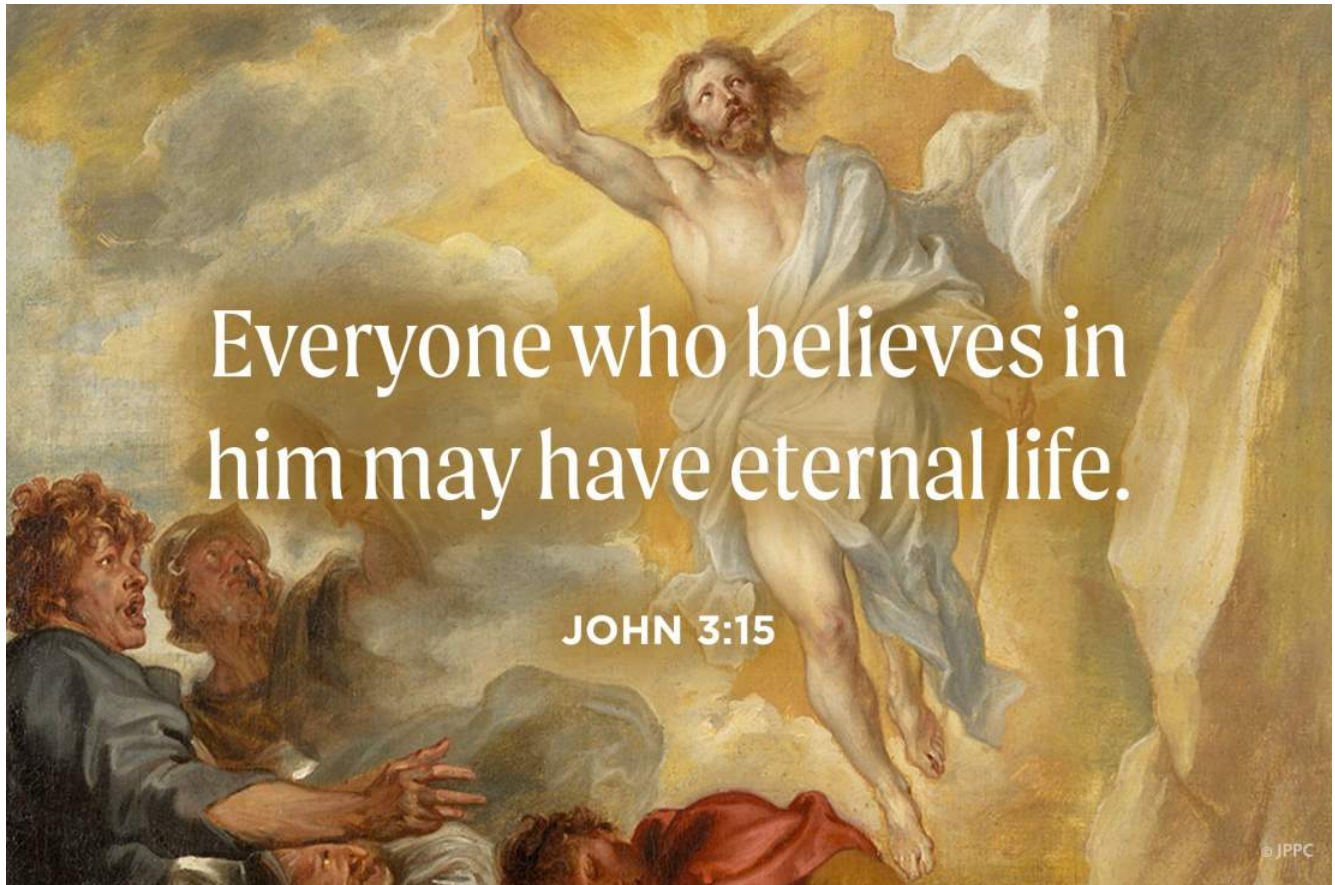


CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



September 7, 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

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS—SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 13

4:00 pm Raymond Durborow
(William & Linda Portullo)

Sunday, September 14

9:00 am Ralph E. Gelso
(Balint Family)

11:00 am Edward DeSimone &
Salvatore D'Angelo
(Frank & Angie Trimboli)

Monday, September 15

9:00 am MaryRose McEnery
(Marie Gould)

Tuesday, September 16

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone
(Gerarda Fallone)

Wednesday, September 17

9:00 am Adele Hafner
(Margaret Bentley)

Thursday, September 18

9:00 am Ernest John Rookey
(Ernie & Barbara Rookey)

Saturday, September 20

4:00 pm Sue Litterio
(Joanne Landi)

Sunday, September 21

9:00 am Patricia Jones
(Tom & Janet Noordzy)

11:00 am Frank Ligotti
(Joseph & Matilda Curatolo)

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

To secure your Mass Intentions, contact the Parish Office.

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, Dolores Burkshot, 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, Paul Hetteroth, Cheryl Vega, Carol Spezzano, Br. 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, Lisa Sassone

Readings for the Week – September 7, 2025

Monday Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30 Ps 13:6ab, 6c Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Tuesday Col 2:6-15 Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday Col 3:1-11 Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab Lk 6:20-26

Thursday Col 3:12-17 Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 Lk 6:27-38

Friday 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14 Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 Lk 6:39-42

Saturday 1 Tm 1:15-17 Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5 and 6-7 Lk 6:43-49

Sunday Nm 21:4b-9 Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17

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. Amen. St. Monica pray for us.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
AUG 4—AUG 10, 2025**

Weekly Offerings \$3,090.00

Online Giving \$1,562.00

Utilities \$ 285.00

Total \$4,937.00

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

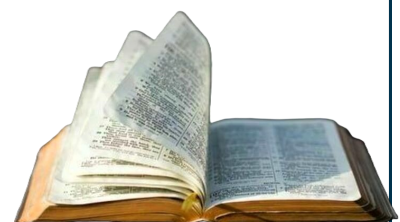
There will be a blessing of animals at Georgian Court University on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 1:15 pm

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

The study of the gospels of Saint Matthew occur on Thursdays, at 1:00pm in the Little

Church.

Please bring your book

**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

Next Meeting September 18th 7PM

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 this call, just ask your parent / guardian to contact Deacon John at (848) 992-1652 or at dcnjohnw@gmail.com.



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS—SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

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.



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

St Vincent de Paul Society

Emergency Assistance Helpline: 732-370-0098

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.



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

CALENDAR**Saturday, September 13**

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 14

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
12:00 pm Callan Michael Vorwerk Baptism

Monday, September 15

9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, September 16

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Education Classes
7:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, September 17

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, September 18

9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm Mens COR Prayer Group
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Saturday, September 20

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 21

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
12:15 pm Grief Support Group (LC)

Monday, September 22

9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, September 23

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Education Classes
7:00 pm Legion of Mary (LC)

Wednesday, September 24

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, September 25

9:00 am Mass
10:00 am Grief Support Group (LC)
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Saturday, September 27

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 28

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass



19th Annual Rubber Duck Race Charity Fundraiser

**Saturday, September 27, 2025
11:00AM Lakewood Pine Park**



500 Country Club Drive
(off County Line Road) &
Route 526 Lakewood, NJ



MSRP Value of Grand Prize is \$2,500 & includes:

- 55" LCD High Definition Smart TV
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11529 to be a member
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EWTN

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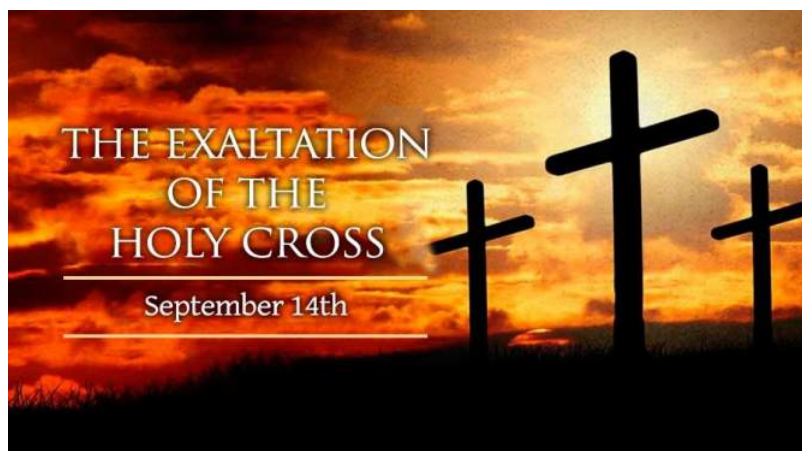
The Exaltation of the Cross refers to a Christian feast day, celebrated on September 14, that commemorates the veneration and triumph of the cross, a symbol of Christ's sacrifice, victory over sin and death, and ultimate redemption for humanity. It specifically marks the historical events of the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helena in the 4th century and the dedication of a church on the site of the Holy Sepulchre

in 335 AD. The feast calls believers to embrace the cross as a source of hope, strength, and eternal life, recognizing that even our struggles can be transformed into opportunities for deeper connection with God's love.

- † The cross was once a symbol of suffering and shame, but through Christ's sacrifice, it became a sign of salvation, triumph, and the promise of eternal life.
- † The exaltation of the cross symbolizes Christ's victory over sin and death, offering a path to redemption for all believers.
- † The cross serves as a beacon of hope, reminding believers that through Christ, salvation and eternal life are offered.
- † The Cross represents Jesus's immeasurable love and the ultimate act of mercy.
- † The feast emphasizes the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross.

Personal Significance:

- † The feast invites believers to embrace their own crosses—their personal struggles—with courage and faith, recognizing that these can lead to a deeper connection with God. The exaltation of the cross is not just a verbal expression of gratitude but a call to live out the principles of faith, love, and sacrifice in our daily lives.



Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

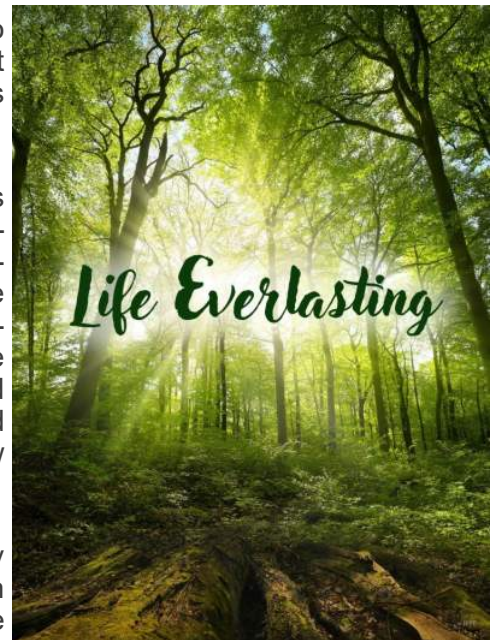
You can easily picture the scene. A parade down Main Street of “Any Town, USA” to honor the local Medal of Honor winner. There she sits, dressed in her military uniform, riding atop the back seat of a shiny convertible, festooned with red, white, and blue, smiling and waving to the crowds at the curbside. We could say that, for a time, she is being “exalted.”

Today’s Feast gives us a spiritual time to honor the instrument of our salvation, the Holy Cross on which Our Savior died for our salvation. Such exaltation would have shocked our earlier sisters and brothers in the early Church. It took a few centuries before they would ever think of the Cross as deserving of praise, much less in a place of honor in a church. They knew it only as the instrument of cruel Roman punishment for criminals.

Just for the sake of understanding, consider if Christ came to earth in modern times and was executed in the electric chair. It would take a lot of convincing to get us to decorate our churches with replicas of that chair. Or sewn on to priestly vestments!

Over time, the Church began to see that the once awful item was really the greatest sign of God’s love. An instrument of His decision to save us from eternal damnation. After all, our human ancestors, Adam and Eve, had chosen through weakness to sin the Paradise Garden away and hear the clang of shutting gates behind them as they left. When the onlookers at Calvary heard the bang of hammers on nails thrust through the divine Hands and Feet, they had no idea that this was necessary to save them and all of us. With time and prayer, they would learn what we know now.

Today is a good day to ask you: do you have a crucifix on display in your home? Does it hang on the first floor, where visitors can see it? In other words, do you personally “exalt” the cross as the truest sign of love ever given?



You see, this is one easy way to evangelize, that is, spread the gospel in the world. It takes very little effort. We must be more adept at making clear to the apathetic world we live in that faith in Christ and thanks to His inestimable love is the main reason we have for living, for getting up from sleep each new morning with a trustful outlook. In other words, we need to remember what Steven Covey, the gifted motivational speaker once said, namely that “the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.” That way, we can one day join the parade in the new Paradise, with no fear that the parade will pass us by.

Happy 70th Birthday, Pope Leo XIV, and God grant you many more!

OLIVERIE'S UPCOMING EVENTS



At *Oliverie Funeral Home*
125 S Cooks Bridge, Jackson, NJ 08527

September 27: Pittie Palooza

11am-3pm in the Wisteria parking lot

Pitties & Pals Annual Fall Festival with vendors, games, adoptable dogs, and much more. Fun for the whole family and your pups!



November 4: Veteran Lunch & Learn Seminar

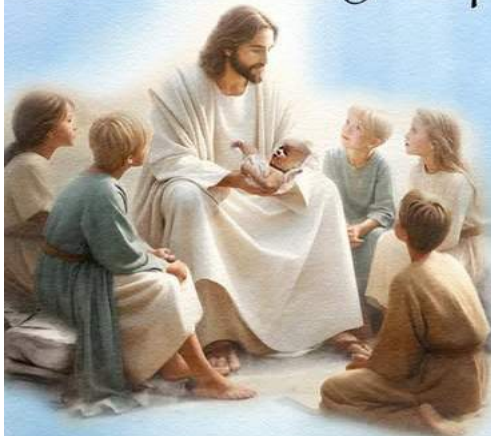
1-3pm at the Wisteria, Jackson

After voting join us for a free lunch as you learn what benefits you may be entitled to receive as a United States Veteran



MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S MASS

Saturday, September 20th @ 10:00am



St. Joseph's Cemetery
Risen Christ Chapel
62 Cedar Grove Road
Toms River, NJ 08753

ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC CEMETERY & MAUSOLEUMS



St. Joseph's Cemetery (TR) invites all to join us on Saturday September 20 in celebration of our Memorial Children's Mass. Mass will begin at 10am in our Risen Christ Mausoleum Chapel.

There will also be a releasing of doves at the conclusion of Mass in honor of all deceased children. Beautiful remembrance boards will be stationed in the chapel for families to memorialize their child, as well. Monthly events at the cemetery to follow- For more information contact St. Joseph's Cemetery 732-244-3008

Grief Support Group

A Journey From Grieving to Healing

Program Intro
September 21, 2025
At 12:15 pm
Main Church



Weekly Support Group Fall Session Begins Sept 25th - Nov 20th 2025
(9 weeks)

On Thursdays at 10 am in Little Church

To Register call Deacon John 848-992-1652 or email – dcnjohnw@gmail.com or
 use the sign-up sheets in the back of the church

Church of St. Monica, 679 W Veterans Hwy, Jackson, NJ 08527



Religious Education News

The most valuable gift your child will ever receive from you is the “Gift of Faith.”

It is time to register for Religious Education for 2025-2026 Program year.

You, the parents, as the primary educators of faith, are to be commended for your dedication and sincerity in sharing your Faith with your child. As one Body of Christ, St Monica’s Religious Education Program is here to walk with you on that journey.

Now is the time for all new students, who wish to attend classes in September, to register for our Religious Education Program. In person classes are planned for September 15, 2025.

**Classes are offered: Mondays 4:30 – 5:45pm OR 6:15 – 7:30pm
 Tuesdays 5:30 – 7:00pm**

The final day for registration will be September 30, 2025

Complete the “**PINK**” registration form for NEW students and the “**WHITE**” registration form to reregister your child. The “**FORMS**” can be found in the bottom of the literature rack next to the confessional. For NEW students please attach the child’s Baptismal Certificate and any other applicable sacrament certificates to the registration form and return it to the Office of Religious Education.

If you are new to our Parish, you must register your family for the parish first. If child has attended another Religious Education program this past year, please call the DRE and ask for a transfer to be sent to St. Monica’s.

May God bless you always with Peace, Joy and Hope.

NJ BISHOPS' Mass for Life

Thursday, September 25, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.

Cathedral of St. Mary
of the Assumption

151 N. Warren Street, Trenton



CELEBRANT
Cardinal Joseph W.
Tobin, C.Ss.R., D.D.,
Archdiocese of Newark



HOMILIST
Bishop Kevin J.
Sweeney, D.D.,
Diocese of Paterson



NEW JERSEY
MARCH FOR LIFE

*The NJ Rally & March for Life will
begin at 11 am at the Statehouse Annex,
a short walk from the Cathedral



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of NEWARK



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of TRENTON



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For full information, visit: dioceseoftrenton.org/nj-march-for-life

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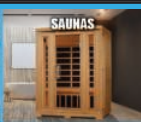
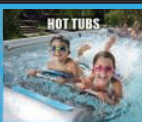
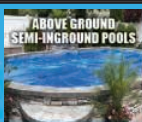
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Deacon Christopher Buono, Manager

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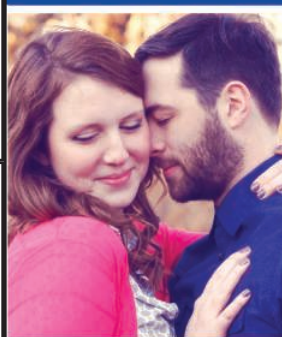
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