

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



FEBRUARY 9, 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

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/)

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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.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 9, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 8

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

Sunday, February 9

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

11:00 am Valerie Witkowski
(Charlotte Durham)

Saturday, February 15

4:00 pm Parishioners & Families
(St Monica)

Sunday, February 16

9:00 am Z John Kolowicz
(Bereavement Ministry)

11:00 am Vincenzo Sciancalepore
(Julia Calo)

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, Kevin Finnerty

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 9, 2025

Monday, February 10, 2025 Gen 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 Gen 1:20—2:4a Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 Gen 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 Mk 7:14-23

Thursday, February 13, 2025 Gen 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 Mk 7:24-30

Friday, February 14, 2025 Gen 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 Mk 7:31-37

Saturday, February 15, 2025 Gen 3:9-24 Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 Mk 8:1-10

Sunday, February 16, 2025 Jer 17:5-8 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 Lk 6:17, 20-26

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Monday, February 10
through Thursday, February 13
there will be no 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass.
However, there will be Liturgy of the Word
with Holy Communion during that time.

SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

St 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

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



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
JANUARY 20 - 26, 2025**

Total \$5,075.05

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

Dear St. Monica family,

With a heart full of gratitude and faith, I write to inform you of my decision to retire from my role as Business Manager at St Monica, effective February 14, 2025.

Over the past nearly 20 years, I have been blessed to serve this wonderful parish community. Together, we have shared countless moments of joy and sorrow, and faced challenges with unwavering faith. Your support, kindness, and dedication have been a constant source of inspiration for me.

As I embark on this new chapter of my life, I am filled with a deep sense of appreciation for the relationships we have built and the memories we have created.

As I write this letter, Ron Borrello will temporarily fill the position until a permanent replacement will be announced. I ask for your patience as we work through the transition.

I am confident that St. Monica will continue to thrive with the collective efforts of our devoted members. Please know that my decision to retire is made with a heart full of fond memories and a deep appreciation for all the generous and committed volunteers.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and for the many cherished moments we have shared. I am excited about the future and the new adventures that await, but I will always hold St. Monica close to my heart.

I wish you all the best and pray the good Lord blesses you and your family.

With warmest regards,

Liz Hills aka "The Parish Office"

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 9, 2025



This day was established by Pope St. John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering with illness. It and 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.

Suggestions for observing World Day of the Sick:

- 1. Pray for the sick.** Say a prayer for those who are sick. They need all the help you can offer, and your prayers can go a long way.
- 2. Offer support to the sick.** A visit may be appreciated; or lend a helping hand to do the shopping, run errands or get to a doctor appointment. Support includes assistance for the caregiver!
- 3. Appreciate healthcare workers.** The World Day of the Sick also serves as an occasion to honor the work of healthcare professionals, hospital chaplains, and all those who help the sick. Encourage them and show them that their efforts are appreciated.

**“Hope does not disappoint,
but strengthens us
in times of trials.”**
Pope Francis

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY PRESENTS

radio

BINGO

Join Us for a Night Full of Fun, Laughs and Music

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2025
6:00pm to 10:00pm
Donovan Catholic Cafeteria
711 Hooper Ave., Toms River

BEATS by DJ's @ WORK!
GIVEAWAYS / RAFFLES / 50 - 50
B.Y.O. food & beverages.
Coffee, tea & dessert will be served.

21 & OVER
\$40.00 per person
Reserve tables of 10 for \$375.00

RSVP by February 15, 2025
For information and tickets sales call
Zina Approvato at 732-600-3360

TRANSFORM

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Hope in Our Hearts 2025

Faith Formation & Parish Ministry Conference

Featured Speakers:

ENGLISH KEYNOTE

Chris Padgett
Catholic speaker, musician, author, professor and comedian

SPANISH KEYNOTE

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 | mangelos@dioceseoftrenton.org | dioceseoftrenton.org/hope2025

CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, February 11

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 12

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion

4:00 pm OCIA (LC)

Thursday, February 13

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word/Communion

10:00 am Grief Support (LC)

1:00 pm Bible Study (LC)

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

Saturday, February 15

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, February 16

9:00 am Mass

10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)

11:00 am Mass

Monday, February 17

9:00 am No Mass Today

No Rel Ed Class Today

Parish Offices Closed

Tuesday, February 18

9:00 am Mass

No Rel 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)

**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.

**In honor of
World Marriage Day 2025
there will be
Blessing of Marriages
at all Masses
next weekend, Feb 15 & 16**



The Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

National Marriage Week

February 7 - 14, 2025

This year's theme is "To Have, To Hold, To Honor." This is a wonderful opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family.

This week we pray for all married and engaged couples, that they may strive daily to faithfully and lovingly live out their marriage vows, bearing witness to the love God has for each of us.



International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

February 8, 2025

With encouragement from Pope Francis, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General designated February 8th as an annual day of

prayer, reflection, and action against human trafficking.

On this day, we remember and pray for survivors and victims of modern-day slavery. We pray that we may work together to remove the causes of this disgraceful scourge that is present in all our cities and neighborhoods.



February 8th is also the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita. Born in the Darfur region of Sudan in 1869, St. Bakhita was kidnapped and enslaved as a child. Eventually she was sold to an Italian diplomat and taken to Italy, where she valiantly asserted her freedom with the help of the Cannossian Sisters of Venice. Through her faith, St. Bakhita realized the promise of liberty inherent in the human spirit. She lived out the rest of her life as a Cannossian sister, sharing her empowering testimony of human freedom and dignity. In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita, noting that in this saint, "we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation."

World Day for the Sick

February 11, 2025

We pray for all those suffering from illness, especially those whose health has been impacted by the Coronavirus. We also pray for their caregivers and family members.

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8 • 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 • Luke 5:1-11



“Whom Shall I Send?”

Direct encounters with Our Lord are revealed in today’s readings.

In Isaiah 6, the prophet sees “the King, the LORD of hosts.” Astonished, Isaiah responds that he is aware of his sinfulness and the need to be cleansed upon encountering God. The Lord cleans him through an angel, who touches Isaiah’s lips with an ember.

God tells his prophet that he needs someone to spread his Good News, asking, “Whom shall I send?” Isaiah replies, “Send me.” Being “touched” by the Lord causes a conversion in Isaiah that leads him to a strong desire to share the Good News.



The Miraculous Draught of Fishes by Raphael

Similarly, in Luke 5, Peter obeys the Lord’s command and ends up with an amazing catch of fish. Then, like Isaiah, Peter sees the Lord and suddenly becomes aware of his own shortcomings. He falls to his knees, saying, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” Aren’t we all aware of our own sinfulness when we come into the presence of the Lord? That’s humility!

Humility is the proper understanding of our relationship with God and with one another. We know that God is holy, and his goal is to make us holy. However, we can’t do this without the Lord touching us.

Isaiah and Simon Peter both proclaimed the Good News. Peter, in fact, became the first pope, leading this mighty movement of Jesus’.

What about us? Certainly, we’re aware of our sinfulness, but we can’t live in that state. We must come to the Lord, experience conversion with Christ, and become witnesses. We must proclaim the Good News—as Isaiah and Peter did—and if necessary, give our lives in doing so. God expects us to spread his Word.

Live the Gospel

Jeff Cavins says, “I ask you this week to think about finding ways to encounter others. Then, share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. Tell people what God has done in your life to make you a better person. Yes, we certainly are sinners, but we have been cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb. Now we have the responsibility—and I believe it is a privilege—to go out and proclaim the Good News.”

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/fifth-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c/>



Attention Men!

Join other Catholic men from across the Diocese of Trenton at the 28th 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.

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

2025 Men Conference *Solidarity: A Time to Unite*

- ✓ DYNAMIC SPEAKERS
- ✓ FELLOWSHIP
- ✓ BROTHERHOOD
- ✓ HOLY MASS WITH BISHOP DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.

Our Exciting Speaker Line-up



TRENT HORN



MATTHEW ARNOLD



ELVIS GRBAC



BISHOP DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.

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 & 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 stmonicccd@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

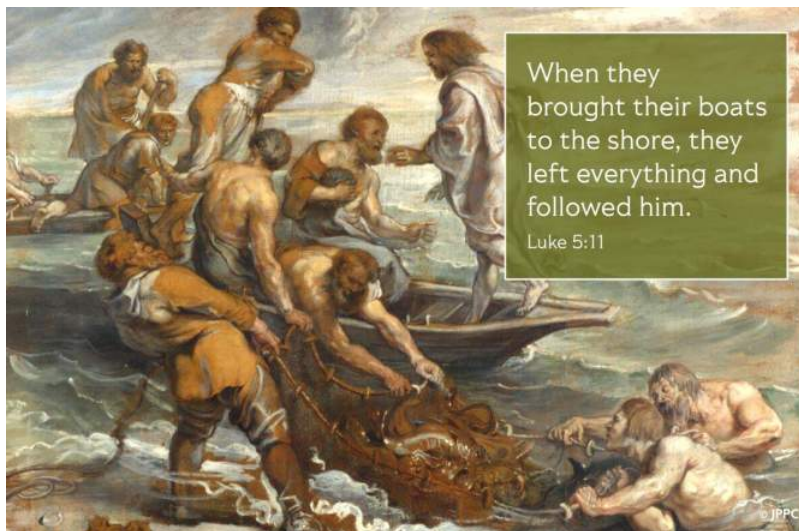
Reflections on the Readings for the 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time - February 9, 2025

ANSWERING THE CALL

You can understand Peter's hesitation in today's Gospel reading. He has been up all night fishing unsuccessfully, but Jesus tells him to go out and try one more time. Think about what that would mean for Simon. He's a professional fisherman. Here on Simon Peter's "own turf" so to speak—in his area of expertise where he is most comfortable—Jesus tells him to go back out and fish again. Doubting the value in Jesus' idea, Simon says, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!" He reluctantly obeys Jesus' command and lowers the nets but does not expect to catch a single fish.

When the nets burst with what was probably the largest catch of fish he had ever seen, Simon realizes the awesome power at work in Jesus. He feels badly for having doubted Jesus and unworthy to be in his presence. Simon says to Jesus, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8, RSV).

But Jesus still calls Peter, with all his weaknesses, to follow him and to share the Gospel with others—to become "fishers of men." And he calls us to do the same, even in the face of whatever doubts, fears, and weaknesses we may experience. Like Peter, we are often reluctant. We feel unworthy to accept such a great responsibility. But Jesus doesn't let us use our unworthiness as an excuse any more than he allowed Peter to do so. He tells us, as he does the fishermen of Galilee, "Don't be afraid!" He will be with us in all we do to spread the Gospel.



PRAYER

Prayerfully place yourself in today's Gospel reading. Imagine that you are with Simon Peter on his boat. You have just returned from an exhausting night of fishing without catching anything. But before you can go home and rest, Jesus gets into the boat and tells Peter to put out into the deep. You have heard Jesus' command, but you know that it is very unlikely you will catch any fish—what do you think about this command? Peter asks you to help cast the net. You do so and, against all odds, you pull in a miraculous catch of fish! How do you feel after you see this awesome miracle? What do you think of your previous disbelief? How might this make you approach your relationship with Jesus differently? What might you say to Peter? What might you say to Jesus?

RESOLUTION

Now imagine that after Jesus calls Simon Peter and tells him he will be catching men from now on, Jesus next turns to you. He tells you, "Follow me." In what particular way might Jesus be calling you to follow him more closely this week? Make a resolution that helps you to do that more this week, and ask Jesus for the grace to help you fulfill your resolution.

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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
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