

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA

Which of the two did
his **father's will?**

MATTHEW 21:31



September 27, 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/)
[ParishofStMonica/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 26, 2026

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

4:00 pm Andrew "A J" Sabine
(Jeanne Rizzo)

Sunday, September 27, 2026

9:00 am Dominic DiGioia
(Stephanie Kujowski)

11:00 am Frank Durkin
(Patricia Durkin)

Monday, September 28, 2026

9:00 am Joan Burns
(Joanne Landi)

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

9:00 am Dennis & Brenda Heffernan
(The Vadakara Family)

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

9:00 am Arthur Manning
(Lauren Goldner)

Thursday, October 1, 2026

9:00 am For Deceased Relatives and Friends
(Marie Gould)

Saturday, October 3, 2026

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

Sunday, October 4, 2026

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone
(Gerards Fallone)

11:00 am For Our Thoughts & Prayers List
(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, 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 27, 2026

Monday Job 1:6-22 / Psalms 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 / Luke 9:46-50

Tuesday Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab / Psalms 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5 / John 1:47-51

Wednesday Job 9:1-12, 14-16 / Psalms 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15 / Luke 9:57-62

Thursday Job 19:21-27 / Psalms 27:7-8A, 8B-9abc, 13-14 / Luke 10:1-12

Friday Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 / Psalms 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab / Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Saturday Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 / Psalms 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 / Luke 10:17-24

Sunday Isaiah 5:1-7 / Psalms 80:9, 12-16, 19-20 / Philippians 4:6-9 / Matthew 21:33-43

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

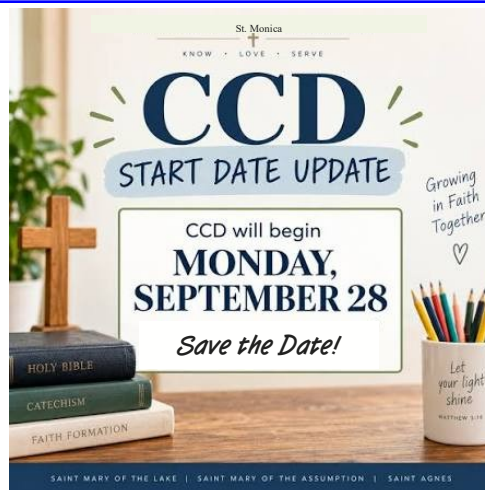
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
AUG 17 — AUG 23, 2026

Weekly Offerings \$ 3,170.00

Online Giving \$ 1,528.00

Total \$ 4,698.00

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.**

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 27, 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 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
12:00 pm Women of St. Monica meeting

Monday, October 5

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

Tuesday, October 6

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

Wednesday, October 7

9:00 am Mass
9:30 am Adoration

Thursday, October 8

9:00 am Mass
6:00 pm Pre-Baptism training
6:30 pm Knights of Columbus meeting

Saturday, October 10

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

Major October Feast Days

October 1 – St. Thérèse of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun known as the "Little Flower"

October 2 – The Holy Guardian Angels, honoring the celestial protectors assigned to every person

October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar who founded the Franciscans and championed creation and poverty.

October 5 – St. Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun associated with the Divine Mercy devotion.

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary, a feast centered on the prayer dedicated to Mary.

October 12 – St. Carlo Acutis, a modern millennial teen known for his love of the Eucharist and computers

October 15 – St. Teresa of Ávila, a Spanish mystic, reformer, and Doctor of the Church.

October 22 – St. John Paul II, the influential 20th-century pope

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

LEGION OF MARY
Mystical Rose
Mary
Our Mother
Our Guide
Our Hope

LEGION OF MARY
Mystical Rose
"Pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world."
— 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

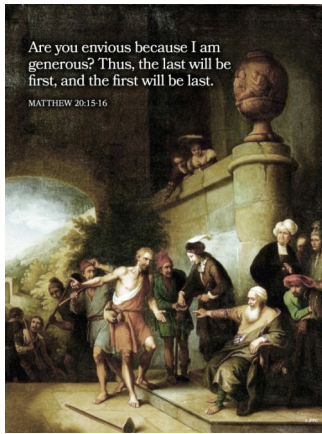
FAITH + FAMILY + PRAYER + TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Whether it's part of a printed piece or an electronic one, we all know the contrast offered by those "before and after" ads. Non-users of the product always look glum or dejected. But users? Ah, they look so happy and bright, smiling at us with the joy that the given product brought into their lives. As we ponder a purchase, we consider that we, too, deserve to be smiling and happy.

Today we are given a parable in the Gospel passage, namely the "Parable of the Two Sons." Granted, it's not as familiar to us as parables like the "Prodigal Son" or the "Good Samaritan," but it has its distinct teaching purpose. That is, the different reactions of two groups of people to the teaching of John the Baptist. Remember that John, Our Lord's cousin, had the task of preparing the world for Christ's coming through repentance. It reminded me of those reactions in "before and after" ads.



There is a non-smiling group, namely Israel's leaders, the Scribes and Pharisees, who simply do not accept what John is saying. Their faces are sad and their mood is cynical. The smiling group, on the other hand, is made up of those who accept what John is saying. They are happy hearing about a way out from under their sinful condition.

Raising the stakes quite a bit, we hear the ultra-important teaching of Our Lord Himself about all this. He proposes an outlook on our part that includes, first of all, the admission of our sins and then trust in Him. Do we believe in Jesus' approach? Or do we agree with the notion that, generally, I'm doing OK in the sin department and I have very little to repent?

Here I can imagine a cartoon depiction of a sad-faced sinner outside the confessional before going in. In the next scene, he or she is smiling and happy, exiting the confessional fully prepared for a halo. Saying this, I do not mean to cheapen what God does for our lives when we repent. My experience tells me that most sinful habits involve a kind of wrestling match between our resolve and temptation. Yet I, and we, must always remember that even the striving to improve means we want to love Jesus even more than we have. That's our ultimate relationship.

The Church asks us to pray this weekend for migrants and refugees. Normally an easy task. But today these people have become controversial. From our comfortable perches as approved good citizens, we must not look down on these brothers and sisters. Their anxious faces reflect uncertainty. The "before" look of fear. May our own outlook and our prayers for them bring to their faces the "after" look of acceptance, hope, and love. After all, that's what God gives all of us each day as we migrate, with hope and determination, to reach our common heavenly home.

"Not all the teeth put into our laws are wisdom teeth." — Anon.

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:
732.719.7250

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!

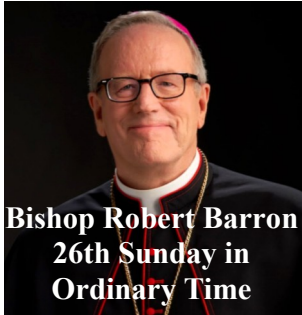


CHILDREN
ARE A GIFT
FROM THE LORD

Psalms 127:3



FAITH ♥ FAMILIES ♥ COMMUNITY ♥ LIFELONG DISCIPLES



Peace be with you. Friends, if you've been following these sermons of mine in the past couple months, you know I've been focusing very much on the first readings of the Old Testament. So today I'm going to look at this marvelous passage from the book of the prophet Ezekiel. And I think this chapter 18, I recommend by the way, get your Bibles out and just read that 18th chapter, which represents a very important breakthrough. Our passage today, or rather the chapter commences with a rehearsal of a proverb that was evidently popular among the ancient Israelites.

Here's the proverb, the parents have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge. See what that means? The parents eat the sour grapes, but the children suffer for it. The implication seems to be that the children and grandchildren and descendants of those who've done wicked things are punished for the wickedness of their forebears. But see, here's Ezekiel's point, God is having none of that. Listen, as I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no longer be used in Israel.

But see, these people tended to think that your family identity, your tribal identity, your national identity was more important than you. And so they had no trouble thinking, yeah, if someone sinned way back then, of course, his descendants are implicated, because it's your tribe, it's your family matters more than you. But Ezekiel's saying, God says, no, no, that won't work.

Listen now what he says, as he channels the words of the Lord. Know that all lives are mine, the life of the parent, as well as the life of the child. But it is only the person who sins that shall die. And he spells this out now in some detail. Listen, if there is a person who's done all things well, it's been righteous, but whose son is violent, a shudder of blood, defiles his neighbor's wife, oppresses the poor, lifts up eyes to idols, shall he then live? He shall not. You see, his point there is the son who's wicked can't wrap himself in the mantle of his father's virtue. I know both the father and the son. And the wickedness of one belongs to him. No virtuous son shall suffer for the wickedness of his father, nor a parent suffer for the iniquity of a child. The righteousness of the righteous shall be his own. The wickedness of the wicked shall be his own. This is what the prophet Ezekiel, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is helping us to see.

Nevertheless, I show God and the world who I am in the quality and integrity of my moral acts. I choose. I decide. Now, both those things, mind and will, are influenced by forces outside. Of course they are. But nevertheless, at that decisive moment, when I gather myself, knowing what I'm doing, choosing it consciously, in that great human act, I stand before God. I stand on my own two feet. And I define my character.

Every time we perform a moral act, we make a moral decision. We do two things. One is we affect the world in a particular way. But in the presence of a moral choice, knowing full well what's at stake, fully engaging my will, when I do that sort of act, I perform that kind of act, I'm defining the character that I'm becoming. But at that moment, you are standing in a self-defining way in the presence of God. I think Ezekiel chapter 18 represents a great breakthrough in consciousness. And keep that in mind as you're moving through your day. And you're making moral choice after moral choice. You're affecting your world. You're also defining the person you are becoming.

And may God bless you all.



Offerings at Francis House of Prayer

CONFIDENCE

ST. THÉRÈSE'S LITTLE WAY

Thursday, October 1

9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

I am especially close to St. Thérèse and her “Little Way” of confidence. Don’t we all need that at this time? I have entrusted many projects to her care. It works. Come with an intention or project for her. Spend the day with her on her feast day. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$30, lunch and materials included.

IN-PERSON ONLY

SKETCHING

Friday, October 2

9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Picture This! You are an instrument of God, allowing beauty to be shown through your talents and gifts. Like a paint brush in the Master Artist’s hand, you have a unique and personal call to bring peace, joy and faith to others. Let the Spirit guide your imagination and/or your paint brush as you are drawn to the world outside or around you. Led by Bernadette Citarrella. Donation: \$35, Materials included. Please bring your lunch to eat outside!

IN-PERSON ONLY

CELEBRATE ST. FRANCIS

Sunday, October 4

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

We will have a wonderful celebration of St. Francis on his feast day! We begin with Mass at 11 AM, followed by lunch. We will view a brief film by Bishop Robert Barron on St. Francis. You will feel like you are in Assisi! Weather and time permitting, we will spend some time outdoors enjoying the beauty of creation as Francis insists. Led by S. Marcy and Katherine. We will provide lunch. Donation: Love Offering.

IN-PERSON ONLY

PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, October 7

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Take a day away from the busyness of your life to rest a while in the Lord and experience God’s presence. Come to Francis House for silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Please bring your lunch. Come to as many as you can. Donation: \$10; \$40 with Spiritual Direction.

IN-PERSON ONLY

DISCOVER THE “PRAYER-WAYS” OF THE WOMEN DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH PRAYING WITH ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Monday, October 12

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

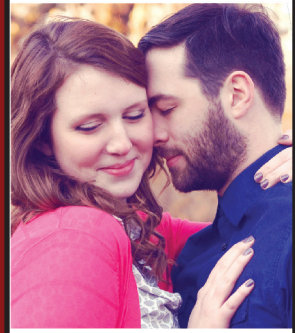
Join us in this adventure as we get to know our saint-sisters better, unpack some of their insights for our own spiritual lives and explore the pathways of prayer they inspire. We will use Terry Polakovic’s book, *Women of Hope: Doctors of the Church* as our field guide. Led by Terry Ginther. Come to as many as you can. Donation: \$25 each, includes lunch.

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Deacon Christopher Buono, Mgr.
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stjosephcemeterytr.org/cemetery



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