

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



DECEMBER 24, 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/)



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - DECEMBER 24, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 23

4:00 pm Mary Ann Lipari
(Family)

Sunday, December 24 (4th Sun of Advent)

9:00 am Parishioners & Families
11:00 am Parishioners & Families

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Christmas Mass Remembrances
10:00 pm Christmas Mass Remembrances

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00 am Christmas Mass Remembrances
11:00 am Christmas Mass Remembrances

Tuesday, December 26

No 9:00 am Mass

Wednesday, December 27

9:00 am Anne M Berardone (Arlene Toth)

Thursday, December 28

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion

Saturday, December 30

4:00 pm Rosemarie McNab
(Calsetta Family)

Sunday, December 31

9:00 am Luigi Somma (Ron Borrello)
11:00 am Anne M Berardone (Arlene Toth)

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 24, 2023

Monday, December 25, 2023 Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday, December 26, 2023 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17 Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Thursday, December 28, 2023 1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 Mt 2:13-18

Friday, December 29, 2023 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30, 2023 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31, 2023 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
FROM OUR PASTOR**

Christmas is a time of joy and a time of gratitude. We are joyful for the birth of Christ and grateful for all of God's blessings throughout the course of this past year.

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks for all you have done for the Church of St. Monica this year. Your generosity, sacrificial offerings, and gifts of time, talent, and treasure have made it possible for us to continue growing in community.

Each of us has been entrusted with a special gift, a sacred responsibility: to show others where and how God is among us. We are called to go out into the world and share the message of God's love for all humankind.

My brothers and sisters, let the joy of Christmas penetrate our hearts and souls so we may change our lives to become peacemakers, to love others as we love ourselves, and to love God above all things.

As we move forward into the new year, I ask for your continued support and prayers so that God may truly bless our efforts on His behalf.

May the Lord grant you and your loved ones a healthy, happy, safe, and peaceful Christmas. And may He watch over all of us and bless us, one and all!

*In Christ,
Father Alex*

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
DECEMBER 4 - 10, 2023**

Total \$7,674.00

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

On Tuesday, December 26
there is no 9:00 am Mass,
and Parish Offices are closed.

~a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a~

Wednesday, December 27 - 9:00 am Mass
Thursday, December 28 - 9:00 am there will
be Liturgy of the Word with Communion

~a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a~

At 9:00 am on January 1 - 4
there will be
Liturgy of the Word with Communion

THANK YOU KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our parish is so lucky to have Santa Claus come to breakfast every year just before Christmas! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for inviting Santa to, once again, stop by for breakfast with our parishioners.

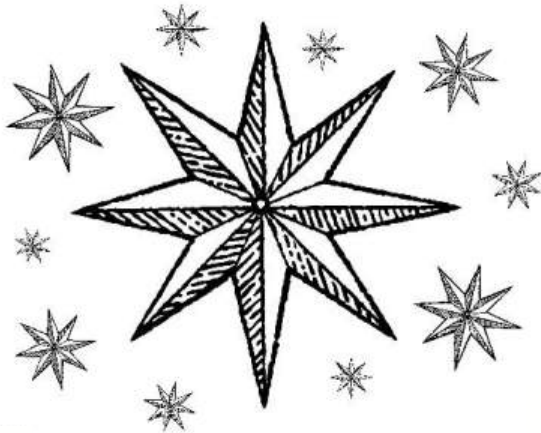
A delicious breakfast was served to all and fun activities were enjoyed by the children. Cassville fire fighters made a surprise visit, and the children reenacted the Nativity of the Lord. A wonderful time was had by all!

Merry Christmas!



ADVENT

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



And Advent teaches us that Jesus will come again at the end of time. He will create a new heaven and a new earth. Jesus will reign as King in power and glory!



In the fourth week of Advent we remember the virtue of love. We ponder that God loves us enough to share His own Son with us! In response we share that love with one another and work to love God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength.



After all of our waiting and preparation during Advent, we then celebrate Christmas! We rejoice that Jesus came into the world as a baby at the very first Christmas over 2000 years ago. He is our Emmanuel, God with us.



CALENDAR

Saturday, December 23

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am Mass 4th Sunday Advent

11:00 am Mass 4th Sunday Advent

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Parish Offices Closed, No Religious Education

9:00 am Christmas Day Mass

11:00 am Christmas Day Mass

Tuesday, December 26

No 9:00 am Mass

Parish Offices Closed

7:00 pm Adult Choir

7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Kitchen)

8:00 pm K of C Officer Mtg. (LC)

Wednesday, December 27

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, December 28

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Saturday, December 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

12:00 pm Baptism

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

Monday, January 1

Parish Offices Closed, No Religious Education

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Tuesday, January 2

No Religious Education

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

7:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)

7:30 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, January 3

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

9:30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament





Fourth Sunday of Advent: Peace that Surpasses Understanding

THE GRACE I SEEK: to allow the peace of Christ to reign in my heart

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 abandon myself completely to you so that your will may be done in and through me, that I may share in your peace.

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.

"I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place... I will give you rest from all your enemies." (2 Samuel 7:10)

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

How is God inviting me to build a house, a tabernacle, for his Son in my heart so that he can find peace and rest within me and convey his peace, through me, to many hearts?

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.

"Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'" (Luke 1:38)

FOR REFLECTION — Contemplating the "fiat" of Our Lady that made the Incarnation and our salvation possible, ask Our Lord for the grace to have a simple, humble, and receptive heart like Mary. Ask him to stir up a desire for your heart to be totally open to welcome the Word—Jesus—with faith and trust, repeating with Mary this humble "fiat" that is the pathway to experiencing God's peace, which surpasses our understanding.

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 — Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, Fourth Sunday of Advent)

SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION — At the conclusion of this Advent season, we give thanks for the peace we have received by taking refuge in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. Pray that you can always allow the Word to become flesh in you. Offer your desire that Jesus would find a beautiful, simple, and safe manger in your heart where he can abide with you.

LOVE IN ACTION — Mother Teresa famously said, "Peace begins at home." Identify one concrete action you can take this week to allow the peace of Christ to be at the heart of your home.



Christmas Day: Childlike Wonder

THE GRACE I SEEK: to live in childlike awe at the saving love of the Child born for our salvation

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: Divine Child, please help me to recognize your coming and to adore you in every circumstance.

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.*

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." (Isaiah 9:1)

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

How is God inviting me to allow the light of his love to pierce the darkness and confusion in my heart so that I can kneel in humble adoration before Love made flesh in the manger?

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.*

"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'" (Luke 2:10–12)

FOR REFLECTION — *Contemplating the humility, simplicity, and power of the Nativity before Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist, ask the Lord to give you a childlike heart. Allow him to help you lay aside any distractions or burdens from the past so that you can be like the shepherds, who went in haste to adore the Child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the manger by Our Lady. Ask Our Lady to teach you how to bring the life of her Son to so many hearts who do not yet know his love.*

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 — *Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through in our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. (Collect, The Nativity of the Lord, Mass at Dawn)*

LITURGICAL CONNECTION — *Kneeling in awe and wonder before the manger and the Eucharist, allow your heart to become a manger, to become living monstrance for the Lord. Pray for the grace to go spiritually across the mountains and the oceans in intercession, guided by Our Lady and St. Joseph, to allow the love of Baby Jesus to shine forth for the salvation of every human heart.*

LOVE IN ACTION — *This Christmas Day, share your own childlike awe at the birth of our Savior with someone you love. Testify to what Jesus has done for you and how you encounter his loving presence in every Eucharist.*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - DECEMBER 24, 2023

Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold

Mass for Life

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024
11:00 AM



Celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.



For full information about
the day's events, visit:

dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life



All are Welcome • No Registration Needed

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

Reflections on the 4th Sunday of Advent - December 24, 2023

CHILDLIKE FAITH

When we are asked to entrust our **lives** to someone, we should consider very carefully to whom we are entrusting them. Many of us entrust our lives to our spouses, but not before careful discernment, time, and prayer. Have you ever considered entrusting your life to God? Have you gotten to know him through Scripture, the Church, and prayer in a way that allows you to surrender your life to him? Today we will read about two people who entrusted their lives to God in radical ways—David and Mary. Will we also accept the Lord's invitation to surrender to him this Christmas season?

PRAYER

Mary's acceptance and trust in God are remarkable. When the angel announces that she will be the Mother of God, she is rightly confused. She may have wondered what it meant that the Holy Spirit would come upon her. At that time, a woman caught in adultery was stoned to death. She must have been afraid of the possible consequences. Mary could have responded any number of ways. However, she chose to respond with grace and acceptance, completely dependent on God, as she surrenders her body and life to him. Take some time to place yourself in Mary's shoes today. Imagine what you are doing when the angel appears. What goes through your mind and heart as he speaks the words to you? What are your responses?

RESOLUTION

We are all called to answer God with a resounding "Yes" as he reveals his plan for our lives. What do you need to surrender to him? What is holding you back? How will you offer the baby Jesus the gift of your "yes" this Christmas?



catholicmatch®

New Jersey



CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ

Let your faith inspire your financial decisions.

With Knights of Columbus and its partners you can protect your family, plan for your retirement and give meaningfully — all in harmony with your Catholic faith.



Knights of Columbus®

Daniel McGeehan
732-597-3832

daniel.mcgeehan@kofc.org



Contact me today to learn more.

*Knights of Columbus and its partners, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors and Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, are entities that each provide separate and distinct products and services. Financial retirement planning, life and disability income insurance, and personal philanthropy entail certain risks. Learn more at kofc.org/liveyourfaith
1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510



732-719-7250

LIVERIE

FUNERAL HOME

A Life Celebration® Home

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Serving Ocean & Monmouth County

125 S. Cooks Bridge Road

Jackson, NJ 08527

G. Oliverie, Mgr., N.J. Lic. #3833

NFDA

NATIONAL
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

2014-2022 Pursuit of
Excellence Recipient



2015 & 2019
Community
Service
Award



11 years in a row!

mangia
BRICK OVEN PIZZA

PIZZA
ENTREE'S
SANDWICHES

Proudly supporting
the St. Monica
Community!

Your Vacation Awaits...

CRUISE PLANNERS®
CRUISES, RESORTS & MORE

www.Time2GoVacations.com
Qwana Grant - Travel Specialist
(848) 444-3515

Facebook: Cruise Planners- Qwana Grant Instagram: @QwanaCP

RIDESHARE ZONE

S top
A sk
M atch
I nform

#WHATSMYNAME

In-Home Senior Care

We provide all kinds of assistance, from personal care to light housekeeping. We keep seniors in their own homes and enable them to live independently.



732-530-3636

697 Broad Street #202
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

fully licensed and insured

www.comfortkeepers.com/centraljersey

Serving St. Monica's Parish

Since 2001

Morgan

basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service

French Drains
Foundation Repair
Mold Remediation

All Work Guaranteed

732-777-7888

www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com

Sponsor Support

HOW YOU CAN HELP
OUR COMMUNITY, OUR SPONSORS

Our sponsors pay for our parish bulletin. Help us support them, thank them, and show them the *Finding FABER* app when you visit their establishments.



INCREASE YOUR VISIBILITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Place Your Ad Here
to Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Ellen Bollinger

ebollinger@jppc.net
(917) 488-2035



George S. Hassler Funeral Home

Brian T. Hassler
Manager
N.J. Lic. No. 4054

Offering Pre-Planning Programs
Handicap-Accessible Facility

Original Family Owned and Operated
Since 1978

George S. Hassler
Owner & Director
N.J. Lic. No. 3193

Parishioners

732-364-6808

contact@hasslerfuneralhome.com

www.hasslerfuneralhome.com



980 Bennetts Mills Rd.
Jackson, NJ



Serving Ocean, Monmouth and Mercer Counties



Stefania "Stef" Fernandes
Broker Associate | Accredited Stager

Parishioner
Parlo Italiano
Falo Português
Hablo Español

732.598.5850 mobile
SFernandes@ERACentral.com

210 Route 539 • Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

609.259.0200 office 609.259.7027 fax

www.StefSellsNJ.com

Each ERA® Office is Independently Owned and Operated

JACKSON SERVICE STATION



Tune-Ups • Brakes • Welding
Front Ends • New State Jersey Inspection

Over 29th Year ~ Complete Automotive Services ~

COUNTY LINE & BENNETTS MILLS ROAD
(732) 367-2882



POINT BAY FUEL
HEATING AND COOLING

Fuel Oil • Gasoline • Diesel • Furnaces • Boilers • HVAC
BUDGET • SALES • SERVICE

800-349-FUEL (3835)



Scott Rusbarsky, Parishioner
732-733-4211
www.fivestarpainting.com



Home Improvement
Handyman Services
Kitchens • Bathrooms
Mike Debiak, Owner/Craftsman
Your 360 Improvements, LLC
732.995.6320
Fully Licensed and Insured
HIC #13VH12352400



RICHARD D. MEINDERS, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

WILLS • TRUSTS • ESTATES • REAL ESTATE
2002 Route 70, Suite 2, Manchester, NJ 08759

732-408-0900 • www.lawrdm.com

Serving Jackson Families

TIMOTHY E. RYAN HOME FOR FUNERALS

Peace of Mind and Heart before, during and beyond

DeBow Chapel, 150 W. Veteran's Hwy., Jackson
732-928-0032 • 732-901-3200

Timothy E. Ryan, Founder (1951-2019)
Mark L. Sarin, Senior Director NJ Lic. No. 4134

www.ryanfuneralhome.com



I have always
believed that
funeral service
was a vocation
and not simply
a career.
... Tim Ryan