Saint Monica Catholic Church

"Blessed are you when people hate you and exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Your reward will be great in heaven."
Luke 6:22-23

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

We invite you to celebrate with us

Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Religious Education:732-928-4038
Fax: (732) 928-1853
Email: stmonicanj@yahoo.com
website: www.saintmonica.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
or
by appointment

Twitter:
@StMonicaParish
Facebook:
www.facebook.com
/ParishofStMonica/

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time–February 13, 2022

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 12
4:00 pm Loretta Zrebiec (Husband, Tom)

Sunday, February 13
9:00 am Intentions of Lane Morell (John & Caroline White)
11:00 am Frank Diolosa (Diolosa Family)

Monday, February 14
9:00 am Carl Bocchicchio (Asunta Bocchicchio)

Tuesday, February 15
9:00 am Robert Reynolds (Debiak/Reynolds Families)

Wednesday, February 16
9:00 am Available

Thursday, February 17
9:00 am William Carragher, Jr. (Marie Gould)

Saturday, February 19
4:00 pm Intentions of Marie Gould (John & Caroline White)

Sunday, February 20
9:00 am Janet Coleman (Merwin Family)
11:00 am Jim Scott (Karen & Marvin Badach)

2022 Mass intentions are available. 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 Dunyak, 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, Guy Okulewicz, Denis Balint

Contact the Parish Office to let us know of anyone to be remembered in prayer, so we way include them or, if they can be removed.

Readings for the Week – February 13, 2022

Monday: Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26; Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 8:34–9:1
Saturday: Jas 3:1-10; Ps 12:2-3, 4-5, 7-8; Mk 9:2-13
Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49;

Please Take Note

In honor of National Marriage Day, Fr. Alex will extend a blessing to all married parishioners this weekend.
****

There is no 9:00 am Mass or Liturgy of the Word on Monday, Feb 21 and Parish Offices will be closed.
****

There are no Religious Education classes on February 21 or 22

Live Christ - Share Christ

The Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) invites you to LIVE CHRIST SHARE CHRIST at St Monica on February 19, 26 & March 5 Saturdays (5-7:30 pm).

It is a program of the parish. Through its Life in Christ Seminar (LCS), participants are brought to a personal relationship with Jesus and towards a deeper spirit-filled Christian life.

There are no fees or monetary expenses required. The only investment is your time and openness.

"The Lord seeks all. He wants everyone to feel the warmth of His mercy and His love."
Pope Francis

For questions, please contact Nick Lamprea nicklamprea@yahoo.com

Knights of Columbus

Knight's Breakfast for Priests

On Sunday, February 27th the Knights of Columbus Council 11529 will sponsor a "Pancakes for Priests" fundraiser to support a future seminarian in the Trenton Diocese.

Breakfast will be served at the Cassville Firehouse, 785 Miller Rd., ***after*** the 9:00 am and 11:00 am masses.

Tickets will be available after all masses. Adults $10, children 10 & under are $5. Advanced tickets are helpful, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Raymond Smink 732-547-0143.

Financial Stewardship Collections
Jan 24 - 30, 2022

Total	$3,045.00

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

Italian Dinner

Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 pm

This dinner will take place in our parish hall. The menu will include: penne with vodka sauce; spaghetti; meatballs, lasagna; sausage, pepper and onions, antipasto salad; bread and butter; dessert and coffee.

Tickets are available after today's Mass. $10 for Adults; Children 5 & under admitted free.

Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door on the day of the dinner, but purchasing tickets in advance is recommended. Join us for a wonderful afternoon!

For information, contact Linda Thompson 908-770-0681 or Joanne Guarnieri 732-299-8939.

Volunteer Meatball Makers Needed:
If you would like to make meatballs for our dinner, it would be appreciated. Please see the signup sheet on the table in the back of the Church. Thank You !

MINISTRARE NON MINISTRARI

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 4, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead --- from ***Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022 until Holy Thursday, April 14, 2022*** --- the Catholic Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent ending with the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. The model Jesus gave us for "these forty days" was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert --- alone, fasting and in intense prayer --- beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those forty days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

1. **The days of FAST (only one full meal) <u>and</u> ABSTINENCE (no meat)** are **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below. The pastor of a parish has the authority to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish. The Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.**

2. **Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include: the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also included n the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).**

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to FAST (only one full meal) as above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to ABSTAIN (no meat: this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat).

The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the intentional failure

to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered a serious matter.

The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year --- often called "Easter duty" --- for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the **First Sunday of Lent, March 5-6, 2022 to Trinity Sunday, June 12, 2022.** However, the Church's law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage all Catholics, especially those conscious of serious sin, to go to confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church.

We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of penance leading to grace and joy for us all at Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ David M. O'Connell, C.M.

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton

A BETTER KIND OF POLITICS
Civilize It

5 Tips from Pope Francis for "a Better Kind of Politics"

In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis calls for "a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good" (no. 154). Essential to a better kind of politics is the ability to foster a social love among people through dialogue across perspectives, inspiring "new ways of approaching the problems of today's world, of profoundly renewing structures, social organizations and legal systems from within" (no. 183). What is "a better kind of politics"? It means working across differences to listen to one another and connect around shared values, resulting in creative solutions for the common good.

Here are 5 "musts" from Pope Francis that are essential for a "better kind of politics" in both our Church and society.

We are a human family

We must recover "the sense of belonging to a single human family." After all, "we are all in the same boat" (no. 30). This is in stark contrast to the tendency, which has become commonplace, to disengage from difficult conversations and see only our own interests and perspectives. Pope Francis challenges us: "Isolation and withdrawal into one's own interests are never the way to restore hope and bring about renewal" (no. 30). Instead of "the inclination to be concerned only with myself, my group, my own petty interests" (no. 166) we have to commit to overcoming "every individualistic mindset" and instead "seek the good of all people" including those we may see as different from us (no. 182).

We must commit to approaching others with love.

Even those with whom we disagree are children of God. Sadly, such an approach has become counter-cultural. We have become used to efforts aimed more to "discredit and insult opponents from the outset than to open a respectful dialogue aimed at achieving agreement on a deeper level" (no. 201). This is a situation in which we must be prophetic, modeling by example a respectful approach that honors others as made in God's image. This involves stepping outside ourselves, listening with empathy, and seeking to truly understand another person's experience.

We must identify common values based on truth.

Social love, Pope Francis says, has to be "accompanied by a commitment to the truth" (no. 184) informed by both faith and reason (no. 185). An essential starting place for dialogue is to identify common values rooted in truth and justice, such as the dignity of the human person, or a commitment to fundamental human rights and integral human development. Identifying these common convictions can unite us despite our differences and lead to creative thinking and new solutions.

How can we get started?

- Take the pledge committing to charity, clarity, and creativity in your community at Civilizelt.org.
- Share your commitment on social media using #Civilizelt.
- Invite your friends and family to do the same by sharing prayers and resources to help build "a better kind of politics."

We must learn how to unmask the various ways that the truth is manipulated.

We must learn how to unmask the various ways that the truth is manipulated, distorted and concealed in public and private discourse" (no. 208), and to unmask media sources that are actually "powerful special interests that seek to tilt public opinion unfairly in their favor" (no. 201). An important starting point in preparing our hearts for dialogue is to consider from what sources I get my information. Are these sources reputable and long-standing? Are they neutral sources or connected with a particular political party or bias? Is it possible that I or others are being manipulated by persons or groups who have their own interests in mind? How can I check claims that I hear against multiple sources to ensure their accuracy before I share that information with others?

Dream, Pope Francis writes that polarization results when we erroneously perceive disagreement as contradiction instead of contraposition. With the former, we create separate "camps" where there is one winner and one loser. With the latter, differences exist but they are capable of interacting in a "fruitful, creative tension" (p. 79). In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis writes that we must seek to identify "shared goals that transcend their differences and can thus engage in a common endeavor" (no. 157). We must be willing to dialogue with open hearts and get comfortable with creative tension as we hold simultaneous points of view that don't fit neatly together but which can yield solutions focused on the common good (no. 190).

Building a better kind of politics through social charity will not be a quick, nor easy process. It won't be glamorous. Pope Francis writes, "Unlike disagreement and conflict, persistent and courageous dialogue does not make headlines, but quietly helps the world to live much better than we imagine" (no. 198). But if we approach our engagement with these guidelines in mind, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can arrive together at "a new kind of politics" that produces much fruit to help achieve a common good where all can thrive. How can we respond to this challenging invitation? One action that every Catholic can take is to visit CivilizeIt.org to take a pledge based on Pope Francis' invitation in *Fratelli Tutti*. This webpage also includes numerous resources, including prayers, an examination of conscience, an individual/communal reflection guide, action steps, and much more. Visit CivilizeIt.org today to get involved!

"Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile".

– Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 55

We must get comfortable with being a polyhedron.

Pope Francis uses the image of the polyhedron (a three-dimensional shape that has many faces) to "represent a society where differences coexist, complementing, enriching and reciprocally illuminating one another, even amid disagreements and reservations" (no. 215). "Authentic social dialogue," he writes, "involves the ability to respect the other's point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns," that others "have a contribution to make," and that we can both "be frank and open about our beliefs, while continuing to discuss, to seek points of contact, and above all, to work and struggle together" (no. 203). In his book, *Let Us*

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#CivilizeIt

Calendar

Saturday, February 12
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass
Sunday, February 13
9:00 am Mass
10:00 am Special Class (Foyer)
10:00 am Teen RCIA (Little Church)
11:00 am Mass
Monday, February 14
9:00 am Mass
1:00 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)
4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
Tuesday, February 15
9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
8:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)
Wednesday, February 16
9:00 am Mass
Thursday, February 17
9:00 am Mass
2:00 pm Baptism
7:00 pm RCIA Adults (Little Church)
Friday, February 18
7:30 pm AA Mtg. (Parish Hall)
Saturday, February 19
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass
Sunday, February 20
9:00 am Mass
10:00 am Special Class (Foyer)
10:00 am Teen RCIA (Little Church)
11:00 am Mass
Monday, February 21
No 9:00 am Mass today
No Religious Education Classes today
Parish Office Closed
1:00 am Legion of Mary
Tuesday, February 22
No Religious Education Classes today
9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Reconciliation Practice
8:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)
8:00 pm K of C Officer Mtg. (LC)
Wednesday, February 23
9:00 am Mass
6:00 pm First Reconciliation
Thursday, February 24
9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm RCIA Adults (Little Church)
7:30 pm K of C Council Mtg. (Parish Hall)
Friday, February 25
7:30 pm AA Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Diocesan Marriage Ministry

Celebrating the Beauty of Catholic Marriage from the Catechism – read more at usccb.org under "Resources"

1605 Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another: "It is not good that the man should be alone." The woman, "flesh of his flesh," his equal, his nearest in all things, is given to him by God as a "helpmate"; she thus represents God from whom comes our help. "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh." The Lord himself shows that this signifies an unbreakable union of their two lives by recalling what the plan of the Creator had been "in the beginning": "So they are no longer two, but one flesh." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

Diocesan Spiritual Center

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84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501
609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

"COR" STRENGTH
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Fri., Feb. 18 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Join Fr. William Lago as he shares about the core values that open us up to transformation "through, with, and in" the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The day will include Scripture Study/ Reflection; insights from St. Therese, St. John Newmann, St. Maximus the Confessor, St. Anastasius and spiritual author, George Aschenbrenner. There will be time for quiet reflection and meditation. We will conclude with the celebration of Mass. Donation: $25, includes lunch; Zoom $20.

Please check www.FHOP.org for registration, directions, and for our other offerings.

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 stmonicaccd@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

Reflections on the Readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Feb. 13, 2022

THE SEARCH FOR TRUE HAPPINESS

Who wouldn't want to take the direct path to happiness? Well, today's Gospel reading gives us a roadmap to follow if we want to be happy, not just in the future but today as well.

What is the wonderful guide, you may be asking? It's the Beatitudes.

What makes the Beatitudes so different is that their message runs contrary to what the world teaches about happiness. The world tells us that we can find true happiness in having successful careers, in being esteemed by our peers, by having a lot of money, getting the latest fashion, or having a lot of fun. The Beatitudes tell us that true happiness comes from self-sacrifice, from following the way of the Lord even when it is difficult, and from putting others first.

This message wasn't any easier to accept in Jesus' time than it is today. However, we must all come to the point where we acknowledge our spiritual poverty and our complete dependence on God if we want to be truly happy. Then we can begin to understand why Jesus would say, "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours."

PRAYER

Imagine yourself sitting at the feet of Jesus when he gave the Beatitudes. Hear him say that the rich and satisfied will be unhappy. Hear him offer a path of true happiness through humble obedience and faith. Do you accept this humble path? Do you choose his roadmap of happiness over the need for wealth, worldly success, and human praise and acceptance? Now if Jesus were to approach you and ask you where you are putting your emphasis, what do you say to him?

RESOLUTION

Now in prayer, ask Jesus to show you an area of your life where you are too focused on or too attached to the fortunes, pleasures, and comforts offered by this world. Also ask him to show you ways you can change the desires of your heart to bring them more in line with the Beatitudes. Think of one small change you can make to your life this week that will help you place more of your heart's focus on the kingdom of God. |*formed.org*

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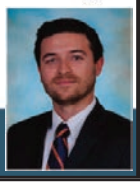

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