

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



O woman,
great is
your faith!
Let it be done
for you as
you wish.

MATTHEW 15:28

© JPPC

August 16, 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/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)
ParishofStMonica/



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 16, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 15, 2026

4:00 pm Colomba Bina LoCicero
(The LoCicero Family)

4:00 pm John Cannizzo
(Pat Culton)

Sunday, August 16, 2026

9:00 am Jackie Lareau
(Val Smith)

11:00 am Cheryl Vega
(The Anzalone Family)

Monday, August 17, 2026

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w/Eucharist
(No Mass Intentions)

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w/Eucharist
(No Mass Intentions)

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w/Eucharist
(No Mass Intentions)

Thursday, August 20, 2026

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w/Eucharist
(No Mass Intentions)

Saturday, August 22, 2026

4:00 pm Eleanor H. Hintenach
(The Calsetta Family)

4:00 pm Theresa McKeon
(Marge & Julius Libonati)

Sunday, August 23, 2026

9:00 am Reinhold G. Dumschat
(The Goldner Family)

11:00 am Michael Scott
(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, 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, Kim McCafferty, Janet Noordzy, Jennifer Aponte

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 - August 16, 2026

Monday Ez 24:15-23 Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday Ez 28:1-10 Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday Ez 34:1-11 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mt 20:1-16

Thursday Ez 36:23-28 Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 Mt 22:1-14

Friday Ez 37:1-14 Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 22:34-40

Saturday Ez 43:1-7ab Ps 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14 Mt 23:1-12

Sunday Is 22:19-23 Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 Rom 11:33-36 Mt 16:13-20

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.



Check out Deacon John's new Website
www.thedeaconservant.com

SAVE THE DATE!

ST. MONICA PARISH
FESTIVAL

AUGUST 30, 2026

PICNIC 12-4PM AFTER

11AM OUTDOOR MASS

Only 11 AM MASS ON SUNDAY AUGUST 30, 2026



- Wristbands sales will begin next week & continuing after masses
- Adults \$12; Children 2-12 \$3.
- Donations for Tricky Tray, homemade salads or desserts are welcome
- Bring a friend



- Volunteers needed see sign-up sheets in back of church
- DJ, Games, Tricky Tray, raffle and petting zoo

Join in for a day of Fun, Food and Fellowship

Where Everyone Is Family

For further information contact the Parish office 732-928-0279

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS

JULY 11 — JULY 12, 2026

Weekly Offerings \$ 3,090.55

Utility Fund \$ 381.00

Online Giving \$ 1,238.00

Total \$ 4,709.55

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



Many thanks to Cicconi Farms for supplying the many wonderful flowers adorning in and around our church



Missing something in your life? Why not try an hour of serenity, stories and spirituality. The Men's COR Prayer Group just might be for you. We don't sit around and just pray; we watch, listen and learn about the life of figures from long ago. Stories woven expertly from the teachings of Deacon John White. You will not be disappointed and you will leave enlightened and invigorated and refreshed for more. Next meeting is **Wednesday, August 19th at 7:00pm.**

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 16, 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. During the summer meetings are at St. Monica every Tuesday at 5:30 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, August 15

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, August 16

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

Monday, August 17

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w/Eucharist

Tuesday, August 18

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w/Eucharist

5:30 pm Legion of Mary

7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Wednesday, August 19

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w/Eucharist

7:00 pm Men's COR Prayer Group

Thursday, August 20

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word w/Eucharist

Saturday, August 22

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass (Special Prep Reconciliation)

Sunday, August 23

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass (Special Prep Eucharist)

Monday, August 24

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, August 25

9:00 am Mass

5:30 pm Legion of Mary

7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Wednesday, August 26

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, August 27

9:00 am Mass

6:30 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Saturday, August 29

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, August 30

Parish Festival—No 9:00am mass

11:00 am Outdoor Mass & Picnic

Monday, August 31

9:00 am Mass

6:00 pm Religious Ed Teacher Meeting

Tuesday, September 1

9:00 am Mass

5:30 pm Legion of Mary

7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 2

9:00 am Mass

9:30 am Adoration

Thursday, September 3

9:00 am Mass

Grief Support Group

*A Journey From
Grieving to Healing*

**Program Intro
September 13th,
2026**

**At 12:15 pm
Main Church**



Weekly Support Group Fall Session Begins

Sept 19th - Nov 14th 2026 (9 weeks)

On Saturdays at 10 am in Little Church

To Register Call Parish Office 732-928-0279

or email – parishoffice@saintmonica.com

Or sign-up sheets in the back of the church

Church of St. Monica

679 W Veterans Hwy, Jackson, NJ 08527



Volunteers Make a Difference!

**PARENT & STUDENT
VOLUNTEERS
Needed!**

**FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
MONDAY & TUESDAY EVENINGS**



WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH:



STUDENT DISMISSAL

Help ensure a safe and smooth dismissal at the end of classes.



BREAK DOWN TABLES & CHAIRS

Assist on Tuesday evenings after classes in preparation for Sunday Mass.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

Help support a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for our students.



Your time and support help ensure that our program runs smoothly and that our students have a safe, welcoming environment in which to grow in their faith.



*Calling All
GRADES 7 & 8
STUDENTS!*



- ✓ Join our **YOUTH GROUP** which meets once a month!
- ✓ Help set up and break down tables and chairs on Tuesday nights.
- ✓ Volunteer for our **ST. MONICA DAY FESTIVAL** Sunday, August 30, 2026!

These opportunities are a wonderful way to serve our parish community, and all volunteer service may be counted toward their **MERCY HOURS**.



WE NEED YOU!

A volunteer sign-up sheet for all 3 opportunities will be available at the back of the church.

We encourage our parents and students to participate and share their gifts through service.



If you are willing to volunteer or would like more information, please contact me as soon as possible so I can add you to our volunteer list.

Thank you for your generosity and willingness to serve our parish community! Your support makes a meaningful difference.

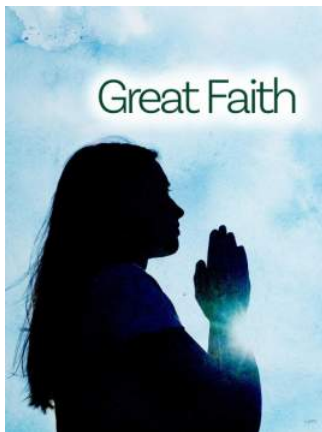
May God bless you and your family!

Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The type of person I want to focus on is one you already know. He or she may have gone to elementary school with you. Or was your college roommate? It may be a professional colleague or a fellow parishioner. Or an admired sports hero or a well-known religious leader. Or an honored figure in the world of music or other entertainment. Or one who lives in a foreign country. Or who lives next door. I refer to a person whom you believe to be ever humble.

Consistent with our assessment, this person never seeks the spotlight. They know themselves. Their true colors show especially when they take a courageous public stance. Consider, if you will, the unnamed Canaanite woman who has wound up in today's excerpt from St. Matthew's gospel.



She has a daughter with a serious health problem. As a pagan she has undoubtedly heard the stories of the traveling young Hebrew rabbi named Jesus, and the marvelous curing miracles He has worked. She may have thought to herself: "He might turn me away since I'm a Gentile. But I must try something to help my child." So, she cries out when Jesus drew near her "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!" Giving Jesus those twin titles is itself a tribute to Him.

Jesus' first reaction is silence. The Apostles' first reaction is to chase a pest. Then Jesus speaks and tells the woman that His mission is "limited to Israel. I cannot throw food meant for children to dogs." Then in a response replete with humility she tells Him "Even dogs eat the scraps fallen from the table" Jesus admires her pluck, her very faith in Him and above all her humility. He heals the woman's daughter immediately.

We learn two truths from this episode. First, the unlimited scope of Christ's earthly mission. It is not for one group, but for all who will listen and accept the truth about God's kingdom. Secondly, we learn the power of humble faith.

A common practice for lots of people is to take "the path of least resistance." Rivers do that. They always travel around a mountain because it is easier than going through one.

Frequently we are like that river. It is easier to sit scrolling through our smartphone getting angry rather than putting the phone down to care for a neighbor's needs. It is easier to get angry at one's mate and let that anger diminish with time rather than to sit down and work out the problem.

But there is one difference between ourselves and that river. It will never have to render an account of what it has done. But we will. Obviously, the better choice in life is to be humble and take the path of persistence. Just ask a certain Canaanite woman.

God love you and give you His peace.



Bishop Robert Barron
20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Peace be with you. Friends, the gospel for today is one that has puzzled and fascinated Christians up and down for centuries. It's the story of the Canaanite woman who asked Jesus for a favor and then is put off by him, and frustrated by his lack of response. Remember how it begins? Behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, have pity on me, Lord, son of David. My daughter is tormented by a demon. Now, normally Jesus responds to this kind of request. But instead Jesus did not say a word in answer to her and in fact doesn't respond to her at all. The disciples get in on the act and asked him, send her away for she keeps calling out after us. And he says, I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. But she persists. She came and did Jesus' homage saying, Lord, help me. She kneels down, and begs, Lord, please help my daughter. Very unlike Jesus He said in reply, it's not right to take

the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Then she has that great comeback. It's one of the great one-liners in world literature. She said, please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters. That's wonderful, isn't it? She'd been put off three times. Imagine how frustrated she must have felt. Imagine how almost any one of us would just have given up. Then Jesus says in reply, Oh woman, great is your faith. Let it be done for you as you wish. And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

Okay, strange story, isn't it? First of all, Jesus seems to be so out of character here. Why is he acting this way? Then we see this woman, she's so persistent. And we see this very human side of him that he's a little bit fed up with this woman and doesn't respond.

Well, at first, I didn't know how to preach about this. But Jesus is testing her faith. Jesus, by his silence, by his reticence, even by his sharp words, is testing her faith. Now, why don't we like that language? Well, it sounds a bit capricious and arbitrary, doesn't it? And here's this powerful figure, and he's playing with her, kind of like a cat playing with a mouse.

Let's think about this theme of the Lord testing us. Because I think the more you look at the Bible, the more you find this theme on display. The most famous case is in the book of Genesis. Abraham's faith is tested rather harshly. "Abraham, 'yes, Lord, here I am'. I want you to sacrifice to me your own son." And then they come to that climactic moment where he ties Isaac to the altar, and then he lifts the knife only to be stopped by the angel. Where else do we see it? With Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. Jacob spends a whole night wrestling with an angel, and in fact, is permanently injured in the fight. He walks with a limp the rest of his life. God, wrestles with him, testing him, awakening something in him.

Joseph, Abraham's great-grandson spends seven years in an Egyptian prison testing his faith, his fidelity is being tried as gold is tried in the fire, the Bible says.

Maybe the most terrible example, though, is Job. God says, there's my servant, Job. How good he is. How faithful, how loyal he is to me. Satan says, well, sure, of course he is. Let me have Adam. Let me take away his health, family and wealth. And I bet he'll curse you. And so God says, off you go, to test him. And remember, the devil does his worst. Job is stripped of everything, and yet maintains his fidelity. He was tried by the Lord. Do we find these examples just as off-putting as the one from the Gospel today? Do we say, well, what kind of God do we have? This God who plays with us, tries us capriciously. Is our natural response God don't play with us? But think about it, it appears that God does test those who are close to him. Why? John Henry Newman said this, "things do by opposition grow." Try them, test them, make it hard for them. Only that way will you test to see whether faith is really strong, whether desire is strong, and then motivate them. If you've talked to novice masters in monasteries, their purpose is to make life difficult for those young monks. Try them, test them, give them something to press against, and it brings out powers they never knew they had.

So I'm sure you see my point. Why should our relationship with God be any different? Why is it so puzzling that God would test us, would at times try something so strong to press against us? How does Jesus deal with this woman. Is he being difficult with her capriciously? No. Is it because he had a bad day at work? No. It seems to me this is the divine master doing what he always does, finding someone who has faith. Yes, she's come to him asking this favor, but now he's giving her something hard to press against, his own silence, his own reticence. And if her faith was weak, she'd just walk away. But no, in the struggle with him, the faith comes out stronger and stronger. She cries out, and finally that beautiful line of hers, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the master's table. When Jesus becomes just one more little interesting prophetic figure among many, forget it. We are going to go under the waves. But see, when we trust in his divinity and his power, we do him homage. Well, that's born of a very deep and a very powerful faith. How come God doesn't give me what I want when I want it? How come he seems silent sometimes? Maybe he's giving my faith something hard to press against, something hard to resist, because in that very trial, in that very struggle, my faith becomes stronger and stronger and stronger. And may God bless you all.



ST. MONICA'S OCIA

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

FOR TEENS & ADULTS



Are you interested in
becoming Catholic?



Have you been baptized
but have not received
the Sacraments of
Confirmation or
Holy Eucharist?



Join us as we explore
the Catholic faith
together.

*All Are
Welcome!* 



THE OCIA JOURNEY



DISCOVER
FAITH



GROW IN
UNDERSTANDING



BELONG TO A
FAITH COMMUNITY



CELEBRATE
THE SACRAMENTS

"I have called you by name, you are mine."

— Isaiah 43:1

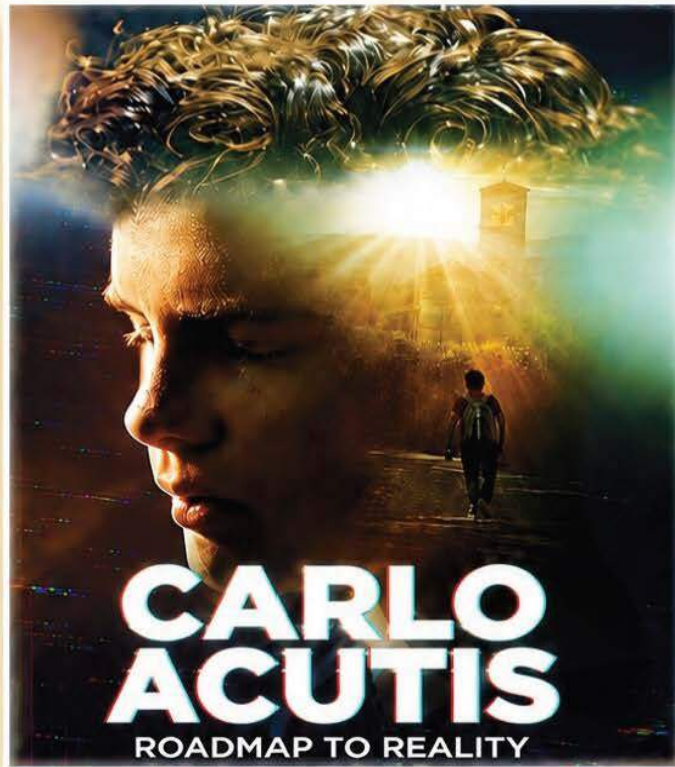


For more information,
CONTACT DEACON JOHN

Come and See • Ask Questions • Find Your Faith • Take the Next Step



∞ The Parish of ∞
Our Lady of Guadalupe
— PRESENTS —



Carlo Acutis – Roadmap to Reality

\$15
each ticket

Subtitles in Spanish

Friday, September 25, 2026

Lakewood Strand Theater

400 Clifton Ave., Lakewood

Movie begins at **7:00 PM**

Doors open at **6:00 PM**

Concessions and drinks available



RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

<https://gowatchcredo.com/events/ur8biqt8ogd5fxtvr2xi0orm>

More Information, call 732-363-0139



Offerings at Francis House of Prayer
 Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House
 84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501609-877-0509
 or FHOP@verizon.net

IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM

A MARY DAY

COUNTING ON HER INTERCESSION

Tuesday, September 8 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

We begin our one-day programs this year with Mary, the mother of Jesus. As we celebrate the feast of her birth today, let us call on Mary, our mother, for all our needs. We all need a mother sometimes. Bring all your intentions. She will take us, with our intentions to her Son, and he in turn will take us to God. This is a very powerful prayer of intercession. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

POPE LEO'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CHURCH

GETTING TO KNOW HIS HEART AND SOUL

Wednesday, September 9 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

We begin our Fall semester listening to a short summary of Pope Leo's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, (*Magnificent Humanity*). Often we get to know a person's heart best by reading his words. What is in Pope Leo's heart as he writes to us, all of us? Do you have time to come and listen to his message? It is easier in a group. Donation: \$25, includes materials.

IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM – PLEASE PURCHASE YOUR BOOKS

MONTHLY SERIES

ZOOM ONLY

FOR 12-STEPPERS EVERYWHERE

HINDS' FEET ON HIGH PLACES

9 Thursdays 7:00 – 8:00 PM

September 10	December 10	March 11
October 8	January 14	April 8
November 12	February 11	May 6

Hinds' Feet on High Places is a story of endurance, persistence, and reliance on God. This book has inspired millions to become sure-footed in their faith, even when facing the rockiest terrain. This beloved classic simplifies and captures the mystical journey in its entirety. This is a book you will never forget! Donation: \$150

FRIDAY MORNING RETREAT

9 Fridays 9:15 AM – Noon

September 11	December 4	March 5
October 9	January 8	April 2
November 6	February 5	May 7

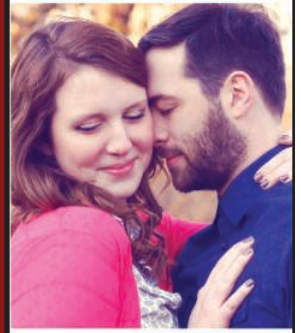
Essentially this is a morning set apart for God and you. Prayer provides perspective and so will our reading of *Learning to Pray* by James Martin, SJ. If you hunger for good reading, nourishing prayer and a sense of belonging to a community, come to these Friday mornings. We arrive distracted and frazzled and leave centered and refreshed. Donation: \$250

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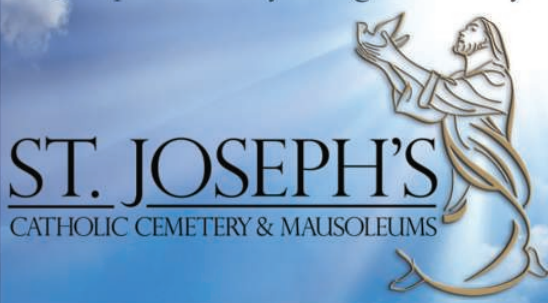
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**980 Bennetts Mills Rd.
Jackson, NJ**

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Toms River, NJ 08753
Deacon Christopher Buono, Mgr.
732-244-3008

stjosephcemeterytr.org/cemetery



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