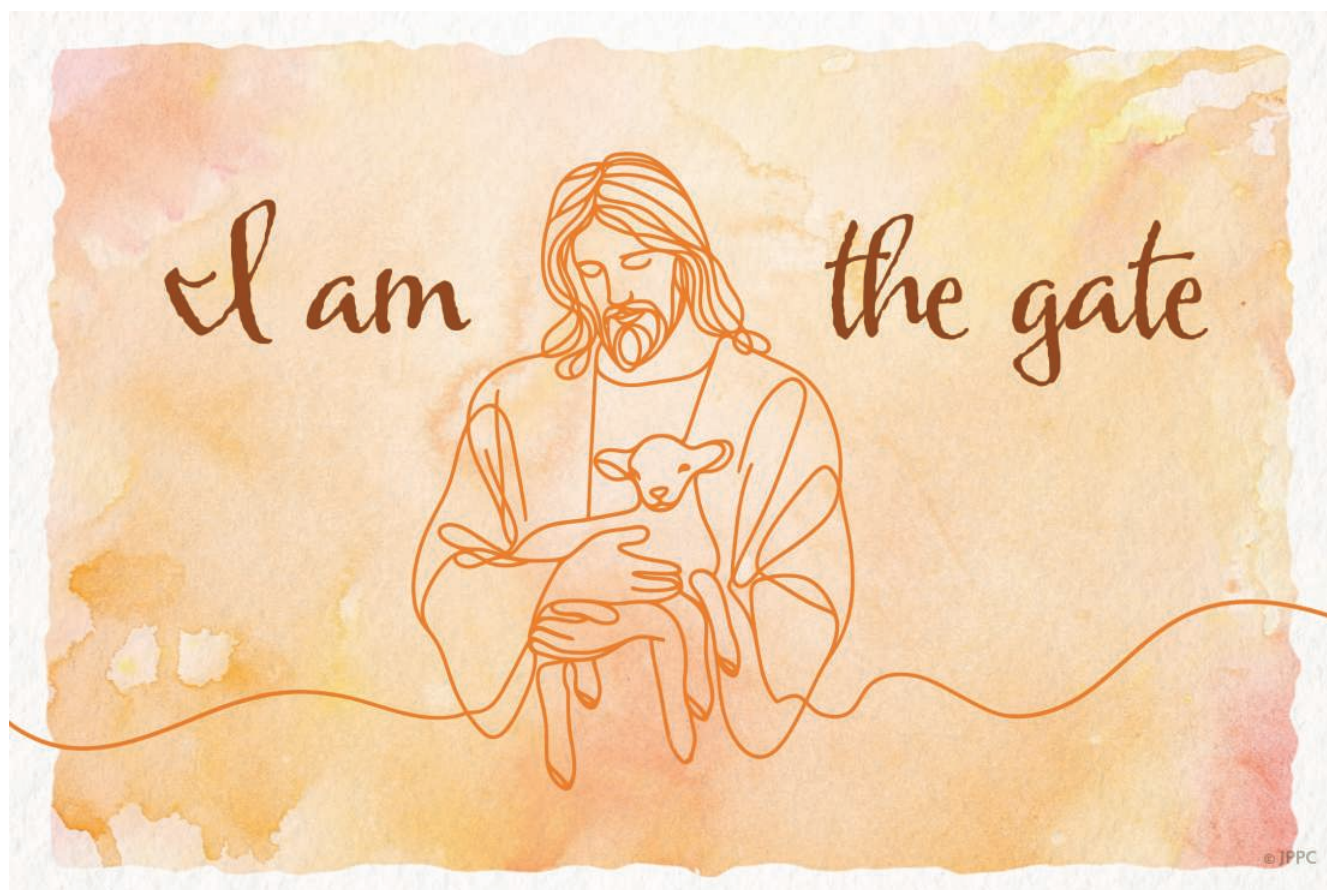


CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



April 26, 2026

Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am
Saturday 4 pm
Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527



Our Parish is Served by:

Reverend Alex Enriquez, Pastor
Deacon Christian Knoebel
Deacon John L. White

We invite you to celebrate with us

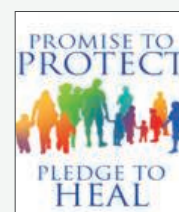
website: www.saintmonica.com
Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Email: parishoffice@saintmonica.com
Fax: (732) 928-1853
Religious Education: 732-928-4038
Email: stmonicacd@yahoo.com

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/)



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - APRIL 26, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 25, 2026

9:00 am Cheryl Vega
(Angela Bellomo)

Sunday, April 26, 2026

9:00 am Kristin Szilagy
(Kate Scott & Bob Maras)

11:00 am Bob Purcell
(Janet & Tom Noordzy)

Monday, April 27, 2026

9:00 am Silvana Fallone
(Gerarda Fallone)

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

9:00 am Prayers of Thanksgiving to St. Monica
(Mei Wong)

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

9:00 am Marie Gould
(The Debiak Family)

Thursday, April 30, 2026

9:00 am Denis Balint's 75th Birthday
(Elaine Manion)

Saturday, May 2, 2026

9:00 am Eleanor H. Hintenach
(Tony & Greta Turner)

Sunday, May 3, 2026

9:00 am Patricia Jedlowski
(The Loftus Family)

11:00 am John Nicoletti
(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, 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, Bernadette VanDerberg, Elizabeth Maras, Charles Thompson, John Catena, Mary Joyce, Kim McCafferty, Janet Noordzy

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 - April 26, 2026

Monday Acts 11:1-18 Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday Acts 12:24—13:5a Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 Jn 12:44-50

Thursday Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 Jn 13:16-20

Friday Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab Jn 14:1-6

Saturday Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn 14:7-14

Sunday Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12

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.

The Diocese of Trenton and the State of New Jersey are taking great steps to keep the Church of St. Monica a safe and pleasant spiritual house of worship. There will be more about this in the coming weeks but implementing these procedures and changes will cost money. To help offset the costs of the **Emergency Operation Plan (EOP)**, there will be a second collection at the masses on the 3rd week of May (May 16-17, 2026). If you would like more information on the EOP see Deacon John or contact the Parish Office.



The youth group is growing. We are changing our meeting time to every **SECOND** Friday of each month at 6:00 pm beginning June 12th in little church. This group is open to all children from 7th-12th grade. Youth groups are interactive, fun, and build lifelong friendships. Come out and join us. Any questions, please contact Theresa Calsetta at 732-299-0261.

The diocese is hosting its annual Youth Mass at Six Flags Great Adventure on May 17th. The admission is **FREE** for season pass holders, includes the rides, food, and a live band for entertainment. See the flyer inside this bulletin. Register early by just scanning the QR code.



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
MARCH 16 – 22, 2026**

Weekly Offerings \$ 2,883.12

Online Giving \$ 1,288.00

Total \$ 4,171.12

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

Mothers Day Remembrances

Don't forget the deadline for your **Mother's Day mass intentions** is coming up very soon. Envelopes are located at each table entrance and can be placed in the collection baskets or submitted to the Parish Office no later than **3:00pm May 6th** to make the bulletin publication.

The youth group will be holding their **Mother's Day Plant sale** after all masses on May 9 and May 10th so show your support to them and mom by purchasing a beautiful hanging basket or small plant. They are very colorful and last all summer long. Cash and checks accepted. Thank you for your support.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - APRIL 26, 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 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 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 a variety of ways. Please contact the parish office for more info.



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, April 25
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, April 26
 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

Monday, April 27
 9:00 am Mass
 4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
 6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, April 28
 9:00 am Mass
 5:30 pm Religious Education Classes
 7:00 pm Legion of Mary

Wednesday, April 29
 9:00 am Mass
 5:00 pm Communion practice
 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, April 30
 9:00 am Mass
 5:00 pm Communion practice
 6:30 pm Knights of Columbus meeting

Saturday, May 2
 10:00 am First Holy Communion
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass (KofC Membership / Donuts)

Sunday, May 3
KofC Membership Drive Donut Sunday
 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

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

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

Wednesday, May 6
 9:00 am Mass
 9:30 am Adoration
 7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, May 7
 9:00 am Mass
 6:30 pm Knights of Columbus meeting

Saturday, May 9
 12:00 pm Our Lady of Fatima Outdoor Rosary
 3:15 pm Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

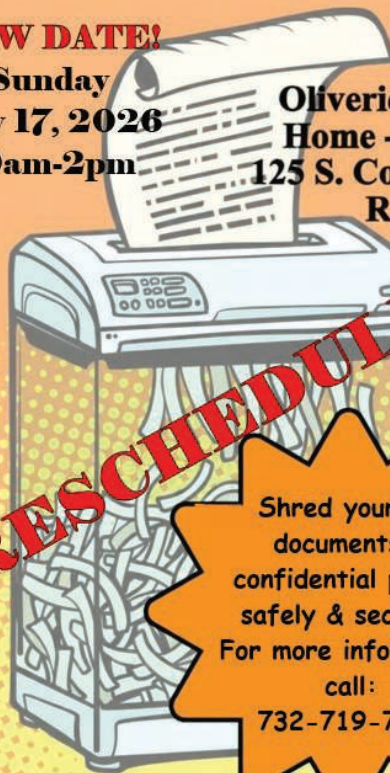
Sunday, May 10
 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

FREE ON-SITE PAPER SHREDDING

NEW DATE!

Sunday
May 17, 2026
10am-2pm

Oliverie Funeral
Home - Jackson
125 S. Cooks Bridge
Road



Shred your old documents & confidential papers safely & securely!
 For more information call:
732-719-7250



The Women's Club at Westlake
Scholarship Program

The Women's Club at Westlake provides scholarships to qualified female residents of Jackson, NJ, who meet any one of the following categories:

- ❖ Currently completing high school and are pursuing higher education or vocational training, OR
- ❖ Currently attending a post high school educational institution, e.g., college, university, professional trade school, technical institute, OR
- ❖ Currently working and planning to enroll in a program to enhance skills or make a career change, OR
- ❖ Currently not working but desiring job training skills or retraining, OR
- ❖ Registered in either public school or vocational school in a continuing education program.

This year we are pleased to offer scholarships of \$1000 each to four deserving young women.

Applications are available at:



Deadline for submission is May 15, 2026.



Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I saw a touching gesture Pope Leo made back on the Feast Day of St. Agnes January 21. He was finishing the blessing of the lambs whose wool would be used to make the pallia (band of wool worn over the vestments of metropolitan archbishops to show their connection to the pope)

The little animals were nestled in baskets festooned with colorful flowers. The pope reached down and gently patted the heads of the little baby animals as they made their bleating noises.

We urban and suburban types do not think of lambs or sheep very much. But the bible does because it comes to us from a simpler time and place. The little we do know about sheep usually describes them as gentle creatures, not given too much display. Responsive to their shepherd in every way.

That is not a generally welcome description of one of us. We prefer to be known as wildly independent, generally sharp-eyed and keenly aware of our position. So, there is a hesitation to accept the command from the Lord to be like sheep before their Shepherd. Are we not better understood as soldiers, or disciples, or missionaries? Perhaps. But there is a dimension to a sheep's behavior that underscores the beautiful virtue of docility. It cuts through any of our outward bravado before the challenges of life in this world that makes us think we're in charge and not God.



This docility, better understood perhaps as willingness or amenability, is a quality we can all strive to develop as followers of Christ and members of His Church.

The same is true when we consider our individual calling, or vocation in life. Today the Church asks us all to pray for vocations to be given to our Church, especially those of the priesthood and the consecrated life. There certainly is a need, and we have a role in fulfilling it. We know that Jesus cares. He will not leave the Church bereft. But we must do our part to pray to Him for the vocations needed. We also need to encourage any young person who expresses an interest in priesthood or religious life. Sheep will always need a shepherd. No AI substitute please.

Sometimes our best efforts fail, and we must accept that and try another. Eight-year-old Billy often said he wanted to be a priest, but he was not very energetic in performing chores about the house. In truth, he was somewhat lazy in his way. One day mom asked him to carry out the garbage. Billy gave his usual protest; "Mom, I'm tired."

Mom gave him a little lecture: "Billy you can't be a priest if you are lazy. Priests must work hard." "I know, I know," replied Billy, "that's why I'm resting now."

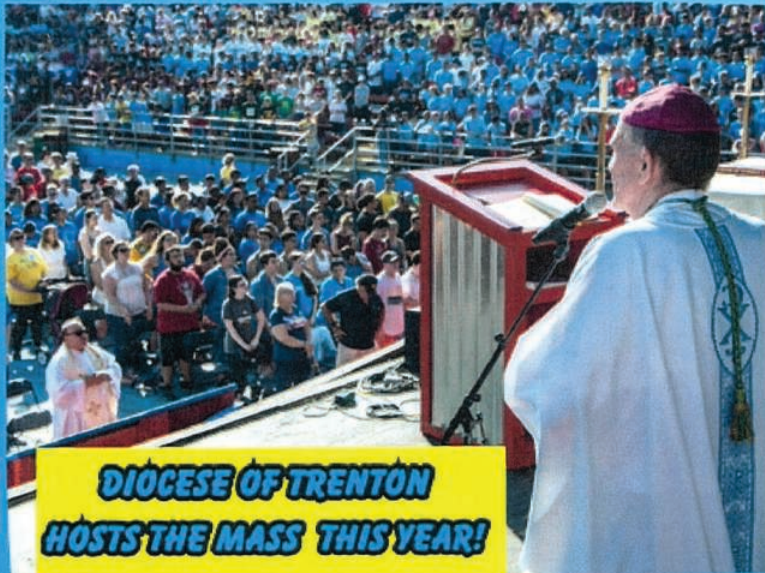
God love you and pray for vocations to the priesthood a consecrated life.



New Jersey
CATHOLIC
 Youth
RALLY at  **Six Flags**
MAY 17, 2026

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INFO Y BOLETOS

INFO & TICKETS



WWW.DIOCESEOFTRENTON.ORG/NJCYR

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - APRIL 26, 2026



Thank you to Fr. Alex and Jeffrey Uchida for the amazing ping pong demonstration held on April 17th. Everyone enjoyed watching your performance and the fellowship with our St. Monica Family. A special shout out to The Bello Family for the use of their ping pong table which allowed for more participation and added to the fun of the event. Congratulations to some of our newly confirmed parishioners who celebrated their achievement with a cake as well! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this event an enjoyable success!



CATHOLIC MEN'S RETREAT

Strengthening the Interior Life: Prayer for the Catholic Man

DATE: Saturday, May 9, 2026
TIME: 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM
LOCATION: St. Joseph-by-the-Sea
 400 NJ-35
 Mantoloking, NJ 08738



St. Joseph-by-the-Sea

WHY ATTEND?

- Find rest and clarity in Christ.
- Strengthening our vocations as husbands, fathers, and sons.
- Integrate prayer into a busy life.

WHAT WE'LL EXPLORE

- The importance of lifting our mind and heart to God.
- Practical methods for daily prayer (including Ignation Examen, Lectio Divina).
- Silent prayer to hear God's voice.
- Living out our Catholic faith in challenging times.
- Brotherhood & Community

COME READY Be honest. Be challenged. Be still.
GOD IS SPEAKING. MAKE TIME TO HEAR HIM.

COST: \$75
Includes Continental breakfast and lunch

REGISTRATION:
Send form and check (payable to 'St. Joseph-by-the-Sea Retreat House') to: St. Al's Men's Group c/o John Juchniewicz, 80 North Hope Chapel Road, Jackson, NJ 08527. For more information call: 732-575-0446

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____

EMAIL: _____



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



ASK AN ATTORNEY


LUNCH & LEARN

June 16, 2026
 11am-1pm
 RSVP by calling 732-657-4900

HOST:
Geri Oliverie

Guest Speaker:
David Nathan of Way Point Legal

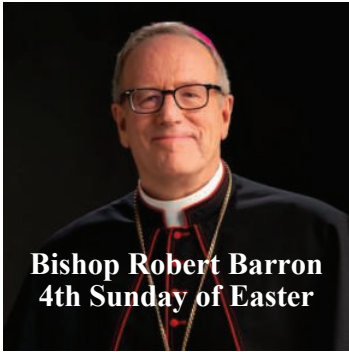
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 732-719-7250 / E. Oliverie, Mgr. NJ Lic#9332



Peace be with you. Friends, on this fourth Sunday of Easter, we have this marvelous, short, but very punchy reading from the Gospel of John with Jesus referring to himself as the Good Shepherd. "Now listen, My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me." The shepherd calls out to the sheep, even though many consider them a dumb animal, but they are able to discern the voice of the shepherd, and the shepherd knows which sheep belong to him. So it was a very apt metaphor for the manner in which God, Christ, reaches out to us, knows us personally, and how we, and this is the part I find really interesting and mysterious, we're able, even though we can be a dumb animal too, let's be honest, but we're able to discern amidst all the competing voices his voice, that that's the one we

are to follow. I say mysterious because, you know, why do we end up following Christ, those of us who do?

Well at some point we found that voice compelling. At some level, we said, hmmm, a lot of voices, I hear a lot of voices, but that's the one I'm gonna follow, and that's the Christian life. Now, the claim of the New Testament is that everybody is meant to follow that voice. I am the Good Shepherd Jesus says, and the will of God is that everyone hears his voice, everyone follows him.

Paul, who, having seen the risen Christ and discerned, yes, indeed, that's the shepherd, having heard his voice, Paul says, I want that voice to go out to the ends of the world. And that's exactly what he's doing here, he's going outside of a Jewish ambit into the Gentile world. That's the church. That's evangelization. That's the whole point of the operation, is to bring people to the voice of the Shepherd.

Now, so here's the question for us today. You say, okay, I get all that, but how do you hear the voice of the Shepherd? I understand there's sheep, and there's the Shepherd literally speaking his voice. I understand even followers of Jesus, and they heard him, but what about us? How do we hear that voice? Well, there are a lot of ways.

You know, through the teaching of the church, through the witness of the saints, through the sacraments, the Eucharist. Through good, compelling preaching. These are all ways that the Shepherd speaks. He uses secondary causes, right, and we hear his voice echoing there. But I wonder if the clearest way that we hear the voice of the Shepherd is through the conscience. The conscience in Thomas Aquinas' language, is to do good and to avoid evil. And the conscience is the voice that directs us.

But there are a lot of skeptics today that say that's just a matter of private opinion. Morality is just kind of a matter of private opinion. But can this be right?

Second theory, you hear this one a lot. It's not so much private opinion, but it's cultural consensus. We say something is wrong because there's kind of a consensus of the culture around a given issue. When we've done something right, isn't it true, we have a very strong sense that we have pleased someone. When we do something wrong, we've got this sense that we have offended someone. Where does that come from? Two places, the objectivity of morality and from the presence of the conscience.

So, can I suggest hearing the voice of the shepherd? I can hear it many ways, but maybe the most primordial, basic, and infallible way that I hear the voice of the shepherd is through the voice of the conscience. Don't suppress it. Don't wish it away.

Don't run from it. Don't cover it up with your addictions and all that. Those are all paths that we sinners take.

Listen to it. Listen to it. Again, listen to the Lord.

My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. The Lord Jesus Christ knows you and his voice echoes in the depth of your soul through the conscience.

Listen to him. Follow him. And God bless you.

St. Veronica's

Pocketbook

BINGO

and Gift Auction

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Doors Open at 5:30pm



Event Begins at 6:00pm

Church of Saint Veronica
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Howell Twp., NJ 07731



\$35 PER TICKET

Limited Seating Available
Entry ticket includes
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Please feel free to bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages.

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No one under the age of 18 permitted. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-800-GAMBLER.

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