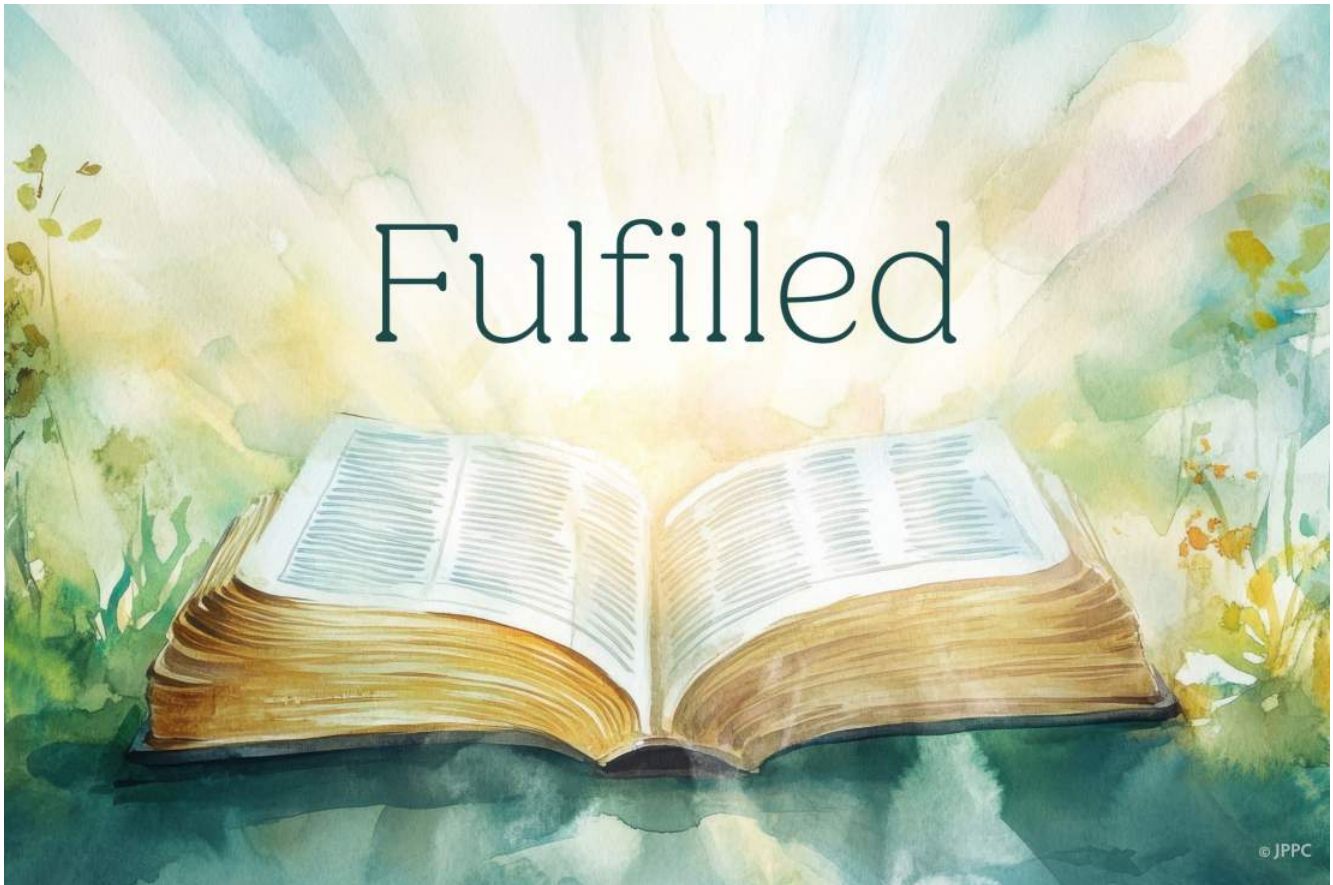


CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



February 15, 2026

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.

Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway



Confessions

Saturdays

3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/

ParishofStMonica/



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 15, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 14

4:00 pm Bob Purcell
(The Calsetta Family)

Sunday, February 15

9:00 am Marie (Mary Margaret) Gould
(Estelle Scuzzese & Joseph Rayll)

11:00 am Marie Gould
(Iris Biely)

Monday, February 16

**No Mass—Parish Offices Closed in honor
Of Presidents Day**

Tuesday, February 17

9:00 am Domenico Tullio
(Gerard)

Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday

9:00 am William Carragher J
(Marie Gould)

7:00 pm Available

Thursday, February 19

9:00 am Elizabeth Annino
(Barbara Leonard)

Saturday, February 21

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

Sunday, February 22

9:00 am Marie Gould
(The Bereavement Ministry)

11:00 am Marie Gould
(Bill & Joy Riordan)

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, 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, Tom and Carol Ringwood, Bob Toth, Ashley & Cameron Dlugosz, Bernadette VanDerberg, Elizabeth Maras, Charles Thompson

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 - February 15, 2026

Monday Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday Jas 1:12-18 Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Lk 9:22-25

Friday Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 Mt 9:14-15

Saturday Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Lk 5:27-32

Sunday Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 Mt 4:1-11

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.

We are recruiting new Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Lectors proclaim the Scripture Readings at Mass, and Extraordinary Ministers assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and to the sick.

If you feel called to serve the parish in one or both of these ministries, please add your name and contact information to the sign up sheets at the back of the church.

Training sessions will be held in February and March. Lector training will take place on Saturday, February 21, after the 4:00pm mass, and on Wednesday, February 25th at 7:00pm. Extraordinary Minister training will be held on Sunday, March 8th after the 11:00am mass, and on Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00pm.

Attendance at one training session is required. Each session will last approximately one hour


FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
JAN 5—11, 2026

Weekly Offerings \$ 4,132.69

Online Giving \$ 1,333.00

Total \$ 5,465.69

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

Ash Wednesday Schedule


Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 9:00 am
Full Mass with Eucharist and Ashes

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 4:00 pm
Gospel Service with Ashes

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 7:00 pm

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 15, 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, February 14

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, February 15

9:00 am Mass

10:15 am Special Communion Prep (LC)

11:00 am Mass

Monday, February 16

Presidents Day—Parish Offices Closed

No Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, February 17

9:00 am Mass

No Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Legion of Mary

Wednesday, February 18—Ash Wednesday

9:00 am Mass—Ash Wednesday

4:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 pm Mass—Ash Wednesday

7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, February 19

9:00 am Mass

10:00 am Grief Support Group

7:00 pm OCIA Classes

Saturday, February 21

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, February 22

9:00 am Mass

10:15 am Special Communion Prep (LC)

11:00 am Mass

12:00 pm Maeve Elizabeth Carter Baptism

Monday, February 23

9:00 am Mass

4:30 pm Religious Education Classes

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, February 24

9:00 am Mass

5:30 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Legion of Mary

Wednesday, February 25

9:00 am Mass

7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, February 26

9:00 am Mass

10:00 am Grief Support Group

7:00 pm OCIA Classes

Saturday, February 28

3:15 pm Confessions

Prayer
Fasting
Almsgiving



Here's 20 practical things you can do for Lent

1. Think of what you typically spend a lot of money on. Do you buy too many clothes or eat out too often? Consider fasting from one of these and maybe donate the saved money to charity.
2. Take on 40 days of doing something particular like saying a particular prayer each day or doing 40 acts of kindness.
3. Pray before work. What is the first thing you do when you get to work? Check email? Consider taking 5 minutes to pray.
4. Attend week-day Mass once a week, or one extra day if you already go.
5. Pray the [Chaplet of Divine Mercy](#) every Friday.
6. Start a Lenten journal. Take some time each day in prayer and reflection on your spiritual journey and jot down what comes to you.
7. Fast from music on your drive to work and use the time to pray instead.
8. Limit time on social media.
9. Fast from snacking between meals.
10. Volunteer at a food pantry, soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
11. Write letters to those in prison, nursing homes or the military.
12. Reach out to someone you know who may be in need of companionship or offer to run an errand for someone who cannot get out.
13. Give up soda, coffee or alcohol.
14. Read the daily Scripture.
15. Think of a habit that keeps you from being who God wants you to be. Give it up! (Maybe this is something to journal about as you consider what that habit might be.)
16. Save money and donate it to the poor.
17. Spend one hour a week in eucharistic adoration.
18. Wake up without hitting the snooze button and use that extra time for prayer right away in the morning.
19. Every morning, scroll through your phone contacts. Randomly stop on a person and say a prayer for them.
20. Go through your closet and find clothes you can donate to someone in need. Don't just pick the clothes you don't like or will never wear. If you have kids, they can do the same. Maybe they could also find a few toys they would consider donating.

Who Is St. Valentine

Saint Valentine was a 3rd-century Roman martyr, likely a priest or bishop, executed around Feb. 14, 270 A.D., by Emperor Claudius II for secretly marrying couples and aiding persecuted Christians. He is considered the patron saint of lovers, epilepsy, and beekeepers, with traditions linking him to the origin of romantic, signed greetings.

Key Details About Saint Valentine:

- **Identity Confusion:** The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different individuals named Valentine or Valentinus, all martyred on February 14th, leading to historical uncertainty.

The Legend:

Popular legend states that while imprisoned for his faith, Valentine restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter, Julia, and fell in love with her, sending her a final note signed "From your Valentine" before his execution.

Secret Marriages: Another major legend claims he defied Emperor Claudius II, who banned marriage for young men to boost army recruitment, by secretly performing marriage ceremonies.

- **Patronage and Legacy:** Although not initially associated with romantic love in his lifetime, his feast day became associated with courtship in the Middle Ages. He is recognized as the patron saint of lovers, people with epilepsy, and beekeepers.
- **Official Status:** In 1969, the Catholic Church removed him from the General Roman Calendar of saints, though he remains on the list of officially recognized saints, but his liturgical veneration is no longer mandatory.

OLIVERIE - UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18: Preneed Seminar

11am-1pm at The Wisteria, Jackson

Please RSVP by calling 732-719-7250

Join us for a preneed seminar focusing on elder law and estate handling

March 25: Bingo

2-4pm at The Wisteria, Jackson

Please RSVP by calling 732-719-7250

Bring your friends and some drinks for a free bingo event! You must be 21 or over to win prizes.

April 18: Paper Shredding - Jackson

10am-2pm at Oliverie Funeral Home, Jackson Parking Lot

Shred those old documents safely and securely from the comfort of your vehicle.

April 26: Blood Drive - Jackson

10am-3pm at The Wisteria, Jackson

Please RSVP by calling 732-719-7250

May 13: Spring Bingo

2-4pm at The Wisteria, Jackson

Please RSVP by calling 732-719-7250

Bring your friends and some drinks for a free bingo event! You must be 21 or over to win prizes.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



TUESDAY FEB. 24TH

All CCD Students & Staff

(Grades 1-8)

Must Attend Adoration

Please arrive for 6:15pm

ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN

Parents are welcome to join their children and spend this peaceful, face to face time with our Lord.



Bishop Robert Barron

Friends, in today's Gospel (Matthew 5:17–37), Jesus promises that he has not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. Matthew says that Jesus went up a mountain, sat down, and commenced to teach, calling to mind Moses, who went up Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God.

In the Old Testament, we find Moses, the great teacher, going up a mountain to receive the Law and then sitting down to teach it. Likewise, Jesus goes up a mountain and sits down to teach. However, Jesus is not receiving a law; he is giving one. During his sermon, we hear, "You have heard that it was said . . . But I say . . ." which reveals that Jesus has authority even over the Torah.

Therefore, Jesus is being presented here as the New Moses who will broadcast from this Galilean mountain the definitive law. I realize this immediately poses a

problem for contemporary readers, who are put off by a religion that leads with laws, rules, and prohibitions. An Irish wag once summed up the Catholicism he was taught with this phrase: "In the beginning was the word, and the word was no!"

Since the Ten Commandments have been honored mostly in the breach, why should anyone think it a good idea to introduce new and even more stringent laws? But then we attend to the first word out of the mouth of the lawgiver: "Blessed." "Happy." The law that the New Moses offers is a pattern of life that promises to make us happy.

The Law is not being nullified; it is being intensified, raised to a new pitch. Jesus declares that he would not undermine the Law and the prophets but fulfill them.

For instance, Jesus teaches, "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." To be like God utterly, we obviously have to eliminate cruel and hateful actions. But we have to go deeper, eliminating cruel and hateful thoughts and attitudes as well, for God is love right through.

And May 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.

UNDERSTANDING & BEFRIENDING DIFFERENCES

Monday, February 16 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Why is it so difficult to relate to those who are different from us? If you need a little understanding and compassion in dealing with challenging personalities, including your own, please come and join our Interns in Spiritual Direction to learn the art of accepting and appreciating people with personalities contrary to our own. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$50. Please bring your own lunch.

ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT

Wednesday, February 18 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

LITURGY AT NOON

We love beginning Lent together with this retreat at Francis House because it provides a gentle structure for the six-week journey ahead. This year I think you will enjoy reading *Give Up Worry for Lent* by Gary Zimak ... to guide your Lenten journey. Liturgy is included with the reception of ashes within it. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$40, includes lunch and book for your Lenten journey. Zoom \$25

A CONTEMPLATIVE TELLING OF THE STORY: MARY & HER SON

Thursday, February 19 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Many people attended Father Bill's one day retreat on the *Reed of God* in the Fall. Father Bill now invites us during this Lenten Season to enter the heart of Mary as she accompanies her Son and all of us in the passion of our lives. Led by Fr. Bill Lago. Donation: \$30, lunch included. Zoom: \$20

PASSION OF CHRIST, STRENGTHEN ME

Friday, February 20 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

If you need strength to deal with your life at this time, come. The Passion of Christ IS your strength! You will receive *The Passion and the Cross* by Ronald Rolheiser, OMI to accompany you on your Lenten journey. What a wonderful way to begin Lent! Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$45, includes lunch and book. Zoom: \$25

WRITING AND JOURNALING

DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

Monday, February 23 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Writing and journaling can become a conversation with God! Enjoy a gentle day with God's guidance as we reflect on graces received in our lives by using writing prompts that bring us deeper into sacred stillness and love and into the truth of who God is for us.. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$30, includes lunch. Zoom: \$25.

IN PERSON ONLY

LENTEN CONTEMPLATION THROUGH THE MUSIC OF JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT

Friday, February 27 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The pleasant lady parishioner checking out my supermarket order decides to share her nervous entry into “New Car World.” She admits being baffled by the new car she just bought. After all she had kept the “old buggy” for 14 years! Another example comes my priest friend, now gone to God. He admitted that he had arranged for two Saturday morning “dashboard lessons” from the very salesman who sold touted the car’s virtues.

I detect a certain parallel here with how one is to handle a whole new outlook both on life and on one’s relationship with God. Of course, God’s ways are not as well-known as they once were.



I have come not to
abolish but to *fulfill*.

MATTHEW 5:17

Gone are the days when whole generations automatically attended a Catholic elementary school, followed by Catholic high school and even college. So, the whole Catholic way of life, including Christ’s particular teaching on specifics, is as strange and alien as the tech in a new car.

This is not to forget the tremendous effort put forth by many dedicated soul’s work to educate and inspire the minds of young people and searchers for the truth of any age.

The “Sermon on the Mount” is at the heart of Matthew’s gospel. Its length means that it must not have been preached by Jesus at one time. Both He and His audience would have long since either fainted or walked away. Fortunately, we are blessed to have it easily accessible in book form or online. A good Catholic bible has many helpful footnotes to help us appreciate the text.

We are now only a few days out from the great penitential season of Lent. But that dominant characteristic does not preclude us from going back to basics about the faith or expanding our knowledge as a Lenten project. And with no worries about strange blinking dashboard lights and odd icons on your car’s touch screen! Just get started. Why? Because “Procrastination is the assassination of motivation.”

God love you and give you, His peace.



St. Aloysius

Sun 3/8 Package Testing at St. Aloysius Church



Michele Paul



Contact

St. Aloysius is teaming up with Perritt Labs for an exciting package testing research study, inviting those aged 50 to 70 to take part. The study will take place on **Sunday March 8 from 12 - 3pm at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, Jackson NJ in Morello Hall.**

Perritt Labs is leading this study to help create packaging that is easy for older adults to open while keeping children safe. If you are between the ages of 50 and 70, you are invited to try opening and closing a few child-resistant packages. The whole process takes less than 15 minutes.

By joining in, you are helping raise funds for the St. Vincent dePaul Society. For every volunteer, the St. Vincent dePaul Society receives a \$20 donation.

Take a look at the available time slots below and sign up if you qualify. If you are not in the age range, please share this opportunity with friends who are. Every extra volunteer makes a difference, and it is a wonderful way to support St. Vincent dePaul.

Thank you!



Date 03/08/2026 (Sun.)



Time 12:00PM - 3:00PM EST



Location St. Aloysius
935 Bennetts Mills Rd
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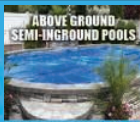
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