

SAINT MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
ParishofStMonica/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 7, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 6

4:00 pm William R McEnery (Marie Gould)

Sunday, May 7

9:00 am Joseph Paone, Sr
(Bereavement Ministry)

11:00 am Joe Salegna
(Michael & Christine Hackett)

11:00 am Joe Salegna (Fran Hackett)

Monday, May 8

9:00 am Edward & Janet Cullen
(Piacentino Family)

Tuesday, May 9

9:00 am Anne Masek (Piacentino Family)

Wednesday, May 10

9:00 am Doris Isope (Piacentino Family)

Thursday, May 11

9:00 am Dolan Family (Piacentino Family)

Saturday, May 13

4:00 pm Mother's Day Mass Intentions

Sunday, May 14

9:00 am Mother's Day Mass Intentions

11:00 am Mother's Day Mass Intentions

To secure your intentions, please contact the Parish Office.



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Chuck Smith, Toni Hetteroth, Brian Scott, Dianne Smith, Frank Diolosa, Theodore Duniak, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Baby Tripp Ravenfeld, Marie Gould, Christopher Diolosa, Steve Andolora, Doris Garbarino, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, John Jennings, Arlene Toth, Deborah MacInnes, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Glory D'Acunto, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Joey Brune, Phillip Wenz, Tina Sherry, Patrick Abeel, Robin Trombino, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Eileen Morello, Elaine Stemmler, Rose Thompson, Tom Martin, Sarah Thomas, Christos Lambrou, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Cathy Sedano, Jennie D'Angelo, Jake Higgins, Paul Hetteroth, John C Purfield, Cheryl Vega, Taylor Dlugosz, Cameron Dlugosz, Domenick DiCicco, Irene Kislán, Renee Brady, Carol Spezzano, Maria Lambros, John Lanteri, Michael Seiler

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 – MAY 7, 2023

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a

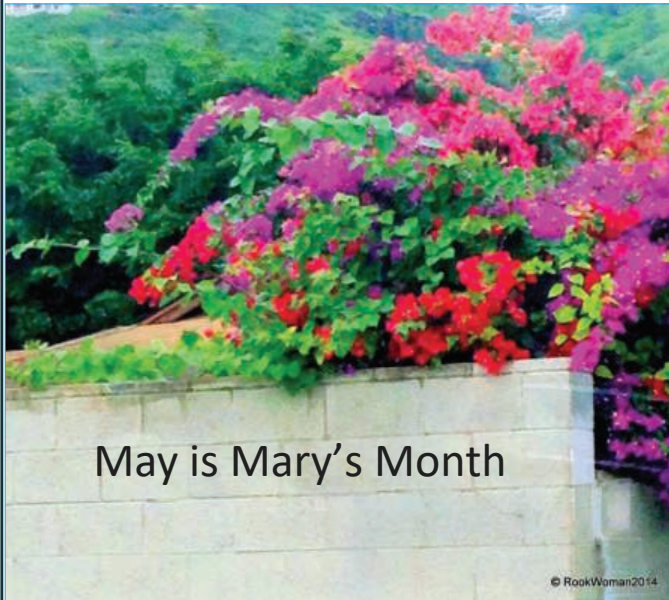
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-9, 10, 12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21



May is Mary's Month

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MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCES

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 7.**

MOTHER'S DAY PLANTS

Once again the St. Monica Youth Group will be offering beautiful 10" hanging baskets and potted plants for purchase on Mother's Day Weekend. Come on out and enjoy these beautiful plants for all your gift giving needs while supporting the youth and young adults of our parish. There will be lots of colors and arrangements to choose from after all Masses on Mother's Day weekend. Cash and checks (made payable to **St. Monica**) will be accepted. For info. or any questions, please contact Theresa Calsetta at 732-299-0261.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
APRIL 24 - 30, 2023**

Our bulletin publisher has temporarily modified our deadline. This issue is being generated two weeks in advance. Contributions will be provided in next week's bulletin.

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



HOLY EUCHARIST

**Blessings to Our Students who received
the Holy Eucharist
for the first time on May 6th**

- Lilyana Marie Aitken*
- Riley Rae Bostich*
- Aaron Calderon Martinez*
- Londyn Jade Chan*
- Robert Daniel Cicerelle*
- Ava Jade Clark*
- Kayla Marie Copernico*
- Daniel Michael Mendes Ferreira*
- Sasha Clair Ferrick*
- Gage Mabutas Fisher*
- Marlee Rose Gardella*
- Daniella Rose Gerardo*
- Eva Rose Hernandez*
- Brielle Rose Kowaleski*
- Benjamin Paul O'Sullivan*
- Lilyana Arya Owenburg*
- Jase Ryan Perry*
- Gabriella Rose Reid*
- Isabella Sanchez*
- Hope Marie Sonion*
- Sebastian Louis Tumillo*
- Stella Mia Volpe*
- Jack Zengel*

ABOUT YOUR BOOKS...

We're sorry, but we can no longer accept book donations.

The Book Garden in Cream Ridge will accept them.

Also, "Pick Up Please," an organization for Veterans, will pick up books for free.

To schedule a book pick up:

www.pickupplease



On Wednesday, May 13 we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima! May we continue to take comfort in her presence and seek her intercession to bring peace to the world. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!



**NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival**

"Some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence. Ultimately, persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor and disabled, 'not yet useful'—like the unborn, or 'no longer needed'—like the elderly."

POPE FRANCIS, *FRATELLI TUTTI*, NO. 18

Intercessions for Life

May 7, 2023

5th Sunday of Easter

For those in public office:
May they work to enact laws
that protect and safeguard
the gift of human life.
Lord hear our prayer.



CALENDAR

Saturday, May 6

- 10:00 am 1st Communion
- 1:30 pm RCIA (Little Church)
- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, May 7

- 9:00 am Mass
- 11:00 am Mass
- 12:00 pm Baptism
- 12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Mtg. (LC)

Monday, May 8

- 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, May 9

- 9:00 am Mass
- 5:30 pm Religious Education Classes
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, May 10

- 9:00 am Mass

Thursday, May 11

- 9:00 am Mass
- 7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Saturday, May 13

- Mother's Day
- 12:00pm Public Prayer Rosary (Outside)
- 1:30 pm RCIA (Little Church)
- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, May 14

- Mother's Day
- 9:00 am Mass
- 11:00 am Mass

Monday, May 15

- 9:00 am Mass
- 1:00 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)

Tuesday, May 16

- 9:00 am Mass
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, May 17

- 9:00 am Mass

STORIES THAT UPLIFT

John 14:1-12

5th Sunday of Easter - Year A

Fr. Michael Brizio, IMC



Nelson Mandela told of how during the long years of his imprisonment on Robbin Island he had a recurring nightmare. He said: "In that dream, I had been released from prison—only it was not Robbin Island but a jail in Johannesburg. I walked outside the gates into the city and found no one to meet me. In fact, there was no one there at all, no people, no cars, no taxis.

"I would then set out on foot toward Soweto. I walked for many hours before arriving in Orlando West, and then turned the corner towards No. 8115. Finally, I would see my home, but it turned out to be empty, a ghost house, with all the doors and windows open but no one there at all."

**Truly, it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of home. When things fail, when we feel tired and lonely, there is always home to go to. It is not only on earth that we need a home. We also need a home to go to when death brings down the curtain on the days of our life.*

Without such a home, life would be a journey to nowhere. We spend our lives searching for God and groping our way toward God.

To die is to go to God, and to go to God is to go home. †



Language about Heaven

BY FR. LARRY RICE

It could be argued that for people of faith, nothing is more important than heaven. It's the goal we're aiming for, and a primary motivation for living a good life. Granting us access to heaven, through the forgiveness of sins, is the reason Christ died on the cross for us.

It constantly amazes me, then, that the images we have of heaven all seem so shallow and boring. From advertisements showing white-robed angels plucking harps amidst clouds, to caricatures of St. Peter at the Pearly gates, the popular images of heaven seem completely inadequate. Every time I see TV commercials depicting heaven, I'm left thinking, "Christ died to get us this?"

The problem is that— like so much of theological discourse— our language about heaven is completely inadequate to capture the reality of heaven. Images of hell, on the other hand, are comprehensible, because we've all experienced pain and suffering. But the

complete fulfillment that awaits us in heaven is harder to describe without using analogical language that always falls short.

Even the Catechism of the Catholic Church doesn't present a particularly inspiring vision of heaven. It describes the "communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels, and all the blessed.... the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness." That's heaven.

The truth is, such perfection is so far removed from our experience that it's hard to imagine, let alone comprehend. We need some new ways of talking about heaven that will inspire us. Perhaps the first step is moving away from images of halos, harps, and clouds, and toward the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached, where our earthly expectations are overturned, and God's justice and mercy are complete, and we are re-stored to wholeness and peace.



Prayer to Care for our Common Home



Cenny Images

Father of all,
 Creator and ruler of the universe,
 You entrusted your world to us as a gift.
 Help us to care for it and all people,
 that we may live in right relationship—
 with You,
 with ourselves,
 with one another,
 and with creation.

Christ our Lord,
 both divine and human,
 You lived among us and died for our sins.
 Help us to imitate your love for the
 human family
 by recognizing that we are all connected—
 to our brothers and sisters around the world,
 to those in poverty impacted by
 environmental devastation,
 and to future generations.

Holy Spirit,
 giver of wisdom and love,
 You breathe life in us and guide us.
 Help us to live according to your vision,
 stirring to action the hearts of all—
 individuals and families,
 communities of faith,
 and civil and political leaders.

Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in
 poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may
 together care for our common home.

Amen.

This prayer from the United States Conference
 of Catholic Bishops is based on Pope Francis'
Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home.



Catholic
 Current

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PRAYER RESOURCE

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 7, 2023



**Public Square
Rosary Crusade**

The Feast

Our Lady of Fatima

St. Monica's Parish is participating in a Praying a Public Rosary for America.

**When: Saturday,
May 13th at 12 pm.**
**Where: Outside in front
of St. Monica's**

You are invited to join us in a Public Rosary Rally. This Public Square Rosary will be combined with our Knights of Columbus Novena for Life.



Please join us in responding to the pleas of Our Lord and Blessed

Mother, as we pray for America.

For additional info contact
John L. White
848-992-1652
or via email at
jlwhite2271@gmail.com



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and Daniel will speak at 7pm.

Presented by Daniel Palmieri



A free will offering will be taken to support the mission.

If you have any questions, please contact Merry Marcellino at
609-267-0209 ext 305 or email to ministry@parishofsacredheart.org

Sacred Heart Church, 260 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

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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.

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 John White 848-992-1652 or jlwhite2271@gmail.com

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 stmonicacd@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 for 5th Sunday of Easter — May 7, 2023***THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE**

Most of us have been either literally or figuratively lost at some time, not knowing which way to go, and feeling a surge of fear and panic. The Apostles in today's Gospel were feeling lost, because Jesus had just told them he was going to leave them in order to be crucified and die. Thomas said what must have been in all their hearts "We do not know where you are going- how can we know the way?" Jesus's answer might have been confusing. He didn't give instructions or directions. Instead he told them that he himself was the direction. He said that he was the way, the truth, and the life.

We can understand the meaning of his words only when we realize that he was saying that he was going to the Father and that if we want to go to the Father, we must go through the Son, within the power of the Holy Spirit. That's how our prayers work and that's how blessings come to us—always through the Son. We know Jesus, and in knowing him, we come to the Father.

Unlike the Apostles, we haven't had the experience of being physically in the company of Jesus, so how can we get to know him? The answer is simple: through the Holy Mass, by receiving Christ in the Sacraments of the Church, by studying his word, participating in the sacraments of the church, and through our prayers and devotions. When we do those things, we come to know Jesus. And then we can truly confess that he is our way, our truth, and our life.

PRAYER

In prayer, imagine Jesus saying the words of today's Gospel directly to you, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Ask Jesus to show you what it means that he is the Way for you. Is there a certain way he wants you to follow him more closely now? Then ask Jesus what it means that he is the Truth for your life. Is there a certain truth— a truth about him, about yourself, or about the Catholic Faith—that he wants you to believe in or understand better? Finally, ask Jesus to show you what it means that he is the Life. Do you seek fullness of life in Jesus or in other things or people of this world?

RESOLUTION

During the week, refer back to the insights you gained in this reflection. | formed.org



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