

CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



December 21, 2025

Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am
Saturday 4 pm
Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway



Our Parish is Served by:

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

We invite you to celebrate with us

website: www.saintmonica.com
Parish Office: 732-928-0279
Email: parishoffice@saintmonica.com
Fax: (732) 928-1853
Religious Education: 732-928-4038

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

Confessions

Saturdays
3:15 pm
to 3:45 pm

Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)
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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 21, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 20

4:00 pm Jennie D'Angelo
(Frank & Jeanne D'Acunto)

Sunday, December 21

9:00 am Margaret Dolores Burkshot
(Janet Noordzy)

11:00 am Alexander Schpakow
(William & Linda Patullo)

Monday, December 22

9:00 am Mary Vadakara
(The Vadakara Family)

Tuesday, December 23

9:00 am **No Mass**

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 pm Christmas Mass Remembrances

10:00 pm Christmas Mass Remembrances

Thursday, December 25

9:00 am Christmas Remembrances

11:00 am Christmas Remembrances

Saturday, December 27

4:00 pm Kathie Abramson (Sickler)
(Janet DaCruz)

Sunday, December 28

9:00 am Intentions of Zia Gold
(Marie Gould)

11:00 am Anne M. Berardone
(Arlene Toth)

*To secure your Mass Intentions,
contact the Parish Office.*

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, 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, Cheryl Vega, Carol Spezzano, Br. Michael Seiler, Shannon Hubert, Grace 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, Mark Hoffman, Lisa Sassone, Mark Legato, Anita Bertram, Tom and Carol Ringwood, Bob Toth

*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 – December 21, 2025

Monday 1 Sm 1:24-28 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday Morning 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 Lk 1:67-79

Thursday Vigil Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Thursday Night Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

Thursday Dawn Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20

Thursday Day Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Mt 10:17-22

Saturday 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Sunday Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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.



Attention all those who signed up or who want to sign up to be an Altar Server—There will be a training meeting on **Saturday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m. and on Saturday, December 20th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Church.

All new Altar Servers are required to attend. Any boy or girl who is interested in becoming an altar server is invited to join and attend!
We hope to see you there!


FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS
Nov 10—Nov 16, 2025

Weekly Offerings \$3,688.25

Online Giving \$1,441.00

Total \$5,129.25

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



Church of St Monica
2025 Advent/Christmas/New Year
Schedule of Services



Second Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 6 Mass 4:00 pm
Sunday, December 7 9:00 am & 11:00 am Mass

Monday, December 8
Immaculate Conception (Holy Day)
9:00 am & 7:00 pm Mass

Advent Parish Penance Service
Wednesday, December 10 7:00 pm

Daily Masses:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am (through December 18)

Simbang Gabi – Christmas Novena Rosary & Masses

Friday, December 19

Rosary 6:30 pm

Mass 7:00 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sunday Obligation)

Saturday, December 20- 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 21- 9:00 & 11:00 am

Tuesday, December 23 - No 9:00 am Mass

Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24 (Holy Day)

4:00 & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25 (Holy Day)

9:00 am & 11:00 am

New Year's Eve - Wednesday, December 31

9:00 am

Solemnity of Mary - Thursday, January 1 (Holy Day)

Mass 9:00 am & 7:00 pm

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 21, 2025

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 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. Meetings are at St. Monica every Tuesday at 7:00 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



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, December 20**

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 21

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass (Children's Mass)

12:30 pm Decorating the Church

Monday, December 22

9:00 am Mass

No Religious Ed Classes**Tuesday, December 23**

9:00 am Mass

No Religious Ed Classes**No Legion of Mary Meeting****Wednesday, December 24****Christmas Eve—Parish Offices Closed**

4:00 pm Mass with Children's Choir

10:00 pm Mass

Thursday, December 25**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

Saturday, December 27

11:00 am Miles Wade Samson Won Baptism

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 28

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

12:30 pm Norcia Wedding

Monday, December 29

9:00 am Mass

No Religious Ed Classes**Tuesday, December 30**

9:00 am Mass

No Religious Ed Classes**No Legion of Mary Meeting****Wednesday, December 31****New Year's Eve—Parish Offices Closed**

9:00 am Mass

Thursday, January 1**HAPPY NEW YEAR!—Parish Offices Closed****Solemnity of Mary—Holy Day of Obligation**

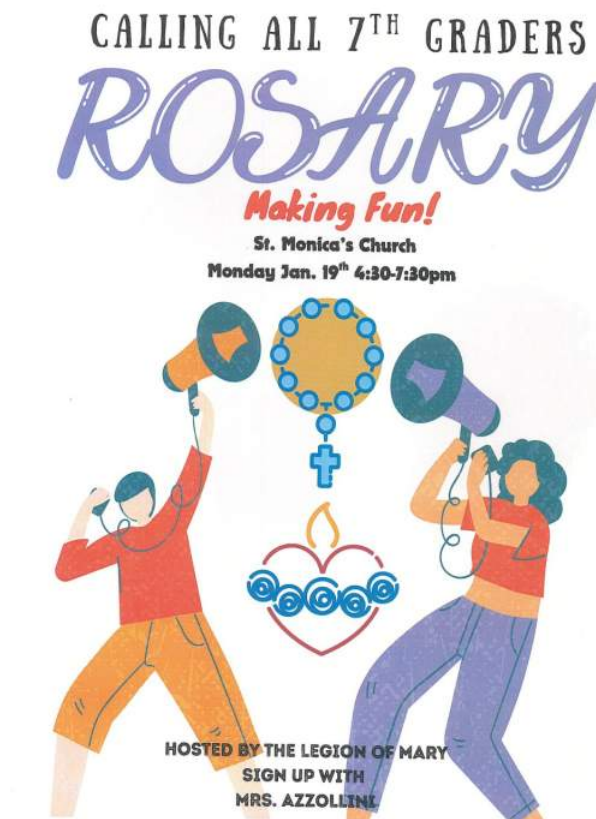
9:00 am Mass

7:00 pm Mass

Saturday, January 3

3:15 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass



Reflection

By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Holidays and holy days each create a certain atmosphere around them. To mix them up, or to confuse them, is a mistake. So, for instance, decorating your home with all kinds of red, white and blue stressing patriotism does not really show the spirit of Christmas with its red and green.

The weak secular appraisal of Christmas event as mainly a call to reignite brotherhood among nations is just atheism trying to suppress Christ's coming. A much worse error than mixing up colors.



The simple and straightforward telling of the birth account of Jesus in St. Matthew's gospel puts forth the truth and nothing but the truth. A baby was born to a Jewish couple of humble origins as part of a long held and well prepared for plan to save mankind from sin and invite him to turn back to God.

The consequent atmosphere is one of true peace and deep joy that comes with renewed hope. Optimism rekindled. Pessimism banished. So, there is no place for raucous shouting and revelry. Much less a frenzy over who gets what as a gift under the artificial evergreen.

The calendar this year has given us a few days after this Fourth Sunday of Advent to stop, look and really listen to the gospel message. To energize our faith in the God who proved His love for us by sending His own Son to save us. As a result of the first Christmas, for the first time in history, men had to look down to see heaven, for heaven lay in a manger.

Remember the distraught man in Mark's gospel whose son was possessed? When Jesus asked him "Do you believe? (I can do this?) the man's answer becomes a prayer for all of us many times in life, even at Christmas: "Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief."

God love you and yours and have a blessed Christmas.





Remember, the only mass with the Children's Choir is the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass



**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

Please check www.FHOP.org for dates, registration, directions and for our other offerings!

All programs will be offered online and in-person unless otherwise indicated.

IN-PERSON ONLY**THE CHRISTMAS STORY – THE CHOSEN**

Wednesday, December 17 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

It is so familiar, ever ancient, ever new! We will view the Christmas episode, share its message, spend some time in prayer and enjoy a fabulous lunch. What a great Advent morning as we grow in appreciation of the gift of Christ's coming into our lives. Donation: \$25, lunch included

THE END OF THE YEAR RETREAT

Wednesday, December 31 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer. Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2025 and expressing gratitude to God. The day will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2026. We reverently say farewell to 2025 and cordially welcome 2026 as a gift from God. Please bring your lunch. Donation: Love Offering

GOD CANNOT FILL AN OCCUPIED SPACE!**CLEANING UP & CLEANING OUT**

Tuesday, January 6 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Is it time to make a little more room for God in your life? Do you find yourself complaining, "I have too much stuff!" Is decluttering one of your desires for 2026? We are each going to make a plan to clean up and clean out, to simplify and enjoy life more, to have a lighter grasp and a freer heart for the more important things of life. Step by step, with the support of a partner and prayer, we will be clutter-free by Easter! With God's help, we can do it! Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20.

INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

Monday, January 12 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

This morning's retreat will help us to grow closer to the infant Jesus by celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation through the divinity and humanity of Christ. Through this time of prayer, we will see in a special way how we are children of God. Donation: \$25, includes materials and lunch.



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COUNCIL #11529

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ST. JUDE FUNDRAISER

The St. Monica Knights of Columbus will be holding its annual Christmas Tree fundraiser in support of the St. Jude Children's Hospital and other local charities. Please visit us at our location Premier Design located at 138 N. County Line Road. in Jackson. Quality, freshly cut Fraser fir trees, grave blankets and wreaths are available for purchase beginning on November 22nd while supplies last. Hours are weekdays 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM and weekends 10 AM to 8:00 PM. This is our 27th year and we have raised over \$250,000. Please come out and support this holiday tradition by helping those in need this Christmas season.

For A limited Time Only
While Supplies Last



The Knights of Columbus will be selling Wreaths and Grave Blankets outside of Church after each mass while supplies last.

And again, all proceeds go to the St. Jude Children's Hospital and other local charities.



Warm Up with
Winter Bingo
Wednesday, January 7, 2026

2-4 PM

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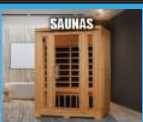
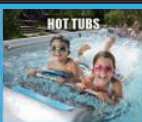
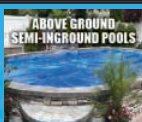
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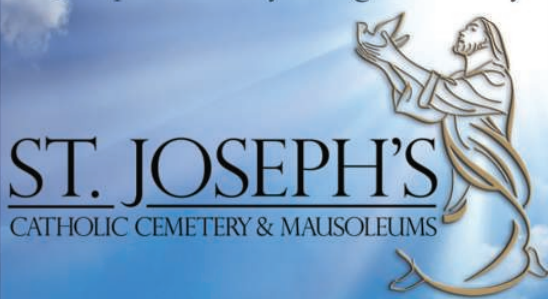
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