

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



January 18, 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/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)
[ParishofStMonica/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 18, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 17

4:00 pm Kathryn Mary Rose
(Jennifer Patterson)

Sunday, January 18

9:00 am The Rucci Family
(Kelly MacNutt)

11:00 am Grace Huber
(Mary Boyd)

Monday, January 19 Martin Luther King Day **No 9:00 am Mass—Parish Offices Closed**

Tuesday, January 20

9:00 am Marie Gould
(The Prayer Group)

Wednesday, January 21

9:00 am Leslee Bicich
(The Fisher Family)

Thursday, January 22

9:00 am Marie Gould
(Denis & Dee Balint)

Saturday, January 24

4:00 pm Marie Gould
(The Hills Family)
Sylvester Cascio & Joseph Anzalone
(The Anzalone Family)

Sunday, January 25

9:00 am Marie Gould
(Kim Merwin)
11:00 am John Thomas LoPiccolo
(The Bereavement Ministry)

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, Ashley & Cameron Dlugosz, Bernadette VanDerberg

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 18, 2026

Monday 1 Sm 15:16-23 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday 1 Sm 16:1-13 Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28 Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 Mk 3:1-6

Thursday 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13 Mk 3:7-12

Friday 1 Sm 24:3-21 Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 Mk 3:13-19

Saturday 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Ps 80:2-3, 5-7 Mk 3:20-21

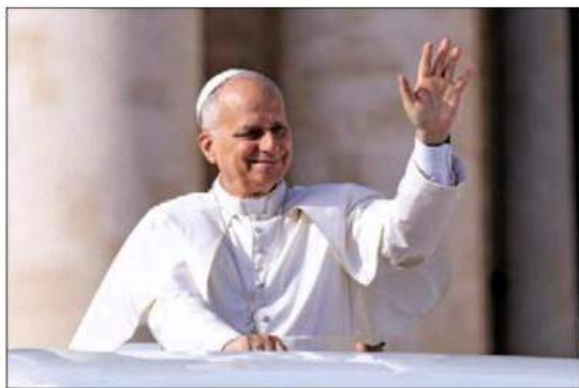
Sunday Is 8:23-9:3 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 Mt 4:12-23 or Mt 4:12-17

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.

Holy Father's Monthly Prayer Intention



Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
DEC 9—DEC 14, 2025**

Weekly Offerings \$2,405.15

Online Giving \$1,443.00

Total \$3,848.15

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

COR

Men's Prayer Group

3rd Wednesday of Each Month
7:00pm in Little Church



Drawing into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through

PRAYER

FELLOWSHIP

FRATERNITY

Come Join Us - All Men Are Welcomed

As we enter Ordinary Time, we are encouraged to be consistent in our daily prayer life, it is also a time to reflect on our Christian vocations and call to serve others. Here at St. Monica, we are in need of volunteers to support several of our ministries: OCIA Program, Grief Support Program, and Homebound Communion Service program. If you are interested in gaining more information or volunteering see Deacon John.



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 18, 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 17**

10:00 am Altar Server Training
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 18

9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass
 12:00 pm Grief Support Group Introduction

Monday, January 19—Martin Luther King Day**Parish Offices Closed—No Mass scheduled**

4:30 pm NO Religious Education Classes
 6:15 pm NO Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, January 20

9:00 am Mass
 5:30 pm NO Religious Education Classes
 7:00 pm Legion of Mary

Wednesday, January 21

9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm Men's COR Prayer Group
 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, January 22

9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm OCIA Classes

Saturday, January 24

3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 25

9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

Monday, January 26

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

Tuesday, January 27

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

Wednesday, January 28

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

Thursday, January 29

9:00 am Mass
 10:00 am Grief Support Group
 7:00 pm OCIA Classes

Saturday, January 31

3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

St Monica Grief Support Group Program

Find Comfort, Connection, and Healing

Program Introduction

January 18, 2026

At 12:00 pm

Main Church



Weekly Support Group Spring Sessions

Jan 29th - March 26th 2026 (9 weeks)

Thursdays at 10 am – TBD Saturdays

To Register Call 732-928-0279
 or email – jwhite@dioceseoftrenton.org

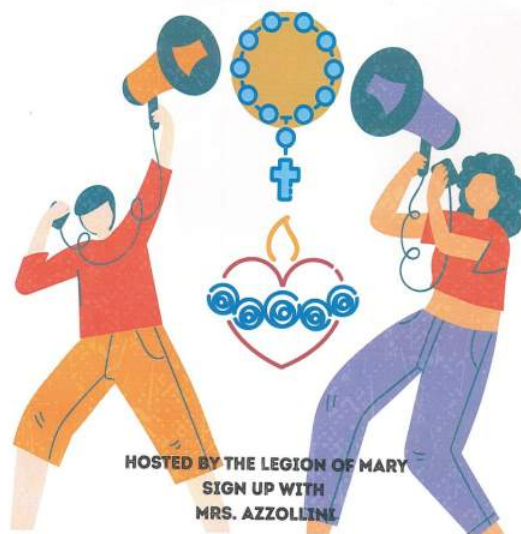
Church of St. Monica
 679 W Veterans Hwy, Jackson, NJ 08527

CALLING ALL 7TH GRADERS

ROSARY

Making Fun!

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



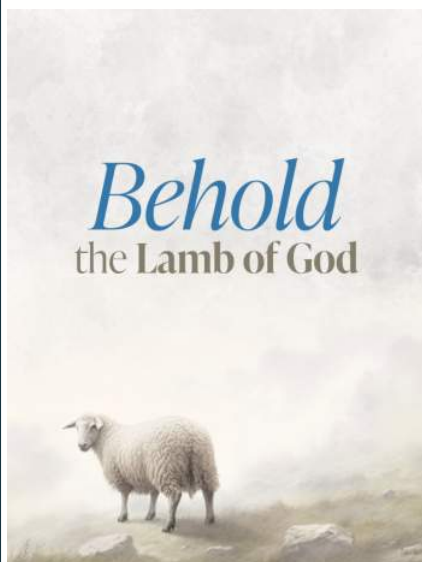
HOSTED BY THE LEGION OF MARY
 SIGN UP WITH
 MRS. AZZOLLINI

Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Shortly after the first Allied victory in 1942, coming after several defeats, the great Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England, analyzed the victory this way: "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is perhaps the end of the beginning."

I have long been an admirer of the great man's clever use of the English language. This one came to mind in the light of today's Scripture choices. They are each about beginnings. That means they can provide a game plan for our spiritual lives. Here we are, very soon from the beginning of the new calendar year. A fitting time to take a turn for the better is it not?



The First Reading speaks of the God's choice of Isaiah as the leader of the twelve tribes. This came while the prophet was still in his mother's womb.

The Second Reading finds us hearing St. Paul's belief that he will inaugurate the mission to bring the gospel to the non-Jewish world.

Finally, we have in the Gospel passage what we could call Our Lord's mission inauguration, when John the Baptist publicly acknowledges Jesus as "the Lamb of God." This title clearly points to Our Lord's mission as a suffering Servant.

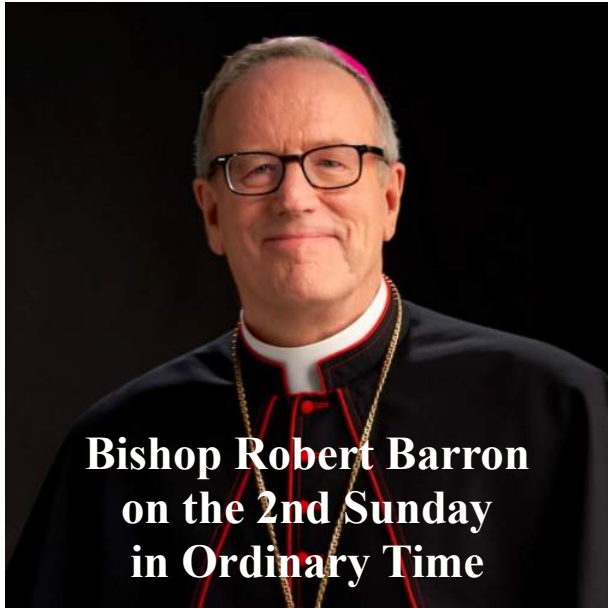
All this talk of beginnings acts as an incentive for starting over my attempt to live as Christ would have us do.

Let us face facts. For the majority of us, this choice for Christ involves a struggle. Checking out the stories of our great saints proves that none of them had it easy. Both John the Baptist and St. Paul offer the proof. How often they may have asked themselves: "Is this the beginning of the end, or the end of the beginning?"

We must remember that every time we decide for Christ, perhaps to eliminate a bad habit of sin, the devil will "up his game." He hates our efforts to grow close to Christ. But each time we succeed, we can make a victory claim. The end of the beginning.

An anonymous someone identified our struggle with a quotation of his own: "One half of our problems come from wanting our own way. The other half come from getting it."

God love you and give you, His peace.



**Bishop Robert Barron
on the 2nd Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

Friends, after the Advent Christmas season, we return now to Ordinary Time. So we're at the second Sunday of Ordinary Time. But something very interesting to me, the way the Church has composed the liturgy, the readings. So last week was the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and we heard St. Matthew's account of the baptism. And I told you, in all the Gospels, you're compelled to see Jesus through the lens of John the Baptist. And that's true.

So today now, the Church is like, we didn't have enough time to reflect on the meaning of the baptism. So, it's asking us again to

think about it. But this time in light of St. John's account of the Baptism of the Lord, which is distinctive.

And so he sees Jesus. And he says, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Now, you recognize that line, because at the Mass, when we hold up the consecrated elements, and the priest says, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He repeats John the Baptist's words here. This is of absolutely decisive significance because, you can't get at Jesus without going through John. John is giving us the interpretive lens by which we see and understand Jesus.

I've gone all the way through the Old Testament up to John calling Jesus the Lamb. Now go to the very end of the Bible, the book of Revelation, and they're presented with the seven-sealed scroll that represents all of Scripture. And the question is raised, who will open the scroll? Who will open these seals? And there's no one that can do it until there arrives. And it's beautifully described in the Greek of the book of Revelation as the Lamb standing as though slain. The Lamb standing, yes, victorious, but slain. And he's the one who can open the seven seals that reveal for us the meaning of it all, the meaning of history, the meaning of Scripture, the meaning of life. It's the sacrificed Lamb on the cross who's the key to understanding everything. Behold, there is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Friends, we're not going to understand Jesus and his cross until we understand what John the Baptist meant by that.

God bless you.



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.

EXPERIENCE GOD

Monday, January 19 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Together, we will spend the morning learning the three stages of prayer: personal encounter, listening and contemplative transformation. *Experiencing God* by Thomas Green, SJ will be used as a foundation for our discussion. Led by Jill Snyder. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

WHY ARE YOU ANXIOUS?

Tuesday, January 20 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Jesus asked this question once and we could tell him that we have lots of reason to be anxious these days. What can we do about the anxiety we feel and carry around within us? Are you looking for a little relief? This morning retreat will help. Can you come? Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20.

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? Today will be the day! 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. We hope you can come! Led by Nancy Berchtold.

Donation: \$50, includes lunch and materials.

IN PERSON ONLY

A DAY OF CENTERING PRAYER: CALM YOUR MIND AND SOOTHE YOUR SOUL

Saturday, January 24 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Only God can calm the mind and quiet the soul. Centering Prayer is a form of prayer that God often uses to lessen anxieties and worries and fill a person with an awareness of his very own presence and action within. Whether you have been doing Centering Prayer for years or are new to it, please come. You may find that you want to continue this form of prayer throughout the new year. It is well worth the day. Please bring your lunch. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$25

IN PERSON ONLY

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Saturday, January 31 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Explore the unique manner of praying as a couple, adapting the Ignatian Spirituality to discernment, scriptural contemplation, and quiet moments of reflection. Discover how the *Examen Prayer* invites deep, spiritual intimacy when prayed together as spouses. Led by Rev. Jim Grogan. Donation: \$50 per couple, lunch included.

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 18, 2026

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

St Monica Grief Support Group (Spring Session)

Find Comfort, Connection, and Healing

You're Not Alone

Join our 9 Week Grief Support Group Program where you can share your journey in a safe, compassionate space. No matter where you are in the healing process, we welcome you.

Program Highlights

- Open to adults experiencing the loss of a loved one or friend
- Gentle, guided group tasks & conversations
- A Catholic approach to healing
- Practical coping tools and resources
- Confidential and judgment-free environment



Meeting Details

Program Introduction	18 January 2026 at 12 Noon (after 11 am Mass)
Weekly Sessions (9 weeks)	Every Thursday (TBD - alternative day - Saturday mornings at 10 AM)
Start Date & Time	Thursday January 29 th , 2026 - 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Location	St Monica Church, 679 W Veterans Hwy Jackson, NJ 08527 (Little Church)
Cost	Free

How to Join

Register by phone: (732) 928-0279 or

Email: jwhite@dioceseoftrenton.org

Walk-ins welcome!

“Grieving doesn’t mean forgetting. It means learning to move forward.”

– Grief Support Facilitator

Sponsored by St Monica Catholic Church

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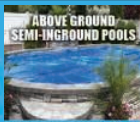
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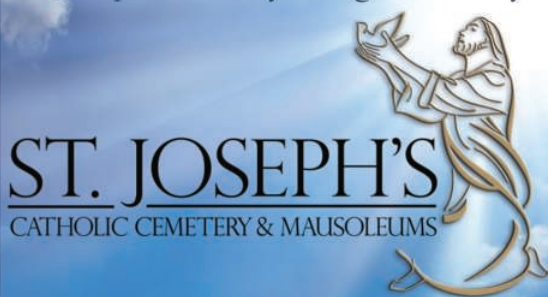
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