

# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



I was blind  
and *now*  
*I see.*

JOHN 9:25

© JPPC

## March 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](http://www.saintmonica.com)**

**Parish Office: 732-928-0279**

**Email: [parishoffice@saintmonica.com](mailto: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

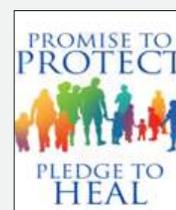
3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

Facebook:

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

[ParishofStMonica/](http://ParishofStMonica/)



## 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 15, 2026

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, March 14, 2026

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

#### Sunday, March 15, 2026

9:00 am Columba Bina LoCicero  
(The LoCicero Family)

11:00 am Joseph & Josephine Zappulla  
(Arlene Toth)

#### Monday, March 16, 2026

9:00 am Zoe Gould  
(Marie Gould)

#### Tuesday, March 17, 2026

9:00 am E Patrick Carragher  
(Marie Gould)

#### Wednesday, March 18, 2026

9:00 am Marie Gould  
(The LaTorre Family)

#### Thursday, March 19, 2026

9:00 am Peggy Coady - Barbara Morell  
(Elaine Manion)

#### Saturday, March 21, 2026

4:00 pm Eleanor H. Hintenach  
(Deacon John & Caroline White)

#### Sunday, March 22, 2026

9:00 am Norcia Pasquarosa  
(Gerarda Fallone)

11:00 am Charles Calabrese  
(Phyllis Calabrese)

### 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, Bob Toth, Ashley & Cameron Dlugosz, Bernadette VanDerberg, Elizabeth Maras, Charles Thompson, John Catena

*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 - March 15, 2026

**Monday** Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday** Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday** Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

**Friday** Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday** Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 Jn 7:40-53

**Sunday** Ez 37:12-14 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

**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  
FEB 2—FEB 8, 2026**

Weekly Offerings \$ 2,345.00

Online Giving \$ 1,630.00

Total \$ 3,975.00

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



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026**

**2-4PM**

**RSVP TO 732-719-7250**

**BYOB**

**THE WISTERIA BALLROOM**

**125 SOUTH COOKS BRIDGE ROAD**

**JACKSON, NJ 08527**



**COR**

**Men's Prayer Group**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Each Month  
7:00pm in Little Church



Drawing into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through

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FELLOWSHIP  
FRATERNITY**

*Come Join Us - All Men Are Welcomed*

**PALM SUNDAY**

WILL TAKE PLACE ON



**MARCH 29, 2026**

SAINTS #F TODAY

## 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)

### CALENDAR

#### Saturday, March 14

- 9:00 am Breakfast with the Easter Bunny  
 10:00 am Grief Support—Little Church  
 3:15 pm Confessions  
 4:00 pm Mass

#### Sunday, March 15

- 9:00 am Mass  
 10:15 am Special Communion Prep (LC)  
 11:00 am Mass

#### Monday, March 16

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

#### Tuesday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

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

#### Wednesday, March 18

- 9:00 am Mass  
 7:00 pm Lenten Penance Service  
 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

#### Thursday, March 19 - St. Joseph's Day

- 9:00 am Mass  
 7:00 pm OCIA Classes

#### Friday, March 20

- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
 8:00 pm BLD Trenton

#### Saturday, March 21

- 9:00 am BLD Trenton  
 10:00 am Grief Support—Little Church  
 3:15 pm Confessions  
 4:00 pm Mass

#### Sunday, March 22

- 9:00 am Mass  
 10:15 am Special Communion Prep (LC)  
 11:00 am Mass

#### Monday, March 23

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

#### Tuesday, March 24

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

#### Wednesday, March 25

- 9:00 am Mass  
 5:30 pm Confirmation Practice  
 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

## St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage



- † 3-4 pounds **corned beef** with spice packet
- † 2 **bay leaves**
- † 1/2 teaspoon **black peppercorns**
- † 5-6 cups **beef broth**
- † 1 1/2 pounds **carrots**
- † 2 pounds **small red potatoes**
- † 1 large head **green cabbage** cut into 8 wedges

- Remove the corned beef from the packaging and rinse well. Place the meat in the bottom of a large dutch oven, then sprinkle with the contents of the spice packet and add 2 bay leaves and ½ teaspoon black peppercorns.

- Add enough beef broth or water to cover the meat completely.

- Place on the stove and bring to a boil, then cover and reduce the heat to a simmer. Let the meat cook in the simmering liquid for about 2 ½ hours.

- Add the carrots and potatoes, making sure to move the meat if necessary so the vegetables can cook in the liquid. If needed, add an additional 2 cups of hot water to the cooking liquid. Continue to cook for 30 minutes until the potatoes and carrots are tender.

- Add the cabbage wedges, pushing them down into the cooking liquid, and cook for 15 minutes longer. Remove the meat, potatoes, and vegetables from the pot. Slice the meat into thin slices against the grain, then serve on a large platter surrounded by the boiled potatoes, carrots and cabbage

# Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I was a bit startled when the insightful young principal of the parish school, a fine religious sister, told me that I was a “visual learner.” At first, I did not know if that observation was meant to describe me as some kind of lesser being or not. But knowing she had no malice of intent I dismissed the notion outright. Now I admit the fact is based on evidence.

How often I have responded in conversations about driving directions to some place or other by saying “I can’t picture that.” Or a parishioner is trying to help me identify another and I will respond by saying something like “I recognize the name, but I can’t picture him or her.”

I was blind and *now I see.*



Such recollection of a day long ago comes to mind in a collection of Scripture such as we have today with the theme of light and darkness, of sight and blindness. Important Lenten consideration for us all as we examine our lives and look for betterment.

It does not take a long time of Christian living to realize that God sees things very differently than we do at critical times in life as well as ordinary times. No matter how our learning derives its conclusions and opinions, they will inevitably have share of darkness woven into them. That is principally because of sin, which generates many a “blind spot” in our outlook. Where we turn for clarification makes all the difference, presuming we recognize that clarity is necessary in the first place.

St. John takes a whole chapter of his gospel to make the point with his famous story of “The Man Born Blind.” In his recount of the cure, he makes it obvious that it is the Pharisees who are truly the blind ones.

The excerpt from the Book of Samuel shows us that it is quite possible not to see in another person their goodness and capability. St. Paul clearly teaches us, in his Letter to the Ephesians, that the divine light we all need to erase any of our personal “blindness” comes from the gift of the Holy Spirit we receive at our Baptism. We have a lot of material for Lenten reflection to start off this fourth week of the season.

Once upon a time a newly promoted Army colonel moved into his new and impressive office. As he sat behind his big new desk, a Private knocked at his door. “Just a minute,” the colonel said, “I’m on the phone.”

He picked up the phone and said loudly, “Yes sir, General, I will call the President this afternoon. No sir, I will not forget.” Then he hung up the phone and told the private to come in. “What can I help you with?” the colonel asked. “Well sir,” the private replied, “I’ve come to hook up your phone.”

God love you and Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

**St Monica 2026 Schedule of Lenten Services****Ash Wednesday, February 18**

9:00 am Mass

4:30 pm Service

7:00 pm Mass

(Ashes will be distributed at all)

**Stations of the Cross**

Fridays during Lent: 7:00 pm

**Daily Mass**

Monday - Thursday March 24 - March 26

Monday - Wednesday March 30—April 1

9:00 am

**Adoration/Benediction**

Wednesday, April 1

following 9:00 am Mass

**Lenten Penance Service****Wednesday, March 18th**

7:00 pm

**Palm Sunday Masses****Saturday, March 28**

4:00 pm

**Sunday, March 29**

9:00 and 11:00 am

**Tenebrae Service**

Wednesday, April 1

7:00 pm

**Holy Thursday, April 2**

(No 9:00 am Mass Today)

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 pm

Church remains open for Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 pm

**Good Friday, April 3**

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord

Holy Communion

Veneration of the Cross

3:00 pm

Stations of the Cross: 7:00 pm

**Holy Saturday, April 4**

Blessing of Easter Food 11:00 am

(No 4:00 pm Mass)

Easter Vigil Service 8:00 pm

**Easter Sunday, April 5**

Masses:

9:00 am and 11:00 am

*You Are Invited*



## Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience

*Saturday, March 21st*

**Church of St. Veronica**  
**4219 Route 9N**  
**Howell, NJ 07731**  
**5:00 pm**

- **Touch the Grotto Rock**
- **Experience Lourdes Water**
- **Adoration & Benediction**
- **Rosary**

\* Prepare a petition to be in the Grotto & receive a bottle of Water.

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**Bishop Robert Barron  
Reflects on Today's  
Gospel**

So we're reading a story about an event in the life of Jesus, something that He did, but we're also meant to see at a deeper level, this is a story about all of us. Let me just look at a few highlights from this. We hear, as Jesus passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. It's a physical condition, yes, but think now of blindness in the context of the Bible. It's often used as a symbol of spiritual blindness.

What does sin do to us? Well, many things, but one thing it does is it obscures our consciousness, it distorts our vision of things. We are blind to the most important realities. We're blind in terms of the right direction for our lives.

What do we hear from the very beginning of John's Gospel? That the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it. Jesus comes into our world as the light meant to illumine blinded by sin. So as we read this story, it's about us.

Okay, what does Jesus do when he sees the man? He makes a mud paste. How? Well, by spitting on the ground and then making this paste and rubbing it in the man's eyes.

St. Augustine's interpretation, which I've loved, is to think of the spittle that comes from the mouth of Jesus that's evocative of his divinity. The earth is evocative of his humanity.

When divinity and humanity meet, they form a kind of salve, S-A-L-V-E. Salus in Latin means health. Jesus is the one who brings healing. It's his divinity and humanity coming together in such a way that they heal sin-sick eyes.

It's through the sacraments of the church, especially baptism, that we are healed and we are saved, salvaged, that we are enabled to see. This is about the beginning of the spiritual journey, if you will.

So here, this man and all of us, born blind, we begin the spiritual journey by this sacramental and baptismal immersion in Christ. It's one of the great miracles of Jesus. But how do people respond. The man comes back, and people are mixed, they're divided.

But now, read it with our deeper spiritual vision here. When we are immersed in Christ, he's rubbed his saving power into our sin-sick eyes. When we are transformed by him, we're not the same person we were before. When you have his power rubbed into you, you become conformed to him. You become another Christ.

There are a lot of people in this sinful world who are deeply invested in blindness. That means their whole life is predicated upon the fact that most people are not spiritually awake, that most people are spiritually blind. And so they don't want someone who's been liberated. They don't want someone that sees who's going to cause them no end of trouble. So I say to every one of you reading this, if you're commencing the spiritual journey, you found vision and life in Christ. But then, stay wide awake. Be careful. Know that the devil is prowling like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. You will be opposed.

And the more Christlike you are, the more you will be opposed because of all those people who are invested in blindness.

So just be aware of that. Let me just bring it to a close, and there's so much more we can say about this great story, but having endured the tauntings of the crowd and all that, and they throw him out bodily, we hear. Well, the Lord seeks him out, and he tells him, I'm the one who's given you sight, and do you believe? And he makes then one of the great confessions of faith in the New Testament. I do believe, Lord. And then we hear he worshipped him. That means he's acknowledging his divinity.

Now, reread this great story from the Gospel of John, and may God bless all of 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](mailto:FHOP@verizon.net) Please check [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings!

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

### WE HAD HOPED!

Wednesday, April 8 12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM I would love to spend Easter Wednesday afternoon praying over the Emmaus story with you. The story is full of both disappointment and surprise as they meet the Lord along the way. Bring your life along with you with its disappointments. You too may discover Jesus walking along the way with you. What a surprise! Come at noon. We will begin with a delicious lunch. Donation: \$25. Zoom: \$20

### PRAYING WITH OUR EXPERIENCES

Thursday, April 9 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Often the content of our prayer is the life of Jesus. Other times, we can use the events of our own life as the content of our prayer and our meeting place with God. As we pray, we become aware of God's presence and how God uses every event of our daily life for our good and the good of others. God doesn't waste anything! Everything is a gift! You will receive Joseph Schmidt's book, *Praying Our Experiences*. Donation: \$35, includes lunch and book. Zoom: \$20

### A GLIMPSE OF ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Monday, April 13 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

St. Teresa has a way of talking us into keeping God first! Enjoying her maxims and touring her *Interior Castle* provide a short and reliable way to let her do that for you!. Let's enjoy them together! She will add some spark to your Easter season. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

### WHAT'S YOUR DECISION?

#### MAKING CHOICES WITH CONFIDENCE AND CLARITY

Tuesday, April 14 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

We all have important decisions to make, decisions that radically alter our lives. Without a sound process in place for making key decisions, we are likely to question whether our final decision was a *good* decision and is what God truly desires for us. Decision making is complex at best. Having the Ignatian discernment process at hand for when you need it will clear your path to peaceful assurance that you are in fact doing the will of God. Donation: \$30, includes materials and lunch. Zoom: \$20

### IN PERSON ONLY

#### PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, April 15 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Come to Francis House for silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Please bring a bag lunch. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction.

### SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT WEEKENDs

6:30 PM Friday to 1:00 PM Sunday

May 8 – 10 or May 15 – 17

Liturgy, spiritual direction and optional Centering Prayer periods are included. Please register early. These fill quickly. Donation: \$200/\$100 non-refundable deposit. Full payment is required 2 weeks in advance of start date.

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