

# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA

## YOUR FAITH WILL SAVE YOU



© JPPC

### OCTOBER 27, 2024

#### 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](http://www.saintmonica.com)  
Parish Office: 732-928-0279  
Email: [parishoffice@saintmonica.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintmonica.com)  
Fax: (732) 928-1853  
Religious Education: 732-928-4038  
Email: [stmonicacd@yahoo.com](mailto: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/)



**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 27, 2024**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, October 26**

4:00 pm Joan Jolly (Karen Johnson)

**Sunday, October 27**

9:00 am Antonio Sasso  
(Stephanie Kujawski)

11:00 am Brian J Kenney  
(Tom & Janet Noordzy)

**Monday, October 28**

9:00 am Fermina Lopez (Ida Dionaldo)

**Tuesday, October 29**

9:00 am John Golonka  
(Piacentino Family)

**Wednesday, October 30**

9:00 am Robert Taylor (Karen Johnson)

**Thursday, October 31**

9:00 am Deceased Relatives & Friends  
(Marie Gould)

**Friday, November 1 - All Saints**

9:00 am Deceased Members & Families  
7:00 pm Deceased Members & Families

**Saturday, November 2**

4:00 pm Rosemarie Pergolizzi  
(Ron & Katie Borrello)

**Sunday, November 3**

9:00 am Antonio Sasso (St Monica)  
11:00 am Stephen V Balint, Jr  
(Diana & Denis Balint)

*To secure your Mass Intentions, 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, Andrew G Sabine, A.J. Sabine, Stephen Alexander

*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 – October 27, 2024**

**Monday** Eph 2:19-22 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Lk 6:12-16

**Tuesday** Eph 5:21-33 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 Lk 13:18-21

**Wednesday** Eph 6:1-9 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 Lk 13:22-30

**Thursday** Eph 6:10-20 Ps 144:1B, 2, 9-10 Lk 13:31-35

**Friday** Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 1 Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12a

**Saturday** Wis 3:1-9 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Rom 6:3-9 Jn 6:37-40

**Sunday** Dt 6:2-6 Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 Heb 7:23-28 Mk 12:28b-34

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

During November we remember our beloved deceased who have completed their pilgrimage of faith. You are invited to inscribe their names in the Book of Remembrance on the table near the altar. We will pray for all the names in the book throughout the month.

#####

**Holy Day of Obligation**

All Saints Day  
Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>  
Mass at 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

#####

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

#####

**Update on the Immaculate Conception 2024**

The observance of the Immaculate Conception falls on an Advent Sunday this year. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has notified us that the obligation to attend Mass for the Immaculate Conception has been transferred to Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> this year.

Therefore, the Holy Day of Obligation in the Dioceses of the United States is now December 9<sup>th</sup> and will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in our parish.

**CHRISTMAS YOUTH CHOIR**

The Youth Choir is forming now to sing at the 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. Students in Grade 3 and higher are encouraged to participate.

Rehearsals will be Tuesdays beginning **November 19th at 7 p.m.** Interested? Sign up sheets are at the back of the church!

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS  
OCTOBER 7 - 13, 2024**

Total \$ 4,894.52

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

**STUDY THEOLOGY AT  
GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY**

All programs can be completed remotely. Master of Arts or a Graduate Certificate in Theology, with concentrations in Pastoral Ministry or Mercy Spirituality. Not sure? Take one or two classes on a non-matriculating basis to see if our programs are right for you. Generous financial aid available. New semester begins January 21, 2025. There is still time to apply.

For more information contact department chair Johann M. Vento:  
**jvento@georgian.edu**

We look forward to getting to know you and talking about your interest in studying theology.



*Lord Jesus,  
Grant us the courage to encourage others in their faith and to leave behind anything that holds us back. Like Bartimaeus, may we have the faith to follow you and start anew. Amen.*

**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.**

**ST. MONICA PARISH REGISTRATION**

Welcome to the Parish of St. Monica! Whether you're here for the first time or the thousandth time, know that we are very glad you have come to worship with us!

If you have not yet registered in the parish, please do so. Registration is necessary for your children to attend Religious Education classes, and for you and your children to celebrate the sacraments of baptism, eucharist, confirmation. Your registration also helps our parish and our Diocese plan for the future.

Registration forms are located on the tables at each entrance to the church. You can drop your completed form in the offertory basket or in person at the Parish Office. Feel free to contact the Parish Office with any questions at 732-928-0279.

**CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY**

*"Baptism is the source of new life in Christ and for that baptismal grace to unfold, the parent's help is important. So too is the role of the godfather and godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized on the road of Christian life."* CCC, 1253-1255

*"Candidates for the sacrament of confirmation, as for baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate (but not required) that the confirmation sponsor be one of the baptism godparents."* CCC 1254, 1311

Before either sacrament is celebrated, all godparents and sponsors are required to submit to St. Monica's parish office a **Certificate of Eligibility**. This form can be obtained from the parish office of the godparent or sponsor.

To receive the form, the person must:

- ⇒ Be an active Catholic, registered and attending Mass in their Catholic parish for at least 6 months
- ⇒ Be at least 16 years of age
- ⇒ Have completed the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation
- ⇒ If married, have a valid marriage within the Catholic Church

If you are asked to be a baptism godparent or confirmation sponsor and you meet all the guidelines above, please call the parish office as soon as possible to obtain your **Certificate of Eligibility**. When in doubt, call the parish office for help at: 732-928-0279



### CALENDAR

#### Saturday, October 26

- 10:00 am Altar Server Training Mtg (Church)
- 12:00 pm K of C Rib Sale (Picnic Area)
- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass

#### Sunday, October 27

- 9:00 am Mass
- 11:00 am Mass

#### Monday, October 28

- 9:00 am Mass
- 4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
- 6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
- 6:30 pm Rel Ed Gr 2 Parent/Student Mtg

#### Tuesday, October 29

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

#### Wednesday, October 30

- 9:00 am Mass
- 5:30 pm OCIA (LC)

#### Thursday, October 31

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am Grief Support (LC)

#### Friday, November 1

- All Saints Day, Holy Day Of Obligation
- 9:00 am Holy Day Mass
- 6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. (LC)
- 7:00 pm Holy Day Mass

#### Saturday, November 2

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

#### Sunday, November 3

- 9:00 am Mass
- 11:00 am Mass
- 12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Mtg. (LC)

#### Monday, November 4

- 9:00 am Mass
- No Religious Education Classes

#### Tuesday, November 5

- 9:00 am Mass
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir
- 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (LC)
- No Religious Education Classes

### OFFERINGS AT FRANCIS HOUSE OF PRAYER

#### Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center & Retreat House

**84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501**  
609-877-0509 or [FHOP@verizon.net](mailto:FHOP@verizon.net). Please check [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings!

*All programs offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.*

#### IN-PERSON ONLY

#### GOD BLESS AMERICA - MORE THINGS ARE WROUGHT BY PRAYER

Tuesday, November 5 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Francis House is a House of Prayer and on this Election Day we will do just that! Without any political conversation we will spend the morning in prayer for the holiness and peace of our nation as well as for all nations. If you feel drawn by God to pray for our country, please come and join us. We will end with Liturgy and lunch and have a peaceful prayerful day for the good of the world. A morning of prayer is always good! Donation: \$25, includes lunch.

#### IN-PERSON AND ZOOM

#### ELIZABETH OF THE TRINITY "A PRAISE OF GLORY"

Tuesday, November 12 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

We will explore the spirituality of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity using some of her major spiritual writings. There will be time to reflect and pray as St. Elizabeth shows us "the greatness of our vocation" as people made in the image and likeness of God, who "loves exceedingly." Donation: \$35, includes Liturgy and lunch. Zoom: \$25

### 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](mailto:parishoffice@saintmonica.com) or 732-928-0279

OCTOBER 29, 1971 - OCTOBER 7, 1990  
FEAST DAY: OCTOBER 29

# saint

**BLESSED CHIARA  
"LUCE" BADANO**



OFFICIAL  
PHOTO FOR THE  
BEATIFICATION  
CAUSE OF ITALIAN  
CHIARA BADANO.

beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010.

"I think you all know that on Saturday September 25th, in Rome, an Italian girl named Chiara, Chiara Badano, was beatified. I invite you to get to know her: her life was short, but it's a wonderful message. Chiara was born in 1971 and died in 1990, because of an incurable illness. Nineteen years full of life, of love, of faith. Two years, the last ones, also filled with pain and suffering, but always in love and light, a light that shone around her, and that came from within: from her heart filled with God! How can this be? How can a girl of 17, 18 years live a suffering like this, without any kind of human hope, spreading love, serenity, peace, faith? Obviously, this is a grace from God, but this grace was also prepared and accompanied by human collaboration: the collaboration of Chiara herself, certainly, but also of her parents and her friends."

—POPE BENEDICT XVI,  
PALERMO, OCTOBER 3, 2010

Chiara "Luce" Badano was born in 1971, an only child to parents who had waited long for her arrival. As a child, she was bright, friendly, athletic, and had many friends. At age 9, she joined the Focolare movement and was very inspired by this spirituality. She was struck with cancer at age 17, but never lost her bright spirit. After a two-year battle with the disease, she entered eternal rest on October 7, 1990. Her last words were a message of hope: "Be happy, because I am!" She was



## A PRAYER FOR LIFE

to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

O Jesus, you came that we might have *life*—and have it in abundance. Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you form us in our mothers' wombs and call us to love you for all eternity.

As your most precious gift of human life is attacked, draw us ever closer to your Real Presence in the Eucharist. Dispel the darkness of the culture of death, for you are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

By the power of your Eucharistic Presence, help us to defend the life of every human person at every stage. Transform our hearts to protect and cherish all whose lives are most vulnerable.

For you are God, forever and ever.

— AMEN.



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Visit [store.respectlife.org](http://store.respectlife.org) to order this prayer card and other Respect Life materials.



## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 27, 2024

### **PILGRIMAGE 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 Arbær, 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**



*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 - Thursday 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)

## Reflections on the Readings for the 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - October 24, 2024

### THE FACE OF GOD

The imagery of sight and blindness pervades the readings for this Sunday. The Church uses this metaphor to help us understand how we are blinded by sin and are in need of Christ's light in order to follow him.

In modern society, we think of freedom as the absolute ability to do whatever we want, as long as we don't hurt anyone else. As Christians, this gravely distorts our understanding of sin. It follows from that definition of freedom that there really is no sin; as long as what we do affects ourselves, then it cannot harm anyone else.

This is not a Catholic understanding of sin and freedom. We believe that we are only free as far as we are able to do the good freely. We grow in freedom the more that we resist evil and choose what is good. Moreover, sin is not private, because it gravely offends our relationship with God, it hurts our union with others, and we only hurt ourselves by sinning. In the Bible, we see attachment to sin described as blindness. The one who is full of sin is actually made blind to reality. The more we sin, the less we are able to see the truth clearly.

Through Jesus Christ, we are able to overcome our blindness and step into his light. Do we have the spiritual strength to let go of our petty attachments, and choose Christ above all else?

### PRAYER

Return to the Gospel for this week. Imagine that you are the blind beggar searching for healing. You realize Jesus is near, and a little part of you believes, or simply wants to believe, that he will look on you and love you if you only call to him.

Take the word that comes to mind and reflect on what it means to you personally. For example, the phrase, "Take courage, get up. Jesus is calling you," might have stuck out to you. Ask yourself what this means in your own life. Are the saints interceding for you and encouraging you to seek healing and freedom from Jesus?

### RESOLUTION

In the Gospel story this week, we see Bartimaeus throw aside his cloak, spring up, and turn to Jesus. Why did he need to throw aside his cloak? The cloak was among Bartimaeus's few possessions, and his willingness to throw it aside before Jesus even healed him is a witness to his faith in Jesus's healing powers, and that he would no longer need the clothes of a beggar.

Many things in our lives hold us back from fully trusting in Jesus. We could be held back by bad friends, an addiction, a habit of wasting time on technology, overeating, etc. These are all things we use to cope because we don't really believe Jesus will heal us. What material object in your life prevents you from truly seeking healing from Jesus, and how can you strive to "throw it aside" to grow your faith in Jesus this week? [formed.org](http://formed.org)





**Confused About Medicare?  
I'm Here To Help!**

**ARLETY SOLANO**  
Principal  
(917) 547-4273  
asolano9@outlook.com



**EliteCare Consulting Group**  Find us on Facebook

**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](http://kofc.org/liveyourfaith)  
1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

**732-719-7250**  
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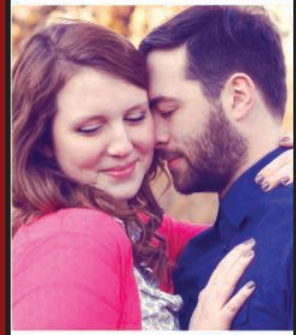


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