

# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



**April 27, 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](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:

[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



**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 27, 2025**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, April 26**

4:00 pm Available

**Sunday, April 27**

9:00 am Silvana Fallone  
(Gerarda Fallone)

11:00 am Available

**Monday, April 28**

9:00 am Available

**Tuesday, April 29**

9:00 am Available

**Wednesday, April 30**

9:00 am Available

**Thursday, May 1**

9:00 am Available

**Saturday, May 3**

4:00 pm Available

**Sunday, May 4**

9:00 am Janet Vigorito  
(Janet Noordsy)

11:00 am Jean Alexander  
(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 27, 2025**

**Monday, April 28, 2025** Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 Jn 3:1-8

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025** Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 Jn 3:7b-15

**Wednesday, April 30, 2025** Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday, May 1, 2025** Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 Jn 3:31-36

**Friday, May 2, 2025** Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Jn 6:1-15

**Saturday, May 3, 2025** 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Jn 14:6-14

**Sunday, May 4, 2025** Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 Rv 5:11-14 Jn 21:1-19

**MOTHER'S DAY MASS REMEMBRANCE**

Mass Remembrance envelopes for Mother's Day are on the table at the entrances to the church. Anyone wishing to honor their Mothers (living or deceased) may do so by filling out the intention envelope. To ensure your intentions will be published in our bulletin on Mother's Day, please return your offering by placing it in the collection basket no later than May 4.

**MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS**

**Annual Youth Group  
Flower Sale**

Our Youth Group will host their annual Mother's Day Flower Sale after all Masses on Mother's Day Weekend, May 10 & 11. Purchase beautiful hanging plants for a loved one and yourself! Cash or checks only. Thank you for your support. For more information, please contact Theresa Calsetta at 732-299-0261.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS  
MARCH 24-30, 2025**

Weekly Offerings	\$3,078
Online Giving	\$1,728
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,806</b>

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



**ST. MONICA  
PARISH FESTIVAL  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025  
Noon - 4:00 p.m.  
after 11 a.m. Outdoor Mass  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
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IN YOU**

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 27, 2025



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### CALENDAR

#### Holy Saturday, April 19

- 7:00 pm OCIA for Vigil  
8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass

#### Easter Sunday, April 20

- 9:00 am Mass  
11:00 am Mass

#### Easter Monday, April 21

- No 9:00 am Mass  
No Religious Education Today  
Parish Offices Closed

#### Easter Tuesday, April 22

- 9:00 am Mass  
7:00 pm Adult Choir  
7:00 pm Legion of Mary

#### Easter Wednesday, April 23

- 9:00 am Mass

#### Easter Thursday, April 24

- 9:00 am Mass  
4:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal (Church)  
7:00 pm Men's COR Prayer Mtg. (Church)  
8:00 pm K of C. Mtg. (Parish Hall)

#### Easter Friday, April 25

- 3:00 pm Wedding (Church, LC)

#### Easter Saturday, April 26

- 9:00 am 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Family Breakfast  
3:15 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm Mass

#### Sunday, April 27

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

#### Monday, April 28

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

#### Tuesday, April 29

- 9:00 am Mass  
5:30 pm Religious Education Class  
7:00 pm Adult Choir  
7:00 pm Legion of Mary

#### Wednesday, April 30

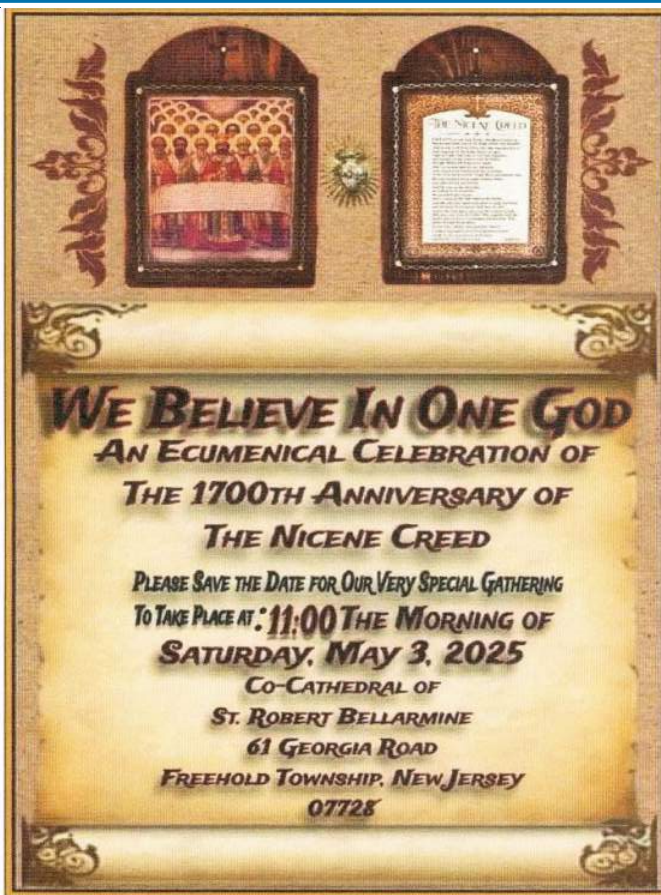
- 9:00 am Mass  
10:30 am Memorial Mass Margaret Doran

#### Thursday, May 1

- 9:00 am Mass

#### Friday, May 2

- 6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. (LC)



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 1700<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Origin of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Divine Mercy image, the Chaplet, and the Novena

**Saint Faustina:** Mankind's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century, when civilization began to experience an "eclipse of the sense of God" and, therefore to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. St. John Paul II explains:

This was precisely the time when those ideologies of evil, nazism and communism, were taking shape. Sister Faustina became the herald of the one message capable of off-setting the evil of those ideologies, that fact that God is mercy—the truth of the merciful Christ. And for this reason, when I was called to the See of Peter, I felt impelled to pass on those experiences of a fellow Pole that deserve a place in the treasury of the universal Church.

—Pope Saint John Paul II, *Memory and Identity* (2005)

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** St. Faustina's Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday) be observed, for example:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to Me. ... It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (Diary, no. 699)

On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.



CNS photo/Dan Meloy, The Michigan Catholic

**The Image:** Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in a vision, with his right hand raised in a blessing and his left touching his garment above his heart. Red and white rays emanate from his heart, symbolizing the blood and water that was poured out for our salvation and our sanctification. The Lord requested that "Jesus, I trust in You" be inscribed under his image. Jesus asked that his image be painted and venerated throughout the world: "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish" (Diary, no. 48) and "By means of this image I will grant many graces to souls" (Diary, no. 742).



## ORIGIN OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, THE DIVINE MERCY IMAGE, THE CHAPLET, AND THE NOVENA

**The Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** The Chaplet was also given to St. Faustina with this promise: "Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you" (Diary, no. 1541). "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. ... Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy" (Diary, no. 687). (Instructions for its recitation are provided on a separate page.)

**The Divine Mercy Novena:** Jesus gave St. Faustina nine intentions for which to pray the Chaplet beginning on Good Friday and ending on the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday.

### How to Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a glorious way to enter into the abundant Mercy of God. It only takes a few minutes and can easily be prayed almost anywhere. Using a rosary, follow the guide below to offer this wonderful prayer. It is especially good to pray it at the three o'clock hour.

#### ***Using a rosary make the sign of the Cross***

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### ***Optional Prayers***

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! (Repeat three times)

#### ***Introductory Prayers***

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

#### ***Prayed on large bead prior to each decade***

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

#### ***Prayed on 10 small beads of each decade***

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

#### ***Prayed after all 5 decades of Chaplet are complete***

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (Repeat three times)

#### ***Optional Concluding Prayer***

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion—inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

# Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Second Sunday of Easter (C)  
Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 5:12–16 • Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19 • John 20:19–31



## Unlocking Hearts, Unleashing Mission

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we focus on God’s boundless compassion. In the Gospel, we witness one of Jesus’ first appearances after his Resurrection. The disciples, still reeling from recent events, are huddled behind locked doors. But physical barriers can’t keep Jesus out. He appears among them, offering peace—not just a fleeting calm, but the deep, all-encompassing *shalom* that brings true wholeness.

What strikes me most is how Jesus penetrates the locked doors of our hearts, just as he did that room. Many of us are trapped behind barriers of fear or shame. Yet Christ breaks through, offering his peace and a profound commission: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Jesus then breathes on the disciples, giving them the Holy Spirit and the power to forgive sins. Through the sacrament of Reconciliation, we come in contact with a tangible expression of God’s mercy.

Jesus’ journey began with his baptism. He received the Holy Spirit, spent years teaching, faced the Cross, and ultimately rose victorious. Our path as his followers echoes this pattern through the sacraments of initiation, living out his teachings daily, facing our own crosses, and experiencing resurrection in our lives.

Today, I encourage you to seek out the Church. Walk through those doors of mercy, unlock your heart, and receive God’s mercy. But don’t stop there. Like the disciples, you are called to a mission. Having experienced his mercy, you are sent to share it with a world desperately in need of hope and healing.

As the Father sent Jesus, so he sends you. Embrace your baptismal call, lean into the Spirit’s power, and go forth as an agent of divine mercy.



The Baptism of Christ by Andrea del Verrocchio and Leonardo da Vinci, c.1475

## Live the Gospel

This week, make it one of your missions to extend mercy to someone who hurt you. Offer forgiveness, even if it is difficult. If both of your hearts are open to love, then perhaps the two of you will feel the kind of peace Jesus meant when he greeted his disciples in today’s Gospel. The *shalom* of Christ—the wholeness he offers—is a blessing that surpasses understanding. When you offer your forgiveness, may both of you feel the peace of Christ.

## Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/divine-mercy-sunday-c/>



**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.

**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](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**

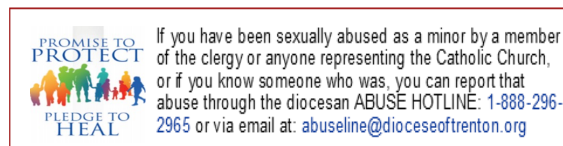
Children are expected to receive a Catholic-Christian upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to participate in on-going Religious Education classes. Our program includes grades 1-8. Please contact Karen Badach, Coordinator of Religious Education 732-928-4038 or [stmonicaccd@yahoo.com](mailto:stmonicaccd@yahoo.com)

**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 7:00 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.



## *Reflections on the Readings for Divine Mercy Sunday - April 27, 2025*

### TWO SIDES OF CHRIST'S LOVE

Today's Gospel account reveals the two sides of Christ's love. He mercifully loves us wherever he finds us, even in our sin, but he loves us too much to leave us there and thus calls us to a higher standard.

The Gospel recounts Jesus' first appearance to his disciples after the Resurrection. One of the first things Jesus does is to show them the wounds in his hands and side. These wounds are the effects of sin. The disciples realize their own sinfulness when they see the risen Lord. But Jesus doesn't come just to show the disciples the effects of sin. He also tells them, "Peace be with you." In the ancient Jewish world "peace" didn't mean just a calm feeling, but it described right relationship and friendship. In coming to meet his friends for the first time since they abandoned him on Good Friday, Jesus not only shows them his wounds, but he speaks words of comfort and forgiveness.

These are the two sides of Christ's love: He comes to show us the truth of our sin and its consequences, but he also comes with mercy and forgiveness. He comes to offer "peace." The place where we experience these two aspects of Christ's love most profoundly is in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We might be reminded of this sacrament when Jesus tells the apostles that as the Father has sent him, so he now sends them. Jesus was sent by the Father for the forgiveness of sins, and now he is sending his apostles, enabled by the Holy Spirit, to participate in this ministry of forgiveness. Our priests and bishops continue this ministry in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the successors of the apostles.



Are you ready to avail yourself of both sides of Jesus' love?

### PRAYER

Put yourself into today's Gospel reading. Imagine that you are in the upper room with the disciples. Jesus appears to you and shows you the wounds in his hands and in his side—these are the effects of your sins. How do you feel? What do you say to Jesus? Now imagine that Jesus extends his hands toward you and says, "Peace be with you." How do you feel? How would you respond? What do you do when you hear those words?

### RESOLUTION

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we have direct access to the mission of forgiveness which the Father gave to Jesus and which Jesus shared with the apostles. Make plans to go to Confession as soon as you can. In preparation, prayerfully ask God to reveal any hidden areas of sin in your life and help you to make a good confession.

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