

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



April 6, 2025

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

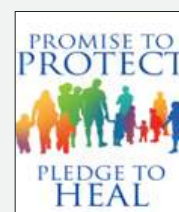
Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
ParishofStMonica/](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



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - APRIL 6, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 5

4:00 pm Flora Dariotis
(LaFonte & Buono Family)

Sunday, April 6

9:00 am Carol Collins
(Mike & Lynn Scott)

11:00 am Available

Monday, April 7

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone
(Gerarda Fallone)

Tuesday, April 8

9:00 am Florence Scognamiglio
(Nina & Al Pileggi)

Wednesday, April 9

9:00 am All Souls in Purgatory
(Natalie Lucas)

Thursday, April 10

9:00 am Kappler Family
(The Piacentino Family)

Saturday, April 12

4:00 pm Falcone Family
(Tommy & Carol Ammirota)

Sunday, April 13

9:00 am James Carlos & Elizabeth Scott
(Kate Scott)

11:00 am Carole Rookey
(Ernie & Barbara Rookey)

To secure your Mass Intentions, contact the Parish Office.

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, 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 - April 6, 2025

Monday, April 7, 2025 Dn 13:41c-62 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 Jn 8:31-42

Thursday, April 10, 2025 Gen 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Jn 8:51-59

Friday, April 11, 2025 Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 Jn 10:31-42

Saturday, April 12, 2025 Ez 37:21-28 Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 Jn 11:45-56

Sunday, April 13, 2025 Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11 Lk 22:14-23:56

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 - Wednesday, April 14 - 16
9:00 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent: 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday Masses

Saturday, April 12: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 13: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Tenebrae Service

Wednesday, April 16th 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 a.m. and 11:00 am

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
, 2025**

Weekly Offerings	\$3,024.00
Online Giving	\$1,518.00
Total	\$4,542.00

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

WOMEN OF ST. MONICA



Annual Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

**Sunday, April 6
2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

Tickets may be purchased after all Masses
\$13 per person, children under 5 free



Confirmation 2025: Ella Alessi, Andrew Astalos, Alexandria Bolognese, Jesus Velez, Emily Czech, Giada DiLorenzo, Everett Donato, Christopher Dossie, Tyler Felicelli, Isabella Ferreira, Zylar Gould, Sofia Lanado, Audrey Lanado, Amanda LaRusso, Christopher LaRusso, Tyler Marotta, Keira McCann, Liliana Mezzo, Myles Owenburg, Sarah Schpakow, Emma Schpakow, Nicholas Tumillo, Adriana Velotti, Alexis Yale with The Most Reverend Bishop David O'Connell, Fr. Alex Enriquez and Religious Education Coordinator Karen Badach.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - APRIL 6, 2025



Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House
84 Walnford Road, Allentown, New Jersey 08501, United States
fhop@verizon.net [609-877-0509](tel:609-877-0509)



THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS

Tuesday, April 8 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

We will spend the day with Jesus lovingly listening to his Seven Last Words which have come down to us through the ages. What was in Jesus' mind and heart as he uttered them? What is in ours as we pray with them? What an intimate day between you and Jesus! Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$30, includes lunch and materials. Zoom: \$25

DOROTHY DAY

"TO LOVE IS TO SUFFER"

Wednesday, April 9 9:30 AM – Noon

Dorothy Day lived her life in intentional poverty. She chose to live, work, and minister in the way of Jesus. By aligning herself with the people she served, she grew to recognize the Christ within each person. We will use her essay, *To Love is to Suffer* to help us understand the call to love one another. Led by Jill Snyder. Donation: \$20

GOD CHOOSES THE UNLIKELY: HE GOT UP AND FOLLOWED JESUS

Friday, April 11 9:30 AM – Noon

Matthew "got up" at the invitation from Jesus, left everything and went with Jesus. We will use Caravaggio's famous painting *The Call of St. Matthew* to lead our reflection and open us to hear Jesus' call to each of us, individually and uniquely to leave everything and "come." Are you an "unlikely choice" too? What is Jesus inviting you to leave? Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$25 with materials. Zoom: \$20

A HOLY MOVIE FOR A HOLY WEEK *OF GODS AND MEN*

Tuesday, April 15 1:00 – 4:00 PM

What does it mean to give your life for others, to return love for hate and to become one with the poor and oppressed no matter what the cost? Jesus shows us in His Passion and the priests and monks in this movie, *Of Gods and Men*, how to follow Jesus fully. Blessed Pierre Claverie is among them, and his sister, Anne-Marie, will be with us as we watch and pray. Led by Anne-Marie Gustavson-Claverie. Donation: Love Offering

DESIDERATA

THE PEACE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

Thursday, April 24 9:30 AM – Noon

We will spend the morning unpacking this ancient prayer as our participation in the mystery of Christ's Resurrection with his gift of peace to us all. You will receive a framed copy of the prayer to enhance your celebration of these 50 days of Easter. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$30, with materials. Zoom \$20

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 5

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, April 6

9:00 am Mass
10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)
10:30 am 3rd Scrutiny
11:00 am Mass
2:30 pm Italian Spaghetti Dinner

Monday, April 7

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

Tuesday, April 8

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Ed Class
7:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)
7:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, April 9

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

Thursday, April 10

9:00 am Mass
8:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Friday, April 11

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross
7:45 pm BLD Trenton

Saturday, April 12

9:00 am Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

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

Monday, April 14

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

Tuesday, April 15

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Ed Class
7:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)
7:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, April 16

9:00 am Mass
4:00 pm Confirmation
7:00 pm Tenebrae Service

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Will you help a neighbor with food this Easter? Suggestions include a box of food, a gift card, an Easter basket, or donating a turkey or ham. Please see the sign-up sheets in the back of the church, and please note: distribution of Easter food boxes is Sunday, April 13th.



Saturday, April 12, 2025

9:00 am

The Knights of Columbus would love to have you join us for our annual

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Delicious Food, Fun & Games, 50/50 and Photos with the Easter Bunny



The Women of St. Monica wish to thank Scott Rusbarsky and Five Star Painting for his generous donation of paint for the Church Kitchen. Also, thanks to Jack Fecht for donating his time and talent in scrubbing and painting the entire kitchen.

Thanks to Linda Thompson and JoAnn Guarnieri for cleaning out and organizing all the kitchen cabinets and drawers.



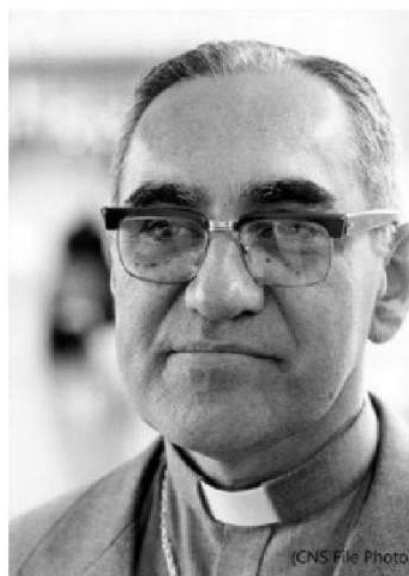


Saint Oscar Romero

1917-1980

FEAST DAY—MARCH 24

When Monsignor Oscar Romero was installed as Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador in February 1977, he was thrust into a tumultuous situation. A military coup in October 1979 led to a gruesome, twelve year civil war. These events were precipitated by the great disparity between a small number of powerful, wealthy families—who were backed by local politicians and the military—and the rest of El Salvador’s citizens. Many people suffered extreme poverty. Laborers worked for minimal pay for wealthy landowners, yet they could not hope to obtain land for themselves. The military terrorized the people in order ensure that the families held onto land and money. The Catholic Church became a target when some clergy began to defend the poor. In response to these injustices, some Salvadorans took up arms and fought against the military.



While some Latin American clergy promoted violence as a response to injustice, Archbishop Romero advocated for a different weapon: Christian love.

Before becoming archbishop, Monsignor Romero was not aware that the government was responsible for the deaths of many civilians. Because of his quiet nature, some thought that he would be good for the position, assuming he would not meddle in controversial affairs. However, shortly after his installation, his close friend, Fr. Rutilio Grande, a priest who openly opposed the unjust practices of wealthy landowners, was assassinated by gunmen while traveling with two people to celebrate Mass. This experience awakened Archbishop Romero to the reality of the corruption in his country and prompted him to take a stand for his people’s freedom.

Archbishop Romero preached many homilies that were broadcast throughout San Salvador. He persistently defended the rights of the people, calling government leaders to conversion and challenging them to uphold God’s law. He reminded the people that they were loved by God and that fighting back with Christian charity was the way to victory. His vocal response to government violence against the poor led to difficulties with other clergy members and his religious superiors as well as death threats from government accomplices. In spite of these challenges, he continued to speak out on behalf of the poor.

On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Romero was shot to death while celebrating the Eucharist in the chapel of Divina Providencia hospital. Saint Oscar Romero was beatified in May 2015 and canonized on October 14, 2018 by Pope Francis.

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

Isaiah 43:16–21 • Philippians 3:8–14 • John 8:1–11



Jesus Renews Us, Freeing Us from Shame

As we approach the final stretch of our Lenten journey, the theme that emerges from our readings is that God is doing something new. There are times in our lives when we find ourselves in a spiritual rut, caught in patterns of sin, yearning for renewal. The Gospel of John presents us with a compelling example of this renewal in the story of the woman caught in adultery.

The Old Testament reading from Isaiah 43 sets the foundation, reminding us not to dwell on past events, for God is indeed doing something new. This message is particularly poignant during Lent as we prepare our hearts for the Resurrection of Christ.

In John 8, we encounter the Pharisees and scribes bringing a woman caught in adultery before Jesus. His response is both unexpected and profound. He bends down, writing in the dirt, and then challenges those without sin to cast the first stone. Understanding the context of this event is crucial. It takes place just after the Feast of Tabernacles, where Jesus had proclaimed himself as the source of living water.

I believe that when Jesus wrote on the ground, he was referencing Jeremiah 17:13, which speaks of those who forsake the Lord as being “written in the earth,” as one translation says. In doing so, Jesus was addressing the shame imposed on the woman while simultaneously confronting those who sought to condemn her.

This passage beautifully illustrates how Jesus sets us free from shame and offers us a new beginning. As we continue our Lenten reflections, let us remember that God is constantly working to renew us, freeing us from the burdens of our past and inviting us into a new life in him.



Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery by Nicolas Poussin

Live the Gospel

Jeff Cavins says, “This week, identify an area in your life where you feel stuck or burdened by past mistakes. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you release the weight and embrace the new life he offers. Consider making a confession as a concrete step toward this renewal. Prepare yourself for Easter by letting God help you get rid of any shame that is keeping you from a full relationship with Our Lord.”

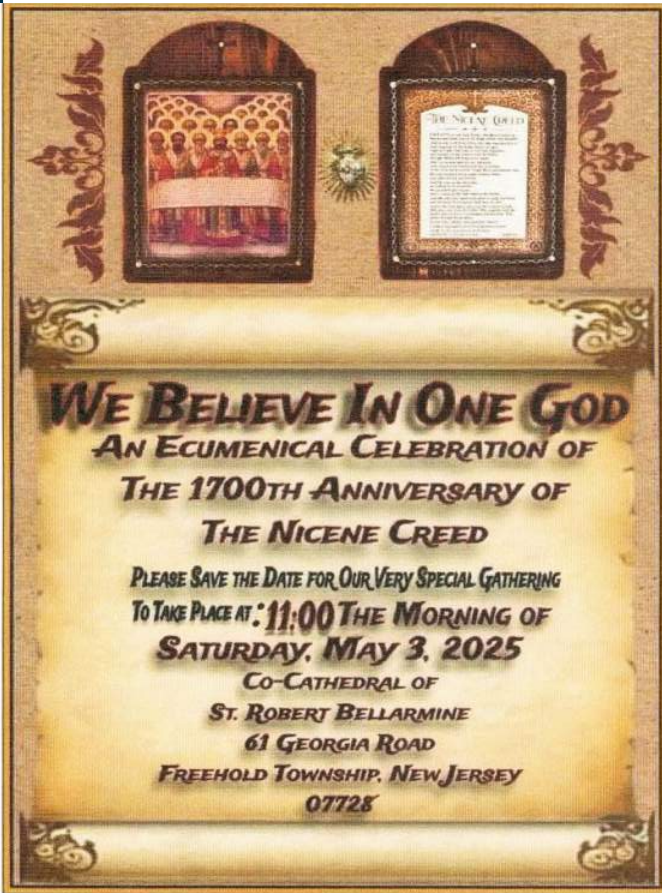
Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/5th-sunday-of-lent-c/>



Cardinal Joseph R. Tobin and the Roman Catholic bishops of New Jersey invite all Catholics of New Jersey to join a state-wide ecumenical celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the proclamation of the Nicene Creed that we recite every Sunday.

Join with our Orthodox, Episcopalian and Protestant brothers and sisters in a joint celebration of the profession of faith we make every Sunday.

The celebration will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 11:00 a. m. in the Co-Cathedral of Saint Robert Bellarmine at 61 Georgia Road in Freehold, N. J. There will be refreshments and fellowship after the service. Laypeople, religious and clergy are all welcome at this historic common sharing of faith.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.



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.

OCIA**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 for the 5th Sunday in Lent - April 6, 2025

MERCY AND CONVERSION

Today's reading from the Gospel of John tells of a woman who was caught—caught not just in the sin of adultery, but even more so, caught in God's mercy and love.

The account provides a striking example of Jesus's mercy and at the same time, his call to conversion. His encounter with the woman caught in adultery does not end in condemnation, but rather forgiveness, healing, and new life.

The twentieth century Polish mystic, St. Faustina Kowalska, was told by Christ that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. That says a lot when you consider that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and omnipresent. God's mercy, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is of tremendous value to us because even when we have turned away from him in sin and turned our hearts against him, Jesus is always there, ready to extend mercy and forgiveness.

As we enter into the final days of Lent, the message of today's Gospel reading affords us one of the most intimate and telling pictures of Jesus as our Messiah; a Messiah who comes, not to judge us in our sinfulness, but to help us rise above our own natures and enter into a healing and restorative relationship of love.

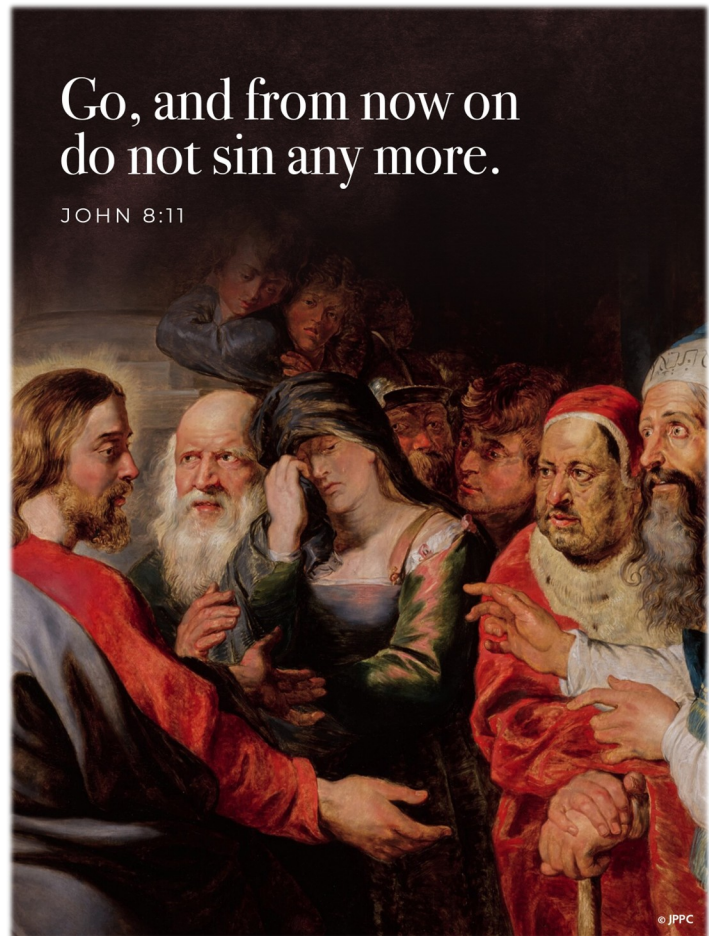
PRAYER

Think of a sin that you have committed or an embarrassing weakness that you would not want others to know about. Now imagine yourself in the position of the woman in today's Gospel reading. Imagine that it is your sin that the Pharisees are revealing to the crowds and condemning. How would you feel in that situation? Then imagine Jesus approaching you with compassion and saying "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." How would you respond to Jesus' mercy? What would you say to him? How would you act differently?

RESOLUTION

Jesus offers the woman in today's Gospel reading—and all of us— both mercy and the challenge to "go and sin no more." Talk to God about one practical thing you could do this week to avoid a sin that troubles you and turn more readily to his mercy and grace.

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