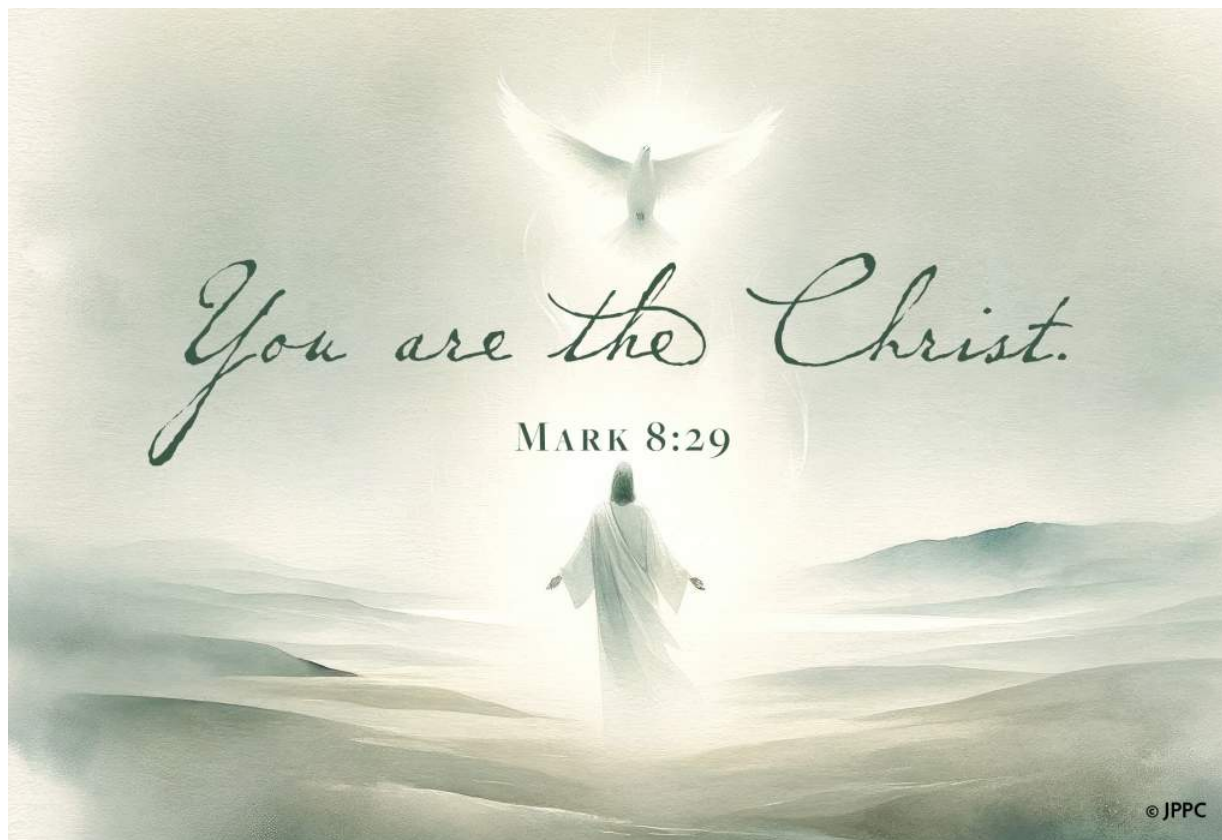


CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

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

Confessions

Saturdays

3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

1st Thursdays 7pm

or by appointment

Facebook:

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

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

Masses
Mon. to Thurs. 9 am
Saturday 4 pm
Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527



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.



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 14

4:00 pm Antoinette Szabo
(Barbara & Jerry Santangelo)

Sunday, September 15

9:00 am Fran Panicola
(The Kaba Family)
11:00 am Robyn T Spruill
(Goldner Family)

Monday, September 16

9:00 am Ana Luz Ramos Zayas
(Conde Family)

Tuesday, September 17

9:00 am Anna Jane Matich
(Tvaroha Family)

Wednesday, September 18

9:00 am Guy, Beatrice & Eugene Pagnotta
(Joseph & Matilde Curatolo)

Thursday, September 19

9:00 am Stephen V Balint, Jr (Kate Scott)

Saturday, September 21

4:00 pm Peter Kinder
(Barbara & Jerry Santangelo)

Sunday, September 22

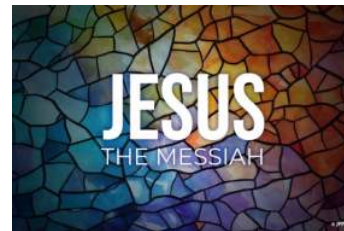
9:00 am Tony Sasso (Smith Family)
11:00 am Deborah MacInnes (St Monica)

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, Dianne Smith, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Marie Gould, Steve Andolora, Doris Garbarino, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, Arlene Toth, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Glory D'Acunto, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Joey Brune, Phillip Wenz, Robin Trombino, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Elaine Stemmler, Tom Martin, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Jennie D'Angelo, Paul Hetteroth, Cheryl Vega, Carol Spezzano, Michael Seiler, Shannon Hubert, Ronald Nuzzola, Ray Kijowski, Nicholas Biddle, Matthew Biddle, Dennis Shwiner, Laura Stoyer, Mike Scott

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 - September 15, 2024

Monday, September 16, 2024 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 Lk 7:31-35

Thursday, September 19, 2024 1 Cor 15:1-11 Ps 118:1B-2, 16AB-17, 28 Lk 7:36-50

Friday, September 20, 2024 1 Cor 15:12-20 Ps 17:1BCD, 6-7, 8B and 15 Lk 8:1-3

Saturday, September 21, 2024 Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Mt 9:9-13

Sunday, September 22, 2024 Wis 2:12, 17-20 Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6 and 8 Jas 3:16-4:3 Mk 9:30-37

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABORTION

The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep, and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child and friends of the mother.

You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear. **Rachel's Vineyard's Retreat** is a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and men experience the mercy and compassion of God.

If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one of our retreat weekends. For more information, contact Judy Warenkiewicz at 732-536-6871.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

2024 Weekend Retreats
November 15-17, 2024

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
 AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

Total \$6,780.00

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

2024 Annual Catholic Appeal Update:

Goal: \$18,000.00

Pledged: \$18,515.00 (103%)

Paid: \$18,355.00 (102%)

Total Donors: 78

Total Gifts: 88

Average Gift: \$210.40

HOW TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

God loves you and has a plan for your life. Sin has interfered with that plan. God sent his son Jesus to conquer sin. So if you reorient your life to Christ, you can enjoy eternal life!

So how to become Catholic? We can help on this side of Heaven! Get started by contacting the Parish Office for more information:

parishoffice@saintmonica.com
 or 732-928-0279

Grief Support Group

*A Journey From
 Grieving to Healing*

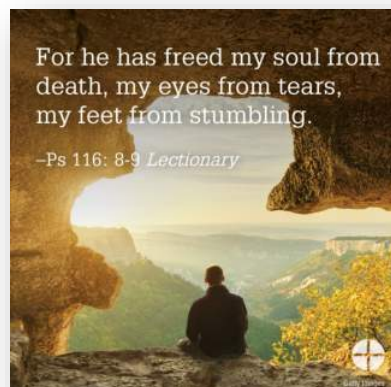
Program Introduction
15 September, 2024
At 12:15 pm
In the Church



Weekly Support Group Sessions
 Sept 22nd - Nov 17th 2024 (9 weeks)

To Register Call Deacon John 848-992-1652,
 or email - dcnjohnw@gmail.com

Church of St. Monica
 679 W Veterans Hwy, Jackson, NJ 08527



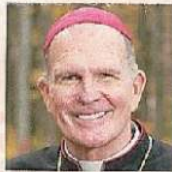
You are invited to New Jersey's
Mass for Life

Thursday, September 26, 2024
9:30 a.m.

Cathedral of St. Mary
of the Assumption
151 N. Warren Street, Trenton



CELEBRANT
Cardinal Joseph W.
Tobin, CSsR



HOMILIST
Bishop David M.
O'Connell, C.M.

No RSVP • Seating 1st come 1st served



*Mass will end in time to walk to the Statehouse
Annex for the NJ Rally & March for Life



ARCHDIOCESE
of NEWARK



DIOCESE
of TRENTON



DIOCESE
of CAMDEN



DIOCESE
of PATERSON



DIOCESE
of METUCHEN



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC
EPARCHY of PASSAIC



For full information, visit: dioceseoftrenton.org/nj-march-for-life

CALENDAR

Saturday, September 14

- 1:00 pm Baptisms
- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 15

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am OCIA (LC)
- 11:00 am Mass

Monday, September 16

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

Tuesday, September 17

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

Wednesday, September 18

- 9:00 am Mass

Thursday, September 19

- 9:00 am Mass
- 7:00 pm Men's Prayer Group (Church)

Saturday, September 21

- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 22

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am OCIA (LC)
- 11:00 am Mass

Monday, September 23

- 9:00 am Mass
- 4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
- 6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
- 7:00 pm Finance Cmte Mtg (Parish Office)

Tuesday, September 24

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

Wednesday, September 25

- 9:00 am Mass

Thursday, September 26

- 9:00 am Mass
- 9:30 am Mass for Life, St. Mary - Trenton
- 7:00 pm K of C Mtg (Parish Hall)

RETRouvaille MARRIAGE HELP

Retrouvaille: Discover The Love in Your Marriage

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises.

The next program will be held the weekend of October 4 - 6 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



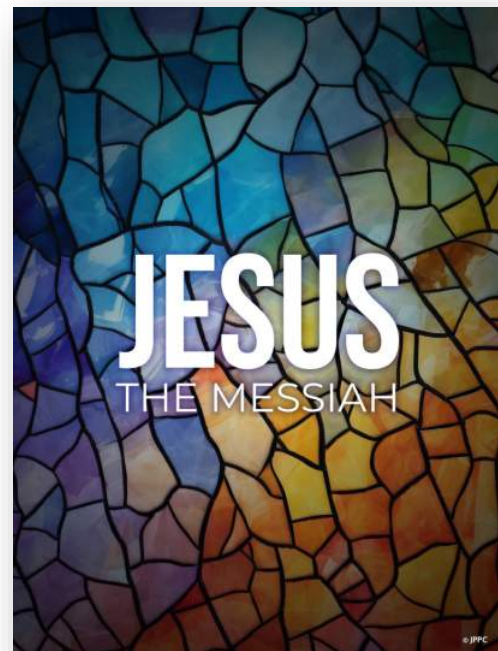
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Marriage Program**

Weekend programs in
February, August, and
October in Malvern PA

HelpOurMarriage.org
215-766-3944

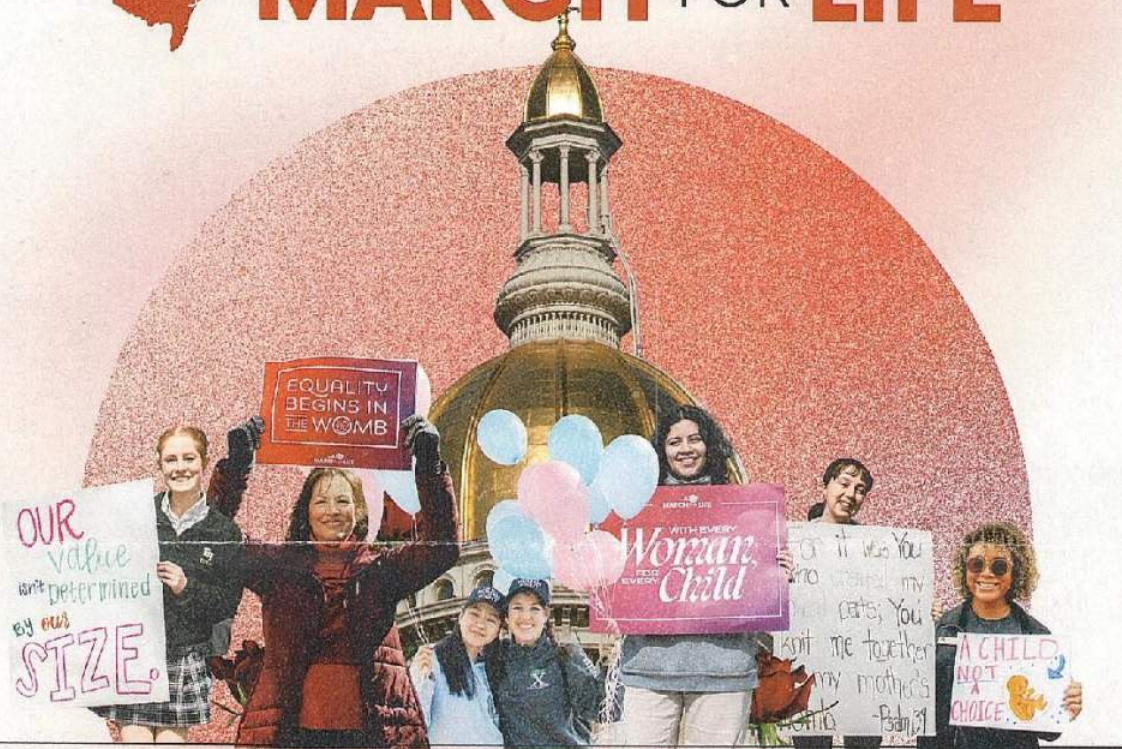



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

with every woman, for every child



NEW JERSEY MARCH FOR LIFE



TRENTON, NEW JERSEY | SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2024 | #WHYWEMARCH #NJMARCHFORLIFE

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2024

11:00 A.M. - RALLY

12:00 P.M. - MARCH FOR LIFE

125 W State St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

NJ.MARCHFORLIFE.ORG

OR SCAN THE CODE BELOW

HOSTED BY:



WILGRIMAGE TO FINLAND, SWEDEN, DENMARK, NORWAY, ICELAND

Helsinki, Stockholm, Linköping, Varnhem Abbey, Gothenburg, Copenhagen, Tivoli Gardens, Oslo, Reykjavik
DAILY MASS WITH FR ALEX ENRIQUEZ

September 01-13, 2025, for 13 days. Tour Cost: \$4,899.00 LAND ONLY plus (Airfare \$1,100 subject to change)

NOTE: \$4,899 based on 30 Pilgrims; For 45 Pilgrims less \$200 off on Land Tour

Tour Price Includes

Hotel accommodation at tourist-class hotels. 2 nights on cruise. Daily breakfast and dinner, except Reykjavik. Round trip transfers from Airport to Hotel. All entrance fees in the itinerary. Touring in the itinerary with a deluxe air-conditioned motor coach. Daily Mass arrangements. Baggage handling at hotels. Only one piece of luggage per person. Hotel taxes and service charges. Not included: Lunches, gratuities for guides and driver and anything not mentioned.

ITINERARY**Day 1, September 01, Monday, Departure to HELSINKI (FINLAND)**

Our pilgrimage begins as we leave our hometown for an overnight flight to Helsinki, Finland. Dinner and breakfast are served on board.

Day 2, September 02, Tuesday, Arrival to HELSINKI

Upon arrival, meet your driver and transfer to your hotel in Helsinki. Dinner and overnight in Helsinki.

Day 3, September 03, Wednesday, HELSINKI – STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN)

After breakfast, we will have a city tour of Helsinki. Famous sights include the Senate Square, Uspenski Cathedral, Parliament House, Finlandia Hall, Sibelius Park & Monument, and Underground Temple. Late afternoon, we will board an overnight cruise ship to Stockholm. Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 4, September 04, Thursday, STOCKHOLM

Scandinavian buffet breakfast is being served on board. After disembarkation, we will celebrate Mass at Saint Eugene or Saint Eric Church. After mass, we will start the 4-hour guided tour of Stockholm. Famous sights on the tour include the Royal Palace, the Parliament Buildings, the island of Djurgården, and the Old Town (Gamla Stan), with its narrow streets and numerous antique shops. The highlight of the tour is a visit to City Hall with its famous Blue and Golden Halls, where the Nobel Prize Banquet is held each year. After visiting the unique Vasa Ship Museum, free time for shopping in Stockholm.

Day 5, September 05, Friday, STOCKHOLM, LINKÖPING, VRETA ABBEY, MOTOLA

After breakfast, we will drive to Linköping to visit the Cathedral, located where a small church in the form of a cross was built in the 12th century. Then we will continue to drive to Vreta Abbey, founded at the beginning of the 12th century by King Inge the Elder and Queen Helena, at Pope Paschal II's request. The next visit is to Vadstena Abbey, Motherhouse of the Bridgettine Order, located on the shores of Lake Wetter. We will celebrate Mass at Vadstena Abbey. Dinner and overnight in Motola.

Day 6, September 06, Saturday, MOTOLA, VARNHEM ABBEY, GOTHENBURG

After breakfast, we will drive to Sweden's oldest Christian place, Varnhem Abbey, where you'll find a churchyard from the Viking era, evidence of their conversion to Christianity over 1,000 years ago. We will continue to drive to Gothenburg to visit the splendid Botanic Gardens, one of the largest and best in Europe, with over 16,000 species of plants in different greenhouses and areas like the rock garden and herb garden. Dinner and overnight in Gothenburg.

Day 7, September 07, Sunday, GOTHENBURG – COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)

After breakfast, we will drive to Copenhagen. On the way, we will visit Lund Cathedral. The Cathedral was consecrated in 1145 and contains many well-known artifacts and features of considerable historical interest. Then, we will drive to Ystad to visit the Franciscan Ystad Monastery. Founded in 1267, this is the oldest medieval monastery in Sweden and, together with Vadstena Abbey, one of the best preserved. Dinner and overnight in Copenhagen.

Day 8, September 08, Monday, COPENHAGEN

Today, we will explore Copenhagen; Meet Hans Christian Andersen's Little Mermaid gazing wistfully across the harbor, then visit the Christiansborg Palace, the seat of the Danish Government. Celebrate Mass at Saint Ansgar's Cathedral. Saint Ansgar is known for his missionary activities in Scandinavia, bringing the message of Christ to the people of these lands. After dinner, we will visit the world-famous Tivoli Gardens. Dinner and overnight in Copenhagen.

Day 9, September 09, Tuesday, COPENHAGEN – ROSKILDE – COPENHAGEN - OSLO (NORWAY)

After breakfast, we travel to Roskilde to visit the Cathedral, the earliest major ecclesiastical building in northern Europe. It is noteworthy for successive architectural styles used in the ancillary chapels and porches added over many centuries, during which it has served as the mausoleum of the Danish royal family. Then we will visit the fascinating Viking Ship Museum. At the end of the tour, we will return to Copenhagen to board our overnight cruise to Oslo. Enjoy a delicious Scandinavian buffet dinner on board on the way to Oslo.

Day 10, September 10, Wednesday OSLO

Scandinavian buffet breakfast is being served on board, as you sail up the exciting Oslo Fjord to reach the Norwegian capital. After disembarkation, We will celebrate Mass at Saint Olav's Cathedral, the primary Catholic sanctuary in Oslo. Pope John Paul II visited the Cathedral in 1989. After Mass, proceed for an Oslo tour to visit Frogner Park, Akershus Fortress, founded in 1299 during the reign of King Hakon V. The medieval castle was modernized and converted into a Renaissance royal residence. Dinner and overnight in Oslo.

Day 11, September 11, Thursday, OSLO – REYKJAVIK (ICELAND)

After breakfast transfer to Airport. Upon arrival at Keflavik Airport, transfer to the hotel in Reykjavik. Dinner on your own. Overnight in Reykjavik.

Day 12, September 12, Friday, REYKJAVIK

After breakfast, we will have a city sightseeing tour of Reykjavik including the town of Hafnarfjörður where we visit the Fish Market, the Open-Air Museum Arbar, one of the open-air swimming pools, and the towering Hallgrím's Church, old town, the harbor, the summit meeting house Höfði, and the House of Parliament. Afternoon visit the majestic waterfalls at Gullfoss and the famous erupting hot springs at Geysir with its colorful pools and leaping hot springs. Dinner on your own. Overnight in Reykjavik.

Day 13, September 13, Saturday, DEPARTURE

After breakfast, we will go to the Blue Lagoon, a mineral-rich azure lake where you can luxuriate in the warm, rejuvenating waters before we take our flight home.

For more information and reservations please contact

MARLENE & JUN OSMA (973) 953-5033

Email: marleneosma426@gmail.com

FR. ALEX ENRIQUEZ : (908) 902-7671

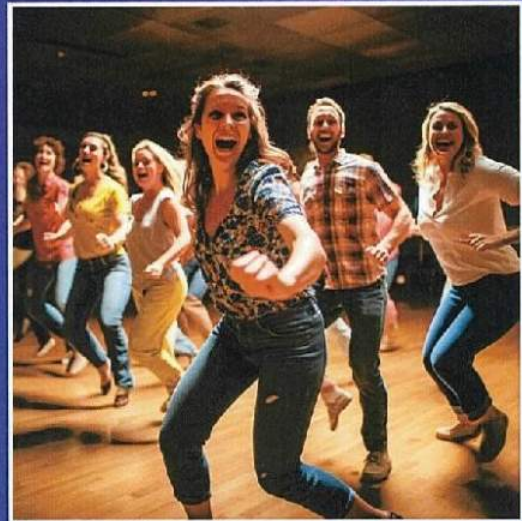
EMAIL: alexce101@msn.com

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Line Dance

Fundraiser for Catholic Relief Services

All proceeds benefit CRS.org
An international humanitarian aid organization



Beginner and Seasoned Dancers Welcomed!

Huge hall with ample room for line and partner dancing.

Lessons provided by your local instructors.

DeeJay Tom Allen will play a great mix of music.

Date: Sunday, September 29, 2024 (3-6:30pm)

(Doors open at 2:30pm)

Location:

Banquet Hall, St. Maximilian Kolbe Church,
130 St. Maximilian Lane, Toms River, N.J. 08757

(entrance and parking at rear of parish office building - signage provided)

Donation:

\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

Cash or checks to Catholic Relief Services

Other options: Venmo or Zelle

All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law

Bring your snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Bottles of water will be available for \$1.00

Contact for reservations and information: Bruno and Rosie Multari
732-269-1640 (voicemail) BrunoMultari52@gmail.com

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

The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 by Blessed Father Michael McGivney. It is an international order of more than 2 million Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend Catholic values in a busy, changing world. St Monica Council #11529 has a long history of support for the parish and many local charities. If you would like to join, simply scan the QR Code or go to KofC.org/join and enter council #11529.

**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

Youth Group

Open to all children of St Monica registered families and we would love to have you join us. For more information, call Theresa Calsetta 732-299-0261.

RCIA/OCIA*Rite/Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*

For those who are seeking full membership in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish office.

New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Registration forms may be downloaded at www.saintmonica.com
 Please contact the parish office for further info.

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 request 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 on-going 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 a program of prayers and service. The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholic men and women over 18 years of age who have the good will to want to serve God through Mother Mary. Meetings are at St. Monica every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. The Legion is always looking to recruit new members. If you discern a divine connection to the Blessed Mother, and feel she is calling you to join, please contact the Parish Office.

Women of St Monica

A Ministry of Catholic women of the parish striving to fulfill their spiritual needs, sharing their faith, promoting community, and conducting fundraisers throughout the year and enhance parish life in a variety of ways. Please contact the parish office for more info.



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 Readings from the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sept. 15, 2024

GETTING BEHIND THE MESSIAH

Many people acknowledge Jesus as a great religious teacher but do not actually follow his teachings. Today's Gospel drives home the fact that mere intellectual recognition of Jesus is not enough. He asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" (Mark 8:27). After they give him a report, he then asks them personally, "But who do *you* say that I am?" (v. 29). The point is that we cannot acknowledge Jesus's existence without making changes in our own lives. Rather, we must be baptized in the name of the Lord and then surrender our entire lives to him, rejecting our bad habits. And, if we were baptized as infants, we must ask for an increase in the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity as we journey toward the heavenly fatherland.

Saint Peter sets the example for us by publicly proclaiming that Jesus is the Messiah, but he fails to accept the whole mission. When Jesus predicts his own Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Peter denies that it will happen, showing his own lack of faith in Christ's redemptive mission. In turn, Jesus rebukes Peter as "Satan" for failing to think like God thinks. Jesus's words recall the words of Isaiah: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways" (Isaiah 56:8). Our thinking can be very limited, yet we must have faith in Christ's Paschal Mystery. In fact, suffering and death are at the heart of Christ's mission as the Messiah, and the same will be true for us as we follow him. In order to be real disciples of Christ, we must follow Jesus on the road to Mt. Calvary: deny oneself, take up the cross, and follow him. The only way to save your life is to lose it (see v. 35) and the only path to resurrection is through suffering and death.

PRAYER

Jesus speaks plainly to his disciples today. He frankly shares with them the Father's plan, which he will bring to fruition at his Crucifixion. His plan is difficult to understand for the people who love him and now depend on him. Imagine hearing that your dear friend and teacher would have to suffer greatly and be killed. Like Peter, our reaction would probably be one of denial.

But Jesus's words should shock us. He tells Peter, "Get behind me, Satan." How can Jesus call Peter "Satan," when he will become the Rock on which the Catholic Church is built? How can the first Pope be called "Satan?" Jesus's harsh rebuke of St. Peter indicates the gravity of his doubt: Peter doubts the Paschal Mystery. Namely, he doubts that Christ will redeem the world through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Peter doubts the very means of his own salvation! Today, let us pray that we place all our faith in Christ's death and resurrection, recognizing the salvation that he won for us on the Cross.

RESOLUTION

Today's Gospel is not a "feel good" teaching. Take some time to answer Jesus's question to his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" If Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, then to whom else can we turn? Next, take some time to recognize the cross or crosses you are facing. How can you "take up your cross" this week? What will change in your attitude towards these trials?

It is not easy to take up our crosses and follow Jesus, and it is not a decision that we make suddenly and then habitually do it with perfection. Every day, several times a day, we will probably need to re-commit to embracing the cross in our lives at that moment and ask Jesus to fill us with his grace. Reminders throughout our home, office space, car, etc. can help us to stay focused on our goal of following Christ. Place a small cross or an image of the crucifix in these places so that you remember who you are following and how you are to follow him. | formed.org

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Daniel McGeehan
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daniel.mcgeehan@kofc.org

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