

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



DECEMBER 31, 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/)



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH - DECEMBER 31, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

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)

Monday, January 1 - Thursday, January 4

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion

Saturday, January 6

4:00 pm Philomena Carragher (Marie Gould)

Sunday, January 7

9:00 am Patricia Ketchie
(Bereavement Ministry)
11:00 am Diane Oberhuber
(Holly & Raymond Pietrucha)

Monday, January 8 - Thursday, January 11

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion



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, 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, Patrick Abeel, Robin Trombino, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Eileen Morello, Elaine Stemle, 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 31, 2023

Monday, January 1, 2024 Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4 Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3CD-4, 5-6 Jn 1:29-34

Thursday, January 4, 2024 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 Jn 1:35-42

Friday, January 5, 2024 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 Jn 1:43-51

Saturday, January 6, 2024 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Mk 1:7-11

Sunday, January 7, 2024 Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

You Rock!

Thank you to all parishioners who made donations for Christmas! Your kindness helped others in so many ways. Twenty one local families, including 44 children, received:

- ◆ Gifts for the children
- ◆ A box of food for their Christmas Dinner
- ◆ Shop Rite gift cards to help supplement their grocery bill to feed their families. A very special mention to an anonymous donor of \$2,000 for groceries

Thank you to all who volunteered to decorate the church on December 17. Even families joined in and worked together to make our church look beautiful for the celebration of our Lord's birth. Your response is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to our Knights of Columbus for donating \$250 toward the purchase of gift cards, their assistance with setting up CCD classes throughout the year, their assistance with parking and lighting for Christmas Eve and all your assistance and support of St Monica.

Thank you to Ernie Rookey and Seth Blissenbach for working with our Christmas Youth Choir, Iris Biely playing the flute and the youth for participating in the choir.

We also received a wonderful response from parishioners who donated food and supplies for baby needs for the Open Door Pregnancy Center in Toms River.

And most of all everyone who volunteers their time and talent throughout the year making St Monica what it is. We couldn't do it without **you**.

THANK YOU!

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
COLLECTIONS DECEMBER 11 - 17, 2023**

Total \$6,644.91

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

St. Vincent de Paul \$ 702.00

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

At 9:00 a.m. on January 1 - 4
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 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3
there will be
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-

At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 4
there will be
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
with Benediction



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



Central Jersey Choral Society Presents

Lauda Sion

by Felix Mendelssohn

Requiem

by Gabriel Fauré

Friday, January 19, 2024, 7:30 pm



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

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

Christopher Loeffler,
Artistic Director

CJCS
central jersey choral society



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



CALENDAR

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

Thursday, January 4

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

7:00 pm Adoration/ Benediction

Friday, January 5

6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. (LC)

Saturday, January 6

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 7

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Mtg. (LC)

Monday, January 8

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

4:30 pm Religious Education Class

6:15 pm Religious Education Class

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

5:30 pm Religious Education Class

7:00 pm Adult Choir

7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)

Wednesday, January 10

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Thursday, January 11

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

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

HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

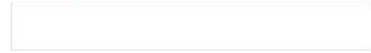
May the Holy Family, who had to overcome many painful trials, watch over all the families in the world, especially those who are experiencing difficult situations. May the Holy Family also help men and women of all cultures and their political leaders so that they may defend the institution of the family, based on marriage, and so that they may sustain the family as it confronts the grave challenges of the modern age! . . . may Christian families find the light and strength to be united and to grow as the 'domestic church' especially in their diligent participation in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday.

Saint Pope John Paul II, – Prayer from Angelus Message for the Feast of the Holy Family 2004





The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

Add an additional prayer to your family routine today and brainstorm ways you might help each other grow in faith throughout this New Year.



Photo Credit

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2024

“Mary is more blessed in receiving the faith of Christ, than in conceiving the flesh of Christ.”
St. Augustine, *On Holy Virginity*, 3



Feast of the Holy Family: Loving Forgiveness



THE GRACE I SEEK: to love and forgive all those closest to me

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 forgive those closest to me.

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.*

“Brothers and sisters: put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” (Colossians 3:12–13)

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

What person in your life are you most struggling to be patient with? Ask the Lord to reveal to you any areas in your relationship that may need forgiveness and humility.

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 child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce), so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’” (Luke 2:33–35)

FOR REFLECTION — *Gazing upon the Eucharist, ask Jesus to help you identify any thoughts of your heart that may be a stumbling block to loving those closest to you. Write these thoughts down, asking the Lord to replace them with his thoughts.*

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 — *O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, Feast of the Holy Family)*

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, offer your desire to forgive those closest to you with the forgiveness Jesus offers us in the Sacrifice of the Mass.*

LOVE IN ACTION — *After the Lord has revealed to you whom you are being called to forgive and love in a deeper way, make a resolution to show them concretely this week how much you love and appreciate them. Some examples could include a phone call, a quick note in the mail, or an invitation to share a meal together. Choose something you know will mean the most to the other person!*

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

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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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - December 31, 2023

THE PROMISED MESSIAH

The first two readings today focus on the relationships with our family. We are told that honoring and respecting our father is of the highest importance and, if we are faithful to this call, we will be blessed by God. When we read the Gospel, the theme changes from focusing on our earthly family to being faithful to God, our Heavenly Father. If we ought to respect our earthly father and spend so much time and energy making our earthly home virtuous and holy, how much more ought we work to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father? How often do we take the time to talk with God, or honor him by serving him or making sacrifices for him? Let us remember the words of Sirach and St. Paul this week, not just in relation to how we treat our earthly fathers, but, most importantly, in how we relate to God the Father.

PRAYER

In today's Gospel, we see the faithfulness of both prophets, Simeon and Anna, lived out. They have awaited the coming of the Messiah with great hope and expectation their whole lives. Can you imagine waiting for something your whole life? What would it be like when you finally encountered the person or thing you had hoped and prayed for? These two prophets model heroic patience for us as they wait and welcome Christ when he comes into their lives. How do you need to grow in patience in your life? Who in your family do you need to be more patient with?

Take some time to pray with the words of the Gospel. If a word or phrase stands out to you, stop and reflect on it. For example, maybe the words "righteous and devout" stand out to you. Consider how you devote your life to God and the ways in which you need to work towards being more devoted to him.

RESOLUTION

Simeon and Anna spent their whole lives waiting to meet Christ. They prepared their hearts for the moment they would finally encounter him and were ready when he appeared, as an unassuming infant with his family, in the ordinary circumstances of their day. Are you prepared to meet Christ amidst your daily routine?

Commit to finding Christ in your family this week. Prepare your heart to see him there by exercising the virtue of patience in your home. What way will you be patient with a family member this week? | formed.org



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