Church of Saint Monica



November 8, 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/



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - November 8, 2026

Mass Intentions

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)
Monday, November 9, 2026
9:00 am John and Vera Maty
(Diane Herceg)
Tuesday, November 10, 2026
9:00 am Marie Gould
(Arlene Toth)
Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Veterans Day
No Mass—Parish offices Closed
Thursday, November 12, 2026
9:00 am George Stephen Hoyer
(Lou and Julie Holman)
Saturday, November 14, 2026
4:00 pm Marie Gould
(The Calsetta Family)
4:00 pm Andrew "AJ" Sabine
(Frank & Angie Trimboli)
Sunday, November 15, 2026
9:00 am Columba Bina LoCicero
(The LoCicero Family)
11:00 am Marie Gould
(Christina Quatrano)

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 8, 2026

Monday Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 / Psalms 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 / 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17 / John 2:13-22
Tuesday 1 Peter 2:1-8, 11-14 / Psalms 37:3-4, 18 and 23, 27 and 29 / Luke 17:7-10
Wednesday Titus 3:1-7 / Psalms 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6 / Luke 17:11-19
Thursday Philemon 7-20 / Psalms 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10 / Luke 17:20-25
Friday 2 John 4-9 / Psalms 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18 / Luke 17:26-37
Saturday 3 John 5-8 / Psalms 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 / Luke 18:1-8
Sunday Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 / Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 / Matthew 25:14-30 or Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

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.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
SEPT 21 — SEPT 27, 2026

Weekly Offerings	$ 4,878.91
Maintenance	$ 463.00
Online Giving	$ 1,713.00
Total	$ 7,054.91

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

Members of the Jackson/Howell American Legion Post 504 will be distributing 'Made in America' American Flags after all Masses this weekend for Veteran's Day, any donations received will support the charitable efforts of Post 504 in relation to Veteran, Active Military, Community and Youth programs. Thank you!!!





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, Dec 16th 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 jwhite@dioceseoftrenton.org

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, 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
6:30 pm KofC Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday, November 14
10:00 am Support Group (Little Church)
1:00 pm Patterson Wedding
3:15 pm Confession
4:00 pm Mass
Sunday, November 15
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
Monday, November 16
9:00 am Mass
10:30 am Columba LoCicero Memorial Mass
4:30 pm Religious Education
5:45 pm Religious Education
Tuesday, November 17
9:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Religious Education
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice
7:15 pm Legion of Mary
Wednesday, November 18
9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm KofC Deceased Brothers Mass
Thursday, November 19
9:00 am Mass
7:00 pm OCIA



Veterans Day is an official U.S. federal holiday observed annually on November 11 to honor all military veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

It celebrates all living and deceased U.S. veterans—both wartime and peacetime service members. It differs from **Memorial Day.** Memorial Day (in May) specifically remembers service members who died while serving in the military, whereas Veterans Day thanks all who have served

The holiday began as Armistice Day to mark the end of World War I, which officially ceased on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 (November 11, 1918). President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a law in 1954 renaming the holiday to Veterans Day to honor American veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and all subsequent conflicts. After a brief period in the 1970s when the holiday was moved to Mondays under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, legislation restored its permanent observance to November 11.

Communities across the country host parades, school assemblies, and wreath-laying ceremonies—most notably at the Arlington National Cemetery.

As a federal holiday, non-essential federal government offices, post offices, and many schools and banks are closed. Citizens often volunteer with veteran servic e organizations, share messages of thanks on honor walls, or offer recognition to local service members.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - November 8, 2026

Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

There are conversations galore these days all about the exciting reality of "AI." When I thought about it as confined to robot technology it was fascinating enough. But as a former English teacher, I was more impressed by its ability to change the wording of an opinion piece to make it clearer for both the writer and the reader. Shakespeare himself, upon learning about it, might well change his mind and declare that "AI" is "much ado about something."

But like any new reality, there is a note of fear and suspicion. Those so inclined need to remember something I'll call "HW" for "human wisdom."



There is a world of difference between Artificial Intelligence and actual wisdom. Intelligence is "book smarts," memory retention, and knowledge of the world. Wisdom is your connection to and awareness of the world, especially of living things around you at the present time, and your decision-making.

Intelligence covers learned facts and study-based skills like history and investigation. Wisdom governs perception, insight, and survival. It enables us to resist subtle mental control. One perceptive person has observed that "Intelligence is what you know; Wisdom is what you notice."

All that being said, I think it's obvious that a whole person is one who has both intelligence and wisdom. The greater the person, the more impact such a person has on other persons. Hence the attraction Jesus Christ has, now and always. The more intelligence we have about Him, the more wisdom it is to follow Him and imitate His ways.

Today's Gospel parable of the Ten Maidens is a case in point. It offers up the wisdom of being watchful when we consider that the Last Judgment is both inevitable and at a time unknown. In terms of the parable, we have to ask ourselves, "Do we have enough 'oil' in our lamps, that is, good, virtuous living, so as to greet Him happily when the time comes and He arrives as our Judge?" Put another way, "Do we have the wisdom to be ready?"

The American pastor A. W. Tozer had this to say about how we can measure our wisdom:

1. What we want the most
2. What we think about the most.
3. How we use our money
4. What we do with our leisure time
5. The company we enjoy
6. Who and what we admire
7. What we laugh at.

God love you and give you His peace.

.

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

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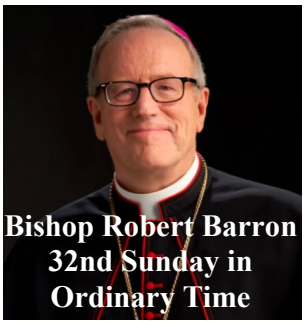
Monday 11/23/2026

K of C 11529 in collaboration with
K of C 6201 Jackson - Banquet Hall
401 Bartley Road
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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, our first reading for this weekend is from the marvelous book of Wisdom. And the problem is it might easily slip past our minds, but it shouldn't, because it articulates what is arguably the principle of biblical revelation. What I mean is the primacy of grace. The bible isn't that story. It's the story of God's quest for us. It is God who always takes the initiative in the spiritual order. It's God who sets the tone. It's God who's always the master of the conversation.
You know, we sense the truth of this in the very opening verses of the Scripture about the account of creation. God makes the whole of finite reality. Everything around me, whatever exists, is already the gift of God. That's what creation means. God is the one who brought the whole of finitude into being. It's there as a result of God's initiative, of God's grace. My mind, my will, my energy, my passion, everything in me is always already the gift of God. God always comes first. Whatever we do, God has been there first. And doesn't Jesus himself, with full magisterial authority, sum this up? It is not you who have chosen me. It is I who have chosen you. Listen now how the Book of Wisdom expresses this. She—referring here to God's wisdom—she is readily perceived by those who love her and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire. Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed. Why? For she shall find her already sitting by the gate. And finally, she—again, God's wisdom— makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the way and meets them with all solicitude. But the Bible isn't primarily interested in looking for wisdom, but rather in God's wisdom that hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire. It's God who is revealing himself to us even before we begin to seek.

There's the primacy of grace. So if all this is true, everybody—and I think inescapably it is in the Bible—most of us have to rethink our spiritual lives. God is just pretty distant, pretty demanding, certainly not easily impressed. Again, on this reading, it's our spiritual attainment that comes to the forefront. It's like, God's really difficult, so I better get my act together. I better really get things right to impress him. I mean, we're like I guess I better knock on the door of God. I better seek after Jesus. What if the truth is that it's Jesus knocking on my door? That whatever enthusiasm I muster for the quest for God, there's an infinitely greater enthusiasm on God's part for me, to find me.
Allow yourself to be found.

God is like the pilot of a helicopter that's just looking to land, and he's endeavoring to land on the ground of our hearts. God wants to bring the helicopter in. What's preventing the helicopter of Christ's grace to land in our hearts? Well, I've spoken previously about all of these attachments. So if I'm attached to wealth, wealth is just preoccupying me. Think of that as all kinds of clutter on the ground. So the helicopter that wants to land, is hovering right over our hearts—or if you will--knocking at the door. But he wants to land. What's on the ground is the clutter of my preoccupation with wealth, maybe my preoccupation with power. Maybe it's honor. I'm just so concerned about the people like me. You have to move all this clutter away from the door so Jesus can get in. Cleanse the heart by clearing the obstacles, so that you can simply open the door and let him inLet me just bring this to a close by asking what this might look like concretely.
So you say, okay, I get that principle, but how do I make it real in my life? Well, let me just say three simple things as I close. Here's the first suggestion. Every day, take five minutes in a focused way to say, All right, Lord, I believe you are looking for me. I believe you want a relationship with me. So come into my heart.

Okay, second suggestion. As I've hinted already, be attentive to the attachments in your life. Again, by this I just mean worldly things that have taken on a disproportionate importance and centrality—money, success, fame, power, pleasure, all the usual suspects. All those things making the landing of the helicopter difficult. All those things blocking the door that Jesus wants to enter. Be attentive to them and do something about them. Clear them away.

Third and final suggestion to this spirituality --Be grateful. Gratitude for gifts given rather than a frenzied quest to be perfect. Be grateful for all he's given, all that's already available to me, from everything that exists in my own being. Be grateful. Everything I have is something I've received as a gift. Cultivate gratitude as a basic attitude in life, and you'll pave the way for the opening of the door to Christ. So it's not so much we who've chosen him. It's he who has chosen us. Let that sink in and your whole spiritual life will change. 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
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- 1-Cutting Mat
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https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/wreathtutorial

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

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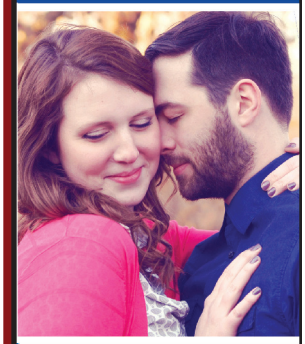
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