

# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



**March 9, 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*

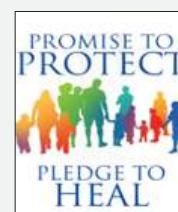
website: [www.saintmonica.com](http://www.saintmonica.com)  
Parish Office: 732-928-0279  
Email: [parishoffice@saintmonica.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintmonica.com)  
Fax: (732) 928-1853  
Religious Education: 732-928-4038  
Email: [stmonicacd@yahoo.com](mailto:stmonicacd@yahoo.com)

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



## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - MARCH 9, 2025

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### 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)

#### Monday, March 10

9:00 am Souls in Purgatory  
(Natalie Lucas)

#### Tuesday, March 11

9:00 am Joseph Zappulla  
(Arlene Toth)

#### Wednesday, March 12

9:00 am Available

#### Thursday, March 13

9:00 am Joan Quinn  
(Janet Noordsy)

#### Saturday, March 15

4:00 pm Richard Shaw  
(Angie & Frank Trimboli)

#### Sunday, March 16

9:00 am Intentions of Zoe Gould  
(Marie Gould)

#### Monday, March 17

9:00 am Matthew Coughlin  
(Michael & Lynn Scott)

### 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 Shwiner, 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 9, 2025

**Monday, March 10, 2025** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025** Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025** Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday, March 13, 2025** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

**Friday, March 14, 2025** Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday, March 15, 2025** Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

**Sunday, March 16, 2025** Gen 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14. Phil 3:17-4:1

Upcoming Lent & Holy Week Services



**Church of St. Monica  
2025 Lent & Holy Week Schedule**

**Stations of the Cross**  
Fridays during Lent: 7:00 p.m.

**Daily Mass**  
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  
FEBRUARY 17–23, 2025**

Weekly Offerings	\$2,562.75
Online Giving	\$1,633.00
Total	\$4,195.75

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

**WOMEN OF ST. MONICA**

***"LESSONS IN HOLINESS"***

Jeannie Sweeney performs Sacred Music Concerts consisting of traditional and contemporary Catholic hymns. As a devout Catholic and Third Order Franciscan, she integrates inspiring faith stories and prayers into her performances that reflect her relationship and life-long journey with God.

Jeannie's mission is to use her gifts as a way to serve, evangelize, and glorify God. Each venue and performance depict spiritual themes and scripture to uplift her audience and bring beauty to those in need of God's divine mercy and love.

Sweeney has been a Cantor at her parish of Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima Church in Yonkers, NY for over 20 years. She writes and directs plays for children and teens in Youth Ministry both in her parish and with Catholic Family Ministries in affiliation with Capuchin Franciscan Friars. Jeannie has been trained in classical music and is a graduate of New York University Tisch School of the Arts.

**Jeannie will perform live at the Church of St. Monica on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. We will accept a free-will offering, and there will be water and snacks after the presentation. Questions may be directed to Linda Thompson at 908-770-0681 or Caroline White at 732-829-5299.**



## Legion of Mary Acies

The Legion of Mary of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, the Immaculate

Conception Curia, will hold its

"Acies", an Annual Consecration to Mother Mary on March 22, Saturday,

Concession 9:30 Mass 10:00 AM

St. Monicas Church 679 Veterans Hwy, Jackson NJ 08527

We consecrate to our Blessed Mother as we carry out her mission of drawing all souls closer to her Beloved Son.

All Active and Auxiliary members and those with a special devotion to Mother Mary are encouraged to attend.

The Rosary and Legion prayers will be recited plus the Annual Consecration to Mother Mary will take place.

All are welcome to donate to our potluck fellowship lunch following the Mass.

For questions, please contact Michelle M.

(908) 309-2807 [michelle.masarik@outlook.com](mailto:michelle.masarik@outlook.com)



**LEGION OF MARY ACIES**

**CALENDAR**

**Saturday, March 8**

- 9:00 am 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**Monday, March 10**

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

**Tuesday, March 11**

- 9:00 am Mass
- 4:30 pm Religious Ed Class
- 5:30 pm Religious Ed Class
- 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

**Wednesday, March 12**

- 9:00 am Mass
- 4:00 pm OCIA (LC)
- 5:00 pm OCIA (LC)

**Thursday, March 13**

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am Grief Support (LC)
- 7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Hall/Church)

**Friday, March 14**

- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
- 7:45 pm BLD Trenton Mtg. (Hall/Church)

**Saturday, March 15**

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

**Sunday, March 16**

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)
- 11:00 am Mass

**Monday, March 17**

**St. Patrick's Day**

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

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609-877-0506 fhop@verison.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.

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - MARCH 9, 2025

*May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us,  
may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.  
Be always ours this day and for evermore.  
- St. Patrick*



On March 17 we celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick (387-481)! Born in Britain while it was part of the Roman Empire, he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland as a slave at the age of 14. He spent much time in the fields, tending sheep. Though Ireland was a pagan nation, Patrick's love of God and his prayer life deepened immensely while he was there.

At the age of 20, a dream prompted him to escape, and he was able to return to his family in Britain. While home, he had a vision of an Irish man imploring him to return. Patrick began studying to become a priest so that he could return to Ireland as a

When he did return, thousands converted through his preaching, and churches were built throughout the country. He was especially known for using shamrocks to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity. After 40 years of ministry in Ireland, he died on March 17, 461 in Saul, where he had built the first Irish church.

In honor of his feast day, let us pray that each day may bring us to closer, complete union with God. *St. Patrick, Pray for Us!*

# Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

## First Sunday of Lent (C)

Deuteronomy 26:4-10 • Romans 10:8-13 • Luke 4:1-13



## Conquering the Desert with Christ



*The Temptation of Christ by the Devil*  
by Félix Joseph Barrias, 1860

The Church gives us Lent, a special forty-day period, to prepare for the Lord's Resurrection. It's a perfect time to confront our weaknesses and allow God to strengthen us spiritually. The number forty is significant in the Old and New Testaments and is often associated with trials and testing.

Just as the Israelites came from the waters of the Red Sea and spent forty years in the wilderness, Jesus emerged from the waters of baptism in the Jordan River and entered the desert for forty days. While in the wilderness, Jesus faced three temptations from Satan, mirroring the trials of the Chosen People of Israel in the desert. However, unlike the Israelites—who failed often—Jesus triumphed over the devil's tests.

Jesus' response to temptation provides a perfect example and witness for us. He relied on two key strategies: trusting in his heavenly Father and leaning on the Word of God. Interestingly, Jesus quoted Scripture from Deuteronomy chapters 6 and 8—the same passages that recount Israel's failures in the wilderness.

As we enter this Lenten season, we, too, will face our own forty days of testing and trials. To overcome these challenges and confront our vices—and get stronger in the midst of them—we should follow the example of Jesus. Throughout Lent, let's use this time to deepen our trust in our heavenly Father and immerse ourselves in Scripture. God's Word serves as a powerful spiritual weapon against the enemy's temptations. If you feel lost in a spiritual desert this Lent, draw near to Jesus, his Word, and your heavenly Father.

## Live the Gospel

Jeff Cavins says, "During Lent, select a passage from Scripture to memorize and meditate on. To help you memorize, you may find that writing the passage by hand helps. Also, put copies of the passage on your bathroom mirror and near the kitchen sink so you see them often. When faced with temptation or difficulty, bring the words to mind and use them as a source of strength and guidance. The Word of God is your spiritual weapon in times of strife."

## Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/first-sunday-of-lent-c/>

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## Faith Formation & Parish Ministry Conference

### Featured Speakers:



**Chris Padgett**

Catholic speaker, musician, author, professor and comedian



**Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR**

Priest with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Co-Founder of Corazón Puro



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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)

## *Reflections on the Readings from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent - March 9, 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](http://formed.org)



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**Daniel McGeehan**  
732-597-3832  
daniel.mcgeehan@kofc.org



Contact me today to learn more.

\*Knights of Columbus and its partners, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors and Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, are entities that each provide separate and distinct products and services. Financial retirement planning, life and disability income insurance, and personal philanthropy entail certain risks. Learn more at [kofc.org/liveyourfaith](http://kofc.org/liveyourfaith)  
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