

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



August 30, 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/



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 30, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 29, 2026

4:00 pm Rose N. Cecere
(The Borrello Family)

4:00 pm John Cannizzo
(Patty & Gary Letual)

Sunday, August 30, 2026

11:00 am Michael Scott
(Maryanne & Jon Tvaroha)

11:00 am Robert Sanders
(The Myhal Family)

Monday, August 31, 2026

9:00 am Gus Anderson
(The Piacentino Family)

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

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

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

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

9:00 am Noreen Frank
(Deacon John White)

Thursday, September 3, 2026

9:00 am Jennie D'Angelo
(Deacon John White)

Saturday, September 5, 2026

4:00 pm Father Joseph Manapuram
(The Vada Kara Family)

4:00 pm Simon & Mary Vada Kara
(The Vada Kara Family)

Sunday, September 6, 2026

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone
(Gerarda Fallone)

11:00 am All Bulletin Prayer Intentions
(Thoughts & Prayers from the
Women of Saint Monica)

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, John Catena, Stevie Borrello

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 30, 2026

Monday 1 Cor 2:1-5 Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday 1 Cor 2:10b-16 Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday 1 Cor 3:1-9 Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 Lk 4:38-44

Thursday 1 Cor 3:18-23 Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 5:1-11

Friday 1 Cor 4:1-5 Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 Lk 5:33-39

Saturday 1 Cor 4:6b-15 Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 Lk 6:1-5

Sunday Ez 33:7-9 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Rom 13:8-10 Mt 18:15-20

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

ST. MONICA PARISH
FESTIVAL

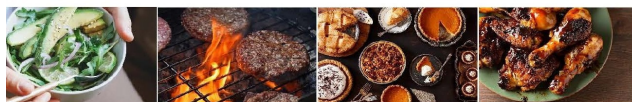
AUGUST 30, 2026

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 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



Congratulations to the winners of this year's Knights of Columbus Deacon Mike Principato Scholarship. Taking 1st place in the college entry is **Emily Norcia**, 2nd place went to **Mia Castellano** and 3rd place was awarded to **Cooper Charzewski**. Honorable mention to **Graci Bello** who came in 4th with 1 point separating 3rd and 4th place. We appropriately had a tie for our High School award with winners being twins **Mason and Sawyer Cuntala**,

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS JULY 25 — JULY 26, 2026

Weekly Offerings \$ 2,873.00

Online Giving \$ 1,468.00

Total \$ 4,341.00

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

Remember you can drop off your new or gently used baby essentials in the box located in the church for First Breath Initiative.



They will see that they get a new happy home.

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

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, Sept 16th at 7:00pm.**

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 30, 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 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

11:00 am Jean Albrecht Funeral

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

Saturday, September 5

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 6

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Meeting

Monday, September 7

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, September 8

9:00 am Mass

5:30 pm Legion of Mary

7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 9

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, September 10

9:00 am Mass

6:30 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Saturday, September 12

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 13

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

12:15 pm Grief Support Introduction

Monday, September 14

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, September 15

9:00 am Mass

5:30 pm Legion of Mary

7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 16

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**

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!**"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



Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

We have for our late summer reflection today a section of Matthew's gospel that could well be subtitled "Truth or Consequences." How so? Jesus first predicts His future suffering, death, and resurrection. Then Peter, in his usual brash way, rushes in to persuade the Master to change His plan. Jesus then promptly puts him in his place by calling Peter "Satan" for his brash idea.

By now, the rest of the Apostles who had watched all this must have been a bit "gobsmacked," as we might say, by what Jesus said next. He declared that the only way of life for His followers would necessarily be one of self-denial and suffering. That was a lot to take in. After all, had they not been eyewitnesses to signs and wonders Jesus had produced to help so many needy people? What is this talk of opting for pain? Our Lord clearly wanted His young volunteers to know exactly what they were in for



Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

MATTHEW 16:24

when they "signed up" to join their lives to His. They would not be offered the luxury of ignorance. During the prolonged wait for my necessary spinal surgery, with setbacks and frustration galore none of my doing, I began to think I was living in a cheap scare novel. But at least I had the good sense to ask the various medical professionals to be as explicit as their ethics allowed. No holding back from the truth of my condition. Of course, I often got to hear what I would not like to hear.

We can suppose that the Apostles may have bought into the popular idea that the Messiah was to be a bold warrior who would lead Israel in a revolt against Rome and triumph over tyranny for bright days of glory. Jesus gave them some "shock and awe" they needed.

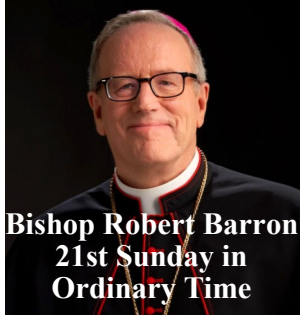
It is the same for anyone who is introduced into Christianity with all its positives. Or even we long-time believers can substitute daydreams for reality here below. We can be lulled into the belief that Christian living is not so difficult after all. Just go to Mass on Sunday (unless it's inconvenient). Keep the basic rules of behavior in between. Oh, and say your prayers. Other than that, don't make waves and do what everybody else does.

Not so! We're talking here about a serious commitment to the person Jesus Christ, and everything He stood for. Everything! And unless you've been vacationing on Venus for a while, you know that puts you and me at odds with a nearly pagan culture, with its own gods and false ideas it says are "good."

To take one of many examples, there is the widely held belief that killing a child in the womb is perfectly right and just. Another contradiction of Christ is the decision some people make that God was mistaken when He created them.

Allow me to close by using an image from ski season about how to best live as a Christian that I came across: "There are three ways in which a skier can get to the top of the ski slope. He or she can try to walk up on their own or be pulled up as he or she holds on to a strap, or they can ride up in the chair lift. This illustration depicts the various ways Christians try to live the Christian life. Some try completely using their own strength; others try to combine their own effort with some degree of dependence on God. But the only true way to ultimate victory and peace in every situation is total dependence on the Holy Spirit.

God love you and give you that peace.



Bishop Robert Barron
21st Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Peace be with you. Friends, whenever I have the chance, I love to preach on the prophet Jeremiah, and our first reading for this weekend is from the 20th chapter of Jeremiah. There's obviously in Jeremiah so much of spiritual wisdom and all of that, but more than any of the other prophets, we come to know him and his personality comes through. He's majestic and deeply wise and afraid and angry and frustrated. You see the whole range of emotion. The scholars guess he might have been just 15 or 16 when he was called and Jeremiah says, look, Lord, I'm just too young. Believe me, you don't want me. And God says, don't say you're too young. You know, I have chosen you. And then the Lord gives him this terrible burden. You're going to announce wonderful good news. And because of it, you're going to be the most popular person in Israel. On the contrary, he's given a terrible message to deliver, which is Israel is going to fall under God's judgment.

God's going to use the Babylonians to punish Israel for its infidelity, its idolatry, its mistreatment of the poor. And there's no escaping it. That all they can do, really, is accept this judgment, surrender to this foreign invader, and accept their exile and defeat. Did that message make him popular? No. On the contrary. Everyone hated Jeremiah. The threat of Babylon, yes, that God told him to announce, but also the terror coming from his contemporaries who were so angry with his message. Moreover, they didn't listen to him. They persecute him. They throw him down in the cisterns. And we don't know this for sure, but very likely he was put to death by his own people.

Listen to the opening line of our passage for this weekend. "You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped. You were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All the day I'm an object of laughter. Everyone mocks me." So this is not someone who is standing serenely in the presence of God, offering a simple word of praise to the Most High. This is someone saying, look, I was taken advantage of here. You gave me this terrible burden, and now I'm bearing it, and everybody hates me. Listen as he goes on. "Whenever I speak, I must cry out. Violence and outrage is my message. . The word of the Lord has brought me derision and reproach all the day." Right.

I've been doing this preaching work on the Internet. And, you know, it's wonderful. And yes, you reach all kinds of people in great ways. But let's admit it. The Western culture today is not exactly open to religion, is pretty skeptical and critical of religion. You'll start feeling like Jeremiah pretty quickly, seems to me. Try urging that everybody—black, Hispanic, Asian, immigrant, Muslim, gay—everybody should be cherished and respected. Try saying that in every quarter of our society today, which is, you know, basic to a biblical perspective. At the same time, try saying to people who are completely bent on the ideology of self-creation that you've got certain moral responsibilities, that there's a structure to your moral and sexual life that has to be respected. Try saying that in the public forum. Good luck.

The word of the Lord has brought me derision and reproach all the day. I mean, self-pitying, maybe a little bit, but not far from the truth. Well, in a way, yes. I'm trying to move into the space of Jeremiah because that's where he lived. He didn't live in a space of success.

So therefore we give up. No. And here now is the last and in some ways most important part of this message. "So I say to myself, I will not mention him. I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. I grow weary holding it in. I cannot endure it." Terrific. This is now the other side of a Jeremiah experience. Through all of the negativity, he's completely upfront about it. Doesn't hide it. Doesn't dissemble. Doesn't pretend it's not there. No, no, no. He fully acknowledges that.

And you can hear it. He's tempted to say, I give up. I've had it. It's too much criticism. I think anyone who's been involved in preaching and teaching in a public way has felt that. Jeremiah continues, "I just want to withdraw. But then it becomes like a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. I grow weary holding it in. I cannot endure it." What's the Word of God like? It's like this fire. The prophets often use that image of the consuming the scroll of the Word of God. And it's like honey in the mouth. It's the sweetness of the Word of God. And there is something about it. You know, everybody, when you turn to the Scriptures, you take in this Word, which I know, I know is often deeply challenging, but you can't resist it. That's Jeremiah too. How could I keep this in? It's like a fire in me. Well, that's the space, everybody, that all prophets have to move into.

Every single one of you is baptized a prophet. What's it going to be like? Look, I don't want that responsibility, Lord. Well, all right. That's Jeremiah. Terror on every side? Yeah, expect it, especially today when you announce the Word of God, expect a lot of opposition. But then it won't let you go. If you let the Word of God deep into your heart and your mind and into your body, it will not let you go. It becomes a fire burning within you, and you cannot contain it. You will say, woe to me if I do not evangelize. So there you are, everybody. Read this section again, chapter 20 of Jeremiah. And it's like all the texture of being a prophet is on display. All the emotion and experience of being a prophet. Profit from his experience and become yourself a great prophet. And may God bless you all.

DIOCESAN MASS OF REMEMBRANCE



CELEBRATED BY

BISHOP DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.,

ON THE **25TH ANNIVERSARY**
OF THE ATTACKS OF
SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001

*Please join us as
we pray for the
souls of the victims
and their families.*

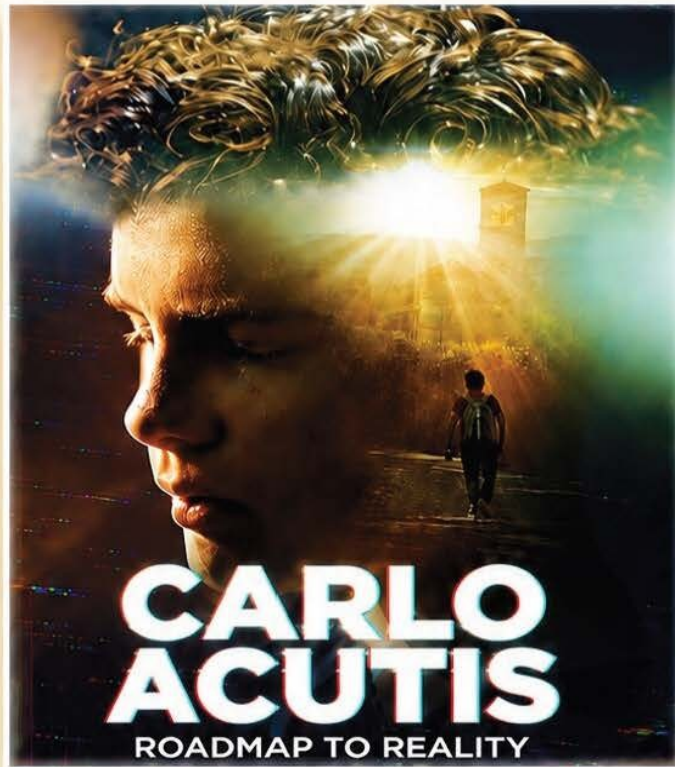
FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2026
@ 7 P.M.

ST. MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
CHURCH, MIDDLETOWN

Mass will be livestreamed on the diocesan YouTube channel at
www.youtube.com/trentondiocese.

Bishop O'Connell extends an invitation to all priests and deacons
of the Diocese to participate.

∞ 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



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More Information, call 732-363-0139



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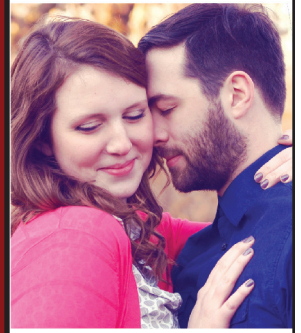
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