

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA

LOVE
WITHOUT
LIMITS



© JPPC

February 23, 2025

Our Parish is Served by:

Reverend Alex Enriquez, Pastor
Deacon Christian Knoebel
Deacon John L. White

We invite you to celebrate with us

website: www.saintmonica.com

Parish Office: 732-928-0279

Email: parishoffice@saintmonica.com

Fax: (732) 928-1853

Religious Education: 732-928-4038

Email: stmonicacd@yahoo.com

The Church of St. Monica is a warm, accepting, and caring parish that worships God, teaches and lives the message of Christ, seeks to support and strengthen family life, and serves those in need through parish ministries and organizations.

Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527



Confessions

Saturdays

3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

1st Thursdays 7pm
or by appointment

Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)
[ParishofStMonica/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 23, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 17

9:00 am Ann Dolan
(Mary Boyd)

Tuesday, February 18

9:00 am William Carragher, Jr.
(Marie Gould)

Wednesday, February 19

9:00 am Pasquale Fallone
(Gerarda Fallone)

Thursday, February 20

9:00 am Souls In Purgatory
(Natalie Lucas)

Saturday, February 22

4:00 pm Charles Smith
(Laura, Anthony, Chris & Emily
Troisi)

Sunday, February 23

9:00 am Jimmy Morell
(The Lake & Shore Community)
11:00 am The Ammirata Family
(Tommy & Carol Ammirata)

Contact the Parish Office to let us know of anyone to be remembered in prayer, so we may include them or, if they

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Toni Hetteroth, Dianne Smith, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Marie Gould, Doris Garbarino, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, Arlene Toth, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Glory D'Acunto, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Phillip Wenz, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Elaine Stemmle, Tom Martin, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Jennie D'Angelo, Paul Hetteroth, Cheryl Vega, Carol Spezzano, Michael Seiler, Shannon Hubert, Ronald Nuzzola, Ray Kijowski, Nicholas Biddle, Matthew Biddle, Dennis Shwiner, Laura Stoyer, Mike Scott, Andrew G Sabine, A.J. Sabine, Stephen Alexander, Angela Belmont, Danny Merwin, Diane Hromiko, Kathy Reynolds, Margie Smith, Kevin Finnerty

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 - February 23, 2025

Monday, February 24, 2025 Sir 1:1-10 Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 Sir 2:1-11 Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 Sir 4:11-19 Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175 Mk 9:38-40

Thursday, February 27, 2025 Sir 5:1-8 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mk 9:41-50

Friday, February 28, 2025 Sir 6:5-17 Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35 Mk 10:1-12

Saturday, March 1, 2025 Sir 17:1-15 Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18 Mk 10:13-16

Sunday, March 2, 2025 Sir 27:4-7 Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 1 Cor 15:54-58 Lk 6:39-45

If you wish to receive a record of your 2024 contributions, please complete a request form available at the entrances to the Church or contact the Parish Office 732-928-0279 email parishoffice@saintmonica.com

[illegible]

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS FEBRUARY 2—FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Weekly Offerings	\$4,718.00
Utilities & Energy	\$303
Online giving	\$1,643.00
Total	\$7,056.55

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

**ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY
PRESENTS**



Join Us for a Night Full of
Fun, Laughs and Music

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2025

6:00pm to 10:00pm

Donovan Catholic Cafeteria
711 Hooper Ave., Toms River

BEATS by DJ's @ WORK!
GIVEAWAYS / RAFFLES / 50 - 50
B.Y.O. food & beverages.
Coffee, tea & dessert will be served.

21 & OVER

\$40.00 per person

Reserve tables of 10 for \$375.00

RSVP by February 15, 2025
For information and tickets sales call
Zina Approvato at 732-600-3360



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Are you a Veteran, or would like to give back to Veterans in your community? The Holisticare Veteran Volunteer Program May Be of Interest to You!

We welcome Veterans, Acting Service Men and Women and Non-members!

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- Visit Veteran patients in their homes, or long-term care facilities and provide companionship and support.
- Assist with Veteran Pinning Ceremonies, Memorials and other Special Events.
- Educate and Assist Staff in Veteran End of Life Care.

**To Find Out More Please Contact
Volunteer Coordinator Vellus Campbell
at (732) 731-8100 or VellusCampbell@holisticcarehospice.org**

Love your enemies

Love your enemies and do good to them,
and you will be children of the Most High,
for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
Be merciful, just as your father is merciful. *Luke 6:35-36*

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 23, 2025

DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL CENTER

MARDI GRAS

USHERING IN THE LENTEN SEASON

Tuesday, March 4 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Sometimes we hear ourselves say, “I really want/need a ‘good Lent’ this year.” This afternoon retreat will help you receive that grace in very practical ways as we explore and creatively prepare our hearts for this holy season. What does God want for you this Lent? What will you name this Lent? Are you ready? Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$30, includes a Lenten book, *A Way Other Than Our Own* by Walter Brueggemann to assist you on your Lenten journey.

ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT

Wednesday, March 5 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

LITURGY AT NOON

We love beginning Lent together with this retreat at Francis House because it provides a gentle structure for the six-week journey ahead. This year I think you will enjoy *A Way Other Than Our Own* by Walter Brueggemann to guide your Lenten journey. Liturgy is included with the reception of ashes within it. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$40, includes lunch and book for your Lenten journey. Zoom \$25

THE IMITATION OF CHRIST

THE BEATITUDES EDITION

Friday, March 7 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Let’s enjoy the wisdom of this timeless classic by Thomas A Kempis translated for us in this special version, *The Imitation of Christ – The Beatitudes Edition*. Listen as Jesus speaks right to you as a friend with loving advice. Time will also be given to contemplative prayer. Led by Jill Snyder. Donation: \$25, includes lunch; Zoom \$20.

A LENTEN HOBO HONEYMOON

Tuesday, March 11 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Based on the book by Edward Hays, this retreat will explore Lent as an important part of a **H**omeward **B**ound journey to our ultimate destination – our heavenly home. Using the “secret signs” of the hobo, we will find our way through this holy season and enjoy a fruitful Lent and joyous Easter. Hays writes, “These 40 holy days of renewal should be about romancing and enkindling our love for God with fresh passion and the enthusiasm of young lovers on a honeymoon.” Curious about this strange approach to the austerities of Lent? Come pray, laugh, and learn. Led by JoLynn Krempecki. Donation: \$25, includes lunch; Zoom \$20.

DISCERNMENT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Friday, March 14 9:30 AM – Noon

This retreat will include the full teaching of Ignatian Discernment of Spirits. If you find yourself sliding down “the greasy pole” of desolation or negative thinking, this program will help you immensely. The Ignatian teaching on discernment is life changing as we practice awareness, understanding and right action regarding the various spirits that present themselves to us day by day and moment by moment. The practice of discernment assures an increase in peace and joy. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$25

EVENING ZOOM ONLY LENTEN SERIES

POPE FRANCIS’ NEW ENCYCLICAL *DILEXIT NOS* “HE LOVED US”

3 Tuesdays: March 11, 18, 25 7:00 – 8:00 PM

What better way to participate in Lent? Pope Francis invites us to experience deeply the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the world and for each of us. His writing is simple and understandable, and inspiring to say the least. The Encyclical available online and on Amazon. I would love to read it with you as a way to enhance our Lenten Journey. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$50

LENTEN SERIES

FORGIVENESS

A GIFT OF LOVING AS GOD LOVES

3 Fridays 9:30 – 11:00 AM

March 14 & 28 and April 11

To be loved by God and to love as God loves IS our path to union with our Creator. We will pray with several Scripture passages, reflect on the words of Henri Nouwen in *The Return of the Prodigal Son* as we absorb the beauty and the promise portrayed in Rembrandt’s painting of the same name. Please come and experience the freedom found in healing and forgiveness. Led by Jill Snyder. Donation: \$60

THE LOVING-KINDNESS PRAYER THE ASCETICISM OF COMPASSION

Tuesday, March 18 9:30 AM – Noon

All the asceticism we need lies in the true love of neighbor. The Loving-Kindness Prayer fills us with compassion for ourselves first and with all others. Sprinkle this Lenten Season with the all-inclusive love of Jesus. Let the Jesus in you reach out with love and compassion to all others. Like all prayer, this prayer is life-changing. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$20

“THIN PLACES” IN LIFE

Thursday, March 20 9:30 AM – Noon

Are there moments when you have strongly felt God’s Presence in the quiet within, in places or in relationships? We will use exercises in *Braving the Thin Places* by Julianne Stanz as a guide to discovering “thin places” in which we meet God “opening us to rawness and beauty.” Led by Jill Snyder. Donation: \$20

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE 12 STEPS

Friday, March 21 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

We will compare the graced movement through the 12 Steps with the four parts of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. They are remarkably similar in their movement toward interior freedom which leads to a full life of love and service to others. Led by Mary De Joseph and S. Marcy. Donation: \$40. Please bring your own lunch.

CALENDAR

Saturday, February 22

3:15 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, February 23

9:00 am Mass
10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)
11:00 am Mass

Monday, February 24

9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Ed Class
6:15 pm Religious Ed Class

Tuesday, February 25

9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Ed Class
5:30 pm Religious Ed Class

Wednesday, February 26

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, February 27

9:00 am Mass
10:00 am Grief Support (LC)
1:00 pm Bible Study Group (LC)
7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Saturday, March 1

3:15 pm Confessions
3:15 pm OCIA Reconciliation (LC)
4:00 pm Mass (KofC Member Drive)

Sunday, March 2

9:00 am Mass (KofC Member Drive)
10:00 am Prep Class (Parish Foyer)
11:00 am Mass/OCIA Rite of Sending
12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Mtg (LC)
2:00 pm Lessons in Holiness (Parish Hall)

Monday, March 3

9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Ed Class
6:15 pm Religious Ed Class

Tuesday, March 4

9:00 am Mass
4:30 pm Religious Ed Class
5:30 pm Religious Ed Class

Wednesday, March 5**Ash Wednesday**

9:00 am Mass and Ashes
9:30 am Adoration
4:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
5:00 pm OCIA (LC)
7:00 pm Mass and Ashes

DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL CENTER

THE COSMIC CHRIST

TEILHARD'S EXPERIENCE OF THE SACRED HEART

Tuesday, April 1 9:30 AM – 11:30 PM

In his latest encyclical, Pope Francis tells us that relationship to the Sacred Heart has power to change the world. From early childhood, Teilhard de Chardin was deeply devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, albeit not particularly Christ's physical heart. Yet as he matured, so did that early devotion. During our time together, we will consider how, as Teilhard's devotion to Christ deepened, his understanding of the Sacred Heart evolved into the Cosmic Christ. Until he died, he continued to pray to his God of Fire. Our gathering will include time for input, reflection, prayer, and sharing. Led by S. Kathy Duffy, SSJ. Donation: \$25

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL ON THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Friday, April 4 1:00 – 3:30 PM

In addition to the three-part night zoom Lenten series in March, we offer this opportunity to spend time with and unpack heartfully Pope Francis' new encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, *Dilexit Nos* ("He Loved Us"). We need so very much to remember the deep and compassionate love of Jesus' Sacred Heart for all of us in this Lenten season. I hope you will come to experience anew the immense love of Jesus' Sacred Heart for you. By the way, Pope Francis writes simply and is very understandable. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$20

IN-PERSON ONLY

EMBRACING THE WAY OF THE CROSS
THROUGH ART

Monday, April 7 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

All are welcome: non-artists, artists, poets and other writers- anyone who desires to draw more deeply into the Passion of Jesus as we approach Holy Week. Using *Vizio Divina*, we will contemplate the meaning of each Station of the Cross created by Maria De Fayrod (Stations of the Cross, Lourdes, France). Through prayer and reflection, we will consider how we can unite our own life experiences with those of Christ's Way of the Cross. Our hope is to deepen our faith, strengthen our resilience in the face of struggle, and expand our compassion and forgiveness towards others. Since each station often carries a specific theme, such as betrayal, denial, the weight of the cross, or the love of a mother (Mary), we will create our own original station in the medium of choice (poetry, drawing, music or painting). Some art materials will be available, but you are welcome to bring your own. Led by S. Celeste Mokrzycki, SSJ. Donation: \$40, includes lunch.



St Gabriel Possenti

DATES: MARCH 1 1838 - FEB 27 1862
FEAST DAY: FEBRUARY 27

The 11th of 13 children of a distinguished Italian lawyer who served the Papal States, Francesco Possenti was a bright, joyful youth, despite losing his mother when he was 4. During his education at the Jesuit college in Spoleto, he was seriously ill twice and vowed to become a religious if he recovered. Although he felt called to serve the Lord through the priesthood, but took his time to act upon this feeling. It was after the death of his favorite sister in 1856 that he entered the Passionist novitiate, taking the name Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows. He is known to have been extraordinarily patient and kind, completing all that was expected of him with a bright spirit. Unfortunately, he never reached ordination, as he died of tuberculosis at 24 years old. St. Gabriel Possenti was canonized in 1920 and is the Patron of clerics and youth.

“

My life is a continuous delight; what I experience inside these sacred walls is almost inexpressible; the 24 hours of the day seem to me like 24 short instants; really my life is full of delight.”

—ST. GABRIEL POSSENTI

”



**Catholic
Current**

Quote translated from the original writings of St. Gabriel in Italian.

Chenai, R. (2000). *The Voices of the Saints: A Year of Readings*. Double Day Press. New York.

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SAINT OF THE WEEK

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-3, 22-23 • 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 • Luke 6:27-38



Love the Haters!

David exhibits exemplary behavior while fleeing persecution from King Saul in our first reading from 1 Samuel.

One night, David—a skillful soldier—snuck into the place where King Saul was sleeping. But instead of ending his life, he did nothing to the Lord’s anointed. David was more concerned about acting against God than saving his life and securing a path to the throne. His decision probably left his companions perplexed. But David was no ordinary man. Scripture describes him as a man “after [God’s] own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14).

Those who heard Jesus speak the words from today’s Gospel likely were confused, too. He said, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” His directions are the opposite of how most people behave when they’re abused. But God and Jesus did these things, which reveal God’s heart, and the Lord wants us to follow his example.

Jesus invites his disciples to avoid the “easy” road, the one that leads to an endless cycle of violence and destruction. He wants us to elevate our desires and passions to the level of his own “merciful and gracious” Sacred Heart (Psalm 103:8a). Jesus knows such a transformation is impossible without his grace. So, he shares his Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts so we can be reborn as spiritual men and women, leaving our earthly way of thinking behind.

In Baptism, we have been transformed to bear the image of the “heavenly” Adam (as St. Paul calls Jesus). Let’s be confident that, with the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we can love as Jesus does.



Illustration of Jesus preaching in Galilee

Live the Gospel

Forgiving and loving those who mistreat us today or who have wounded us in the past is not easy, but it can be a liberating experience that brings about healing. I encourage you to approach Jesus in prayer and ask him to give you the strength to forgive those who have hurt you. You can pray the Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, or you can simply say, “Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours!”

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to read:



Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2018/11/08/how-to-pray-for-your-enemies-and-forgive/>

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Are you a Catechist, Catholic School Teacher, Campus or Youth Minister? Do you serve on an RCIA, Evangelization, Adult Faith Formation, Baptism, or Marriage Ministry team? There will be something for everyone in ministry!

The day will offer breakout sessions in both English and Spanish.



DATE:

Saturday
March 29, 2025



TIME:

8 AM-3 PM



LOCATION:

St. John Vianney High School
540-A Line Rd
Holmdel, NJ 07733

LEARN MORE



Questions? Contact Michelle Angelo Santoro

609-403-7174 | mangelo@dioceseoftrenton.org | dioceseoftrenton.org/hope2025

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
 1st Thursday of the month 7:00 pm
 or by appt.

Exposition of the Holy Sacrament & Benediction

1st Wednesday of each month 9:30 am
 1st Thursday of each month 7:00 pm with
 Confessions

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 program. Please call the Parish Office to register.

Visits to the Sick and Homebound

May be arranged by calling our parish office.

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 a 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, simply scan the QR Code or go to KofC.org/join & enter council #11529.

**St Vincent de Paul Society**

Emergency Assistance Helpline: 732-370-0098

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

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.

RCIA/OCIA**Rite/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 Karen Badach, 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. Meetings are at St. Monica every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. The Legion is always looking to recruit new members. If you discern a divine connection to the Blessed Mother, and feel she is calling you to join, please contact the Parish Office.

Women of St Monica

A Ministry of Catholic women of the parish striving to fulfill their spiritual needs, sharing their faith, promoting community, and conducting fundraisers throughout the year and enhance parish life in a variety of ways. Please contact the parish office for more info.



If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at: abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org

*Reflections on the Readings for the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 23, 2025***AMAZING LOVE**

“Love your enemy. Do good to those who persecute you.” Simply put, these are two of the most challenging statements that Jesus ever said. Yet this command is one of the basic requirements of being a disciple of Christ. Loving your enemy and doing good to those who persecute you are not just lofty ideas or a romanticized vision of Jesus—they are the basic responses of a Christian disciple.

Why would Jesus demand such a high standard of his followers? Isn't this kind of love and forgiveness extremely difficult, almost impossible? Humanly speaking, yes. But with God all things are possible, and the Lord wants to transform our hearts to enable us to love others with the love he has for us.

The first reading and Gospel reading for this week reveal the kind of love that overcomes all things, even hatred and fear. The love of God that Jesus reveals in his death and Resurrection, the fact that he loved us even when we were his enemies in sin is the same love that we as followers of Christ are to witness to the entire world. Christians are not to win converts by fear or coercion or the sword. Like our Master and Savior, we conquer overwhelmingly with our love, a love so radical that even the enemies of Christians, when they are loved by those they hate, cannot help but be moved.

PRAYER

Take a moment now and close your eyes. Imagine that you are with the disciples as Jesus begins to talk. You hear him say, “To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.” What is your immediate reaction to hearing these things? In what ways is this teaching challenging for you?

RESOLUTION

Ask Jesus to show you one person who may have hurt you in the past but needs your love this week. What can you do to love this person, through thought, prayer, or even action? Pick one thing and resolve to do it as soon as possible this week. | formed.org



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