Church of Saint Monica

November 1, 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/
ParishofStMonica/

All Saints Day - November 1, 2026

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 31, 2026
4:00 pm Lotte Rockefeller
(Barbara & Jerry Santangelo)
4:00 pm Andrew "AJ" Sabine
(Joseph & Anne Lacagnina)
Sunday, November 1, 2026
9:00 am Tony Sasso
(The Sasso Family)
11:00 am Liz Annino
(Matilda & Joseph Curatolo)
Monday, November 2, 2026
9:00 am Departed Members of Legion of Mary
(Legion of Mary Mystical Rose)
Tuesday, November 3, 2026
9:00 am Souls in Purgatory
(A Friend)
9:00 am Julia Jennings
(Pat Durkin)
Wednesday, November 4, 2026
9:00 am Rajesh Gandhi
(Larvita Pasumbal)
9:00 am Joyce Yaccarino
(Stephanie Kujawski)
Thursday, November 5, 2026
9:00 am Pasquale Fallone
(Gerarda Fallone)
Saturday, November 7, 2026
4:00 pm Anne Hyjack
(The Calsetta Family)
4:00 pm Sylvester Cascio & Joseph Anzalone
(The Anzalone Family)
Sunday, November 8, 2026
9:00 am For Intentions Listed in this Bulletin
(Women of St. Monica)
11:00 am John Nicoletti
(Phyllis Calabrese)

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 Kelley 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 – November 1, 2026

Monday Wisdom 3:1-9 / Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 / Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9 / John 6:37-40
Tuesday Philippians 2:5-11 / Psalms 22:26b-27, 28-30ab, 30e, 31-32 / Luke 14:15-24
Wednesday Philippians 2:12-18 / Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14 / Luke 14:25-33
Thursday Philippians 3:3-8a / Psalms 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 / Luke 15:1-10
Friday Philippians 3:17-4:1 / Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 / Luke 16:1-8
Saturday Philippians 4:10-19 / Psalms 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9 / Luke 16:9-15
Sunday Wisdom 6:12-16 / Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 or 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 / Matthew 25:1-13

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.

From Bishop David O'Connell for All Saints and All Souls Day

"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven"

This "experience" is called "purgatory" by the Church and the "souls in purgatory" are aided by the prayers of the living. Pope St. John Paul II reminded us that praying for the souls in purgatory is the highest act of supernatural charity. Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged us, "as we enter heaven, we will see them, so many of them, coming toward us and thanking us. We will ask who they are, and they will say 'a poor soul you prayed for in purgatory.'" Let us ask the Lord to give us the grace to never lose remembrance, never suppress remembrance —- remembrance of the person, remembrance of family, remembrance of people —- and to give us the grace to understand which are the lights that will accompany us on the path so as not to make mistakes, and thus to arrive where we are awaited with so much love. Saints of God, come to their aid. Come to meet them, Angels of the Lord. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
SEPT 21 — SEPT 27, 2026

Weekly Offerings	$ 1,813.00
Online Giving	$ 1,469.00
Total	$ 3,282.00

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

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, Nov 18th at 7:00pm**.

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 con tact 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

PROMISE TO PROTECT PLEDGE TO HEAL

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, October 31
10:00 am Grief Support Group (Little Church)
3:15 pm Confession
4:00 pm Mass
Sunday, November 1
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Luncheon
12:30 pm Bathan/Hernandez Wedding
Monday, November 2
9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm **NO Religious Education**
5:45 pm **NO Religious Education**
Tuesday, November 3
9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm **NO Religious Education**
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice
7:15 pm Legion of Mary
Wednesday, November 4
9:00 am Mass
9:30 am Adoration
Thursday, November 5
9:00 am Mass
6:00 pm Pre-Baptism Training
7:00 pm OCIA
Saturday, November 7
10:00 am Grief Support Group (Little Church)
3:15 pm Confession
4:00 pm Mass
Sunday, November 8
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
12:00 pm Maisilyn Noelle Violet Frady Baptism
12:00 pm Amelia Danielle Guenther Baptism
Monday, November 9
9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Education
5:45 pm Religious Education
Tuesday, November 10
9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Education
6:00 pm CCD Adoration
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice
7:15 pm Legion of Mary
Wednesday, November 11
Veterans Day—No Mass—Parish Office Closed
Thursday, November 12
9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm OCIA

All Saints' Day is a Christian festival celebrated on **November 1** in Western churches (and the first Sunday after Pentecost in Eastern churches) to honor all known and unknown saints who have attained heaven. It is part of the three-day observance known as **Allhallowtide**, preceded by **All Hallows' Eve** (Halloween) and followed by **All Souls' Day.**

It honors all Christian saints, including those formally canonized by the church as well as countless faithful individuals whose names are unrecorded. In the Roman Catholic Church, it is a major solemnity and a holy day of obligation where attending Mass is required.

All Souls' Day is a holiday in the Roman Catholic calendar that falls on November 2. The Roman Catholic church sets aside All Souls' Day to remember members of the faith who have died, especially those believed to be suffering in purgatory. Through prayers, masses, and almsgiving, the living pay tribute to the dead and hope to help them enter into heaven.

Many ceremonies honoring the dead have taken place throughout history, but it is believed that the abbot Odilo of Cluny, France, originated the annual November 2 commemoration near the end of the 10th century. The practice spread to most other countries by the end of the 13th century. All Saints' Day, which honors saints and martyrs, had been celebrated on November 1 since at least the 9th century, so Odilo chose the following day to remember those whose souls need assistance in becoming worthy of heaven.

In 1915, **Pope Benedict XV** gave permission for priests to celebrate three masses on All Souls' Day, making it the only other day besides Christmas with that distinction. Churches typically are decorated in black, the color most often associated with death. Parishioners commonly light candles in memory of loved ones and sometimes write the names of the departed in a special commemorative book.

Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The annual arrival of the first days of November, with their significance for the Church, also ushers in the coming holiday season and its special secular parades. One parade for Thanksgiving Day in Philadelphia and New York; the other for New Year's Day in Pasadena, California, for the Rose Bowl. The whole idea of parades came to my mind as I imagined such a happening to put on display all the holy people we call Saints on their march toward heaven. Behind them come the Holy Souls leaving purgatory and joining in the march.

The Gospels tell us all about it, but it is today's Second Reading from St. John's Letter that gives us added joy, because we are more than spectators to the event. We have the right to join in the "parade" when our appointed time comes because of what we are by our Baptism and grace.

We are God's children! Not by anything of our own merit, but by the "love the Father has bestowed on us."

To keep the metaphor going, we don't have to exit the parade and watch it pass us by. We have been chosen to join in! Unless…There is always an "unless" in this life. And in this case it refers to our inherent weakness; our tendency to forget God's place in our lives; our personal sins; our rejection, outright or subtle, of our given identity as His children. Why? The simple answer is that Satan never sleeps.

Do you think that Satan would ever want you to keep the very identity he forfeited by his sin? That you would ever vacate purgatory? Of course not! He wants to lull us ever so cleverly into thinking that God is a phantom and our fate has no connection to Him. So, we are in a battle all our time here on earth, and we need all the strength God's grace gives us to win it.

So pay no attention to the hucksters of "heaven on earth." It's entirely a big lie. The truth shines bright and clear in the Bible and the teaching of Christ's Church.

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Offerings at Francis House of Prayer
Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House
84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501
609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

GOD ISN'T FINISHED WITH ME YET - DISCOVERING THE GRACE OF LATER LIFE
Tuesday, November 3 - 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM
If topics like loss, identity, life after retirement, downsizing, meaning and usefulness interest you, come. If you find yourself asking, "Who am I now? What does God want me to do with my life? How can I pray? How can I still help others?" ...please come. Come be with others with the same questions and concerns. Let's be together in the quest and find God in it. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: $40, includes lunch and book, Zoom: $25

IN-PERSON ONLY - **PERSONAL RETREAT DAY**
Wednesday, November 4 - 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
UNDERSTANDING & BEFRIENDING DIFFERENCES
Wednesday, November 11 - 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Why is it so difficult to relate to those who are different from us? If you need a little understanding and compassion in dealing with challenging personalities, including your own, please come to learn the art of accepting and appreciating people with personalities contrary to our own. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: $50, includes materials. Please bring your own lunch.

INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER
Friday, November 13 - 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
All the saints and mystics encourage us to simply sit before the Lord in quiet adoration. We so long to do so! Our culture and our times make it more necessary than ever! How do I keep my mind still? How do I stay present? This morning retreat is an introduction or a review for all who would like to respond to God's invitation to centering prayer, to simply be in God's presence and receive God's love. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: $30, includes lunch and materials.

IN-PERSON ONLY
A CENTERING PRAYER DAY
Saturday, November 14 - 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
This retreat day is for those who desire a day of silence and Centering Prayer. There will be Centering Prayer times together, as well as time for your own private prayer. No sharing. All silence. It is as simple as that! Please bring your own lunch. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: Love Offering

GOD, THE GIFT WHO KEEPS ON GIVING
Friday, November 20 - 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
As we approach Thanksgiving, gratitude looms large on our minds and in our hearts. Listening to Shel Silverstein's classic book, *The Giving Tree*, we will share about giving, gratitude and the greatness of God's generosity. This can help re-center your life on gratefulness, not just on Thanksgiving, but during each day. Join us so you can make gratitude a daily practice. Led by Katherine Andrews. Donation: $25, includes lunch, Zoom: $20

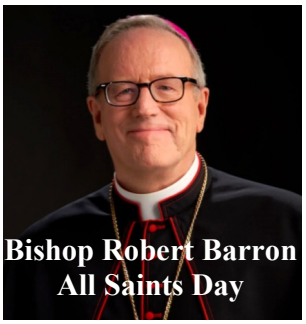
ADVENT RETREAT DAY
Monday, November 30 - 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
We will travel through Advent this year with Richard Rohr's *Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent*. What a perfect companion for this busy and stressful season! Again, we begin this holy season together doing what we can to make it more peaceful and prayerful. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: $35, includes lunch and the book. Zoom: $20

Monday 11/23/2026

K of C 11529 in collaboration with
K of C 6201 Jackson - Banquet Hall
401 Bartley Road
JACKSON, NJ 08527
Open 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Thanksgiving is a time for blessings and charity.
If you would like to donate a box of food and or donate a ham or turkey for a local family in need, please see our sign up sheets at the back of the church. Thank You! and God Bless You

Social Concerns Ministry



Peace be with you. Friends, this year, November 1st, All Saints Day falls on Sunday, so it gives us the opportunity to reflect on this wonderful feast day and more particularly on what it means to be a saint. You know, one of the advantages of All Saints Day is that it emphasizes the universality of the call to sanctity. If you isolate a given saint, say, Saint Francis of Assisi or Thomas Aquinas, they can seem so egregious. Like, there's no way I could ever be like that.

But All Saints Day emphasizes, yes, the canonized, officially recognized saints, but also all the ordinary people that we have forgotten about in history whom God has remembered as saintly. So it reminds us that being a saint is the ordinary goal of the Christian life. Everything in the Church is meant to conduce to the place where we become saints, we become holy.

There's only one real sadness in life—not to be a saint. The only real sadness is not to be the person God wanted you to be. If you let that become the governing principle of your life, everything will change. A saint is someone who's holy and follows the will of God. And what's the will of God? Love. That's what God is. God is love. To love is to will the good of the other. A saint is someone in whom God is dwelling, in whom the Spirit is alive, who's holy, who loves. That's what it means to be a saint. Now, one of the best places to look to understand this more concretely are the famous beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount. Happiness. You want to be happy? Be a saint. There's the whole Gospel in a nutshell,. What we all desire is to be happy. What's part of the formula? How blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart. Again, it doesn't mean the saint has a monotonous life. It means everything in the saint is gathered, because the saint's heart or deepest center is focused on one thing, which is tender mercy, which is the love that God is. You're clean of heart.

I'm just going to go through the Beatitudes. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Being set right, doing the right thing, being the kind of person you're meant to be. Righteousness. That means doing the will of God. If you're divided in heart, you're not going to walk this path. Really helpful. And then lastly, on these sort of positive beatitudes, blessed are the peacemakers. Who are the peacemakers? Those who follow this path. The saints.

For all these positive attitudes, there's kind of a negative attitude we have to overcome. And you also see it in these beatitudes. Blessed are the poor in spirit. You're a saint if you are not preoccupied with wealth. You are happier without it. In fact, lucky are you, blessed are you, if you are not attached to material things and wealth. Blessed are they who mourn. What do you mean blessed are people that are sad and depressed? It's just some kind of weird masochism. No. Read it this way. Blessed are you, happy are you, saintly are you, if you are not attached to and addicted to pleasure.

Keep going. Blessed are the meek. One of the other great substitutes for God is power. I'm unhappy because I'm not powerful enough. If I was just like those powerful people, I'd be happy. No, you will not. Therefore, blessed are you if you're not addicted to power. You're not walking that path. That's not the one thing you want. The one thing you want is righteousness, tender mercy, in doing the will of God. And if that means you've got to give up power, so be it.

And then finally, blessed are you when they insult you, persecute you, utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. What's being said there is how blessed you are, happy, holy, saintly, if you're not addicted to worldly honor. There are a lot of people that walk that path who think life is all about being liked, being honored, getting awards, and if they don't think I'm wonderful, and don't like me, I fall into a depression. Well, that's just a negative path. How lucky are you, in fact, when you're not addicted to that? Because, unfortunately, doing the will of God means you're not going to be liked. You're not going to be admired. Okay? So you want to be a saint. That's the one thing you should want. The one sadness in life is not being a saint. Here's the program. Make your whole life about tender mercy, being a vehicle of God's grace to the world. Rid yourself of all of those attachments and distractions that are keeping you from walking that path. Be single-hearted. Be clean of heart. Hungry for love. Above all, hunger and thirst for righteousness. And you'll walk this path that God wants you to walk. You'll be a saint.
And I don't know about you, but I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in. And may God bless you all.

2-MERCY HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING FOR OUR LOCAL NURSING HOMES

WREATH Supplies needed:

- 3- 14 inch Wire Wreaths
- 1-Ruler
- 1-Cutting Mat
- 3pks. of pipe cleaners (all colors)
- 3- 6 inch or 21 inch Rolls of Deco Mesh Ribbon
- Holiday decorations to add to wreaths

HOLIDAY Colors: STRIPE, PLAID, OR SOLID COLORS
(Red, Green, Gold, Silver, Blue)

https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/wreathtutorial

All items can be purchased at the Dollar Tree

Tuesday, November 17
5 to 7 PM
Saint Monica's Church

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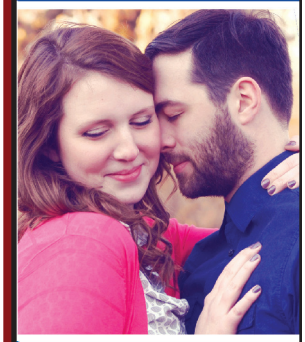

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