

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA

Generosity



September 20, 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
Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Email: 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/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)
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25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 19, 2026

4:00 pm Anthony Perrelli
(Vivian Perrelli)

Sunday, September 20, 2026

9:00 am Dominic DiGioia
(Stephanie Kujowski)

11:00 am Charlotte Marano
(The Bereavement Ministry)

11:00 am Gertrude Sokolowsky
(Kate Scott)

Monday, September 21, 2026

9:00 am John Ducas
(The Piacentino Family)

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

9:00 am Steve Thurber
(The Piacentino Family)

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

9:00 am Helen Nichta
(Joyce Cladek)

9:00 am Rosanne Borrello
(Ron Borrello & Joyce Cladek)

Thursday, September 24, 2026

9:00 am Attilio Mariani
(The Bereavement Ministry)

Saturday, September 26, 2026

4:00 pm Michael Carroll
(Andrew and Jean Myhal)

Sunday, September 27, 2026

9:00 am Dominic DiGioia
(Stephanie Kujowski)

11:00 am Frank Durkin
(Patricia Durkin)

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, 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 – September 20, 2026

Monday Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 / Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5 / Matthew 9:9-13

Tuesday Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13 / Psalms 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44 / Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday Proverbs 30:5-9 / Psalms 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 / Luke 9:1-6

Thursday Ecclesiastes 1:2-11 / Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc / Luke 9:7-9

Friday Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 / Psalms 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4 / Luke 9:18-22

Saturday Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8 / Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 / Luke 9:43b-45

Sunday Ezekiel 18:25-28 / Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 / Philippians 2:1-11 or Philippians 2:1-5 / Matthew 21:28-32

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.

Buon Appetito!

**ITALIAN DINNER at St. Monica**

October 11, 2026 2pm

Adult \$15.00

Children 6-10 \$5.00

Children 5 and under free

Menu

Spaghetti & Meatball

Sausage Pepper onions

Lasagna

Penne vodka

Antipasto

Salad

Apple Cobbler

Coffee/ Cold Drinks

Proceeds for 2027 Missals

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS

AUG 8 — AUG 9, 2026

Weekly Offerings \$ 2,904.00

Online Giving \$ 1,418.00

Total \$ 4,322.00

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



COR
Men's Prayer Group
 3rd Wednesday of Each Month
 7:00pm in Little Church

PRAYER
FELLOWSHIP
FRATERNITY

Drawing into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through

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, Oct 21st at 7:00pm.**

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 20, 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 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 dcjohnw@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



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, September 19

10:00 am Grief Support Group (Little Church)
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 20

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
1:00 pm Toy Story 5 Movie (Main Church)

Monday, September 21

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, September 22

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Legion of Mary
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 23

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, September 24

9:00 am Mass
10:00 am Andy J. Sabine Funeral
6:30 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Saturday, September 26

10:00 am Grief Support Group (Little Church)
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, September 27

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

Monday, September 28

9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Education
5:45 pm Religious Education

Tuesday, September 29

9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Education
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice
7:15 pm Legion of Mary

Wednesday, September 30

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, October 1

9:00 am Mass
6:00 pm Pre-Baptism training

Saturday, October 3

10:00 am Grief Support Group (Little Church)
11:00 am Pergola Dedication (Prayer Garden)
3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, October 4

9:00 am Mass
11:00 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
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
St. Monica's Legion of Mary,
Mystical Rose,
is excited to invite our entire parish to join us
for a beautiful and special celebration
honoring Our Lady of Fatima.

Rosary Crusade
of Our Lady of Fatima

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
12:00 - 1:00 PM

We invite you to come together as a parish family in faith and prayer as we pray the Holy Rosary together, asking for Our Lady's intercession for our families, our parish, and peace throughout the world.

Our Lady of Fatima reminds us:
"Pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world."

We would love for our Religious Education students and families to take an active part in this beautiful devotion. If you, your child, or your family would like to lead one decade of the Rosary, please sign up with our DRE, Mrs. Azzollini.

All students and families in Grades 1-8 are encouraged to attend! Let us come together as one faith community to honor our Blessed Mother and teach our children the importance and power of prayer.

We look forward to sharing this beautiful time of faith, family, prayer, and fellowship with all of you!

May Our Lady of Fatima pray for us, intercede for our families, and guide us always.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PRAY FOR US

PRAY TOGETHER AS A PARISH FAMILY

FAITH + FAMILY + PRAYER + TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Per usual, I prayed to the Holy Spirit on the bright June day for an introductory metaphor for today's Gospel. What He gave me will sound strange, but, of all things, He gave me to imagine "The Hope Diamond." In case you don't know it, you can actually see this large and storied gem at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., well-lit and behind thick safety glass. This last is just in case you were tempted.

Its story includes the fact that King Louis XIV of France once wore the large blue-tinted gem on a ribbon around his neck. Much later, an American heiress once had it set in a diamond necklace. You can have the fun of learning more.



For my purpose here, I want to make a comparison of this unique gem with the dazzling generosity of God. Perhaps that's why the Holy Spirit did what He did. This quality of God is beautiful beyond any description I might use for a gemstone. The jewel, after all, is just a creature. We are to focus on a beautiful aspect of our Creator.

The Scriptures tell us of the Lord's generosity in several ways, but today we can focus on how He instructed the Hebrew people to drop their prejudice and include the Gentile peoples in the embrace of the Covenant that He first made with them. His decision must have caught most Jews by surprise. We know that many of them contested it.

In today's "Parable of the Hired Workers," the workers represent such Jews when they ask, "Is it fair that the same wage we earned be given to latecomers?" You see, among other things, they had to learn that God's decisions, especially those made with generosity, surpass human ways of thinking. Just think about that in the context of Judgment Day. Wouldn't we all want God to be generous?

Meanwhile, it will be our personal generosity that is looked at on that awful Day as a major component of God's decision about our future. But even here and now, we have no reason to panic. We should, however, take a healthy Sunday pause to consider our current lifestyle from the perspective of generosity. Let the truth hurt if it does.

Over my long wait for the necessary surgery to finally happen and relieve me of chronic pain, I was the recipient of so much generosity that I will never forget it, especially the prayers. (Many of you readers and hearers did this, I know.)

So be generous, my friends, and stay that way. A generous God is watching us. Bid Him to smile in appreciation of your diamond-like generosity and the gift of hope it brings.

Here's a closing thought: "He who gives only when he is asked has waited too long." — E. C. McKenzie

PANEL PRESENTATION

Exploring the Advantages of
Resources in Our Community



TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 29
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM



THE WISTERIA BALLROOM
125 S. Cooks Bridge Rd.
Jackson, NJ



LIGHT LUNCH
WILL BE SERVED

MEET OUR PANELISTS



GERI –
OLIVERIE FUNERAL HOME

Educating on the value of preplanning
and having your wishes written down



BARBARA – KELLER WILLIAMS

Educating on the benefits of using a
Senior Real Estate Specialist when moving



MELISSA –
AFFINITY CARE

Educating on the value of the hospice
benefit through Medicare



LAURIE –
OFFICE OF SENIOR SERVICES

Educating and providing information
& assistance for programs & services
available



KATE –
GUIDING HANDS

Educating families & facilities on how to
navigate care options, resources,
transitions with confidence



TARA –
CARE ONE

Educating on the true value of
assisted living and specialized
memory care.



RSVP:
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We look forward
TO SEEING YOU!





St. Monica's RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FAITH ♥ FAMILY ♥ FORMATION ♥ A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



Just a Reminder...

FOR OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENTS

Stay Informed ♥ Stay Connected ♥ Walk Together in Faith



Our primary communication with you will be through the **Parish Giving email address.**

All information regarding Religious Education will be sent via email.

The subject line in the email will always say

"St. Monica's Religious Education Reminders"

Please Check Your Email Regularly! ♥



Our St. Monica's website page (under Religious Education)

will have all important correspondence that has been given to parents, including:

- ✓ Flyers
- ✓ Events
- ✓ Important Dates
- ✓ Calendars
- ✓ Forms
- ✓ Family Projects
- ✓ Sacramental Preparation Information
- ✓ And much more!



Please check your **JUNK MAIL** periodically as well to make sure our emails do not get placed there.



Information regarding Religious Education will also be sent in your child's folder on the first day of Religious Education class on **9/28 & 9/29.**

Please review everything in folders weekly as there will be important notices and reminders sent home throughout the school year.



Please remember there will be a separate **Parent Meeting for 2nd, 7th, and 8th grade.**

These dates are on the Religious Education calendar found on the website.



Thank you for your continued support and partnership! ♥

Together we help our children grow in faith and closer to Christ!

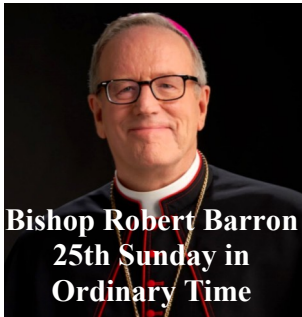


CHILDREN
ARE A GIFT
FROM THE LORD

Psalms 127:3



FAITH ♥ FAMILIES ♥ COMMUNITY ♥ LIFELONG DISCIPLES



Bishop Robert Barron
25th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Peace be with you. Friends, our first reading today is from the book of the prophet Isaiah, and it contains what I think is one of the most important lines in the whole biblical tradition. Isaiah, now speaking for God, says this, The otherness of God is a basic biblical theme. That God is in the world, yes, in and through all things, yes, nevertheless, God remains other. Karl Barth, one of the most important Protestant theologians of the past century, said, There is an infinite qualitative difference between us and God. Thomas Aquinas, seven centuries ago, said, We never really know what God is, only what God is not.

It's wonderful, isn't it? All the theological language that Thomas Aquinas used was a kind of negative language, telling us what God is not, but what God is, that remains shrouded in mystery. The ways of God, they're inscrutable. I don't know them. I can't see them clearly. God's judgments, what God is doing, why he's doing it, that remains unsearchable to us.

You know, at the Mass, we use incense. Incense has a lot of different overtones and undertones, symbolic meaning. One meaning is, of course, that as the incense rises up to heaven, so our prayers rise up to God. But also, incense obscures things. It covers things up, shrouds them in mystery. It also stings your eyes. If you get too much incense in your eyes, they sting and you begin to tear up and you can't see. That's appropriate. Incense is meant to shroud and to cover, to block our vision to some degree.

Don't think you see the things of God too clearly. You know, the Bible speaks often about idolatry as the sin of sins. Idolatry is making something less than God into God. The Bible knows that idolatry has all kinds of negative consequences, both intellectual and moral. Think for a second of all the people over the centuries who committed some of the worst crimes precisely in the name of God and were convinced that they knew exactly what God wanted. St. Paul himself comes to mind here. Paul, galloping off to Damascus, fully convinced he's doing the will of God, knows exactly what God wants, and is in fact persecuting Christ and his church.

Sometimes morally good and upright people suffer terribly, while the wicked prosper. Sometimes little children are hit with terrible and debilitating diseases. Sometimes the father of a young family is tragically killed, while old people who long to die linger on and on. Those who should live, they ought to live. Do you ever find yourself saying, if I were God, I would certainly do things a little different. If I were in charge of the cosmos, there wouldn't be all this inequality and injustice.

In the great book of Job, Job is, by all accounts, the greatest saint in the Old Testament, a man of virtue, upright in every way. And yet, Job suffers physically, psychologically, from the loss of his family. And Job gives voice to the very question I was just raising and says to God, why am I suffering? Don't tell me it's in response to my sin, because I know I'm not a sinner. Well, friends, our gospel for today focuses on this problem in terms of a parable, one of the most puzzling and, frankly, annoying parables in the tradition. I say annoying because it's so hard to understand. Jesus says, there's a owner of a vineyard who comes out early in the morning, and he hires some people to work for him. And he says, I'll pay you the just wage.

Then a few hours later, he comes out again, finds some more people who are unemployed, and says, I'll hire you for the just wage. Then at noon, and at three, and then even at the very end of the day, he hires some last people. And he says, now pay those who were hired last first. So he pays them the daily wage. Naturally, those who are hired earliest expect more. They begin to complain. Well, heck, I was hired at nine, worked all day, and yet you're paying me the same as the person you hired at the end of the day, who didn't even work for an hour? Well, if anyone seems to have a legitimate gripe in the Bible, it's this man. What's the vineyard owner say? You agreed to the daily wage. I'm not being unjust to you. I'm paying you what you agreed to. Are you perhaps jealous because I am generous? Now, the implication is clear. The owner of the vineyard is God. We are the workers.

Does God see into every heart, every mind? Does he understand all actions, all circumstances? Yes. Is it possible that, in Jesus' parable, that vineyard owner knew everything about the circumstances of the various people that he hired? Maybe he was giving those who waited all day long something they deserved to compensate for those long hours of waiting. Maybe he knew of their own financial struggles. It's not our business to ask why in a defiant way, but rather it seems to me it's our business to ask why with a sense of awe and wonder, putting ourselves in the context of God's infinite justice. And may God bless you all.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

★ COUNCIL 11529 ★

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THE WHOLE
FAMILY!



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9/26/26



LOCATION:
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TIMES:
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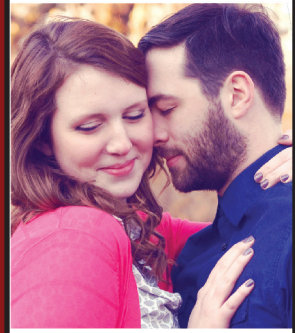
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