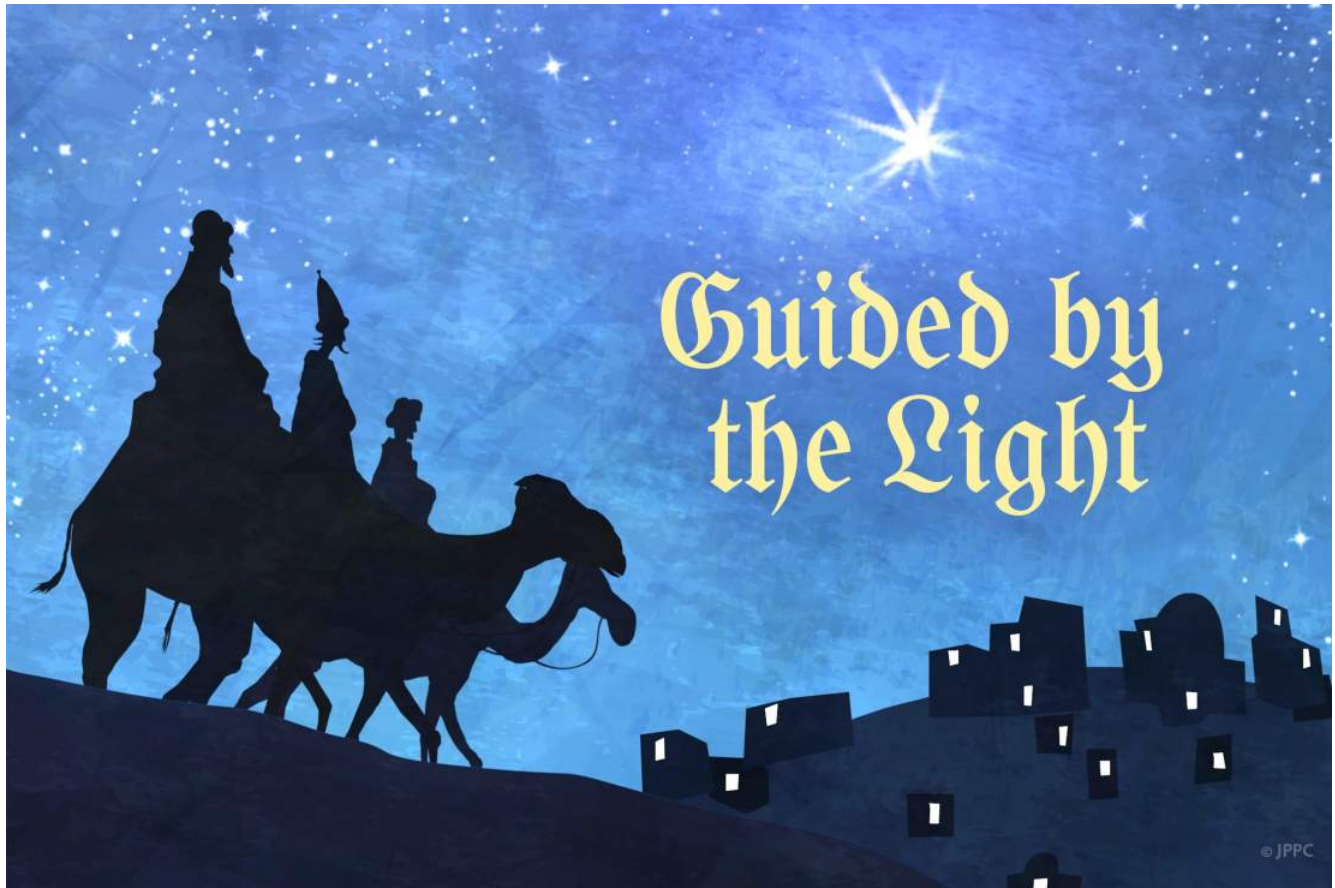


CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



January 4, 2026

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/ParishofStMonica/



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 4, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 3

4:00 pm Jack Tully
(Merwin Family)

Sunday, January 4

9:00 am Joyce Yaccarino
(Gerarda Fallone, Mary Boyd)

11:00 am Concetta LaRossa
(Sunrise of Jackson)

Monday, January 5

9:00 am Jennie D'Angelo
(Mary Boyd)

Tuesday, January 6

9:00 am Philomena Carragher
(Marie Gould)

Wednesday, January 7

9:00 am Marie Gould
(Patricia Durkin)

Thursday, January 8

9:00 am Frank Mistretta
(Judy Corcoran)

Saturday, January 10

4:00 pm Vincent Reeves
(Jennifer Reeves)

Sunday, January 4

9:00 am The McInerney Family
(Kelly MacNutt)

11:00 am 70th Anniversary of
David & Pat Toma
(Kate Scott & Bob Maras)

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Toni Hetteroth, Dianne Smith, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, 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, Grace 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

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 – January 4, 2026

Monday 1 Jn 3:22; 4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

Thursday 1 Jn 4:19; 5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22

Friday 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

Saturday 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b Jn 3:22-30

Sunday Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17

TEARDROP MINISTRY PRAYER

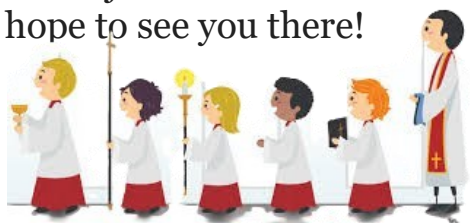
Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers.

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.



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 17th 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 24—Nov 30, 2025

Weekly Offerings \$2,915.00

Thanksgiving \$ 538.00

Online Giving \$1,698.00

Total \$5,151.00

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

A PRAYER FOR 2026

"Lord Jesus, as we place the year 2026 into
Your hands,
receive our days, our work, our joys,
and our struggles.
Guide us by Your will,
strengthen us by Your grace,
and make this year fruitful for Your glory.
Give us wisdom to discern Your path,
courage to do what is right, and patience to
wait for Your perfect timing.
Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may walk
in love, peace, and purpose, reflecting Your
light in the world..

God of all time, thank You for the hope
and promise of this new year.
We ask You to bless us with goodness,
protect us from harm, and strengthen our
hearts to achieve our dreams.
Bless our work, make our efforts fruitful,
and guide us toward positive change.
May this year be filled with Your presence,
Your guidance, and Your peace
in every aspect of our lives.
Amen.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 4, 2026

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, January 3**

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 4

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

Monday, January 5

9:00 am Mass

4:30 pm Religious Education Classes

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, January 6

9:00 am Mass

5:30 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Legion of Mary

Wednesday, January 7

9:00 am Mass

9:30 am Adoration

7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, January 8

9:00 am Mass

7:00 pm OCIA Classes

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Saturday, January 10

10:00 am Altar Server Training

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 11

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Meeting

Monday, January 12

9:00 am Mass

4:30 pm Religious Education Classes

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, January 13

9:00 am Mass

5:30 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Legion of Mary

Wednesday, January 14

9:00 am Mass

7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, January 15

9:00 am Mass

7:00 pm OCIA Classes

Saturday, January 17

10:00 am Altar Server Training

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Warm Up with

Winter Bingo

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

2-4 PM

RSVP to 732-719-7250

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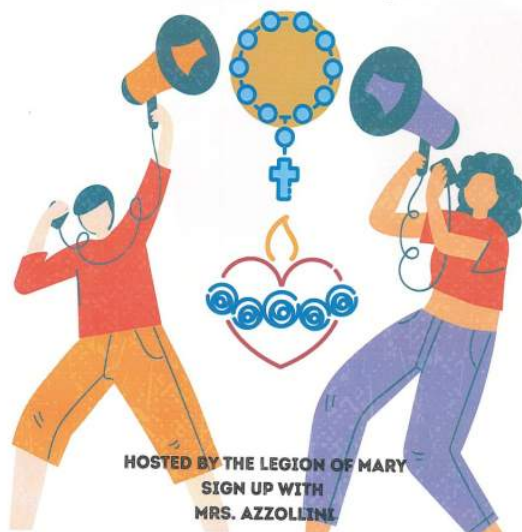
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CALLING ALL 7TH GRADERS

ROSARY

Making Fun!

St. Monica's Church
Monday Jan. 19th 4:30-7:30pm



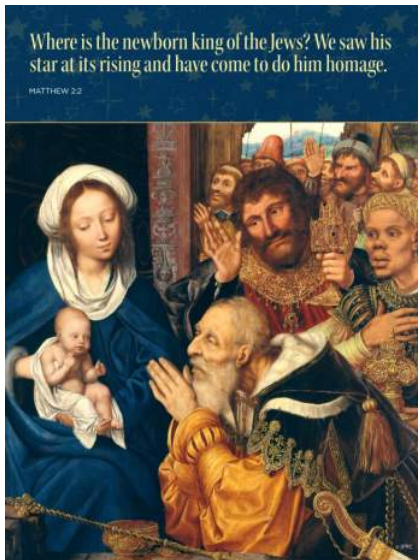
HOSTED BY THE LEGION OF MARY
SIGN UP WITH
MRS. AZZOLLINI

Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The designers of our Church's liturgical, or worship calendar we can presume to work from the best of motives and only after prayer and consultation. And so it is that this Feast of the Epiphany, long celebrated on January 6th, was moved back in 1970 to this Sunday. That is a good thing, I suppose, because the event is most worthy of a celebration on a day when the most faithful Catholics can do it. Sunday, after all, is the Lord's Day.

But sometimes such changes affect the humblest of God's creatures in a hurtful way. I count my own Mom among them. You see, she was a humble person all her life, but she was at the same time proud that her birthday was January 6, and that for a good portion of her life she just happened to live in Epiphany Parish in South Philadelphia. I have no memory of her ever having complained, but I am sure the change was at least a pin prick of her ego.



The Epiphany in its older setting also marked the last of the "Twelve Days of Christmas," memorialized in a Christmas carol that demands explanation of its medieval references.

But the chief importance of this feast is that it celebrates the coming of Christ to the wide world of the Gentiles, apart from the narrower confines of the Jewish world. The Jews were then, and remain to this day, God's chosen people. Our Lord came among us as a Jewish man. Our Lady, His Mother and ours was a Jew by birth. So was her beloved spouse, the obedient, brave, and humble St. Joseph. Add in the Twelve Apostles. This fact underlines the awful scandal of antisemitism among some Christians.

The Bible clearly tells us that God became man in Jesus to save the entire world. Nobody is left out of His love. Nobody is exempt from giving Him praise, honor and reciprocal love. Least of all, we sinners. That in itself is always worth celebrating, no matter what the date.

I believe that the words of Edna St. Vincent Millay (d.1950) convey the breadth of the Epiphany event.

. "The world stands out on either side|
no wider than the heart is wide;
above the world is stretched the sky
no higher than the soul is high.

The heart can push the sea and land
so far away on either hand;
The soul can split the sky in two
and let the face of God shine through."



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.

EVENING ZOOM ONLY

OFF TO A PRAYERFUL START

FOCUSING THE NEW YEAR

Monday, January 5 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Start out 2026 with an evening zoom retreat to set the direction for the year. “Well begun is half done,” they say, and establishing a direction is essential for the journey. Where am I going in 2026? What is the desire of my heart, and God’s as we begin this year together? [Donation: \\$15, includes materials.](#)

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.

IN PERSON ONLY

PAINT YOUR SACRED ART ICON

Wednesday, January 21 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Have you ever dreamed of painting an icon? We will follow the lead of iconographer, Nancy Berchtold, in the meaning of what is painted as well as the icon colors, shapes and lines chosen. By the end of the experience, you will have painted an icon of the Blessed Mother holding baby Jesus. Donation: \$50, includes lunch and materials.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY



January 23, 2026

11:00 AM | Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, Freehold, NJ

Mass for Life & Life Expo



■ Pray in solidarity with those travelling to Washington, DC for the national March for Life

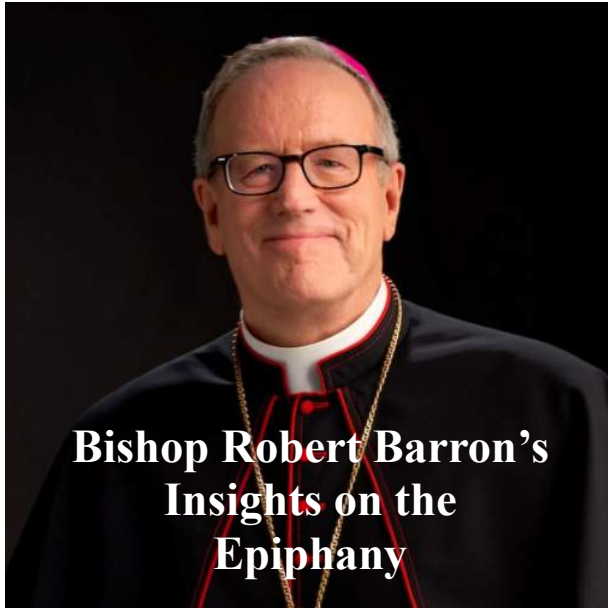
■ Engage with local life-affirming organizations that promote human dignity from womb to tomb

■ Foster friendships, network and strengthen bonds to build a culture of life in our community



dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life





**Bishop Robert Barron's
Insights on the
Epiphany**

Friends, the story of the Magi told in today's Gospel is a summary of the principal dynamics of the spiritual life. Watching the night sky with scrupulous attention for signs of God's purpose, the Magi evoke the importance of alertness in the spiritual order. We must keep our eyes open to see what God is up to.

Once they saw the star, they moved, despite the length of the journey. Sometimes people know what God wants them to do, but they don't act, either out of fear, laziness, or the influence of bad habits. The Magi teach us to move.

When they spoke to Herod of the birth of the new King, he tried to use them to destroy the baby. When you walk the path that God has laid out for you, expect opposition.

The wise men came to Bethlehem and gave the child their precious gifts. When you come to Christ, break open the very best of yourself and make it a gift for him.

Finally, they returned to their home country by another route. As Fulton Sheen commented so magnificently: of course they did; for no one comes to Christ and goes back the same way he came!



8 SAINTS FOR JANUARY



January 1st: Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

January 3rd: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

January 4th: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

January 8th: The Epiphany of the Lord

January 9th: The Baptism of the Lord

January 25th: The Conversion of St. Paul

January 28th: St. Thomas Aquinas

January 31st: St. John Bosco



Warm Up with
Winter Bingo
Wednesday, January 7, 2026

2-4 PM

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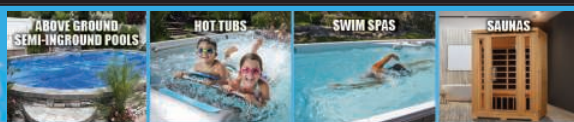
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