

# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



**FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

*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)**

**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://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.*



## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - FEBRUARY 2, 2025

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, February 1

4:00 pm In Memory of Douglas Merwin  
(Merwin Family)

#### Sunday, February 2

9:00 am Jimmy Morell  
(Georgina Mizzi & Family)

11:00 am Judi Reed  
(Ernie & Barbara Rookey)

#### Saturday, February 8

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

#### Sunday, February 9

9:00 am Jimmy Morell  
(Sharon & Christoper Sayuk)

11:00 am Valerie Witkowski  
(Charlotte Durham)

*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.*

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, 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, Danny Merwin, Diane Hromiko, Kathy Reynolds, Margie Smith

*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 - February 2, 2025

**Monday, February 3, 2025** Heb 11:32-40 Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025** Heb 12:1-4 Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32 Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday, February 6, 2025** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 Mk 6:7-13

**Friday, February 7, 2025** Heb 13:1-8 Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc Mk 6:14-29

**Saturday, February 8, 2025** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mk 6:30-34

**Sunday, February 9, 2025** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 1 Cor 15:1-11

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

Monday, February 3  
 through Thursday, February 6  
 there will be no 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass.  
 However, there will be Liturgy of the Word  
 with Holy Communion during that time.  
 Wednesday, February 5  
 Adoration following 9:00 am Liturgy

**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**

This day was established by Pope St. John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering with illness. It has been observed annually on February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes since 1993. The purpose of the World Day of the Sick is to raise our level of awareness of the sick and the role to which Christ calls each of us to tend their needs.

Some may include:

**1. Acts of Kindness:**

Individuals and communities are encouraged to perform acts of kindness for those who are ill, such as visiting patients, delivering flowers, or providing assistance to caregivers.

**2. Healthcare Initiatives:**

Healthcare organizations may use this day to promote health education, awareness campaigns, and initiatives aimed at improving healthcare services.

**3. Prayer and Reflection:**

Many people take time for personal prayer and reflection, contemplating the role of illness in their lives and the lives of others.



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS  
 JANUARY 13 - 19, 2025**

Total \$5,107.85

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

St Vincent dePaul Donations \$703.00

**WOMEN OF ST. MONICA**

**SOUPER BOWL  
 SOUP & CHILI SALE**

February 8 & 9 after all masses

*Homemade soups: \$5.00 & \$7.00*

*Homemade Chili: \$5.00*

Proceeds to benefit St. Monica Church  
 Organized by the Women of St. Monica

For Questions contact Janet  
 732-814-4501



## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - FEBRUARY 2, 2025

### SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

The Church of Saint Monica provides nonperishable food to our local families in need. At this time our Food Pantry is running low. Social Concerns is requesting food donations of the following items:

- \* assorted canned beans
- \* canned vegetables
- \* tomato sauce
- \* tuna
- \* soups
- \* pasta
- \* boxed potatoes
- \* pancake mix & syrup
- \* cereal
- \* coffee
- \* tea
- \* sugar
- \* flour

Thank You for your donations.

God Bless You,

*Social Concerns Ministry*



### Attention Men!

Join other Catholic men from across the Diocese of Trenton at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Conference on Saturday, February 22, at St. Mary Mother of God Church in Middletown. The theme of this year's conference is "[Solidarity: A Time to Unite.](#)" The day runs from 8:00 am to 2:30 p.m. and will feature Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop David O'Connell.

Speakers include **Elvis Grbac**, a 2001 Pro Bowl quarterback with the Chiefs and Super Bowl XXIX champion with the 49ers. Elvis played 9 seasons in the NFL with San Francisco (1994-96), Kansas City (1997-2000) and Baltimore. He is the author of nine books, a Catholic apologist and speaker for Catholic Answers, and an adjunct professor at Holy Apostles College, Cromwell, CT.

**Trent Horn** specializes in teaching Catholics to graciously and persuasively engage those who disagree with them. **Matthew Arnold**, an international speaker, author, and former New Age participant who converted to Catholicism in 1996. Arnold speaks internationally on a variety of topics, including devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and has hosted radio programs for EWTN and the Radio Maria Network, including *Reasons for Faith LIVE* and *Scripture Matters LIVE* with Dr. Scott Hahn.

Cost is \$60 per person; \$20 for students. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register online go to: [www.catholicmenforjesuschrist.org](http://www.catholicmenforjesuschrist.org).

To register by mail, send the name(s) of each person registering, your check, and a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

**Catholic Men for Jesus Christ**  
**P.O. Box 266**  
**Clarksburg, NJ 08510**



## CALENDAR

### Saturday, February 1

- 10:00 am Baptism/Dcn John
- 11:30 am Funeral Mass
- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass

### Sunday, February 2

- 9:00 am Mass
- 10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)
- 11:00 am Mass
- 12:00 pm WOSM Mtg (LC)

### Monday, February 3

- 9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion
- 4:30 pm Religious Ed Class
- 6:15 pm Religious Ed Class

### Tuesday, February 4

- 9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion
- 5:30 pm Religious Ed Class
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir
- 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

### Wednesday, February 5

- 9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion
- 9:30 am Adoration
- 4:00 pm OCIA (LC)

### Thursday, February 6

- 9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion
- 10:00 am Grief Support (LC)
- 1:00 pm Bible Study (LC)

### Friday, February 7

- 6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg (LC)

### Saturday, February 8 - 9

#### Soup Sale after all Masses

### Saturday, February 8

- 11:00 am - 3:00 pm BLD (Church/Parish Hall)
- 12:00 pm WOSM (LC)
- 3:15 pm Confessions
- 4:00 pm Mass

### Sunday, February 9

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

### Monday, February 10

- 9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion
- 4:30 pm Religious Ed Class
- 6:15 pm Religious Ed Class
- 6:30 pm Rel Ed Gr 2 Parent/Student Mtg



## PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Almighty and eternal God,

You blessed the union of married couples  
so that they might reflect the union of Christ  
with his Church:

look with kindness on them.

Renew their marriage covenant,  
increase your love in them,  
and strengthen their bond of peace  
so that, with their children,  
they may always rejoice in the gift of  
your blessing.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

  
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 foryourmarriage.org

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## Saint Blaise

DATES: DIED 316  
FEAST DAY: FEBRUARY 3

**S**aint Blaise is a bishop and martyr who lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. For a time, Blaise lived in a cave to escape persecution. On his feast the church recalls a miracle cure associated with him and celebrates the blessing of the throats. Blaise apparently saved the life of a boy who was choking on a fish bone. The saint said that anyone who lit a candle in his memory would be free of infection, thus candles are used in the traditional throat blessing. He is listed among the Fourteen Holy Helpers, saints revered as healers.

He is the patron saint of throat illnesses, animals, wool combers, and wool trading.



Artful C. Saint Blaise, Master of the Murano Gradual, Illuminator, J Paul Getty Museum



# Encountering the Word

with Emily Cavins

## The Presentation of the Lord (C)

Malachi 3:1-4 • Hebrews 2:14-18 • Luke 2:22-40



## Salvation and Sword

**B**ecause she was born sinless, our Blessed Mother needed no purification. Yet in the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, the feast we celebrate today, Mary faithfully accomplishes all the necessary steps a Jewish woman was required to take after giving birth to her firstborn son, as prescribed in Leviticus 12. The Presentation by Mary, our exemplar of faithfulness and obedience, is also remembered in the fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary.

At the Temple, Mary fulfills the prophecy Malachi makes in our first reading. The prophets Simeon and Anna know that the Temple will be the first stop for the Messiah on his redemptory mission, and they recognize him in Mary's arms as she approaches the holy place.

Upon receiving Jesus in his arms, Simeon utters words that are simultaneously joyful at the arrival of the Light of the World and sorrowful because of the rejection and pain Our Lord would suffer. This righteous and devout man reminds us that salvation comes at a high price for Jesus and his followers, especially for Mother Mary: "And you yourself a sword will pierce," Simeon foretells. Mary is strengthened by Simeon's entire prophetic confirmation, treasuring his words in her heart forever.

We often face rough patches on our journey of faith. At those times, we can gain strength from our mountaintop experiences. Like Our Lady, we can keep pushing toward fulfilling our faith obligations and put our spirituality to work. For nourishment, we receive the gift of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist at each Mass. Let's receive him with joy, as Simeon did, so that when it's difficult to fulfill our obligations, we can draw strength directly from Our Lord.



*Presentation at the Temple by Luca Giordano*

## Live the Gospel

Out of obedience to the laws of God and her own humility, Mother Mary journeyed to the Temple to be purified. And as you know, Our Lord Jesus was baptized as an adult before beginning his ministry, even though he didn't need the sacrament. Think of a commandment that you have difficulty obeying and present it to God in prayer, asking him for the grace to follow his commandments even if you don't understand them.

## Dive Deeper

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Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2019/05/20/marys-may-crowning-part-4-the-presentation/>

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## Faith Formation & Parish Ministry Conference

### Featured Speakers:



**Chris Padgett**

Catholic speaker, musician, author, professor and comedian



**Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR**

Priest with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Co-Founder of Corazón Puro



Come for a day of formation and renewal, designed to support all those who share and pass on the Catholic faith.

Are you a Catechist, Catholic School Teacher, Campus or Youth Minister? Do you serve on an RCIA, Evangelization, Adult Faith Formation, Baptism, or Marriage Ministry team? There will be something for everyone in ministry!

The day will offer breakout sessions in both English and Spanish.



**DATE:**

Saturday  
March 29, 2025



**TIME:**

8 AM-3 PM



**LOCATION:**

St. John Vianney High School  
540-A Line Rd  
Holmdel, NJ 07733

LEARN MORE



Questions? Contact Michelle Angelo Santoro

609-403-7174 | [mangelo@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:mangelo@dioceseoftrenton.org) | [dioceseoftrenton.org/hope2025](http://dioceseoftrenton.org/hope2025)



**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 any local charities. If you would like to join, simply scan the QR Code or go to [KofC.org/join](http://KofC.org/join) & 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 of The Presentation of the Lord - February 2, 2025*

### MARY'S CROSS

When Joseph and Mary came to the Temple forty days after Jesus was born in order to fulfill the ritual of the presentation of the firstborn, Mary was adjusting to life with a new baby and a husband. She probably wasn't thinking about all the struggles and hard times that would lie ahead for her baby boy.

At least not until Simeon comes up to her and tells her that her son is destined for the fall and rise of many and that a sword will pierce her own heart, causing profound suffering. At that moment Mary might have begun to wonder just what she had agreed to when she had said "yes" to the angel's request a little less than a year before. As Simeon, and later Anna, spoke to her, Mary must have begun to realize that, as Venerable Fulton Sheen put it, "from that moment on, every time she would lift infant hands, she would see fall across them the shadow of nails."

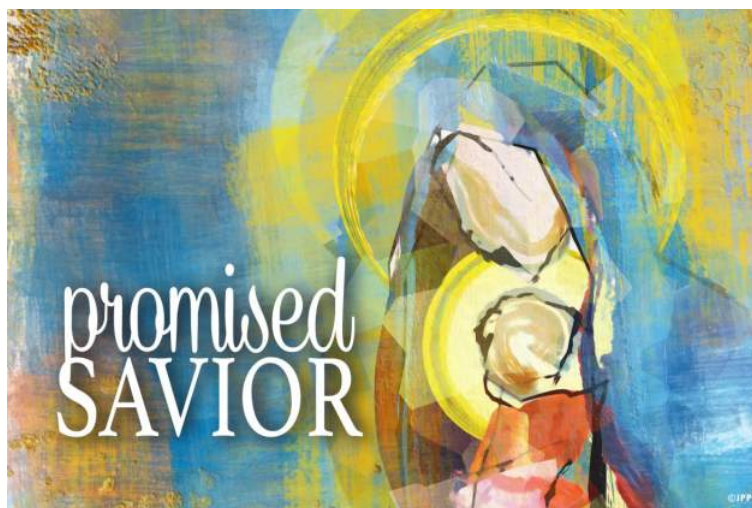
In her role as Jesus' first and most perfect disciple, Mary shows us that the suffering lies at the heart of being a Christian. Almost from the moment of his birth, she was aware of his ultimate destiny. She was willing to follow her son to the cross. Are we willing to follow him to our own Calvary?

### PRAYER

Imagine that you are in the Temple when Mary and Joseph arrive with Jesus. You see Simeon approach and allude to the prophecies from Isaiah about the coming of Israel's redeemer. You look at the baby in Mary's arms. What do you think? Do you believe that it is possible that this child could be the Messiah? Next, you hear Simeon's stark words about the opposition the child will face and the suffering Mary will endure as a result. What enters your mind when you realize that accepting Jesus as the Messiah also means accepting the sword and the cross?

### RESOLUTION

This week take some time to consider that accepting Jesus as the Messiah always means accepting the crosses that are to come. What cross are you carrying right now that you can offer to Jesus? | [formed.org](https://formed.org)



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**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)  
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