

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



DECEMBER 3, 2023

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
Deacon John L. White

We invite you to celebrate with us

website: www.saintmonica.com
Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Email: stmonicanj.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/)



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 3, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2

4:00 pm Edward & Joseph Hromiko,
Mitrofan Klebanovich &
Anthony Kleb
(Bette & Diane Hromiko)

Sunday, December 3

9:00 am Ernest John Rookey
(Ernie & Barbara Rookey)
11:00 am Ammirata Family
(Tommy & Carol Ammirata)

Monday, December 4

9:00 am Loretta Zrebiec (Husband, Tom)

Tuesday, December 5

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone (Gerarda Fallone)

Wednesday, December 6

9:00 am Marie Silvanovich
(Chris & John Pascucci)

Thursday, December 7

9:00 am Pricilla Brosious
(Chris & John Pascucci)

Friday, December 8

9:00 am Robert & Colet Spuhler
(Piacentino Family)
7:00 pm For Peace in War-Torn Regions
(St Monica)

Saturday, December 9

4:00 pm Sylvester Cascio & Joseph Anzalone
(Anzalone Family)

Sunday, December 10

9:00 am Mildred Kroecker
(Mary & Victor Tardio)
11:00 am Paul Emposimato, Jr.
(Maralla Family)

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 Dunyak, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, 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, Patrick Abeel, Robin Trombino, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Eileen Morello, Elaine Stemmler, Tom Martin, Sarah Thomas, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Jennie D'Angelo, Paul Hetteroth, Cheryl Vega, Domenick DiCicco, Irene Kislán, Renee Brady, Carol Spezzano, John Lanteri, Michael Seiler, Shannon Hubert, Ronald Nuzzola, Ray Kijowski, Eileen Hmielewski

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 – DECEMBER 3, 2023

Monday, December 4, 2023 Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 7, 2023 Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 8, 2023 Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9, 2023 Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 10, 2023 Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

*Church of St. Monica
2023 Advent/Christmas/New Year
Schedule of Services*

Advent Parish Penance Service

*Wednesday, December 6
7:00 pm*

Adoration/Benediction/Confession

*Thursday, December 7
7:00 pm*

Immaculate Conception Mass

*Friday, December 8 (Holy Day)
9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.*



Daily Masses:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 a.m. (through December 21)

Simbang Gabi

Christmas Novena, Rosary & Masses

Saturday, December 16

Rosary 6:30 p.m.

Mass 7:00 p.m.



Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sunday Obligation)

Saturday, December 23 - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 - 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.



Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24 (Holy Day)

4:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25 (Holy Day)

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve - Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary - Monday, January 1

(not a Holy Day this year)

Liturgy of the Word with Communion

9:00 am



CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

Intentions for the living and deceased will be remembered at all Christmas Masses. Intention envelopes were 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 18.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
NOVEMBER 13 - 19, 2023**

Total \$5,850

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: TREES

The Knights of Columbus of St. Monica Council 11529 are holding their 23rd Christmas Tree Fundraiser sale at Glory's Market, located at 584 Cedar Swamp Road, Jackson.

Every year all the profits from the sale of trees, wreaths, and grave blankets are donated to support St. Jude Children's Hospital and other charities. Over the years this fundraiser has generated over \$200,000 in direct support of St. Jude.

Sale of trees will continue until the trees are sold out. Hours: Mon. - Fri. 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat. and Sun. from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information contact Chris Vega at 917-575-0551.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 3, 2023

SOCIAL CONCERNS

This Christmas, along with our local families from Jackson, St Monica will be providing help for the Open Door Pregnancy Center located in Toms River.

Their needs are as follows:

- Baby formula-Enfamil yellow or blue
- Jars of baby food
- Baby cereal
- Baby wash
- Baby shampoo
- Baby lotion
- Baby wipes
- Baby powder
- Diaper rash cream
- Diapers, size 6

Please return to Little Church by Thursday, December 14.

Thank you for your generous donations.
God bless all of the parishioners
of St Monica!

ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving is a way to simplify your giving and provide steady, consistent support that helps St Monica be ready with programs, services and ministries for families in our community and the maintenance of our facilities. Your recurring gifts help strengthen our parish and sustain our ministries through the year. It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

Visit our website www.saintmonica.com

- Scan the QR code below or
- Contact Liz Hills in the parish office 732-928-0279 or
- stmonicanj@yahoo.com



Thank you and may God bless your generosity.

Central Jersey Choral Society Presents A Community Singing Event: **The Messiah**

by George Frederick Handel

Join our choir singing the classic Christmas masterwork
(or just come to listen)

Sheet music provided for those wishing to sing

Sunday, December 10,
2023, 3:00 pm

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Roman Catholic Church
137 West Upper Ferry Rd.
Ewing, NJ



Suggested Donation: \$10

For more information visit cjchoralsociety.org

CJCS
central jersey choral society

Christopher Loeffler,
Artistic Director



This program is made possible in part by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of County Commissioners and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a former agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: DECORATIONS

We're looking for volunteers to assist with decorating our Church for Christmas on Sunday, December 17 at 12 noon. See signup sheet at the back of the Church, call Liz Hills in the Parish Office 732-928-0279 or email stmonicanj@yahoo.com.



CALENDAR

Saturday, December 2

11:00 am Baptism
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent
 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass
 12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Mtg. (LC)
 12:30 pm Trenton BLD Mtg. (Church/Parish Hall)

Monday, December 4

9:00 am Mass
 1:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)
 4:30 pm Religious Education
 6:15 pm Religious Education

Tuesday, December 5

9:00 am Mass
 5:30 pm Rel. Ed. Class
 7:00 pm Youth Christmas Choir (Church)

Wednesday, December 6

9:00 am Mass
 9:30 am Adoration
 7:00 pm Advent Parish Penance Service

Thursday, December 7

9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm Adoration/Benediction/Confessions

Friday, December 8

Holy Day - Immaculate Conception
 Offices Closed
 9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm Mass

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 10

9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

Monday, December 11

9:00 am Mass
 1:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)
 4:30 pm Religious Education
 6:15 pm Religious Education

Tuesday, December 12

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

Wednesday, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

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

SOCIAL
MEDIA**“Revival Happens Here”**

The whole American Church invites you to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress where we will gather at the feet of Jesus, boldly anticipating a new Pentecost in Indianapolis. Your life—and our Church—will never be the same. Get your pass at <https://eucharisticcongress.org>
 #NationalEucharisticCongress
 #EucharisticRevival

**“Every Movement Needs a Moment.”**

Next summer, 80,000 Catholics will gather at the feet of Jesus in Indianapolis, boldly anticipating a new Pentecost. The people of God will come from every corner and every parish in our nation to bring the holy fire back to their local community. Your life—and our Church—will never be the same. Don't miss this historic moment! Get your pass at <https://eucharisticcongress.org>
 #NationalEucharisticCongress
 #EucharisticRevival

Interested in attending this Congress with a group from St. Monica? Want more information?
 Contact Barbara Rookey at:
barbararookey@gmail.com

The First Sunday of Advent



The Advent season begins today!

The Advent season begins today! Take time to reflect on how you will use the next four weeks to prepare your heart for Christmas.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

It's time to bring out and bless the Advent wreath! The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Use this prayer to bless your family wreath:

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, *Isaiah 9*: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or *Isaiah 63* (lines 16-17 & 19) or *Isaiah 64* (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God,

we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:

he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,

he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,

he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us

as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light

be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The blessing may conclude with a verse from

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”:

O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev’ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*



“Take; this is my body”

—Mark 14:22

The presence of
Christ in the
Eucharist is real, true,
and substantial.

“Jesus awaits us
in this sacrament
of love.” (St. John
Paul II, *Dominicae
cenae*, no. 3)



“It is called: Eucharist,
because it is an action of
thanksgiving to God.”
(CCC, no. 1328)

Eucharist “makes
present the one
sacrifice of Christ the
Savior.” (CCC, no. 1330)

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 - 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 Deacon John White 848-992-1652 or dcnjohnw@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 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.



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

First Sunday of Advent - December 3, 2023

WATCHING WITH HOPE

Recall the last time you had company come to your home. Maybe it was family visiting from out of town or a friend you hadn't seen in awhile. How did you prepare for them? You likely cleaned the house, planned nice meals, and cleared your schedule to spend time with them—all the while looking forward to their arrival.

If we spend so much time preparing for the coming of friends or family—meticulously cleaning our homes, setting plans for how we can enjoy our time together, and so expectantly awaiting their arrival—how much more ought we to be watching and preparing for the coming of Christ? How do we prepare the home of our heart as we await his coming?

PRAYER

Reflect on the word “watch.” Jesus uses it three times in today’s Gospel. Are you watching for anything in your life? What do you find yourself expectantly waiting for? How do you watch for Christ in your day-to-day life? Take some time to reflect on a word or phrase that stands out to you from today’s Gospel. Reflect on it and apply it to your own life. For example, “You do not know when the time will come” (Mark 13:33). You could ask yourself, “What am I doing each day to seek out Christ? Have I put off prayer and pursuing a relationship with him, thinking that I can start tomorrow?”

RESOLUTION

St. Paul tells the people of Corinth, “God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9). How will you answer the call to fellowship with Christ this Advent? What is one practical way you will prepare the “home of your heart” for the coming of the Christ Child?

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