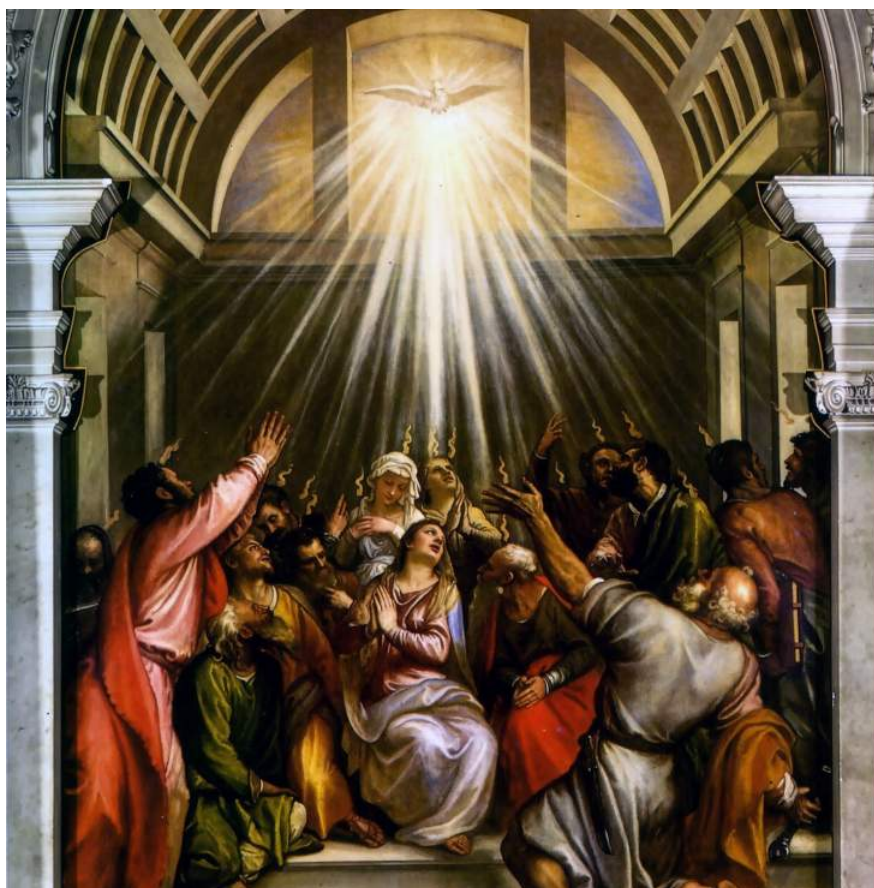


# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



*Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.*

JOHN 20:22-23

© JPPC

## May 24, 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

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## PENTECOST SUNDAY - MAY 24, 2026

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, May 23, 2026

9:00 am Emily & David Santangelo  
(Barbara & Jerry Santangelo)

#### Sunday, May 24, 2026

9:00 am Tony Sasso  
(Emily & Joe DeScenza)

11:00 am Elizabeth Scott & Michael Scott  
(Kate Scott & Janet Noordzy)

#### Monday, May 25, 2026

**Memorial Day - Office Closed**  
**No Masses Scheduled**

#### Tuesday, May 26, 2026

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

#### Wednesday, May 27, 2026

9:00 am Dominick DiGioia  
(Kathleen & Ronald Pascocello & Family)

#### Thursday, May 28, 2026

9:00 am Dee & Danis Balint  
(Deacon John & Caroline White)

#### Saturday, May 30, 2026

9:00 am Frances & Joseph Kopacz  
(Barbara & Jerry Santangelo)

#### Sunday, May 31, 2026

9:00 am Errol W. Frantz  
(The Goldner Family)

11:00 am Daniel Petolino

(Kate Scott & Bob Maras)

### 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, 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 - May 24, 2026

**Monday** Gen 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14 Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7 Jn 19:25-34

**Tuesday** 1 Pt 1:10-16 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Mk 10:28-31

**Wednesday** 1 Pt 1:18-25 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Mk 10:32-45

**Thursday** 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12 Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5 Mk 10:46-52

**Friday** 1 Pt 4:7-13 Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 Mk 11:11-26

**Saturday** Jud 17, 20b-25 Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6 Mk 11:27-33

**Sunday** Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9 Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 2 Cor 13:11-13 Jn 3:16-18

**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  
APRIL 13 – 19, 2026**

Weekly Offerings \$ 3,590.25

Online Giving \$ 1,456.00

Total \$ 5,046.25

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



Please honor our servicemen & women by showing your support this weekend, Members from The American Legion will be selling poppies at each mass this weekend.

The red poppy is a globally recognized symbol of remembrance worn to honor military personnel who have lost their lives in service. On Memorial Day, Americans wear the bright red flower as a tribute to the fallen and to support the veterans and families left behind.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**ST. MONICA PARISH  
FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST 30, 2026**

**PICNIC 12-4PM AFTER**

**11AM OUTDOOR MASS**



## PENTECOST SUNDAY - MAY 24, 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 [jwhite@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:jwhite@dioceseoftrenton.org)

#### *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, May 23**

3:15 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, May 24**

9:00 am Mass  
11:00 am Mass

**Monday, May 25**

**Memorial Day - Parish Offices Closed**  
**No Masses Scheduled**

**Tuesday, May 26**

9:00 am Mass  
7:00 pm Legion of Mary  
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Wednesday, May 27**

9:00 am Mass

**Thursday, May 28**

9:00 am Mass

**Saturday, May 30**

11:00 am Autumn Rieder Baptism  
3:15 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, May 31**

9:00 am Mass  
11:00 am Mass

**Monday, June 1**

9:00 am Mass

**Tuesday, June 2**

9:00 am Mass  
7:00 pm Legion of Mary  
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

**Wednesday, June 3**

9:00 am Mass  
9:30 am Adoration  
11:00 am Memorial Mass

**Thursday, June 4**

9:00 am Mass  
6:00 pm Pre Baptismal Training  
6:30 pm Knights of Columbus meeting

**Saturday, June 6**

3:15 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, June 7**

9:00 am Mass  
11:00 am Mass  
12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Meeting

**Monday, June 8**

9:00 am Mass

SINGING THE VIRTUES OF THE  
BLESSED MOTHER MARY

**A MARIAN CONCERT AND  
FAITH STORY PERFORMANCE**

FEATURING  
**JEANNIE SWEENEY  
JOE MUSCENTE**

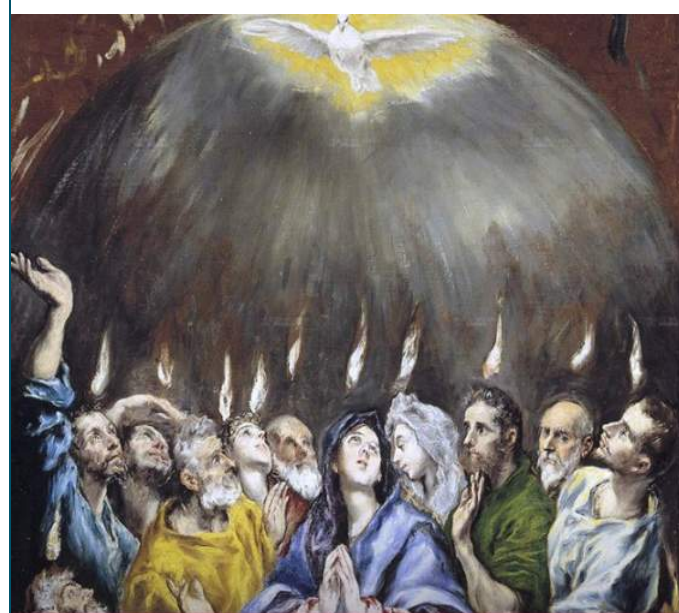
Sunday, June 14th at 2PM

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**Pentecost**

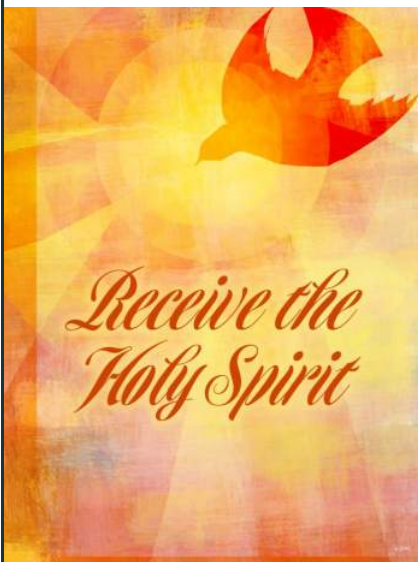
**Come Holy Spirit**

# Reflection

*By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

Every now and then my TV remote takes me to one of those many cooking shows. Given the chef with the right personality working on a dish that intrigues me, I won't hastily move on to another program. I note how these professionals like to highlight the ingredients they are using so that we amateurs will have our taste buds tempted and our minds uplifted with new facts. We might even consider making the dish if not ordering it on our next restaurant outing.

The Holy Spirit is the inspiration for the "meal" which is the Scriptures that feed our appetite for the truth which is the Gospel. Often enough He conjures up a delightful Reading for us, rich in detail. Today's gospel selection is one of the best. It presents that eternally memorable day when the Holy Spirit comes into the special Upper Room with full sound and fury not to frighten the Apostles, our Blessed Mother and the other women gathered but to fill any emptiness in their faith with the delights of truth and beauty, courage and the power to be witnesses for Christ Jesus, risen and with us always.



This Pentecost fulfilled Our Lord's promise that He would send the Spirit to them to enlighten them with the fullness of truth. This in turn will make them the first missionaries of the Church, empowered by new insights and stronger conviction than ever before. The Church, so to speak, will truly "be born" in a setting where all the languages on earth will speak the one great Truth of the Gospel. Praising God with a harmony never heard before.

The even greater joy of this feast is its reminder to us that we are meant to not only possess the Gospel, but also to preach it. To spread its essential truth to the world of 2026, which is so hungry for it, even if it does not know it. Or that it looks everywhere but the right place for it.

Are you ready for the task? Convinced of its truth and its power to liberate? If not, come to this Eucharist today to be fed and energized with the Bread of Heaven and realize it is the best recipe and the greatest meal ever prepared. Be newly aware of your place in God's plan. A place only you have and nobody else. You have been chosen by a God who truly loves you and never gives up on you.

Every Christian occupies some kind of a pulpit and preaches some kind of homily every day. But remember that you can preach a better homily with your life than with your lips.

God love you and give you, His peace.

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