

# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA

TRULY, THIS WAS  
THE SON OF GOD!

MATTHEW 27:54



**March 29, 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*

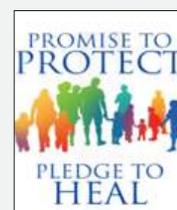
**website: [www.saintmonica.com](http://www.saintmonica.com)**  
**Parish Office: 732-928-0279**  
**Email: [parishoffice@saintmonica.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintmonica.com)**  
**Fax: (732) 928-1853**  
**Religious Education: 732-928-4038**

*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.*

## Confessions

Saturdays  
3:15 pm  
to 3:45 pm

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



**PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 29, 2026**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, March 28, 2026**

4:00 pm Kathleen M. Rivera  
(The Bereavement Ministry)

**Sunday, March 29, 2026**

9:00 am Veronica Trach  
(Janet & Tom Noordzy)

11:00 am James Carlos, Elizabeth Scott &  
Michael Scott  
(Kate Scott & Bob Maras)

**Monday, March 30, 2026**

9:00 am Lawrence Rotundo  
(Patricia Durkin)

**Tuesday, March 31, 2026**

9:00 am Marie Gould  
(The LaTorre Family)

**Wednesday, April 1, 2026**

9:00 am All Souls in Purgatory  
(A Friend)

**Thursday, April 2, 2026**

**No 9:00am Mass**

**Saturday, April 4, 2026**

**No 4:00 pm Mass**

Easter Mass Remembrances at Vigil

**Sunday, April 5, 2026**

9:00 am Easter Mass Remembrances

11:00 am Easter Mass Remembrances  
(

**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 29, 2026**

**Monday** Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 Jn 12:1-11

**Tuesday** Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday** Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 Mt 26:14-25

**Thursday Chrism** Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9 Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27 Rv 1:5-8 Lk 4:16-21

**Thursday Night** Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18. 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15

**Friday** Is 52:13 — 53:12 Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jn 18:1-19:42

**Saturday** Gen 1:1—2:2 or Gen 1:1, 26-31a Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20 and 22 Gen 22:1-18 or Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Mt 28:1-10

**Sunday** Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

**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.

**It's time to shred**  
all those papers, files and receipts



**Saturday, April 18, 2026**  
**10:00 AM**  
at  
**Oliverie Funeral Home**  
**125 S. Cooks Bridge Road**  
**Jackson, NJ 08527**



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS**  
**FEB 16—FEB 22, 2026**

Ash Wednesday \$ 1,631.75  
Weekly Offerings \$ 4,327.76  
Online Giving \$ 1,434.00  
Total \$ 7,393.51

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

**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  
**PRAYER**  
**FELLOWSHIP**  
**FRATERNITY**

*Come Join Us - All Men Are Welcomed*



April 5, 2026

## PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 29, 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 28**

- 9:00 am Breakfast with the Communicants  
 10:00 am Grief Support—Little Church  
 1:00 pm Dossous Baptism  
 3:15 pm Confessions  
 4:00 pm Mass - Palm Sunday

**Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday**

- 9:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Mass

**Monday, March 30**

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

**Tuesday, March 31**

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

**Wednesday, April 1**

- 9:00 am Mass  
 9:30 am Adoration  
 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service

**Thursday, April 2 - Holy Thursday**

- 7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper  
 Church remains open until 10:00pm

**Friday, April 3 - Good Friday**

- 3:00 pm The Passion of Christ  
 Veneration of the Cross  
 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, April 4 - Holy Saturday**

- 11:00 am Blessing of Easter Food  
 8:00 pm Easter Vigil

**Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday**

- 9:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Mass

**Monday, April 6**

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

**Tuesday, April 7**

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

**Wednesday, April 8**

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

**Thursday, April 9**

- 9:00 am Mass  
 6:30 pm Knights of Columbus meeting

**The Story of Palm Sunday:**

- **Preparation:** Jesus instructed two disciples to find a young donkey (colt) that had never been ridden, symbolizing humility, in the village.
- **The Procession:** As Jesus rode toward Jerusalem, a massive crowd gathered to greet him. They spread their cloaks and palm branches on the road, a sign of honor, royalty, and victory
- **The Praise:** The people shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!". "Hosanna" is a cry for salvation, meaning "save us now".

**Significance & Reaction:**

While most praised him, some Pharisees urged him to quiet the crowd, to which Jesus replied that if they were silent, the stones themselves would cry out. As he approached, Jesus wept over the city, knowing he would be killed just days later.

**Symbolism and Significance:**

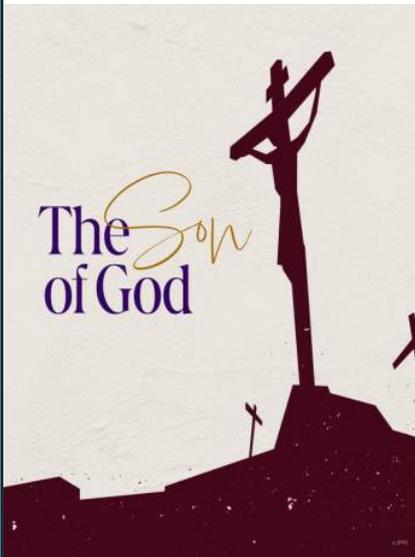
- **Humble King:** Riding a donkey instead of a war horse symbolized that Jesus was a king of peace, not a military ruler.
- **Prophecy Fulfilled:** This event fulfilled the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, which predicted the king would come riding on a colt.
- **Protest:** The event served as a nonviolent protest against the corruption of the Roman Empire and religious leaders.
- **Start of Holy Week:** Palm Sunday leads into the events of the Passion, including the Last Supper, Good Friday, and eventually Easter Sunday.

# Reflection

*By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

An assessment of the Passion of the Lord has been made over and over through the ensuing centuries by learned and holy people, many of whom are recognized saints of our Church. Therefore, I exclude myself as a worth analyst. But I can at least offer my take on the matter as “a unique, powerful, and life-changing account of a love like no other. This is authenticated by another Gospel writer, namely John, who wrote that God is love.

That same writer, working later than Matthew, gives us another approach than the linear of the Three Days. He offers a circular approach, meaning that the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus is one Magnificent Event, one that saves the whole world and is clearly a mystery of faith.



In his narrative, always proclaimed on Good Friday, Jesus is clearly in charge of events, a royal figure that allows what happens as part of His triumph over evil.

Today’s account is powerful enough in depicting Jesus as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah, but it makes the other figures dominate what occurs and Jesus as the victim.

The Responsorial Psalm today, however, makes the most important point for us hold dear: Jesus throughout the ordeal is “robed in the Father’s love.”

God love you and have profitable Holy Week.



**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**

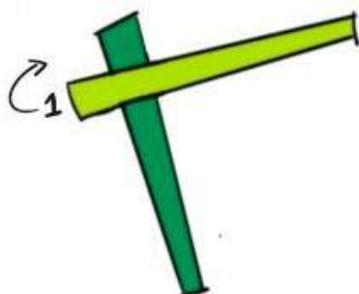
Masses:

9:00 am and 11:00 am

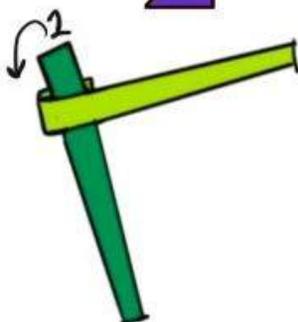
# Palm Cross

1

Fold short tabs behind

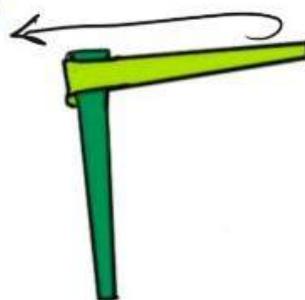


2



3

Fold behind



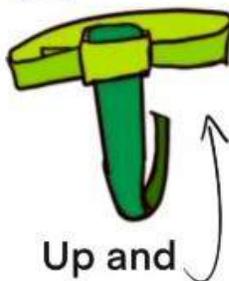
4

Make ring  
and pinch  
in half



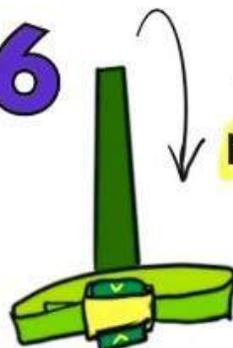
5

Up and  
behind



6

Down  
through  
pocket in  
front



7

Back  
through  
pocket until  
it looks like  
a cross



8



9

Flip  
and  
done!





**Bishop Robert Barron  
Reflects on Palm Sunday**

Peace be with you. We come, of course, today to Palm Sunday, where the Church reads from one of the great passion narratives from St. Matthew. What I wanted to do today though, is look at a text. It's one of the most precious texts we have in the entire tradition. It's offered in the second reading today, and I think we don't focus upon this text enough. I'm talking about this little passage from the second chapter of Paul to the Philippians. It was an important town for the Romans because a great battle had been fought there after the death of Julius Caesar. So it was an important city and one of the first places Paul preaches in Europe.

It's Paul's words, but in their essence, go back to the very beginning of Christianity. And I think they serve as a beautiful summary statement of the Christian faith. Paul says, Christ Jesus, or Mashiach Yeshua, Jesus the Anointed One. Mashiach would mean the new David, the new king of Israel. One of the earliest texts we have about Mashiach Yeshua, says he was in the form of God. So, though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. But rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. The Son, who's in the form of God, the Son who is divine, empties himself willingly.

But the power of God is expressed precisely in a willingness to empty oneself out of love, taking the form of a slave coming in human likeness. A slave. They knew what slaves were. Who, out of willing love, empties himself and enters into our lowly humanity? But more to that, not becoming a king or a potentate or a rich man, but rather becoming like a slave, like a servant. He humbled himself. God did not deem equality with God a thing to be crass at, but went down, down into our humanity. Yes, even to the point of being a slave. Who is the one becoming obedient? Who's obeying whom here? Well, the son is obeying his father.

From the earliest text we've got about him, what's being discussed is his divinity and how the son obeying the father comes all the way down. How far down? Becoming obedient to the point of death. Well, does he go down any further? Yes, death on a cross. Oh, the cross is a remarkable religious symbol.

When they heard death on a cross, a chill went up their spine. Because they knew exactly what the cross was like. This brutal form of torture unto death. He obediently accepted even death. Let's go down further. Death on a cross.

What's being described to everybody, and how wonderful at Palm Sunday, we come to the culminating point of Lent, and we're reflecting on the passion of Jesus. That's exactly what he's reflecting on too. The downward trajectory of the Son of God.

Why did he go all the way down into our limitation, into our humanity with all of its struggles and so on? Why did he go all the way down into death itself? Yes, even death on a cross. Because he wanted to reach every one of us who had wandered far from the Father. Remember? The one to whom he's obedient is the Father.

Because of this, God—now we're talking about the Father again— because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed upon him the name above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth. And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Now, you see what's going on here? The Father sent the Son all the way down to grasp everyone who'd wandered from the Father. But now in exalting the Son, everyone is brought back to the Father. Put it in later theological language, the Father sent the Son all the way down so that in the Spirit he could gather them back into his life. So that every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. There is Mashiach Yeshua again. Jesus the Anointed One is Lord. What's the purpose of Christian life? It is to find ourselves. Sinners who have wandered far away from God to find ourselves once again brought back to the right praise of the Father. How do we do that? By making Jesus our Lord. Every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

See what's sin is everybody? Sin is wandering from the Father. What did the Father do? Well, he so loved the world that he sent his only Son all the way down, all the way, yes to death, death on a cross, that we might be gathered in the Spirit back to him. So on this Palm Sunday as we meditate on the passion of the Lord, find again the capacity to say to the glory of God the Father that Jesus Christ is Lord. And May God Bless you all.



## 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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