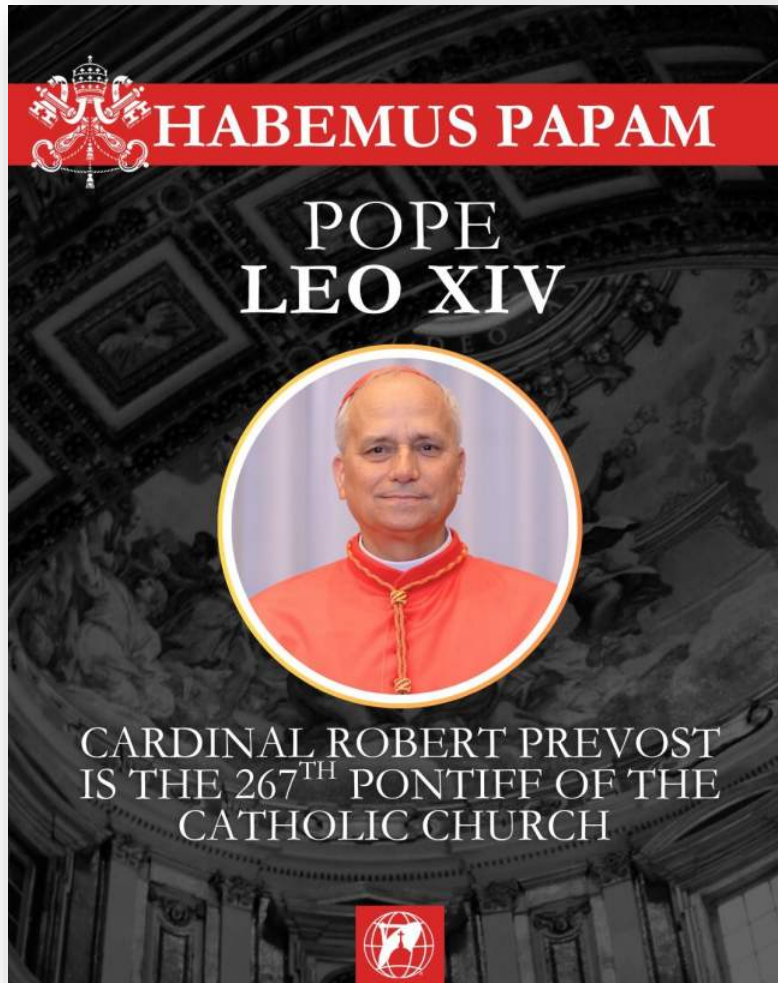


CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



May 18, 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: stmonicaccd@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.

Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527



Confessions

Saturdays

3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

1st Thursdays 7pm

or by appointment

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 18, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 17

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

Sunday, May 18

9:00 am Linda Sasso Martinowich
(Joe & Emily)

11:00 am Margaret Piacentino
(The Piacentino Family)

Monday, May 19

9:00 am Robert & Voletta Spuhler
(The Piacentino Family)

Tuesday, May 20

9:00 am Rosaria, Giuseppe & Rita Vitiello
(Josephine Frulio)

Wednesday, May 21

9:00 am Ralph & Andrew Frulio
(Josephine Frulio)

Thursday, May 22

9:00 am Intentions of David Gould, Sr.
(Marie Gould)

Saturday, May 24

4:00 pm Available

Sunday, May 25

9:00 am Linda Sasso
(The Sasso Family)

11:00 am Margaret Doran
(The Bereavement Ministry)

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, 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 – May 18, 2025

Monday, May 19, 2025 Acts 14:5-18 Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 Jn 15:1-8

Thursday, May 22, 2025 Acts 15:7-21 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 Jn 15:9-11

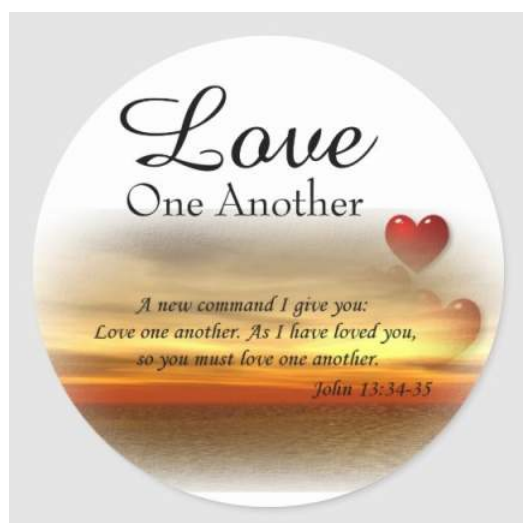
Friday, May 23, 2025 Acts 15:22-31 Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 Jn 15:12-17

Saturday, May 24, 2025 Acts 16:1-10 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 Jn 15:18-21

Sunday, May 25, 2025 Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Rv 21:10-14, 22-23 Jn 14:23-29

A NEW POPE!

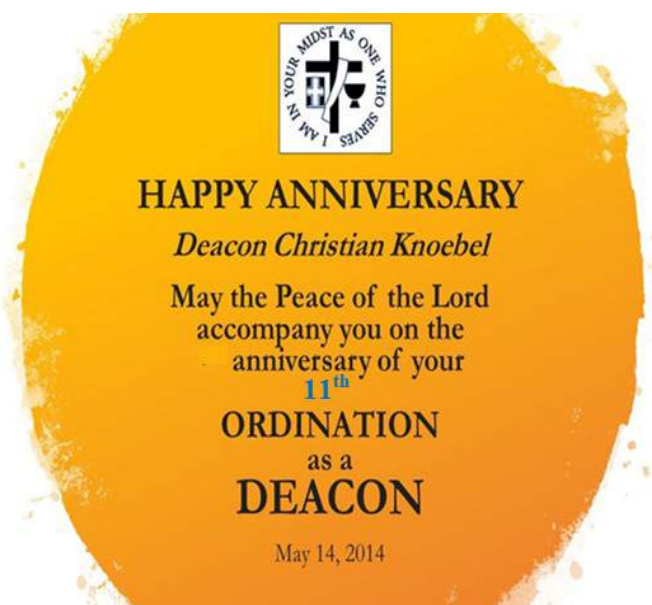
Cardinal Robert Prevost, has been elected as the 267th pope of the Roman Catholic Church, taking the name Pope Leo XIV. The new pope is the first pope from the United States. Pray for him as he begins what he called his “ministry to the world.”



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK 2025

Easter Week Offerings	\$ 9,679
Online Giving	\$ 1,998
Total	\$11,677

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



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025



Certy Images

May is the Month of Mary!

As the **Mother of God**, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us.

Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved. (Lumen Gentium, no. 53)

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, "while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed." The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

Foster Care Awareness Month

May is Foster Care Awareness Month! Join us in praying for all foster parents and children.



CALENDAR

Saturday, May 17

12:15 pm Baptism
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, May 18

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

Monday, May 19

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, May 20

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

Wednesday, May 21

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, May 22

9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Church)

Saturday, May 24

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, May 25

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day

No 9:00 am Mass
Parish Offices Closed

Tuesday, May 27

9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)
7:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, May 28

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, May 29

9:00 am Mass

Saturday, May 31

Ascension of the Lord

10:00 am BLD Congregation (Church)
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, June 1

Ascension of the Lord

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



"In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary," notes Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. "While invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal." That goal, of course, is her Son, Jesus Christ. See "The Power of the Rosary."

<https://bit.ly/394Eg3n>



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 18, 2025

New Jersey CATHOLIC Youth RALLY *at*



 **Six Flags**

MAY 18, 2025

**¡ABIERTO A TODOS LOS JÓVENES Y
FAMILIARES!**

**OPEN TO ALL YOUTH AND
FAMILIES!**

**INFO Y
BOLETOS**

**INFO &
TICKETS**



**WWW.DIOCESEOFTRENTON.
ORG/NJCVR**

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Fifth Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 14:21–27 • Revelation 21:1–5a • John 13:31–33a, 34–35



Are You a Billboard for God's Love?

As followers of Christ, we are called to a radical kind of love. Jesus gave us a new commandment: to love one another as he has loved us. This is not a suggestion. It is a command. It is the very essence of our discipleship. When we truly embrace this kind of love, we become living testimonies of God's presence in the world.



Theologian C. S. Lewis said it seems as if God takes a huge risk by letting the world judge his kingdom based on how we treat one another. It's like God is saying, "Look at my followers, see how they love one another. That is precisely what my kingdom is all about!" This love is an action that often involves sacrifice and prioritizing others, not just a warm, fuzzy feeling.

In our daily lives—at home, work, or in our communities—we are constantly presented with opportunities to demonstrate this Christlike love. The question is, do people recognize us as disciples of Jesus by the way we interact with others? Are we living billboards for God's love?

The book of Revelation paints a vivid picture of our future: a new heaven and earth, with God dwelling among his people. As the Church, we are described as a bride adorned for her husband. Our acts of love and sacrifice are like the white garments we will wear in eternity.

Let's take up the challenge to be living advertisements for God's love. If we have fallen short, there is always a chance to receive forgiveness and start anew. Remember, in loving others, we are both fulfilling a commandment and giving the world a glimpse of the heart of God!

Living the Gospel

Jesus commands us to love one another. But what if we don't love someone in particular, like a certain relative at the Thanksgiving feast? To that point, I invite you this week to select someone in your life whom you don't love and write down things you *do* love or like about the person. Keep the note for yourself. This will help you lower barriers to love. Remember, Jesus' commandment to love is just that—a command.

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/fifth-sunday-of-easter-c/>

Encountering THE SEASON

Easter for the Family

Fifth Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 14:21–27
Revelation 21:1–5a
John 13:31–33a, 34–35

Dear Family:

Read the reflection about hardships, and discuss the “Ponder and Pray” questions and prompts, thinking about how Our Lord is calling you to act. Then, consider the challenges of the “Live It” section, and have fun with the family activities.

Preparing for Hardship

Life is filled with both blessings and hardships. While we often celebrate the idea that our best days are ahead, we must also prepare for the reality that trials are part of the journey. Scripture reminds us that difficulties are not interruptions in God’s plan but essential elements of it. St. Paul encourages us today in the Acts of the Apostles: “It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.”

Problems shape us, transforming our character and preparing us for greater challenges ahead. Like marathon runners training for race day, we face today’s difficulties in building the strength and faith needed for tomorrow. Jesus himself exemplified this in his Passion, facing the worst day of his life with unwavering love and purpose.

“ *My children, I will be with you only a little while longer.
I give you a new commandment: love one another.
As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.* ”
—John 13:33a, 34



Jesus Teaching, AI generated (Adobe Stock)

The Christian life calls us not to avoid troubles but to embrace them with trust in God’s presence. In moments of difficulty, remember: You have not been abandoned. God is with you, using

even the hardest moments to transform you into the person he created you to be. With love as your guide, you can face each challenge, becoming your best self—even on the hardest days.

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.

OCIA**Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**

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

New Parishioners

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

Adult Faith Formation Core Team

Our mission is to encourage and support parishioners in their lifelong learning in the faith in order to grow closer to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit through discipleship and evangelization.

Marriages

The Catholic Dioceses of New Jersey request a one year period of preparation for marriage in The Church. Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Religious Education

Children are expected to receive a Catholic-Christian upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to participate in on-going Religious Education classes. Our program includes grades 1-8. Please contact Karen Badach, Coordinator of Religious Education 732-928-4038 or stmonicaccd@yahoo.com

Legion of Mary

Members participate in the life of the parish through a program of prayers and service. The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholic men and women over 18 years of age who have the good will to want to serve God through Mother Mary. Meetings are at St. Monica every Tuesday at 7:00 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 Easter - May 18, 2025

EMBRACING THE CROSS

The theme from today's readings focuses on enduring hardships and trials — embracing the crosses that God allows into our lives. In our human nature, we find ourselves resistant to this kind of suffering. We avoid it and anxiously try to change situations that are unpleasant.

But God is inviting us to trust him in our day-to-day lives, even when our circumstances are unpleasant or involve difficulty. God is inviting us to share in his passion. This theme comes through clearly in the Gospel reading when Jesus says, "Now is the Son of Man glorified," just as Judas is leaving to betray him. It is precisely through the suffering Christ will face in his betrayal, passion, and death that he is glorified. This is at the heart of our Catholic faith. One of the great mysteries of our faith is that we are all called to share in Christ's glory, by sharing in his suffering.

Just as Jesus offers up the poverty of his battered condition on the cross, and God uses it to transform the world, so too we are called to offer up the sufferings and poverty of our lives. When we are willing to embrace the poverties of our day-to-day lives and offer those up in trustful surrender and in union with Christ's sacrifice to the Father, God will transform them into amazing riches.

PRAYER

Take a few minutes to consider the words of Jesus: "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him." Then think about when he said this to the apostles: in the Upper Room, just prior to his death, but also just prior to his Resurrection. Now think about a situation that is causing you pain and suffering. Allow yourself to feel all the emotions surrounding that situation — fear, pressure, pain, sorrow. Now imagine that Jesus is standing before you. He knows all about your situation and he says to you, "Now are you glorified and now God is glorified in you." What do you think when you hear Jesus' words? How does hearing that God is glorified through your pain help you look at your situation differently? How can you see your suffering in a new way, knowing that God can bring some good from it?

RESOLUTION

As you are praying, be receptive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to show you ways in which you have been resisting your suffering. Then ask to be shown how you can practice greater receptivity to the cross in your life this week. As God reveals an area for you to focus on, remember that this is his initiative. He will provide grace, and you can cooperate with his grace to experience change.



732-719-7250

OLIVERIE FUNERAL HOME

A Life Celebration® Home

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Serving Ocean & Monmouth County

125 S. Cooks Bridge Road

Jackson, NJ 08527

G. Oliverie, Mgr., N.J. Lic. #3833

NFPA

NATIONAL
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

2014-2025 Pursuit of
Excellence Recipient



2015, 2019
& 2024
Community
Service
Award



14 years in a row!

Morgan

basement waterproofing

In Our
4th Decade of
Quality Service

French Drains

Foundation Repair

Mold Remediation

All Work Guaranteed

732-777-7888

www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com

**TIMOTHY
Rice**
Estate and Elder Law Firm



Kimberlie A. Fiero, Esq.

- Elder Law
- Estate and Trust Administration
- Estate Litigation/Will Disputes
- Estate Planning (Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorney, Advance Medical Directives, Special Needs Planning)
- Guardianships
- Medicaid Planning

kfiero@timriceelderlaw.com 833.888.0462

www.timriceelderlaw.com

ROOFING • CHIMNEYS MASONRY • GUTTERS DECK REPAIR

We Find & Fix Leaks!



\$1100 OFF
Any New Roof Replacement

20% OFF
Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter,
Masonry Repair & SENIORS

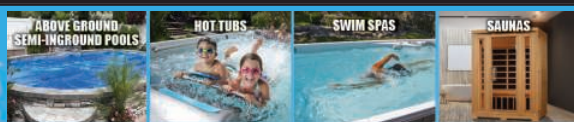
Family Owned/Operated • Lic. #13VH0934200

Bonded & Insured • 20+ Years

732-589-9967

Serving All of New Jersey

**CENTRAL
JERSEY
POOLS**
SPAS & MORE



YOUR SUMMER STARTS HERE-DIVE INTO SAVINGS!

ABOVE GROUND • SEMI IN-GROUND AND IN-GROUND
POOLS • HOT TUBS • SWIM SPAS • SAUNAS • CHEMICALS
POOL PARTS • TOYS • SERVICE & MUCH MORE!

**RECEIVE A
\$250 GIFT CARD**
WITH THE PURCHASE
OF A HOT TUB, SWIM
SPA, ABOVE GROUND,
SEMI-IN-GROUND
POOL, OR SAUNA

HIC LIC#
13VH01191400



**RT. 9 NORTH
FREEHOLD, NJ**
centraljerseypools.com

732-462-5005

TILTON Body Works

SINCE 1932 - FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

NJ Licensed • Free Pickup & Delivery • Rental Vehicles
Fast Repair Time • State of the Art Equipment
Written Guarantee on Workmanship

122 First Street • Lakewood • 732-363-1303

360 West Commodore Blvd • Jackson • 732-928-6388

tim@tiltonbodyworks.com

www.tiltonbodyworks.com

In-Home Senior Care

We provide all kinds of assistance,
from personal care to light
housekeeping. We keep seniors in
their own homes and enable them
to live independently.



fully licensed and insured

www.comfortkeepers.com/centraljersey

Serving St. Monica's Parish
Since 2001

732-530-3636

697 Broad Street #202
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

George S. Hassler Funeral Home

Offering Pre-Planning Programs

Brian T. Hassler
Owner & Manager
N.J. Lic. No. 4054

Handicap-Accessible Facility

Original Family Owned and Operated Since 1978

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE S. HASSLER

George S. Hassler
Founder
(1941-2025)

Parishioners

732-364-6808

contact@hasslerfuneralhome.com

www.hasslerfuneralhome.com



**980 Bennetts Mills Rd.
Jackson, NJ**

Let your faith inspire your financial decisions.

With Knights of Columbus and its partners' you can protect your family, plan for your retirement and live meaningfully — all in harmony with your Catholic faith.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Daniel McGeehan
732-597-3832

daniel.mcgee@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

1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510



POINT BAY FUEL
HEATING AND COOLING

Fuel Oil • Gasoline • Diesel • Furnaces • Boilers • HVAC
BUDGET • SALES • SERVICE

800-349-FUEL (3835)



ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUMS

62 Cedar Grove Road
Toms River, NJ 08753
732-244-3008

StJosephCemeteryTR.org

Deacon Christopher Buono, Manager

WHERE ALL ARE PRECIOUS IN GOD'S SIGHT

JACKSON SERVICE STATION



Tune-Ups • Brakes • Welding
Front Ends • New State Jersey Inspection

Our 29th Year ~ Complete Automotive Services ~

COUNTY LINE & BENNETTS MILLS ROAD
(732) 367-2882



Scott Rusbarsky, Parishioner
732-733-4211
www.fivestarpainting.com

catholicmatch®
New Jersey



[CatholicMatch.com/
dateNJ](http://CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ)



**PERSONAL CARE &
COMPANION SERVICES**

HOME HEALTH SERVICES & TRAINING SCHOOL
Vivian Newman, Founder/CEO
20 Mantoloking Drive
Jackson NJ 08527

Phone: 862-755-8464 • 848-218-1555 • 773-960-5416
Email: newmanpccsinfo@gmail.com

www.personalcareandcompanionservices.com



RIGHT SERVICE
ROOFING and CHIMNEY

**\$1250
OFF**

**Any New Roof
Replacement**

**20%
OFF**

**Any Roof, Chimney,
Siding, Gutter, Masonry
Repair & SENIORS**



RICHARD D. MEINDERS, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

WILLS • TRUSTS • ESTATES • REAL ESTATE
2002 Route 70, Suite 2, Manchester, NJ 08759

732-408-0900 • www.lawrdm.com

Licensed, Bonded, Insured
Family Owned & Operated for Over 25 Years

201-456-6461