

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



DECEMBER 10, 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: parishoffice@saintmonica.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/)



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 10, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 10

9:00 am Robert Mazzo (Lena Mazzo)
11:00 am Mildred Kroecker
(Mary & Victor Tardio)

Monday, December 11

9:00 am Intentions of the Gondek Family
(Chris & John Pascucci)

Tuesday, December 12

9:00 am Conlon Family
(Amanda O'Sullivan)

Wednesday, December 13

9:00 am Intentions of the Conlon Family
(Amanda O'Sullivan)

Thursday, December 14

9:00 am Loretta Zrebiec (Husband, Tom)

Saturday, December 16

4:00 pm Nancy Helander (Casetta Family)

Sunday, December 17

9:00 am Intentions of Zia Gould
(Marie Gould)
11:00 am Alexander John Schpakow
(Loving 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 Kislak, 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 10, 2023

Monday, December 11, 2023 Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 Zec 2:14-17 ; 12:1-6a, 10ab Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 & 10 Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14, 2023 Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1 & 9, 10-11, 12-13ab Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 15, 2023 Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16, 2023 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 17, 2023 Is 61:1-2A, 10-11 Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 1 Thes 5:16-24

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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



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



THANK YOU BELLA ITALIA

Many thanks to local restaurant **Bella Italia** for once again donating the loaves of bread given out at our Thanksgiving Mass.

Their homemade prepared foods, signature paninis and subs, fresh baked breads, full line butcher department, and imported Italian products make them stand out in the crowd!

You can find **Bella Italia** at:
180 N. County Line Road, Jackson

For catering call:
732-942-1151

For menus:

<https://www.bellaitaliajackson.com/>



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
NOVEMBER 20 - 26, 2023**

Total \$7,377.00

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

Thank you to the Women of St Monica for purchasing the 2024 issue of *Breaking Bread* for the 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.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 10, 2023

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.

VOLUNTEERS TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH

We're looking for volunteers to assist with decorating our Church for Christmas next 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 parishoffice@saintmonica.com

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
- parishoffice@saintmonica.com



Thank you and may God bless your generosity.

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!

GRIEF SUPPORT AT ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH

Finding Your Way To Peace

Grief can feel very lonely, even when you have loved ones around you. While grieving a loss is an inevitable part of life, there are ways to help cope with the pain, come to terms with your grief, and eventually find your way back to peace. Join us to learn about the grieving process and explore ways that can help you heal.

A six week Grief Support Group will meet every Tuesday from 1:00-3:00pm, January 9th to February 13th at St. Aloysius Parish Office, 980 Bennetts Mills Road, Jackson. Participants are encouraged to attend all six sessions.

Please register by calling or emailing Pat Mulholland at the Parish Office:

parishoffice@saintaloyusonline.org
or 732-370-0500 ext. 204

CALENDAR

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
- 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)
- 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

- Social Concerns - Little Church
- 9:00 am Mass
- 7:00 pm K of C Mtg (Parish Hall)

Friday, December 15

- Social Concerns - Little Church

Saturday, December 16

- Social Concerns - Little Church
- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass
- 6:30 pm Simbang Gabi (Novena/Rosary/Mass)

Sunday, December 17

- Social Concerns - Little Church
- 9:00 am Mass
- 11:00 am Mass
- 12:00 pm Decorate Church for Christmas

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

- 9:00 am Mass
- 5:30 pm Religious Education
- 7:00 pm Youth Christmas Choir (Church)
- 7:30 pm K of C Officer Mtg. (LC)
- 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Kitchen)

Wednesday, December 20

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

STANDING TOGETHER FOR LIFE

Mass for Life Lunch & Seminar

On Friday Jan. 19, 2024, the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton will come together in prayer and solidarity to proclaim the sanctity of all human life!

All are invited to an 11 a.m. *Mass for Life* celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold. No registration is needed for the Mass, seating is first come first served. Mass will be livestreamed on:

youtube.com/trentondiocese

The Mass will be followed by a *Lunch & Seminar* in the Co-Cathedral's Dentici Hall. A panel of local expert speakers will offer practical, actionable, ideas and resources to take back to parishes where they can be immediately applied to build a culture of life in a spirit of inter-ministry collaboration and radical solidarity with vulnerable pregnant women and families. Advanced registration to attend the *Lunch & Seminar* is required by Jan. 10, 2024. Full details for the day's events, including a registration link for the *Lunch & Seminar* can be found here: dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life. Questions, contact Belem Perez 609-403-7133

Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold

Mass for Life

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

11:00 AM



Eucharistic Prayer Companions for the Advent and Christmas Seasons

Each Eucharistic Meditation will follow this format:

- ✦ Begin with the opening prayers, asking Jesus for the grace of that week. This prayer is intended to help us learn how to seek a gift from God in prayer.
 - ◆ Pray with the Scripture passage provided. Be open to this encounter with Jesus.
 - ◆ Read that week's passage, usually from the Old Testament, 3-4 times slowly. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.
 - ◆ Sit with a series of reflection questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.
 - ◆ Read the next passage, usually from the Gospels, 3-4 times slowly. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you personally through this passage.
 - ◆ Spend time in silence with the Lord using the next reflection question. Allow him to speak to your heart in that silence. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.
- ✦ Pray the Closing Prayer, usually taken from the Collect for Mass.
- ✦ Reflect on the liturgical connection and Love in Action prompt each week.

Thank you for praying with us as we seek to spend time with our Eucharistic Lord.



Second Sunday of Advent: Repenting of Sin



THE GRACE I SEEK: to trust that the Lord longs to forgive my sins

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

Pause for a few moments, and allow yourself to become aware of Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist. Realize that, at this very moment, the Lord of Life is gazing upon you with great love. Allow yourself to receive his loving gaze. You are his beloved child. Rest in his loving gaze. Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

ASK FOR THE GRACE: Jesus, help me to repent of my sins and to trust in your loving forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION — *Read slowly, 3–4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.*

“Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated.” (Isaiah 40:1–2A)

FOR REFLECTION — *Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.*

We often forget that, in repenting of our sins and turning back to Jesus, we are turning back to one who infinitely loves us and longs to comfort us. Pray through the events of this past week and ask Jesus to show you how he has comforted you and encouraged you to repent of any sin that may be present in your life. Give concrete examples.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION — *Read slowly, 3–4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you in a personal way through this passage.*

“John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.” (Mark 1:4–5)

FOR REFLECTION — John the Baptist shows us that repentance moves us towards someone as we acknowledge our sinfulness. Looking over this past week, ask Jesus to help you identify two or three concrete choices you made that moved you closer to his merciful love. Thank him for this grace.

Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.

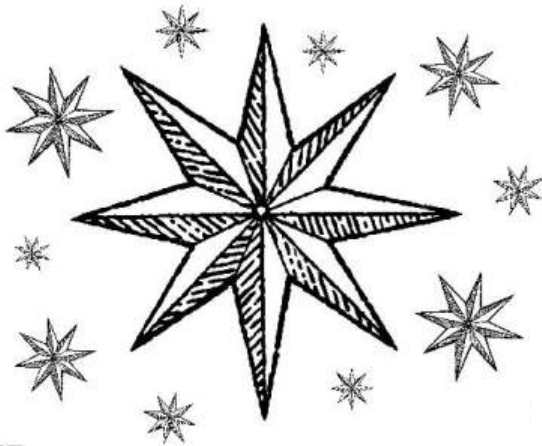
CLOSING PRAYER — Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, Second Sunday of Advent)

SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION — At every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, pay attention to the words of Jesus, through the priest, begging the Father's mercy on you; unite your desire for this mercy with Jesus.

LOVE IN ACTION — In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we come before Jesus and confess our sins, asking for the love and mercy of Jesus as we repent and resolve to change our lives. His Precious Blood cleanses us of all sin and gives us strength to avoid sin in the future. Make a resolution to receive the merciful love of Jesus in this sacrament in the next week or two as you prepare for Christmas.

ADVENT

The Season of Advent is a time of preparation as we wait for Jesus to come.



CUT

During the second week of Advent, we pray for peace in our homes and in the world. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came to teach us about the Kingdom of God.



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Sunday
December 17, 2023
3:30 p.m.

Admission: A Free Will Offering

For Further Information contact
St. Anthony of Padua Church
(732) 739-0813
web.stanthonysofredbank.net



Central Jersey Choral Society Presents

Lauda Sion

by Felix Mendelssohn

Requiem

by Gabriel Fauré

Friday, January 19, 2024, 7:30 pm

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157 West Upper Ferry Rd.
Ewing, NJ

Tickets: cjchoralsociety.org
\$20 adv. \$25 at door



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 Chosen Trustees and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.



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 dcjohnw@gmail.com

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

For those seeking full membership in the

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

Reflections on the Second Sunday of Advent – December 10, 2023

A TIME OF PREPARATION

The word conversion comes from the Latin word *convertere*, meaning “to turn around.” When was the last time you were driving somewhere and got lost on the way to your destination? Maybe you were following the directions, but they led to the wrong place. Or maybe you thought you could figure out how to get to your destination on your own, only to realize you didn’t quite know the way. We have all experienced needing to turn around, retrace our steps, and start over. This is the crux of the Christian life: being willing to convert, to turn around, the areas of our life that need to be more aligned with God’s plan for our eternal happiness.

PRAYER

Picture a desert—barren, dry, and hot. It’s not a place we would choose to spend a significant amount of time. So why does John the Baptist meet people in the desert? It is in the desert, in the place that we are most deprived of distraction and faced with our needs, that we can see that we *need* something more—*someone* more. It is in the desert that we are most apt to open our hearts to God—to repent. Reflect on the word “repentance.” What do you need to repent of in your own life? Where do you need to receive forgiveness in your life? Where do you need to grant forgiveness to another in your life?

RESOLUTION

We pray each Sunday in the Our Father: “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Make a firm resolution to extend forgiveness this week to someone you need to reconcile with. Allow the healing power of forgiveness to make straight a pathway in your heart for the Lord.

You may know of someone with whom you need to be reconciled with immediately. Or maybe you may need to spend some time in prayer. You may even need to forgive yourself for a sin or mistake you have made. Seek out the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Remember the freedom that comes with reconciliation and letting go of the weights of bitterness and regret we can carry in our hearts. Look to John the Baptist as a model of humility. Forgiving ourselves or someone else takes humility as we recognize where we have failed, we acknowledge it, and we choose to learn. | [formed.org](https://www.formed.org)



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