

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA

Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

John 14:23



May 25, 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
Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Email: parishoffice@saintmonica.com
Fax: (732) 928-1853
Religious Education: 732-928-4038
Email: 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/



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 25, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

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)

Monday, May 26

9:00 am No Mass Today
Parish offices closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 27

9:00 am Edward & Janet Cullen
(The Piacentino Family)

Wednesday, May 28

9:00 am Lucy Piacentino
(The Piacentino Family)

Thursday, May 29

9:00 am Grace & Ciro Frulio
(Josephine Frulio)

Saturday, May 31

4:00 pm Joseph Pagnotta
(Matilda & Joseph Curatolo)

Sunday, June 1

9:00 am Tony Sasso
(The Sasso Family)
11:00 am Michael Coady
(Mom & Dad Coady)

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 25, 2025

Monday, May 26, 2025 Acts 16:11-15 Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b Jn 15:26 – 16:4a

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 Acts 16:22-34 Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1 Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14 Jn 16:12-15

Thursday, May 29, 2025 Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 Eph 1:17-23 or

Friday, May 30, 2025 Acts 18:9-18 Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Jn 16:20-23

Saturday, May 31, 2025 Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16 Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Lk 1:39-56

Sunday, June 1, 2025 Acts 7:55-60 Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9 Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 Jn 17:20-26

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

There is no 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. The Parish Offices will be closed.



The 2025 Deacon Mike Principato Scholarship Contest

Please read the directions and questions very carefully before answering them. Your essay will be evaluated by many people. Scoring will be based on your answering the question and then formulating your values in the form of an essay.

In order to participate in the scholarship contest the applicant must: (1) be graduating HS and be attending college for their first semester in the Fall of 2025 or Spring 2026, (2) be a registered parishioner of St. Monica Church or the child of a registered parishioner of St. Monica Church or the child of a member of St. Monica's Knights of Columbus.

Your essay will be based on your ability to answer the following question. The answer does not have to be included in your essay but must be attached in your email or displayed as the preliminary basis for your essay. **IT MUST BE ANSWERED.** The answers will be evaluated, scored and included as a percentage of your grade in the event of a tie breaker.

Please answer this question to the best of your ability:

Name all of the gifts you think we receive from the Holy Spirit.

Now choose **only one** of the gifts and show how its life principle inspires the guidelines for your life.

Please submit all questions and essays by email to ronjborrello@gmail.com as a Word Document. Please **do not** include your name on the essay or anything that may easily identify you **but do** include your name and contact information in the body of the email in which it's submitted. Submissions are due by July 28, 2025. - **First place award \$500 - Second place award \$300 - Third place award \$200. GOOD LUCK!**

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS APRIL 21-27, 2025

Weekly Offerings	\$2,758
Online Giving	\$2,088
Total	\$4,846

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

Altar Servers



We Need You—To Be Altar Servers **Altar Server Training**

If you are now in Grades 3 through 7, please consider serving God during the Mass as an altar server. Training will be provided. To answer thus call, just ask your parent / guardian to contact Deacon John at (848) 992-1652 or at dcnjohnw@gmail.com.

This Memorial Day

We Remember

the Men and Women

Who Have Sacrificed All

for Our Freedom

Prayer for Memorial Day



CNS/Nease Wilcher

God of power and mercy,
you destroy war and put down earthly pride.
Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears,
that we may all deserve to be called your sons
and daughters.

Keep in your mercy those men and women
who have died in the cause of freedom
and bring them safely
into your kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen

—from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

CALENDAR**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
7:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, May 28

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, May 29

9:00 am Mass

Saturday, May 31

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)

Monday, June 2

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, June 3

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

Wednesday, June 4

9:00 am Mass
9:30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, June 5

9:00 am Mass

Friday, June 6

6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. (LC)

Saturday, June 7

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, June 8

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
12:30 pm Baptism



**ST. MONICA
PARISH FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025
Noon – 4:00 p.m.**

after 11 a.m. Outdoor Mass

SAVE THE DATE!

WE'RE BACK!



**St. Monica's Ministry For Men
Prayer Group**



Build a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through *prayer, formation, and fraternity*. The prayer group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the main Church at 7:00pm.

All men are welcome!



Saint of the Week



Augustine of Canterbury

*Died c. 604
Feast Day—May 27*

This monk was prior of a monastery in Rome until 596, when Pope St. Gregory the Great sent him and 30 other monks to evangelize England. They landed in Kent where they got permission to preach because the king's wife had been a Christian before her marriage. Augustine's preaching won over King Ethelbert, who became a Christian and gave the monks a house and church in Canterbury. Augustine built England's first cathedral there; from this see missionaries and bishops were sent around England. He is known as "the apostle of England."

"No pilgrim knows in advance all the steps along the path. Saint Augustine of Canterbury set out from Rome with his band of monks for what was then a distant corner of the world... While we ourselves do not see a solution to this obstacle, we are confident that through our engagement with this matter our conversations will in fact help to deepen and enlarge our understanding. We have this confidence because Christ promised that the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Truth, will remain with us forever (Cfr. Jo. 14, 16-17)."

—St. John Paul II, *Common Declaration*, October 1989

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 • Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 • John 14:23-29



We Show Love for Christ by Keeping His Word

The intimate connection between our love for Christ and our obedience to his teachings is examined in this week's Gospel. Our Lord tells us, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word." This is the truth about our relationship with Jesus.

As Catholics, we understand that the Word of God encompasses both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. It is not just about being "people of the book," but truly being people of the Word. This means not only listening to Scripture at Mass but also embracing the wisdom passed down through our rich Tradition, including the teachings of the Church Fathers and the *Catechism*.

Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit as our Counselor and Advocate. This divine presence guides us both as a Church and as individuals, often bringing God's Word to our remembrance when we need it most. The more we immerse ourselves in Scripture and Tradition, the more material the Holy Spirit has to work with in our lives.

We see this guidance in action in the book of Acts, where the early Church, led by the Apostles, made decisions under the direction of the Holy Spirit. This apostolic succession continues today, giving us confidence in the Church's teachings.

As we reflect on these readings, let us recognize the incredible gift we have in God's Word and in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They combine to give us an invitation to deepen our love for Christ by diving into Scripture, exploring our rich Tradition, and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our lives through obedience to the Word of God.



Living the Gospel

This week, as you read the Gospel of the day, ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind ways you can apply that day's reading to your life. To help you remember the Gospel for the day, I invite you to teach the Gospel to someone else. It is said that the best way to learn something is to teach it.

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to:

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

Encountering THE SEASON

Easter for the Family

Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

John 14:23-29

Dear Family:

Read the reflection about remaining anchored in the Faith, 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.

Anchored Faith

On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, we are reminded of the necessity of anchoring our faith in the fullness of God’s Revelation. In the Gospel, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth, not as we imagine it but as God reveals it. This promise is vital in a culture increasingly inclined to be “spiritual but not religious,” in which people often shape their beliefs to their personal preferences.

The challenge of remaining faithful during this cultural shift is significant. Pew research reveals that many young Catholics stop practicing their faith as they transition into adulthood. This is known as the rise of the “nones”—those who claim no religious affiliation. More than half of these “nones” leave because of dissatisfaction with Church teachings on things like birth control, abortion,

“ I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. ”

—John 14:25-26



Jesus Christ Walking with a Lamb in a Meadow, AI generated (Adobe Stock)

and homosexuality.* They prefer a version of God without the Church, citing fewer demands, less baggage, and the avoidance of labels. Yet Jesus calls us not only to a personal relationship with him but also to the community and teachings of the Church.

* “Leaving Catholicism,” *Pew Research Center*, April 27, 2009, [pewresearch.org/](https://www.pewresearch.org/).

Through Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium, God provides the means for us to know him fully. In a world of individualism and confusion, this triad remains a beacon, guiding us not to a God of our own making but to the God who made us, calls us, and sustains us in truth.

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 from the 6th Sunday of Easter - May 25, 2025

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The readings for the Easter season hearken back to the days of Christianity. As we read them, we walk in the footsteps of the first Christians as they try to figure out what it means to follow Christ.

It isn't as if they had all the rules spelled out for them in some sort of "Be a Christian" manual. They had to rely on the working of the Holy Spirit for guidance and discernment. Take one of the first major questions facing the developing church: Do Christians have to be circumcised? Circumcision was an essential part of the Old Covenant, but was it necessary in the New Covenant of Jesus? After prayerful consideration, the leaders decided that no, circumcision wasn't necessary.

That model of discerning the will of God for the Church continues to this day. The Holy Spirit is with the successors of the apostles: the bishops and Pope, the Magisterium of the Church. In accord with Jesus' promise not to leave us alone, the Spirit remains active even to the present time.

So what does this mean to us? It means that through the teachings of the Church, we can be certain that we are following the authentic teachings of Jesus. We can trust that, with the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church is passing on and protecting those teachings. That's why we need the Catholic Church—to help guide our lives so that we might save our souls for eternity and live happy and fulfilled lives today.

PRAYER

Imagine that you are in the presence of Jesus. He says to you the words he spoke in today's Gospel reading, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." As you hear his words, ask yourself if there is something troubling you or creating fear. If so, ask Jesus how you can overcome your anxiety. Now calmly pray the following words: "Come, Holy Spirit." Trust and believe that the Holy Spirit is with you, bringing you the peace Jesus promised.

RESOLUTION

This week, whenever you feel anxious or worried, remember that Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us through the Church until the end of time. What is one practical thing you can do to remind yourself of that reality? [formed.org](https://www.formed.org)



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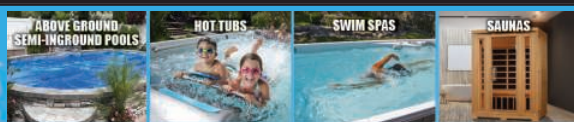
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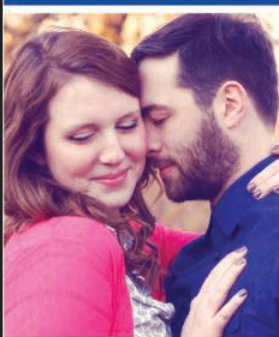
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