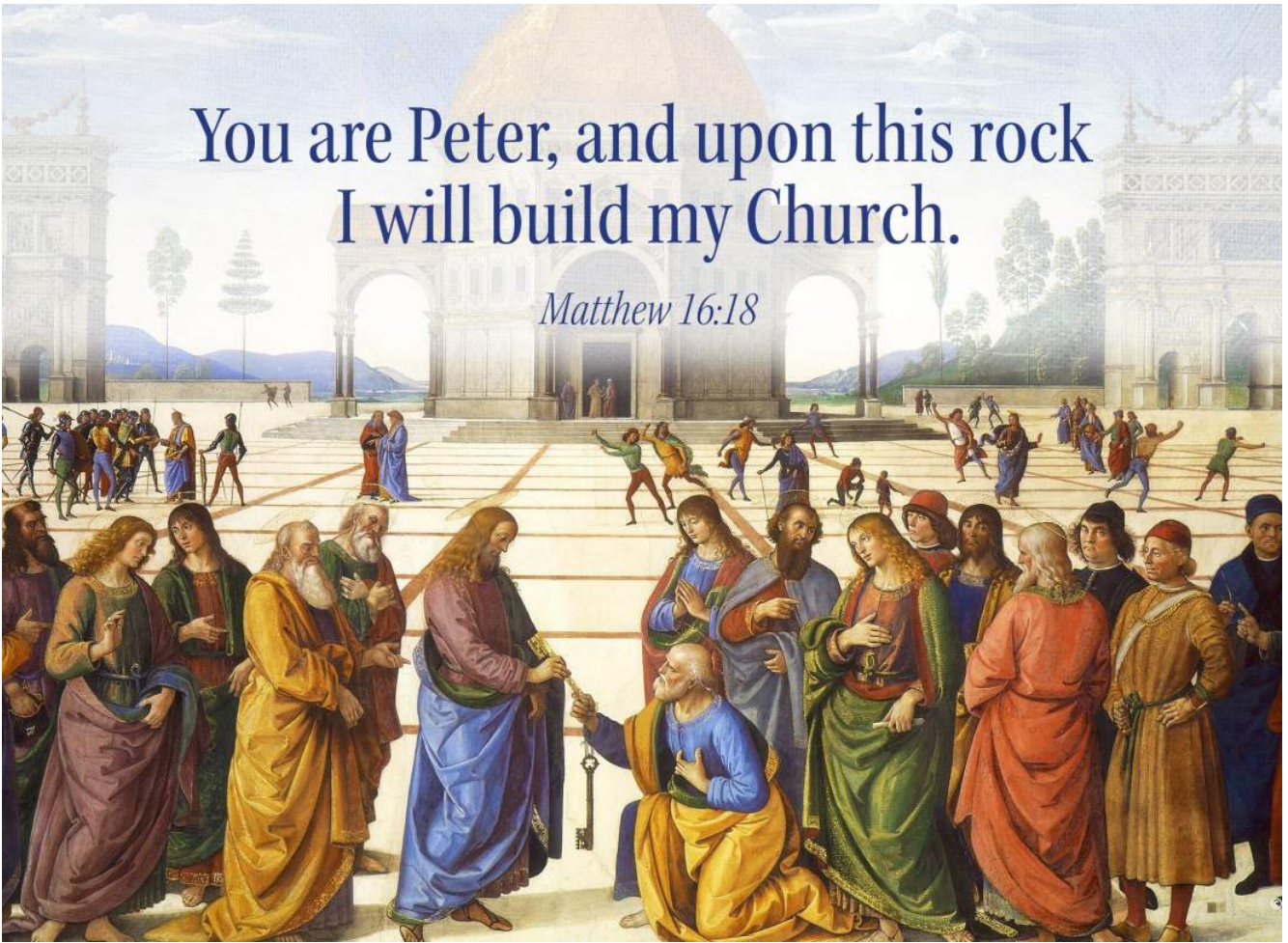


CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA

You are Peter, and upon this rock
I will build my Church.

Matthew 16:18



June 29, 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

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/

Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527



SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL—JUNE 29, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, June 28

4:00 pm Dennis Gibson
(The Bereavement Ministry)

Sunday, June 29

9:00 am Lorraine Wergen
(The Myhal Family)

11:00 am Joseph & Josephine Zappulla
(Arlene Toth)

Monday, June 30

9:00 am Edward Cullen
(The Piacentino Family)

Tuesday, July 1

9:00 am The Souls in Purgatory
(Natalie Lucas)

Wednesday, July 2

9:00 am Gus Anderson
(The Piacentino Family)

Thursday, July 3

9:00 am Robert Spuhler
(The Piacentino Family)

Saturday, July 5

4:00 pm Marilyn Timony
(The Bereavement Ministry)

Sunday, July 6

9:00 am Thomas Sauth
(The Merwin Family)

11:00 am Marilyn Timony
(Jean Fennessy & Family)

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, Catherine Dalfonso, Christopher Dalfonso, 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, Mark Hoffman

Contact the Parish Office to let us know of anyone to be remembered in prayer, so we may include them or, if they

Readings for the Week – June 29, 2025

Monday Gen 18:16-33 Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11 Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday Gen 19:15-29 Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12 Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday Gen 21:5, 8-20a Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Mt 8:28-34

Thursday Eph 2:19-22 Ps 117:1bc-2 Jn 20:24-29

Friday Gen 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67 Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5 Mt 9:9-13

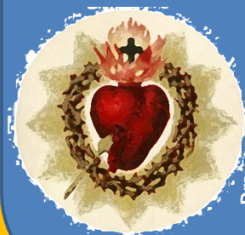
Saturday Gen 27:1-5, 15-29 Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:14-17

Sunday Is 66:10-14c Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 Gal 6:14-18 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

TEARDROP MINISTRY PRAYER

Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers.

Dear St. Monica we now ask you to pray with us for all those sons and daughters that have wandered away from God, and to add your prayers to those of all mothers who are worried over their children. Pray also for us that, following your example, we may, in the company of our children, one day enjoy the eternal vision of our Father in Heaven.

COR**Men's Prayer Group****3rd Thursday of Each Month****7 PM – Main Church**

Drawing into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through
PRAYER
FELLOWSHIP
FRATERNITY

*Come Join Us - All Men Are Welcomed****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.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
MAY 26 — JUNE 1, 2025

Weekly Offerings	\$4,303.00
Utility Collection	\$ 326.00
Online Giving	<u>\$2,568.00</u>
Total	\$7,197.00

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


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!**

Save the Dates – July 2025

Life in the Spirit Seminar

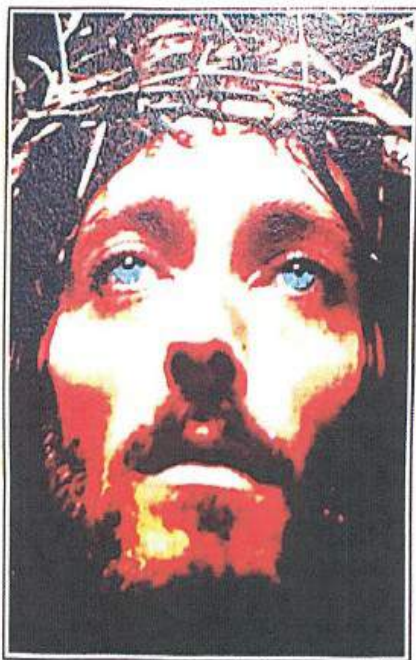
presented at

St. Joseph's Church
685 Hooper Avenue, Toms River N.J.

Life in the Spirit Seminar is essentially an *invitation*...

...an invitation to make or renew a *deep* and *profound* personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ by opening ourselves to the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. A presence which is life changing and life giving. And a presence which alone has the power to bring us real and lasting joy!

Do you thirst for more? Desire to go deeper in your relationship with Christ? Then why not make 2025 a year of great and wonderful changes in your life. Curious? Then come and see...



Seminar to be held in the Church - 7:00PM to 9:00PM with refreshments to follow. Each meeting includes talks, personal testimonies, small group sharing, prayer and fellowship.

Wednesday July 2nd Gods Love
Wednesday July 9th Salvation
Wednesday July 16th New Life & Receiving
God's Gift
Wednesday July 23th **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
Wednesday July 30th Growth & Transformation

Questions?

Call Deacon Gerry Luongo 732-473-9727

Registration: after all Masses June 28th/29th
\$10.00 registration fee to cover cost of materials

"...I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly..."
John 10:10

CALENDAR**Saturday, June 28**

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, June 29

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

Monday, June 30

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, July 1

9:00 am Mass

7:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)

7:00 pm Legion of Mary (Foyer)

Wednesday, July 2

9:00 am Mass

9:30 am Adoration

Thursday, July 3

9:00 am Mass

Friday, July 4**Parish Offices Closed for Independence Day****Saturday, July 5**

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, July 6

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

12:00pm WOSM Meeting (LC)

Monday, July 7

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, July 8

9:00 am Mass

7:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)

7:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, July 9

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, July 10

9:00 am Mass

7:00 pm KofC Meeting in Church

Saturday, July 12

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, July 13

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

Monday, July 14

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, July 15

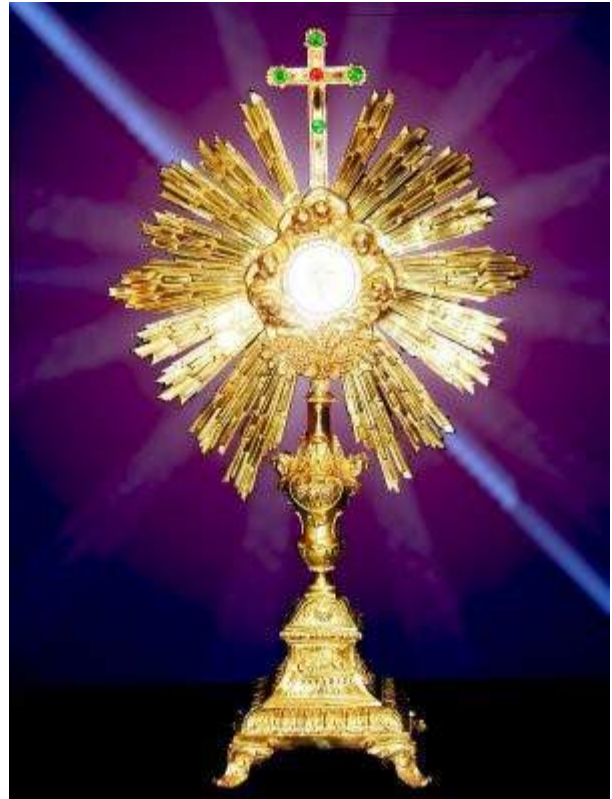
9:00 am Mass

7:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)

7:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, July 16

9:00 am Mass



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PARISH FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

Noon – 4:00 p.m.

after 11 a.m. Outdoor Mass

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**Saturday, September 27th @ 11am
Lakewood Pine Park
500 county club drive**

(off County Line Rd & Rte 526)

Sponsored by St. Monica Knights of Columbus Council 11529



The Church recognizes June 29 as the feast day of the martyrdom of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. God couldn't have chosen a more diametrically opposed pair than these two men to lead his Church — Peter, the rugged fisherman, and Paul, the learned scholar.

Come to think of it, Jesus' disciples seem like a motley crew in general. We know there was friction between Peter and Paul on at least one occasion. But just imagine the arguments that might have taken place between Matthew, the tax collector, and Simon the Zealot — one, a servant of the Roman Empire and the other, its sworn enemy.

The disciples came to Jesus with their unique personalities, life experiences, strengths and weaknesses. **Still, Jesus took those men and molded them into a unified body of believers.**

When I look at our ministry partners around the world, I see a similar diversity. The **priests, sisters and lay missionaries** we support come from many different cultures and bring particular skills and strategies to their work.

This variety can be a challenge, but it is often an asset. That's because the best solution to child poverty in rural Haiti, for example, might be very different from the best solution to child poverty in Manila, Philippines.

Just as God called Peter and Paul, he calls us today to find unity in our diversity. **We are one faith with many faces**, charged to preach and live one Gospel that transcends culture, language and economic status. Holding those similarities and differences in the right balance is key to the **global mission of Cross Catholic Outreach.**



God called Peter and Paul to His Holy Mission.



SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL—JUNE 29, 2025

Simon was born in Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. He was a fisherman by trade, along with his brother Andrew. Matthew's Gospel records that Simon and Andrew were the first whom Jesus invited to follow Him. After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and completed His forty days of prayer and fasting in the desert, He went to the Sea of Galilee, saw Simon and Andrew fishing and called to them saying, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men" ([Matthew 4:19](#)). At that, these two brothers dropped everything and became Jesus' first disciples. John's Gospel relates a slightly different timeline, stating that Andrew first followed Jesus and brought Simon to Jesus the next day. When Jesus met Simon, He said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas (which is translated Peter)" ([John 1:42](#)). Matthew's Gospel relates that Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter when He said to him, "I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" ([Matthew 16:18–19](#)).

With his new name and unique spiritual authority in which he held the "keys to the kingdom of heaven," Peter emerged as the central leader of the Church after Pentecost. He spent about a decade in Jerusalem, preaching powerfully, performing miracles, and converting many. He eventually traveled to Rome where he established the Church there, becoming its first bishop. Around the year 64, he was martyred during the persecutions of Emperor Nero. Tradition states that Peter requested to be crucified upside down because he did not consider himself to be worthy of dying the same way Jesus died. His tomb is located under the main altar of Saint Peter's Basilica. Saul was born as a Roman citizen in Tarsus, modern-day Turkey. As a young man, he went to Jerusalem to study at the renowned school of the rabbi Gamaliel. After Jesus' ascension into Heaven, Saul became one of the fiercest persecutors of the early Church, being partly responsible for the death of the proto-martyr Saint Stephen ([Acts 7:58](#)). However, within a few years, as Saul was traveling to Damascus to persecute other Christians, he was knocked to the ground and struck blind. He heard Jesus say to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ([Acts 9:4](#)). Jesus then directed him to a disciple of the Lord in Damascus named Ananias who baptized Saul. Saul spent about three years in Arabia where he went through an intense time of prayer and study, eventually returning to Damascus and then to Jerusalem where Barnabas introduced him to the other disciples, testifying to the veracity of his conversion.

In Jerusalem, Saul began to use his Roman name, Paul, and then spent approximately the next ten years as a missionary throughout the Mediterranean. Back in Jerusalem, he was imprisoned for a couple of years and then was sent to Rome for trial since he was a Roman citizen. In Rome, he met up with Saint Peter. According to tradition, Paul was beheaded just outside the city of Rome. When his head fell to the ground, it bounced three times, each time giving rise to a spring of water. The place is marked today by the Abbey of the Three Fountains.

Saints Peter and Paul are considered the foundational pillars of the Church. Peter represents the stability of the Church and the office of the Vicar of Christ. Paul represents the mission of evangelization that was entrusted to the Church by Jesus Himself. He was also the Church's first theologian, which is seen in his numerous letters that expound on the Gospels. Though unlikely, one tradition states that they were both martyred on June 29, in Rome, making them twin martyrs. Their twin martyrdom reminds us that the Church must be both stable and mission-oriented. It must remain grounded in the ancient Truth, yet grow and flower with an ongoing understanding of the mysteries of faith.

As we honor these two pillars of the Church, recall the fact that, though they are great saints, they were also ordinary men called to extraordinary vocations. They responded and God used them in ways they could have never imagined. Ponder your own calling in light of theirs and resolve to lay your life down for the Church, joining yourself to these two men so that God can continue their holy mission through you.



God called Peter and Paul to His Holy Mission.

Prayer: *Saints Peter and Paul, once Christ called you, you responded with total abandonment to His holy will. Through you, the Church was founded and began to grow. Please pray for me, that I will fully devote myself to the ongoing mission of the Church, so that God can use me according to His holy will. Saints Peter and Paul, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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

Exposition of the Holy Sacrament & Benediction

1st Wednesday of each month 9:30 am

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 class or take the convenient online presentation. Please call the Parish Office to register for the class held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm. Or stop by the Parish Office to pick up a DVD copy of the class.

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 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 just scan the QR Code or go to KofC.org/join & enter council #11529 when prompted.

**St. Monica's "Teardrop" Ministry**

The St. Monica Teardrop Ministry is a prayerful initiative where individuals and the community come together to intercede for loved ones who have drifted away from their faith, drawing inspiration from St. Monica's unwavering dedication to her husband and son's conversion. Prayer is very powerful, it only took 1 Hail Mary for Jesus to come to earth.

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

Visits to the Sick and Homebound**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 Belinda Azzollini, 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.

St Vincent de Paul Society

Emergency Assistance Helpline: 732-370-0098
 May be arranged by calling our parish office.

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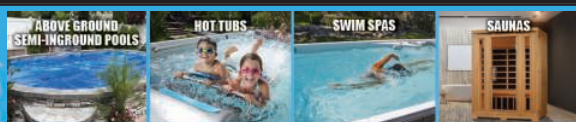
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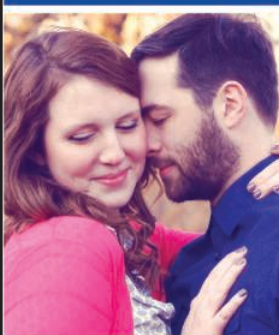
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