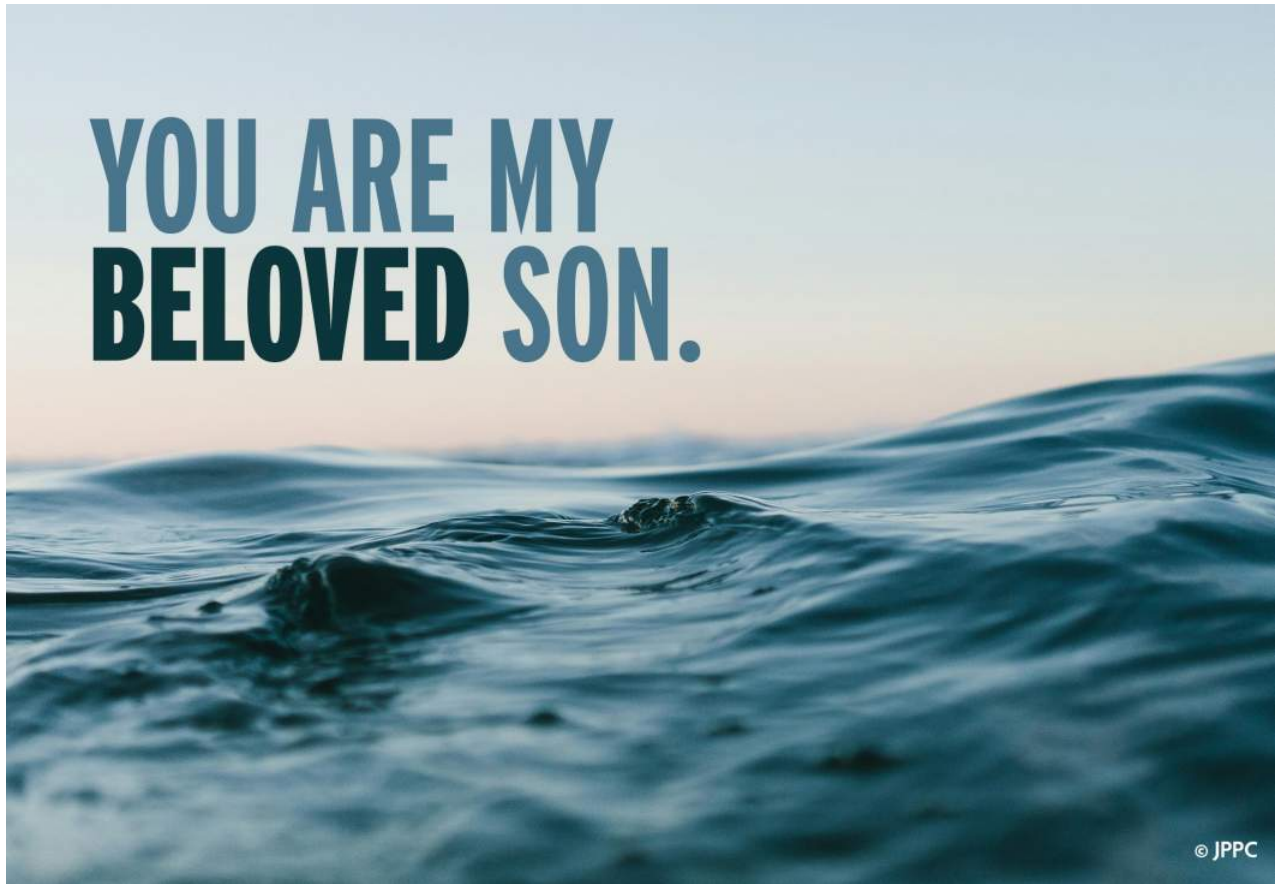


# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA

# YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON.



## JANUARY 12, 2025

### 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/)



## BAPTISM OF THE LORD - JANUARY 12, 2025

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, January 11

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

#### Sunday, January 12

9:00 am Mikayla Harshaw  
(Stephanie Kujawski)

11:00 am Lorene Meganheimer (Mary Boyd)

#### Monday, January 13

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone  
(Gerarda Fallone)

#### Tuesday, January 14

9:00 am Available

#### Wednesday, January 15

9:00 am Lucia Felice Scianlepore  
(Julia Calo)

#### Thursday, January 16

9:00 am Grace Hubers (Mary Boyd)

#### Saturday, January 18

4:00 pm Jim Morell  
(Calsetta Family)

#### Sunday, January 19

9:00 am Lorene Magenheimer  
(St Monica)

11:00 am William Harmes  
(Nina & Al Pileggi)

*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, 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, Phillip Wenz, 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, Angela Belmont

*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 - January 12, 2025

**Monday, January 13, 2025** Heb 1:1-6 Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 Mk 1:14-20

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025** Heb 2:5-12 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025** Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday, January 16, 2025** Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 Mk 1:40-45

**Friday, January 17, 2025** Heb 4:1-5, 11 Ps 78:3 & 4bc, 6c-7, 8 Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday, January 18, 2025** Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday, January 19, 2025** Is 62:1-5 Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

**Lost & Found** -- Coach wristlet/purse found in Church on December 22. Please contact the parish office to claim.



On Sunday, Jan. 12, we will be removing the Christmas decorations following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. You are welcome to take home a poinsettia plant at that time.



After all Masses this weekend.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**



**New Year, New Gift?**

Are you looking for the perfect New Year's gift for your spouse?

**Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend!**

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to enrich your marriage, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held:

**February 14 – 16, 2025 at  
APA Hotel - Woodbridge  
120 South Wood Avenue  
ISELIN, NJ 08830**

Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco). Visit us at: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for more information.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS  
DEC 16 - 22, 2024**

Total \$10,974.00

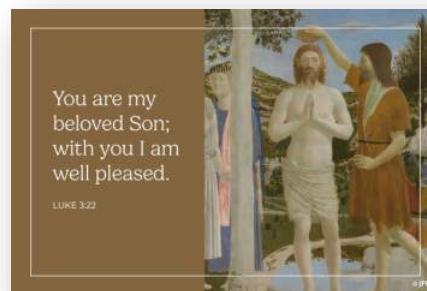
**DEC 23 - 29, 2024**

Total \$7,333.32

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

**THANK YOU!**

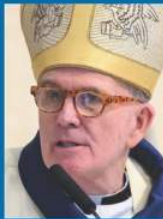
Many thanks for the beautiful Christmas decorations, the glorious music, the open hearts, and inspiring Masses at Christmastime this year, our Youth Choir. A special thanks to Ernest Rookey for leading the Youth Choir on Christmas Eve, and Adult Choirs at Christmas and every week, and all the various rehearsals. Thanks again to our Social Concerns Committee, liturgical ministers, decorators, donors, clergy, and volunteers who helped make it possible for us to celebrate Christ's birth with joy. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for parking lot duty and lighting. Thank you to all who assisted and took part in the preparation for Advent and Christmas. Thank you to our Deacons, and a big thank you to our pastor, Father Alex. May our Christmas joy continue to inspire our parish through this year and always!





# Mass for Life & Life Expo

## CELEBRATED BY



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

### PRAY, CONNECT, ENGAGE

Embrace the transformative power of the Eucharist, foster solidarity, and take decisive action to nurture a culture of life that honors every stage from womb to tomb.

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Join us for a special Mass celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M.
- Engage with local organizations dedicated to upholding and promoting human dignity throughout all stages of life.
- Enjoy delicious refreshments, fostering new friendships, and strengthening bonds within our community.

Friday  
**JANUARY 24**  
11:00AM

Co-Cathedral of  
St. Robert Bellarmine,  
Freehold

**All are Welcome • No RSVP needed**



For full information about the day's events, visit:  
[dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life](https://dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life)

### CALENDAR

#### Saturday, January 11 - Sunday January 12

Women of St Monica Bake Sale after all Masses

#### Saturday, January 11

10:00 am BLD Mtg (Church/Parish Hall)  
3:15 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm Mass

#### Sunday, January 12

9:00 am Mass  
10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)  
11:00 am Mass  
12:00 pm Baptism/Fr Alex

#### Monday, January 13

9:00 am Mass  
4:30 pm Religious Ed Class  
6:15 pm Religious Ed Class

#### Tuesday, January 14

9:00 am Mass  
5:30 pm Rel Ed Class  
7:00 pm Adult Choir  
7:30 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

#### Wednesday, January 15

9:00 am Mass  
4:00 pm OCIA (LC)

#### Thursday, January 16

9:00 am Mass  
1:00 pm Bible Study Group (LC)  
7:00 pm Men's CORE Prayer Grp (Church)

#### Saturday, January 18

12:00 pm Baptism/Fr Alex  
3:15 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm Mass

#### Sunday, January 19

9:00 am Mass  
10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)  
11:00 am Mass

#### Monday, January 20

9:00 am No Mass  
No Religious Ed Class Today  
Parish Offices Closed

#### Tuesday, January 21

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion  
No Religious Ed Class Today  
7:00 pm Adult Choir  
7:30 pm K of C Officer Mtg (LC)  
7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Parish Foyer)

#### Offerings at Francis House of Prayer Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and 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 will be offered online and in-person un-  
less otherwise indicated.

#### 5 SHORT WAYS TO PRAY

Tuesday, January 14 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Do you struggle with finding time to pray?  
This morning retreat will acquaint you with 5  
short ways to enjoy direct communication  
with the God who knows and loves you as  
you are. Prayer happens when the real God  
and the real you meet, even briefly. Donation:  
\$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

#### GANDHI: PROPHET OF PEACE

Thursday, Jan. 30 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Have we ever needed Gandhi's witness and  
message of nonviolence more than we do to-  
day? We are remembering Gandhi by joining  
together to view the very long but inspira-  
tional film, *Gandhi*. We will split our viewing  
into morning and afternoon sessions with de-  
licious lunch and conversation between. Do-  
nation: \$25, includes lunch, popcorn too!  
Zoom: \$20

#### IN-PERSON ONLY

#### SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT WEEKEND

6:30 PM Friday to Noon on Sunday

January 31 – February 2

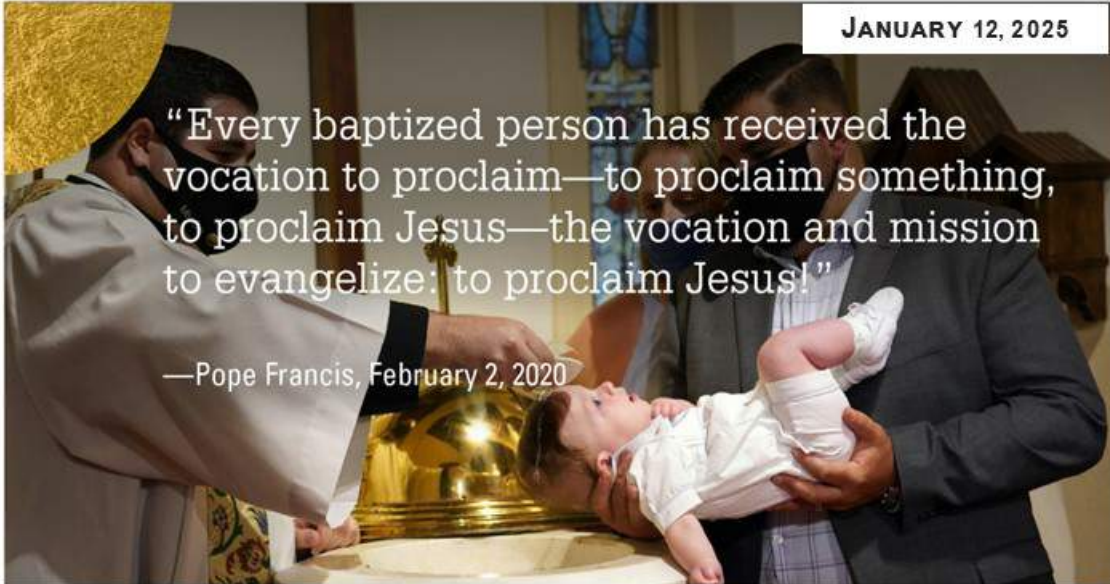
Liturgy, spiritual direction and optional con-  
templative prayer periods are included. Dona-  
tion: \$200/\$100 non-refundable deposit. Full  
payment is required 2 weeks in advance of  
start date.

## The Baptism of the Lord

JANUARY 12, 2025

“Every baptized person has received the vocation to proclaim—to proclaim something, to proclaim Jesus—the vocation and mission to evangelize: to proclaim Jesus!”

—Pope Francis, February 2, 2020



Cathy Images

### Today, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord!

**The origin and foundation** of Christian Baptism is Jesus. Before starting his public ministry, Jesus submitted himself to the baptism given by John the Baptist. The waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. “He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake . . . to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water” (St. Gregory Nazianzen, Liturgy of the Hours, I, 634).

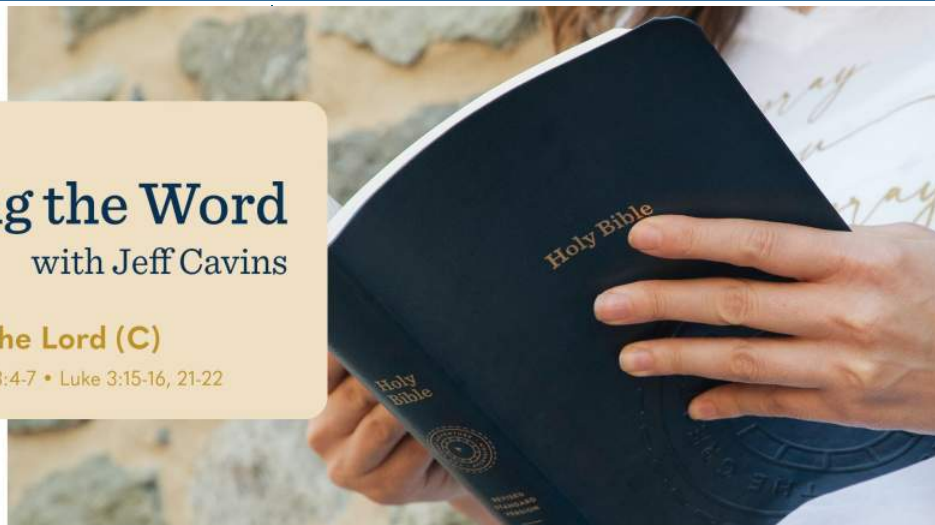
Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will. Jesus did not need to be baptized because he was totally faithful to the will of his Father and free from sin. However, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father. By commanding his disciples to baptize all nations, he established the means by which people would die to sin—Original and actual—and begin to live a new life with God.

# Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

## The Baptism of the Lord (C)

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 • Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 • Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



## Ministry Begins at Baptism

The Gospel reading today describes Our Lord going to the Jordan River, being baptized, and praying, and then the Holy Spirit descending upon him. Then we hear the Father saying in a beautiful way in Luke 3, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Jesus lived for thirty years in a faithful, holy family. He grew in wisdom and stature in the power of the Word of God. To begin his ministry, he makes his way from Galilee to this remote area north of the Dead Sea that, geographically, is the lowest place on earth. It’s as if he’s saying, “I’m going to gather everything together and bring it to the Father,” and that’s what he does in his ministry.

Why does Jesus have to be baptized? Did he sin or need to repent? No. He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. In his life, the entire story of the Bible is fulfilled. So, he is baptized. Then, while he is praying, the Holy Spirit descends upon him. This is how he started his public ministry. The reason this is so important to you and me is that this is the way we start our public ministry in proclaiming the Good News and living a life that shows people what the Trinity and God’s love are all about.

When we’re baptized, we are forgiven of original sin, brought into God’s family, and equipped with this new life. The Father looks at you and me, saying, “You are my son. You are my daughter.” Jesus went from that river and changed the world. Now, it’s our turn.



The Baptism of Christ by Juan de Flandes

## Live the Gospel

Jeff Cavins says, “The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us in the very first paragraph that God has a plan of sheer goodness, and that plan involves going out and gathering everyone together and into his family. Maybe you don’t know exactly how to tell people about God. That’s where trusting in the Holy Spirit comes into play. Jesus says to simply open your mouth, and the Holy Spirit will give you the words.”

## Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/feast-of-the-baptism-of-the-lord-c/>

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD - JANUARY 12, 2025

### 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 \$1,000.00=\$5,899.00**

**Early Registration Discount \$200.00 if Registration & Deposit Submitted before January 10, 2025**

#### 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, GOTHENBURGH

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 Håkon 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 Arber, 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 -HOME

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

**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 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 Baptism of the Lord - January 12, 2025*

### **CHRIST'S BAPTISM & OUR OWN**

On this, the first Sunday of Ordinary Time, we recall the Baptism of the Lord, but in addition to remembering this historical event, we also are asked to call to mind our own Baptism. Sometimes we think that Baptism is just one of those things from the past, perhaps from when we were infants, that doesn't have all that much effect on our lives now. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Let's consider three effects of the Sacrament of Baptism. First, baptism washes away original sin and fills us with grace, which is Christ's divine life in us. Baptism doesn't remove or cancel all the effects of Original Sin. We still have a strong tendency, called concupiscence, toward sin. But through Baptism, we are filled with God's life and are reunited with the Heavenly Father. Later in life, if we have fallen into sin (and we all do), we can experience the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Confession which restores us back into communion with God.

The second effect of baptism is that it emblazes an indelible mark on our souls. We become patterned after Jesus. Just as Jesus is the beloved son of God, we become adopted sons and daughters of God. Like Jesus, we can now refer to the first person of the Trinity as Our Father.

Finally, at our Baptism, the Holy Spirit is breathed into our souls. From that moment on, the divine presence of the third person of the Trinity is in abiding communion with us. Because of this indwelling of the Spirit in our hearts, minds and souls, all the baptized are united in the Mystical Body of Christ.

In this week's readings, we hear the Father's voice coming from heaven, we see the Son in the river, and we watch the Holy Spirit descend in the form of a dove. As we see the Trinity together for the first time in Scripture, we are reminded that these same three persons are a daily reality in our lives because we have been baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

### **PRAYER**

Prayerfully ponder how through the sacrament of Baptism which you have received (or hope to receive soon), it is as if God the Father says the same thing to you as he said to Jesus: "You are my beloved son (or daughter); with you I am well pleased." Consider three key words in this statement: beloved, son and well pleased. What does it mean to you to know you are truly beloved by God; that you are a son (or daughter) of the heavenly Father; and that with you, God is well pleased?

### **RESOLUTION**

This week, take time each day to consider how much God the Father loves you. If you find yourself becoming downhearted or critical, stop and repeat the words of the Gospel, using your own name; for example, "You (name) are my beloved son (or daughter); with you I am well pleased." Allow God's love to fill your heart and wash away your feelings of inadequacy or false guilt.

**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.



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

**Daniel McGeehan**  
732-597-3832  
daniel.mcgeehan@kofc.org



**732-719-7250**

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**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE**

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