

SAINT MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

P·E·A·C·E

Prepare the way of the
Lord, make straight
his paths: all flesh
shall see the
salvation of God.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—DECEMBER 5, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 4

4:00 pm Silvestre Cascio (Anzalone Family)

Sunday, December 5

9:00 am Intentions of Gianna Anthony
(Piacentino Family)

11:00 am Vincent LoPiccolo
(LoPiccolo Family)

Monday, December 6

9:00 am Available

Tuesday, December 7

9:00 am Available

Wednesday, December 8

9:00 am Maria Noone
(Karen & Marvin Badach)

7:00 pm Parishioners of St Monica

Thursday, December 9

9:00 am Available

Saturday, December 11

4:00 pm Rosanne Borrello
(Jon & Mary Ann Tvaroha)

Sunday, December 12

9:00 am Dario Orrico
(Trematerra Family)

11:00 am Hope Finnerty (Gould Family)

To secure your intentions, please contact the Parish Office.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Jackie Wilson, Diane Black, Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Peter Laudati, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Paul Gallo, Rosemarie McNab, Chuck Smith, Toni Hetteroth, Brian Scott, Dianne Smith, Douglas Merwin, Joan Myhal, Carol Spezzano, Baryt Schone, Victor Mota, Fran DeLuca, Nick DeLuca, Dorothy Palumbo, Frank Diolosa, Theodore Duniak, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Baby Tripp Ravenfeld, Marie Gould, Christopher Diolosa, Steve Andolora, Wayne Calsetta, Doris Garbarino, Bettina Morell, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, John Jennings, Arlene Toth, Deborah MacInnes, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Lewis Trimboli, Glory D'Acunto, Anna and Sal Morello, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Joey Brune, Phillip Wenz, Tina Sherry, Patrick Abeel, Robin Trombino, Mary Miniscalchi

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.

Parish Mission: Wed., Dec. 15 @ 7 p.m.
"All Things New"

READINGS FOR THE WEEK – DECEMBER 5, 2021

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3, 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA, JACKSON, NEW JERSEY



Church of St Monica
2021 Advent/Christmas/New Year
Schedule of Services

†
Immaculate Conception Mass
 Wednesday, December 8
 (holy day of obligation)
 9:00 am and 7:00 pm

Advent Parish Penance Service
 Wednesday, December 8
 7:45 pm (In Little Church)

Daily Masses:
 Monday – Thursday
 9:00 am
 (through December 23)

Simbang Gabi – Christmas Novena Rosary & Mass
 Saturday, December 11
 Rosary 6:00 pm
 Mass 6:30 pm

Advent Parish Mission
 Wednesday, December 15
 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24
 4:00 and 10:00 pm

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25
 9:00 am and 11:00 am

4:00 pm - Holy Family Sunday Obligation

Solemnity of Mary - Saturday, January 1
 Not a holy day of obligation this year, regular Saturday
 Mass at 4:00 pm.

- Face coverings are an option for those who are fully vaccinated and strongly encouraged if not fully vaccinated.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
COLLECTIONS NOVEMBER 20 - 21, 2021

Weekly	\$3,992.00
Utility & Energy	\$ 426.51
Online Giving	\$1,281.00
Total	\$5,699.51

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Sunday, Dec 5
Christmas Around the World
 @ 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, Dec 8
Immaculate Conception
 Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 8
Advent Parish Penance Service
 following the 7 p.m. Immaculate Conception Mass. Journey with us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord.

Saturday, Dec 25
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 You may fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation by attending this Saturday Mass at 4 p.m. Not a Christmas Mass, but a regular weekend Mass in honor of the Holy Family.

The 2022 Mass Intention book is now open. One of the best ways to honor someone's memory is to have the sacred Mass offered for their intention. To secure intentions, please contact the Parish Office at 732-928-0279. In order to be fair to everyone, no individual

Retirement Fund for Religious collection next weekend, Dec. 11 & 12. Please be generous. SEE: Page 8

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—DECEMBER 5, 2021



Knights of Columbus Council #11529 are holding their annual Christmas Tree Sale to benefit St. Jude Hospital and local charities.

Your perfect tree is waiting for you at Glory's Market, located at 584 Cedar Swamp Rd, Jackson, on the corner of W. Commodore Blvd. and Cedar Swamp Rd.

Please support this worthy cause with the purchase of trees, wreaths, or grave blankets. Sales Hours are as follows:

Weekdays 1-8 p.m.

Weekends 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information contact Chris Althaver at 732-691-5461.

**Volunteer building/grounds maintenance persons for St. Monica. Flexible hours one - two hours per week. Please contact Liz in the Parish Office for details:
732-928-0279**

**Getting Ready for Christmas ?
Shopping on Amazon ?**

Go to
smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3124290
and

Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to the Church of St Monica!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Elderly Religious Need Your Help

Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend, Dec 11 & 12 helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

CHRISTMAS INTENTIONS

Intentions for the living and deceased will be remembered at all Christmas Masses. Intention envelopes will be mailed in our Christmas mailing. Additional envelopes are available at the entrances to the church and from the Parish Office. Intentions may be returned in the collection basket or dropped off at the Parish Office no later than Dec 19.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Giving Tree & Food Baskets

Take a tag from the Giving Tree and help our local families in need this Christmas. Tags WITH GIFTS should be returned to church no later than Fri., Dec. 17th.

Also needed are families to donate a box of food for a neighbor in need this Christmas. Please see the sign-up sheets in the back of the church for details.

Grocery gift cards are also welcome and may be placed in the collection baskets marked to the attention of Social Concerns Ministry. For questions or further information, please contact Dee Balint at 609-529-6724

CALENDAR**Saturday, December 4**

- 9:00 am Breakfast With Santa (Parish Hall)
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 5

- 9:00 am Mass
 10:00 am RCIA for Young Adults (LC)
 11:00 am Mass
 1:00 pm Grief Share (Little Church)
 2:00 pm Christmas Around the World (PH)

Monday, December 6

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

Tuesday, December 7

- 9:00 am Mass
 1:30 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)
 4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
 6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
 8:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, December 8

- Immaculate Conception Holy Day—Offices Closed
 9:00 am Holy Day Mass
 7:00 pm Holy Day Mass
 7:45 pm Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 9

- 9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm RCIA Adults (Little Church)
 7:30 pm K of C Council Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Friday, December 10

- 7:30 pm AA Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Saturday, December 11

- 11:00 am Memorial Mass
 3:15 am Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass
 6:00 pm Simbang Gabi (Church)

Sunday, December 12

- 9:00 am Mass
 10:00 am RCIA Young Adults (Little Ch.)
 11:00 am Mass
 12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Mtg. (LC)
 1:00 pm Grief Share (Little Church)

Monday, December 13

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

Tuesday, December 14

- 9:00 am Mass
 1:30 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)
 4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
 6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
 8:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, December 15

- 9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm Advent Parish Mission

Thursday, December 16

- 9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm RCIA Adults (Little Church)

Friday, December 17

- Social Concerns (LC)
 7:30 pm AA Mtg. (Parish Hall)

SYNOD: ADVENT WEEK 2**Journeying Together through the Synod**

During November and December, our diocese will focus on preparation for the *synod listening* that will occur early in 2022. Those who will facilitate the conversations and listening in parishes and other organizations are being trained. We hope to create opportunities for many people to share their story of journeying with the Church, and to listen for the prompting of the Spirit for how we can better journey together. Will you pray for the Synod?

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.





Finding Christ in Advent

BY DAVID GIBSON

The problem of Advent is its way of rushing by. In what can seem just the blink of an eye, Advent's weeks are completed; Christmas arrives.

December's days are filled with shopping, festive gatherings, cooking, and the laying of plans for the big day. In his book "Finding Happiness," Abbot Christopher Jamison, a British Benedictine monk, shares his concern about the holiday season:

"The commercial world has taken over the popular imagination at Christmas and tells us that there are only two essential parts of the festival, namely, Christmas gifts and Christmas feasting. Shopping is the key to both."

If that's all there is to Christmas, one might ask how much there possibly could be to Advent!

Advice for a Well-Kept Advent

Writer Lisa Hendeby thinks "the busyness of the holiday season leaves us too weary and overwhelmed." In her booklet for Advent titled "O Radiant Dawn" (Ave Maria Press), she asks, "How can you renew your spiritual strength this Advent? What will help your spirit soar?"

Her booklet, subtitled "5-Minute Prayers Around the Advent Wreath," is proposed to families as "a doorway into the profound solace of a well-kept Advent." Hendeby will be recognized by many as the author of *A Book of Saints for Catholic Moms* and the *Handbook for Catholic Moms*.

"Put away unhelpful expectations of what you think Advent should be, and allow this to be a time of simplicity, focus and sacred longing," Hendeby suggests.

She urges that ways be found in



families—despite all the season's "to-do lists"—for individual reflection or "shared conversation about what matters most." To that end, her prayers and reflections for each Advent day include a question to prompt thought or discussion.

It seems to me that these tend to be questions a wife and husband or parents and children could discuss together. For example, she asks:

- How does "faith in God embolden you" to surmount your life's challenges?
- Are there ways to show "love and support" for friends or family members experiencing sadness this Advent?
- Where are you "being sent" to serve "people in need?"

Watchfulness is a major Advent theme. Those awaiting the coming of Christ, both at Christmas and his Second Coming in glory,



are encouraged to watch for signs of his presence now.

Hendey notes how Advent invites Christians to “make room for Christ” daily. Not surprisingly, some of her points for discussion in families hone in on the signs of Christ here and now.

She asks, “What signs in the world reveal that Christ is present?” And, are there ways “your actions help others” recognize Christ’s presence?

Watching for the Face of Christ

“I know that the Lord waits for me in you,” Pope Benedict XVI said to a prisoner in December

2011 named Omar during an Advent visit to a Rome prison.

Several prisoners asked questions of the pope when he visited them on December 18 last year. Responding to Omar, Pope Benedict recalled Christ’s assurance that

in visiting the sick or imprisoned one also visited the Lord.

When Pope Benedict announced the Year of Faith in an apostolic letter titled *The Door of Faith*, he pointed out that it would be “a good opportunity to intensify the witness of charity.”

I wonder if family members experiencing the stress of real life—perhaps parents, particularly—were heartened by this comment in the apostolic letter about the presence of Christ in those around them: “Through faith, we can recognize the face of the risen Lord in those who ask for our love.”

The pope insisted in his letter that “the reflection of Christ’s own face” can be seen in “lonely, marginalized or excluded” people. Christ’s love “impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbor along the journey of life,” the pope said.

“Watch!” That was Pope Benedict’s word of exhortation the first day of

Advent 2011. Advent is a reminder, he explained, that life needs to “find its proper orientation, turned toward the face of God.”

Again, in remarks in 2011 for the lighting of a Christmas tree in the Italian town of Gubbio, the pope accented the world’s need for kindness. “Every small act of kindness is like a light of this great tree,” he said.

Recalling the “light shone on the shepherds” when Jesus was born, Pope Benedict added that Jesus is “the true light.” The pope wished, he said, “that everyone may know how to bring a little light to the places where they live: in the family, at work, in the neighborhood, in towns, in cities.” He said, “May each of us be a light for those nearby.”

David Gibson served for 37 years on the editorial staff at Catholic News Service, where he was the founding and long-time editor of Origins, CNS Documentary Service.



Catholic
Current

This article was originally published on www.foryoumarriage.org.

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Image: CNS photo/Octavio Duran

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—DECEMBER 5, 2021



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Like the women and men religious shown here, thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to helping others. Across the US, generations of Catholics gratefully recall their ministry in Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes, and works of mercy. Most older religious served for little pay. Today, without enough retirement savings, many religious communities are struggling to care for senior members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medicine, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Please give at your local parish.

All Masses the weekend
of December 11 & 12

retiredreligious.org

To donate by mail:

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194

Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

Visit retiredreligious.org for photos to meet the religious pictured.
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ABOUT/SPEAKING

Web: www.jmjmissions.com
Email: daniel.palmieri@jmjmissions.com



St. Monica Advent Parish Mission
December 15, 2021
7:00—9:00 p.m.

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 - Friday 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

Catholic Men coming together selflessly for others through Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Visit our Website at www.kofc11529.org.

St Vincent de Paul Society

Emergency Assistance Helpline: 732-370-0098

Bereavement Ministry

Please contact the parish office for more information.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Fridays 7:30 - 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall

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 stmonicaced@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.

Ancient Order of Hibernians

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is an Irish Catholic fraternity looking for members to bond in Brotherhood, Unity & Christian Charity. Contact Patrick Jockel (609) 489-9221 or at patrickaoh@hotmail.com

Our Parish is Served by:

Reverend Alex Enriquez, Pastor
 Deacon Christian Knoebel

We invite you to celebrate with us

679 W. Veterans Highway
 Jackson, NJ 08527

Parish Office: 732-928-0279

Religious Education: 732-928-4038

Fax: (732) 928-1853

Email: stmonicanj@yahoo.com

Website: www.saintmonica.com

Twitter: @StMonicaParish

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/

Confessions

Saturdays

3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

or

by appointment

Masses
 MON TO THURS 9am
 SATURDAY 4 pm
 SUNDAY 9 am & 11 am

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.

Reflections on the Readings for the 2nd Sunday in Lent—December 5, 2021

Making Straight the Path of the Lord

Have you ever driven on a zigzag road? If you have, then you know how long it takes to get somewhere. It would be so much faster if you could just take a straight path to your destination. In today's reading, we are told, "The winding roads shall be made straight." But the real question is why roads, especially the road to God, get crooked in the first place.

The answer is simple: First, we follow our will, and then we veer back to God. But that doesn't last and we go our own selfish way again. Then we decide to do it God's way, but before long, we are wandering off down our own road of bad intentions again. We do this over and over, and pretty soon we have created a very zigzag path indeed.

How do we make our path straight? By following God's will wholeheartedly. Our Father gently calls us to repent from our crooked paths and return home to him. He reaches out and offers to help us find our way directly back to him. But it's up to us if we are going to accept his offer to return from our self-imposed exile and "come back rejoicing, carrying [our] sheaves."

PRAYER

Let us reflect on these words from the Gospel reading about how the Lord is coming to make the winding roads straight. Ask Jesus what they mean in your own life. What roads in your life are winding—are not the right path? What rough areas need to be made smooth?

Take the word that comes to mind and reflect for a moment on what it means to you personally. For example, you might have been attracted to the words "winding road." Ask yourself what they mean in your own life. What roads are winding? How can you make them straight?

RESOLUTION

St. Augustine said, "God *created us* without us, but he did not will to *save us* without us." Ask God today what he wants you to do to prepare the way of the Lord in your heart. What practical thing can you do this week to straighten the paths of your life? |formed.org

On the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary last year, Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter, *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), for the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the universal Church. To mark the occasion, the pope proclaimed a year dedicated to Mary's husband, Joseph, foster father to Jesus. The special "Year of St. Joseph" will end this week, on Dec. 8, 2021.

In his apostolic letter, Pope Francis explained that the aim of this special year was "to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal," describing St. Joseph as a "beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows."

"With a Father's Heart" is available at the Vatican website <https://bit.ly/3kunkpI>

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

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