

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



December 14, 2025

Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am
Saturday 4 pm
Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway



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

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/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)
[ParishofStMonica/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 14, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 13

4:00 pm Dennis Gibson
(The Calsetta Family)

Sunday, December 14

9:00 am Charlie Kirk
(Denis & Dee Balint)

11:00 am Concetta Armenia
(Frank & Angie Trimboli)

Monday, December 15

9:00 am Mary Ott
(Jill and Art)

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 am Joyce Yaccarino
(Nina & Al Pileggi)

Wednesday, December 17

9:00 am Joyce Yaccarino
(Stephanie Kujawski)

Thursday, December 18

9:00 am David Santangelo
(The Santangelo Family)

Saturday, December 20

4:00 pm Jennie D'Angelo
(Frank & Jeanne D'Acunto)

Sunday, December 21

9:00 am Margaret Dolores Burkshot
(Janet Noordzy)
11:00 am Alexander Schpakow
(William & Linda Patullo)

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,, 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, Mark Legato, Anita Bertram, Tom and Carol Ringwood, Bob Toth

Readings for the Week – December 14, 2025

Monday Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday Gen 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

Thursday Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

Friday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

Saturday Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 1:26-38

Sunday Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

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.



Attention all those who signed up or who want to sign up to be an Altar Server—There will be a training meeting on **Saturday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m. and on **Saturday, December 20th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Church.**

All new Altar Servers are required to attend. Any boy or girl who is interested in becoming an altar server is invited to join and attend!

We hope to see you there!


FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
Nov 3—Nov 9, 2025

Weekly Offerings \$3,207.00

Maintenance \$ 502.00

Online Giving \$1,573.00

Total \$5,282.00

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



Church of St Monica
2025 Advent/Christmas/New Year
Schedule of Services



Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 6 Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 7 9:00 am & 11:00 am Mass

Monday, December 8

Immaculate Conception (Holy Day)

9:00 am & 7:00 pm Mass

Advent Parish Penance Service

Wednesday, December 10 7:00 pm

Daily Masses:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am (through December 18)

Simbang Gabi – Christmas Novena Rosary & Masses

Friday, December 19

Rosary 6:30 pm

Mass 7:00 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sunday Obligation)

Saturday, December 20- 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 21- 9:00 & 11:00 am

Tuesday, December 23 - No 9:00 am Mass

Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24 (Holy Day)

4:00 & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25 (Holy Day)

9:00 am & 11:00 am

New Year's Eve - Wednesday, December 31

9:00 am

Solemnity of Mary - Thursday, January 1 (Holy Day)

Mass 9:00 am & 7:00 pm

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 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 dcjohnw@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



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, December 13**

9:00 am Breakfast with Santa
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 14

9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

Monday, December 15

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, December 16

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

Wednesday, December 17

9:00 am Mass
 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practic

Thursday, December 18

9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm OCIA Training

Friday, December 19

6:30 pm Simbang Gabi Rosary & Novena
 7:00 pm Simbang Gabi Mass

Saturday, December 20

3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 21

9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass (Children's Mass)
 12:30 pm Decorating the Church

Monday, December 22

9:00 am Mass
 No Religious Ed Classes

Tuesday, December 23

9:00 am Mass
 No Religious Ed Classes
 No Legion of Mary Meeting

Wednesday, December 24**Christmas Eve—Parish Offices Closed**

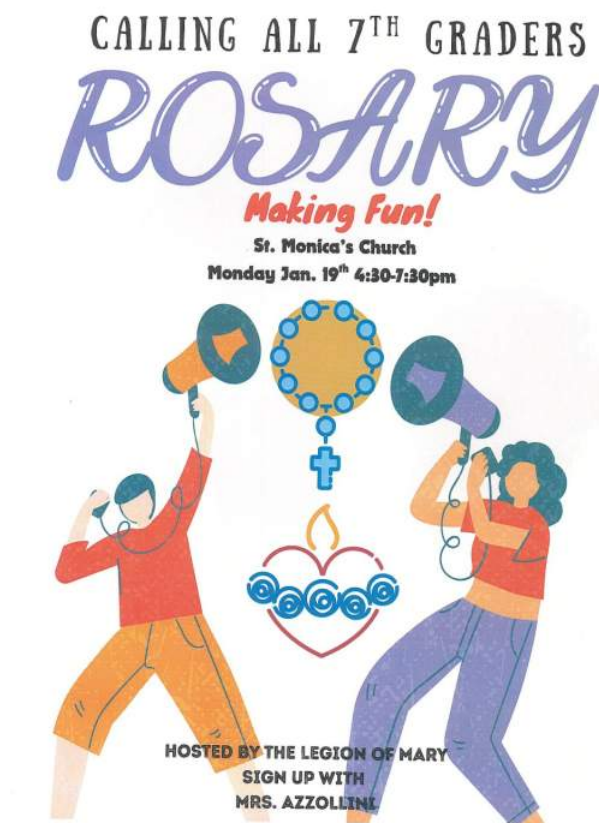
4:00 pm Mass with Children's Choir
 10:00 pm Mass

Thursday, December 25**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

Saturday, December 27

11:00 am Miles Wade Samson Won Baptism
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass



Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

There is a certain plague that has spread across “the fruited plain.” It shows up all over the place in different types and forms. Call it “Impatience.” On our streets and highways, it fosters “road rage.” It pits one driver against another for a variety of annoyances that sometimes become deadly when impatience turns to anger.

A computer breakdown that halts the progress of a sale can lead to impatience as you stand in line and the cashier, who can do little about it, apologizes for the inconvenience.

It takes an intentional step backward in such situations to confront the truth that we often seem to be in a hurry for some unknown reason. Or maybe for a known reason that is disproportionate.



Apply all that rushing around to the spiritual realm and we can see some harmful results. We can miss the chance to meet God on His own terms and in His own good time.

Today's Second Reading from the Letter of St. James urges us to have a different outlook: the Advent season theme of waiting. “Be patient,” the writer advises, “until the coming of the Lord.”

You can detect the impatience of the Baptist's disciples in our Gospel Reading, when, noticing it, John tells them to ask Jesus, “Are you he one who is to come, or should we look for another?”

Notice Our Lord's calm answer. Tell John what you hear and see me doing, and don't take offense at me.” In other words, “Slow down!” Or, as we might say, “Cool it!”

This virtue of Patience takes many forms. At a reunion of retired executives, each of the guests was invited to give a two-minute after-dinner talk on his experiences since retirement. Since some of the former executives were inclined to be rather long-winded, the toastmaster was instructed to rap his gavel when the two minutes had expired. The first speaker was called and, true to his old form, was still on his feet talking well beyond the time limit.

The toastmaster, a kindly old man, couldn't bring himself to rap his gavel. On and on the speaker droned boringly, until the other guests began to murmur and signal the old man to rap the gavel. Responding to the pressure, he wound up and brought the gavel down full force, accidentally hitting the head of the man sitting next to him. As the victim was sinking under the table he was heard to say, “Hit me again, I can still hear him!”

God love you and pray for Advent patience.

**Offerings at Francis House of Prayer**

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House

84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501

609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

Please check www.FHOP.org for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings!

All programs will be offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.

IN-PERSON ONLY**THE CHRISTMAS STORY – THE CHOSEN**

Wednesday, December 17 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

It is so familiar, ever ancient, ever new! We will view the Christmas episode, share its message, spend some time in prayer and enjoy a fabulous lunch. What a great Advent morning as we grow in appreciation of the gift of Christ's coming into our lives. Donation: \$25, lunch included

THE END OF THE YEAR RETREAT

Wednesday, December 31 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer. Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2025 and expressing gratitude to God. The day will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2026. We reverently say farewell to 2025 and cordially welcome 2026 as a gift from God. Please bring your lunch. Donation: Love Offering

GOD CANNOT FILL AN OCCUPIED SPACE!**CLEANING UP & CLEANING OUT**

Tuesday, January 6 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Is it time to make a little more room for God in your life? Do you find yourself complaining, "I have too much stuff!" Is decluttering one of your desires for 2026? We are each going to make a plan to clean up and clean out, to simplify and enjoy life more, to have a lighter grasp and a freer heart for the more important things of life. Step by step, with the support of a partner and prayer, we will be clutter-free by Easter! With God's help, we can do it! Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20.

INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

Monday, January 12 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

This morning's retreat will help us to grow closer to the infant Jesus by celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation through the divinity and humanity of Christ. Through this time of prayer, we will see in a special way how we are children of God. Donation: \$25, includes materials and lunch.



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ST. JUDE FUNDRAISER

The St. Monica Knights of Columbus will be holding its annual Christmas Tree fundraiser in support of the St. Jude Children's Hospital and other local charities. Please visit us at our location Premier Design located at 138 N. County Line Road. in Jackson. Quality, freshly cut Fraser fir trees, grave blankets and wreaths are available for purchase beginning on November 22nd while supplies last. Hours are weekdays 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM and weekends 10 AM to 8:00 PM. This is our 27th year and we have raised over \$250,000. Please come out and support this holiday tradition by helping those in need this Christmas season.

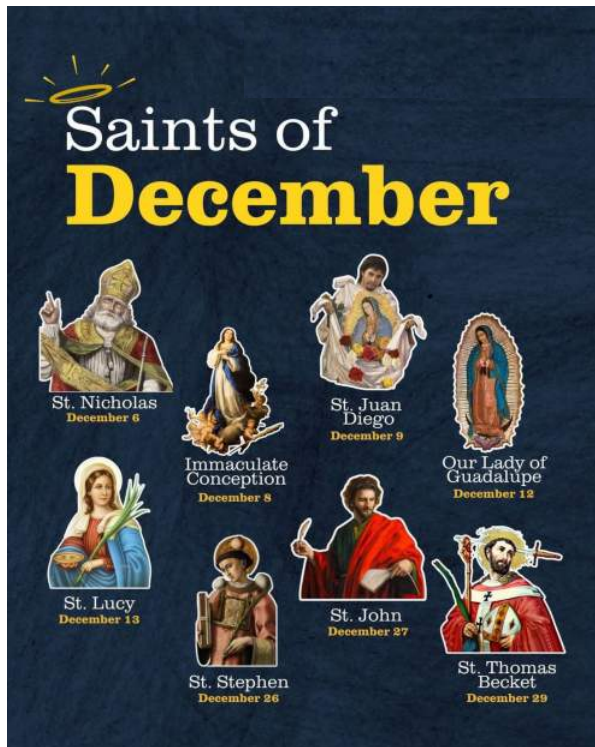
For A limited Time Only
While Supplies Last



The Knights of Columbus will be selling Wreaths and Grave Blankets outside of Church after each mass while supplies last.

And again, all proceeds go to the St. Jude Children's Hospital and other local charities.





St. Nicholas - a 4th-century Greek bishop known for his generosity, especially towards children. (Santa Claus?)

Immaculate Conception - Blessed St. Mary, Mother of Jesus.

St. Juan Diego - Had 4 apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Our Lady of Guadalupe - She is the patroness of the Americas, protector of the unborn, and left her miraculous image on the cloak of Juan Diego.

St. Lucy - Patron saint of the blind and those with eye disorders.

St. Stephen - the first Christian martyr, is the patron saint of deacons and altar servers.

St. John - St. John the Apostle/Evangelist celebrating his life and role as a Gospel writer.

St. Thomas Becket - the Archbishop of Canterbury who famously clashed with King Henry II over the rights of the church. His death and subsequent canonization made him a saint and martyr.



Deacon John White leading our CCD kids through their Advent Adoration

If you are interested in being a Lector, Reader, Usher or Altar Server for any of our scheduled Christmas Masses please see the sign-up sheets in the back of the church.

Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

And remember, the only mass with the Children's Choir is the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass

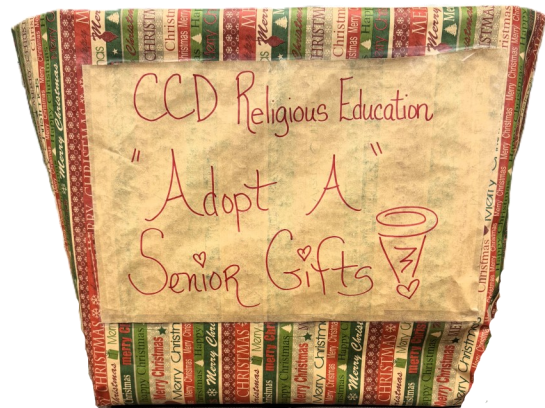


REJOICE AND GOD BLESS OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION KIDS!

We are asking our CCD Families to please “Adopt a SENIOR” for the Holiday Season!!!

Suggested gifts are listed below:

Veteran Hats
Baseball Hats
Hats
Playing Cards
Word Search Books
Costume jewelry necklaces, bracelets
Socks
Gloves
Cosmetics
Chapstick
Paint By Number/Paint Book
Large Print Books
Adult Coloring Books
Colored Pencils
Large crayons
Perfume
Aftershave



Please drop off your wrapped gift with the item you purchased written on the gift tag or label by December 16th.

ALL 7th graders who would like to earn “**MERCY HRS**” singing Christmas Carols, eating cookies, drinking hot chocolate and giving out Christmas presents to the Seniors

at Bella Terra on Monday December 22nd

Please sign up with Mrs. Azzollini.

This will be a beautiful act of kindness for the Holiday Season!



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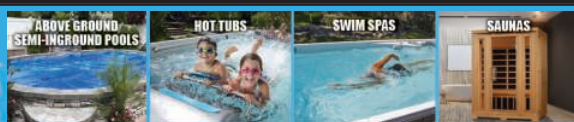
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