Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Email: parishoffice@saintmonica.com
Fax: (732) 928-1853
Religious Education: 732-928-4038
Email: stmonicacd@yahoo.com

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/



EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MARCH 2, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 2

9:00 am Jimmy Morell
(St. Monica Youth Group)

11:00 am Elizabeth & Frank Messina
(Kate Scott)

Monday, March 3

9:00 am Available

Tuesday, March 4

9:00 am Josephine Zappulla
(Arlene Toth)

Wednesday, March 5

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone
(Gerarda Fallone)

Thursday, March 6

4:00 pm Available

Saturday, March 8

4:00 pm Joseph & Josephine Zappulla
(Arlene Toth)

Sunday, March 9

9:00 am Charles Smith
(Mark & Sylvia Piznik)

11:00 am Stanley Okulewicz
(The Merwin Family)

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.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Toni Hetteroth, Dianne Smith, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Marie Gould, Doris Garbarino, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, Arlene Toth, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Glory D'Acunto, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Phillip Wenz, 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, Carol Spezzano, Michael Seiler, Shannon Hubert, Ronald Nuzzola, Ray Kijowski, Nicholas Biddle, Matthew Biddle, Dennis Shwimer, Laura Stoyer, Mike Scott, Andrew G Sabine, A.J. Sabine, Stephen Alexander, Angela Belmont, Danny Merwin, Diane Hromiko, Kathy Reynolds, Margie Smith, Kevin Finnerty

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 2, 2025

Monday, March 3, 2025 Sir 17:20-24 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday March 4, 2025 Sir 35:1-12 Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14, 23 Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, March 6, 2025 Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Lk 9:22-25

Friday, March 7, 2025 Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 Mt 9:14-15

Saturday, March 8, 2025 Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Lk 5:27-32

Sunday, March 9, 2025 Dt 26:4-10 Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 Rom 10:8-13 Lk 4:1-13

Upcoming Lent & Holy Week Services



Church of St. Monica 2025 Lent & Holy Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Mass: * 9:00 a.m. & * 7:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service: 4:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent: 7:00 p.m.

Daily Mass

Thursday, March 6
Monday - Thursday, from March 10 to April 3
Monday - Wednesday, April 14 - 16
9:00 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

Wednesday, April 2
9:30 a.m.

Lenten Penance Service

Wednesday, April 2
7:00 p.m.

Tenebrae Service

Wednesday, March 27
7:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday, April 17

(no 9:00 a.m. Mass today)
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 p.m.
Church remains open for the
Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
until 10:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of our Lord
Holy Communion
Veneration of the Cross
3:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross: 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 19

Blessing of the Easter Food: 11:00 a.m.
(No 4:00 p.m. Mass)
Easter Vigil Service: 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20

Masses:
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS FEB 15–16, 2025

Weekly Offerings	\$2,966
On Line Giving	\$1,402
Total	\$4,368

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

WOMEN OF ST. MONICA

The Women of St Monica is sponsoring a presentation on March 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the church. Jeannie Sweeney will present a program called ***Lessons in Holiness*** which is a one hour performance of sacred music and faith stories. We will accept a free-will offering and proffer water and snacks after the presentation. Questions may be directed to Linda Thompson at 908-770-0681 or Caroline White at 732-829-5299.

ST. ANN PARISH

St. Ann Parish in Lawrenceville is asking for help with their Annual Gift Auction in support their Senior Center. The Senior Center is solely supported by St Ann's Church.

What is needed are donations: gift cards, new unused items to raffle off. The best are prizes ranging in \$25 to \$50. All donations are tax deductible. You can also help by grabbing some friends and attending the event. A package for the event is \$65 and includes small, medium and large prizes tickets. To reserve a table, you need 8 people. Please help us in the only fundraiser to support our seniors. Call Denise for tickets. 732 801 4190 or Eileen @ 732-787-0315

Pray for Pope Francis

LENT 2025

Reflect. Repent. Restore.

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MARCH 2, 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

March 9
First Sunday of Lent
“You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.
(Luke 4:8)

March 10

“Lent is a season of *conversion, a time of freedom.*”
(Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2024)

March 11

Examine your conscience before going to bed tonight and make plans to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Lent.

March 12

“Both in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis, through remembrance of Baptism or preparation for it, and by penitence, Lent renews the community of the faithful together with the elect and disposes them to recall the Paschal Mystery.”
(*Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 138) (see *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, no. 109)

March 5
Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins

Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God.
(Joel 2:13)

March 6

“Prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us.”
(Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2024)

March 7

Explore some new [meatless](#) recipes and commit to living more simply, accompanying our brothers and sisters who lack material resources.

March 8

Many who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil will celebrate the Rite of Election tomorrow. Say a prayer for the elect, for those who will be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church, and for all who seek God with a sincere heart.

March 13

Prayerfully discern ways that you can give to others by sharing your time, treasure, and talent.

March 14

Fast from television, streaming, gaming, social media, or some other pleasure and spend the extra time praying or reading the Bible.

March 15

Invite a friend or neighbor to join you for Mass, a Lenten service, or a faith formation program at your parish.



CALENDAR

Saturday, March 1**K of C Donuts Today**

- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 3:15 pm OCIA Reconciliation (LC)
- 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, March 2**K of C Donuts Today**

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)
- 11:00 am Mass/OCIA Rite of Sending
- 12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Mtg (LC)
- 2:00 pm Lessons in Holiness (Parish Hall)

Monday, March 3

- 9:00 am Mass Today
- 4:30 pm Religious Ed Class
- 6:15 pm Religious Ed Class

Tuesday, March 4

- 9:00 am Mass
- 4:30 pm Religious Ed Class
- 5:30 pm Religious Ed Class

Wednesday, March 5**Ash Wednesday**

- 9:00 am Mass and Ashes
- 9:30 am Adoration
- 4:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 5:00 pm OCIA (LC)
- 7:00 pm Mass and Ashes

Thursday, March 6

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am Grief Support (LC)

Friday, March 7

- 6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. (LC)
- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
- 7:00 pm BLD Trenton Mtg. (Hall/Church)

Saturday, March 8

- 9:00 am 1st Communion Retreat (All)
- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 3:15 pm OCIA Reconciliation (LC)
- 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, March 9

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)
- 11:00 am Mass
- 3:00 pm Rite of Election; St. Robert, Freehold

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Francis House of Prayer
609-877-0506 fhop@verizon.net

THE COSMIC CHRIST
TEILHARD'S EXPERIENCE OF THE SACRED HEART

Tuesday, April 1 9:30 AM – 11:30 PM

In his latest encyclical, Pope Francis tells us that relationship to the Sacred Heart has power to change the world. From early childhood, Teilhard de Chardin was deeply devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, albeit not particularly Christ's physical heart. Yet as he matured, so did that early devotion. During our time together, we will consider how, as Teilhard's devotion to Christ deepened, his understanding of the Sacred Heart evolved into the Cosmic Christ. Until he died, he continued to pray to his God of Fire. Our gathering will include time for input, reflection, prayer, and sharing. Led by S. Kathy Duffy, SSJ. Donation: \$25

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL ON THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Friday, April 4 1:00 – 3:30 PM

In addition to the three-part night zoom Lenten series in March, we offer this opportunity to spend time with and unpack heartfully Pope Francis' new encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, *Dilexit Nos* ("He Loved Us"). We need so very much to remember the deep and compassionate love of Jesus' Sacred Heart for all of us in this Lenten season. I hope you will come to experience anew the immense love of Jesus' Sacred Heart for you. By the way, Pope Francis writes simply and is very understandable. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$20

IN-PERSON ONLY
EMBRACING THE WAY OF THE CROSS
THROUGH ART

Monday, April 7 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

All are welcome: non-artists, artists, poets and other writers- anyone who desires to draw more deeply into the Passion of Jesus as we approach Holy Week. Using Vizio Divina, we will contemplate the meaning of each Station of the Cross created by Maria De Fayrod (Stations of the Cross, Lourdes, France). Through prayer and reflection, we will consider how we can unite our own life experiences with those of Christ's Way of the Cross. Our hope is to deepen our faith, strengthen our resilience in the face of struggle, and expand our compassion and forgiveness towards others. Since each station often carries a specific theme, such as betrayal, denial, the weight of the cross, or the love of a mother (Mary), we will create our own original station in the medium of choice (poetry, drawing, music or painting). Some art materials will be available, but you are welcome to bring your own. Led by S. Celeste Mokrzycki, SSJ. Donation: \$40, includes lunch.



Saint Casimir

DATES: 1458-1484

FEAST DAY: MARCH 4

Born in Krakow, Casimir was the son of Casimir IV, king of Poland and grand duke of Lithuania, and Elizabeth of Austria.

From a young age, he was concerned with the integrity and justice of his father's rule. He worked to ensure the fair treatment and aid of the poor and less fortunate. He was called the Patron of the Poor because of his love for others and charitable works. Casimir was known to be a humble and approachable man, traits that were not always synonymous with rulers at the time.

Known for his refusal to take up arms, personal piety, generosity to the poor and devotion to the Blessed Mother, he rejected the idea of marrying in favor of voluntary chastity. During a visit to Lithuania, he fell ill, died from tuberculosis at the age of 25 and was buried in the cathedral in Vilnius. Canonized in 1521, he is the patron of Poland and Lithuania.



Cetty Images



Catholic
Current

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Ghezzi, B. (2000). *The Voices of the Saints: A Year of Readings*. Double Day Press. New York.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sirach 27:4-7 • 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 • Luke 6:39-45



What Our Feed Says About Us

Today's Gospel passage from Luke is powerful and has a great impact. Jesus presents us with truths that resonate as deeply today as they did two millennia ago.

Jesus begins with the image of blind guides, referring to spiritual blindness, not physical blindness. How often do we attempt to guide others when our own spiritual vision is impaired? It's a sobering reminder of our need for continual spiritual growth and discernment.



The Lord then addresses the tendency to criticize others while overlooking our own faults. He uses the vivid metaphor of attempting to remove a speck from another's eye while ignoring the log in our own. This striking image challenges us to examine our hearts and prioritize our own spiritual health before rushing to correct others.

Jesus culminates his teaching with a fundamental truth: "A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45).

This statement cuts to the core of our being. Our words and actions, whether spoken in person or shared on social media, flow from the content of our hearts. If we consistently express negativity, criticism, or judgment in our social media posts or interactions, it shows what we've allowed to accumulate within.

The challenge before us is clear: We must be intentional about storing good treasure in our hearts. By immersing ourselves in God's Word, dedicating time to prayer, and cultivating love for others, we ensure that our words and actions will be life-giving. This is the kind of authentic, Christ-centered influence our world so desperately needs.

Live the Gospel

Jeff Cavins says, "At a time when people are desperately looking for hope and joy, we Christians need to be spreading the love and Good News of Jesus Christ, including on social media. So this week, before you post anything on social media, pause and ask yourself, 'Is this coming from the good treasure in my heart? Will this build others up?' If not, consider sharing a Bible verse, an encouraging word, or a prayer instead."

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to listen:



Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/tweet-others-the-way-you-want-to-be-tweeted/>

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SPANISH KEYNOTE



Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR

Priest with the Franciscan Friars
of the Renewal and Co-Founder
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Come for a day of formation and renewal, designed to support all those who share and pass on the Catholic faith.

Are you a Catechist, Catholic School Teacher, Campus or Youth Minister? Do you serve on an RCIA, Evangelization, Adult Faith Formation, Baptism, or Marriage Ministry team? There will be something for everyone in ministry!

The day will offer breakout sessions in both English and Spanish.



DATE:

Saturday
March 29, 2025



TIME:

8 AM-3 PM



LOCATION:

St. John Vianney High School
540-A Line Rd
Holmdel, NJ 07733

LEARN MORE



Questions? Contact Michelle Angelo Santoro

609-403-7174 | mangelo@dioceseoftrenton.org | dioceseoftrenton.org/hope2025

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 - 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

The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 by Blessed Father Michael McGivney. It is an international order of more than 2 million Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend Catholic values in a busy changing world. St Monica Council #11529 has a long history of support for the parish and any local charities. If you would like to join, simply scan the QR Code or go to KofC.org/join & enter council #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

Youth Group

Open to all children of St Monica registered families and we would love to have you join us. For more information, call Theresa Calsetta 732-299-0261.

RCIA/OCIA**Rite/Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**

For those who are seeking full membership in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish office.

New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Registration forms may be downloaded at www.saintmonica.com
 Please contact the parish office for further info.

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 request 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 on-going 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 a program of prayers and service. The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholic men and women over 18 years of age who have the good will to want to serve God through Mother Mary. Meetings are at St. Monica every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. The Legion is always looking to recruit new members. If you discern a divine connection to the Blessed Mother, and feel she is calling you to join, please contact the Parish Office.

Women of St Monica

A 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 enhance parish life in a variety of ways. Please contact the parish office for more info.



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 from the 1st Sunday in Lent - March 2, 2025***RESISTING TEMPTATION**

We begin the season of Lent by joining Jesus in the desert where he is tempted by the devil. Satan tempts Jesus in three ways, which represent the same three tactics he commonly employs today to get us to break our relationship with God.

First, Satan tries to undermine Jesus's identity as the Son of God. He does the same thing with us—he tries to undermine our dignity and identity as sons and daughters of God. Second, Satan offers Jesus the kingdoms of the world. Satan tempts us too to seek power and influence in this world in order to further enslave us in an endless quest for control. Finally, Satan tempts Jesus to fulfill his mission in a way other than the one ordained by the Father. In the same way, we are often tempted to find an easier or more “successful” way to live our lives, instead of trusting the Father's plan.

Jesus answers Satan in all three of these temptations with the Word of God because God's Word has power to resist and overcome evil. That is one reason why it is so important to become steeped and grounded in Scripture: in order to have a ready sword of truth which we can use to defend ourselves against the lies and snares of evil. Let us now join Jesus in the desert in this week's Gospel reading and learn how we can better resist the temptations of the devil in our own lives today.

**PRAYER**

Prayerfully put yourself in today's Gospel reading. Imagine that you are present in the desert; you witness Satan tempting Jesus and Jesus faithfully resisting each of the three temptations. Next imagine that each temptation is presented directly to you. The devil tells you that (1) you are not really a child of God; (2) you can have anything you want in the world by turning away from God, and (3) you don't have to follow God's plan for your life but can choose an easier way instead. How would you respond to each of these temptations?

RESOLUTION

Prayerfully consider which of these temptations is most difficult for you to resist. Why is it? What can you do this week to resist this temptation more in your life? formed.org

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