

SAINT MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH



Our Parish is Served by:

Reverend Alex Enriquez, Pastor

Deacon Christian Knoebel

We invite you to celebrate with us

679 W. Veterans Highway

Jackson, NJ 08527

Parish Office: 732-928-0279

Religious Education: 732-928-4038

Fax: (732) 928-1853

Email: stmonicanj@yahoo.com

Website: www.saintmonica.com

Twitter: [@StMonicaParish](https://twitter.com/StMonicaParish)

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

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

Confessions

Saturdays

3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

or

by appointment

Masses

MON TO THURS 9am

SATURDAY 4 pm

SUNDAY 9 am & 11 am

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.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 17, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 16

9:00 am Jean Kaba (Linda Yglesias)

Sunday, October 17

9:00 am Margaret Gibson
(Bereavement Ministry)

11:00 am Anthony Glad (Linda Yglesias)

Monday, October 18

9:00 am Available

Tuesday, October 19

9:00 am Available

Wednesday, October 20

9:00 am Available

Thursday, October 21

9:00 am Available

Saturday, October 23

4:00 pm Nick DeLapi
(Mary & Victor Tardio)

Sunday, October 24

9:00 am Angelino Orrico
(Trematerra Family)

11:00 am Juanita Seda (Bereavement Ministry)

To secure your intentions, please contact the Parish Office.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Jackie Wilson, Diane Black, Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Peter Laudati, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Paul Gallo, Rosemarie McNab, Chuck Smith, Toni Hetteroth, Brian Scott, Dianne Smith, Douglas Merwin, Frank Trimboli, Bert Bumbera, Joan Myhal, Carol Spezzano, Baryt Schone, Victor Mota, Fran DeLuca, Nick DeLuca, Dorothy Palumbo, Frank Diolosa, Theodore Duniak, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Baby Tripp Ravenfeld, Marie Gould, Christopher Diolosa, Steve Andolora, Wayne Calsetta, Doris Garbarino, Bettina Morell, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, John Jennings, Arlene Toth, Deborah MacInnes, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Lewis Trimboli, Glory D'Acunto, Anna and Sal Morello, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Joey Brune, Phillip Wenz, Tina Sherry, Patrick Abeel, Jim Scott, Robin Trombino

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.

Parish Mission Dec. 15! Save the Date!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK – OCTOBER 17, 2021

Monday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Lk 10:1-9

Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Lk 12:39-48

Thursday: Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 12:49-53

Friday: Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94; Lk 12:54-59

Saturday: Rom 8:1-11; Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 13:1-9

Sunday: Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON FROM BISHOP O'CONNELL
 "ON THE CHURCH'S SYNODAL PATH OF 'COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION'"

To the clergy, consecrated religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Trenton,

I rarely enjoy traveling alone, whether for business or pleasure. When going somewhere, especially on a longer trip, I prefer the company of others for conversation, for the exchange of ideas, for sharing different experiences, and, quite simply, just for companionship. In many ways, I think that preference explains why I began my journey to the priesthood in a religious community where the emphasis is on life and ministry with a "band of brothers" joined together by the charism of a common founder, spirit and purpose. That is the point, really, of religious life and, perhaps a unique contribution I make to diocesan priests as their diocesan bishop. I enjoy "journeying together!"

The Catholic Church in recent years --- particularly during the pontificate of Pope Francis, a religious order priest --- has become accustomed to hearing the novel expression "synodality" used to describe the nature of the Church in our day. The word itself is derived from two Greek words meaning "common road or path." Synodality "is the specific *modus vivendi et operandi* (way of living and operating) of the Church, the People of God, which reveals and gives substance to her being as communion when all her members *journey together*, gather in assembly and take an active part in her evangelizing mission (International Theological Commission, "Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church," March 2, 2018, para. 6)."

While "synods" are not new to the Church, Pope St. Paul VI (1897-1978) formally established the "Synod of Bishops," following the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), as a "permanent institution" in the Church "whereby bishops chosen from various parts of the world are to offer more effective assistance to the Supreme Shepherd ... providing information and offering advice -- Paul VI, September 15, 1965 apostolic letter *motu proprio* "*Apostolica sollicitudo* (Apostolic concern)." Such synods are convened by the Pope as "ordinary" (that is, held at fixed intervals) or "extraordinary" (that is, held to treat a matter of urgent or specific concern to the Church) gatherings of designated, elected or appointed bishops of the world with the Pope. Even when they are not in session, synods have a permanent secretariat or office in Rome, headed by a member of the hierarchy appointed by the Pope.

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This week our sanctuary candle burns for
The Gould Family

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
COLLECTIONS OCTOBER 2 - 3, 2021

Weekly Collection	\$2,697.20
Building Maintenance	\$ 304.00
Online Giving	\$2,471.00
Total	\$5,472.20

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

Collection for St Vincent DePaul \$308.00

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Social Concerns will be collecting donations of turkeys and hams for Thanksgiving. If anyone would like to make up a box of food for a family for Thanksgiving please see sign up sheets at the back of the church. Thank you in advance for helping us feed those in need.

THE WOMEN OF ST. MONICA

CANDLE SALE

Order your inspirational candles at all Masses in October. The WOSM have a great selection from which to choose! Say hello to the WOSM members at their booth in the back of the church, and get a jump on your Christmas shopping! All proceeds to benefit St. Monica Church. Contact Eleanore Althaver for more information at 732-691-5463

MINISTRY SCHEDULE UPDATE

An email was sent in late September to all lay liturgical ministers in regard to the new November to January schedule. If you wish to continue to serve at Mass and have not yet responded, please contact the Parish Office at your earliest convenience.

Thank you. 732-928-0279



Religious
Education
Parish of St. Monica

The most valuable gift your child will ever receive from you is the "Gift of Faith."

IN PERSON Religious Education classes have begun!

All CDC recommendations for safety in schools are followed.

A few volunteers are needed to set up on Mondays at 9:30 am and break-down on Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

Any time you could provide is appreciated.

Please contact the Religious Ed. Office

732-928-4038

stmonicacd@yahoo.com

DIOCESE OF TRENTON

FRANCIS HOUSE

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center & Retreat House

84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501

609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

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

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

Check Out



Online Giving

www.saintmonica.com

Children's Mass

Reflection on the Gospel Reading: Mark 10:42-45

Christian leaders are called to be humble servants

Think about this: What are some things that leaders do? They are in charge, they help us be organized, they tell us what to do. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus talks about leaders. Listen carefully to what he says about them.

Jesus said that some leaders act in ways to show that they are better or more important than other people. Then he talks about what it means to be a leader in the Kingdom of God. He said that leaders will serve others.

Jesus came to teach us about God's love and forgiveness and to save us from sin. He gave up his life so that we would have life forever in heaven with God. He shows us how to be a Christian leader by being helpful and loving to others.

The leaders in our lives serve us by helping us learn and have fun. We can be leaders too. When we put other's needs before our own and look for small ways to be helpful each day and to get along with others, we are being leaders. Loving God, help us to be gentle, loving, helpful people. Amen. | [Loyola Press, Sunday Connection](#)



CALENDAR

Saturday, October 16

- 11:00 am Rubber Duck Race (Pine Lake Pk)
 3:15 am Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, October 17

- 9:00 am Mass
 10:00 am RCIA Young Adults (LC)
 11:00 am Children's Mass
 12:00 pm Baptism
 12:30 pm Altar Server Training (Church)

Monday, October 18

- 9:00 am Mass
 4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
 6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, October 19

- 9:00 am Mass
 1:30 pm Legion of Mary
 4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
 6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
 8:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)

Wednesday, October 20

- 9:00 am Mass

Thursday, October 21

- 9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm RCIA Adults (Little Church)

Friday, October 22

- 4:00 pm Wedding
 7:30 pm AA Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Saturday, October 23

- 3:15 am Confessions
 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, October 24

- 9:00 am Mass
 10:00 am RCIA Young Adults (LC)
 11:00 am Mass

Monday, October 25

- 9:00 am Mass
 4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
 6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, October 26

- 9:00 am Mass
 1:30 pm Legion of Mary
 4:30 pm Religious Education Classes
 6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
 8:00 pm Adult Choir (Church)
 8:00 pm K of C Officer Mtg. (Little Church)

Wednesday, October 27

- 9:00 am Mass
 5:00 pm Baptism

Thursday, October 28

- 9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm RCIA Adults (Little Church)
 7:30 pm K of C Council Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Friday, October 29

- 7:30 pm AA Mtg. (Parish Hall)

CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY

"Baptism is the source of new life in Christ and for that baptismal grace to unfold, the parent's help is important. So too is the role of the godfather and godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized on the road of Christian life." CCC, 1253-1255

"Candidates for the sacrament of confirmation, as for baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate (but not required) that the confirmation sponsor be one of the baptism godparents." CCC 1254, 1311

Before either sacrament is celebrated, all godparents and sponsors are required to submit to St. Monica's parish office a **Certificate of Eligibility**. This form can be obtained from the parish office of the godparent or sponsor.

To receive the form, the person must:

- ⇒ Be an active Catholic, registered and attending Mass in their Catholic parish for at least 6 months
- ⇒ Be at least 16 years of age
- ⇒ Have completed the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation
- ⇒ If married, have a valid marriage within the Catholic Church

If you are asked to be a baptism godparent or confirmation sponsor and you meet all the guidelines above, please call the parish office as soon as possible to obtain your **Certificate of Eligibility**. When in doubt, call the parish office for help at: 732-928-0279

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 17, 2021

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON (continued from page 2)

Writing from Rome to the bishops of the world earlier this year, Cardinal Mario Greich, General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops, reflected, “Synodality refers to the very essence of the Church, her constitutive reality, and is thus oriented towards evangelization. It is an ecclesial way of being and a prophetic example for today’s world.” Perhaps a more theological description than most of us are used to in everyday conversation, this idea can be simplified as “a common road or path” for the life and work of the Church today, “journeying together.” The Church envisions a synod that goes far beyond a mere gathering of bishops to include and embrace the entire People of God.

Recent history provides a context to understand the current discussion of synodality.

Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis has expressed a desire to strengthen the unity, collegiality and inclusivity of Church governance on matters of faith and morals and life in the Church. To that end, drawing from his November 24, 2013 apostolic exhortation “*Evangelium Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel),” Pope Francis issued an apostolic constitution “*Episcopalis Communio* (Episcopal communion)” on September 15, 2018, “to profoundly reshape all the ecclesial structures to become more *missionary* (an abiding concern of the Holy Father)... (and) to become more and more an adequate channel for the evangelization of the present world more than for self-preservation ... a privileged instrument for *listening* to the People of God.”

Three years earlier, on the 50th anniversary of Pope St. Paul VI’s establishment of the Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis wrote: “It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium. What the Lord is asking of us is already in some sense present in the very word ‘synod.’ Journeying together — laity, pastors, the Bishop of Rome — is an easy concept to put into words, but not so easy to put into practice (October 17, 2015).”

On April 24 of this current year, Pope Francis announced the convocation of the Sixteenth Ordinary Synod -- originally scheduled for 2022 but postponed due to the pandemic until 2023 --- with the theme “For A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission,” in a sense, “a Synod on synodality.” It will follow a newly revised programmatic structure:

This path toward the celebration of the Synod comprises of three phases, between October 2021 and October 2023, a diocesan phase and a continental phase that will give life to two different working documents and, finally, a conclusive phase at the level of the Universal Church ... The Synod of Bishops is the dynamic point of convergence that calls for mutual listening to the Holy Spirit at every level of the Church’s life (General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops, “Note on the XVI Ordinary Synod,” May 21, 2021).

The Sixteenth Ordinary Synod of Bishops opens Sunday, October 10, 2021, with a Mass celebrated in Rome at St. Peter’s Basilica by Pope Francis. Every diocese throughout the world will initiate its diocesan phase of the Synod with a Mass celebrated by its diocesan bishop on the following Sunday, October 17, 2021. In the Diocese of Trenton, that Mass will be celebrated in St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral in Trenton at 3 p.m. The Diocese will also use that occasion to commemorate the beginning of our 140th Anniversary Year.

The program or “path” of the diocesan phase for “journeying together” is described in the General Secretariat’s May 21, 2021 “Note,” referenced above:

*Each bishop will appoint a diocesan contact person (and eventually a team) for the synodal consultation; they shall be a point of reference and link with the Episcopal Conference. They will accompany all the stages of the consultation process in the local church. Consultation in the particular Churches will include those groups of participation as envisioned in **Episcopalis Communio**, without excluding other modalities deemed appropriate for the consultation to be real and effective (cf. **Episcopalis Communio**, 6).*

Consultation with the People of God in each particular Church will conclude with a pre-synodal meeting, which will be the culmination of diocesan discernment.

After the conclusion of the diocesan phase, each particular Church will submit their contributions to their Episcopal Conference on a date determined by the Episcopal Conference itself. The Eastern Churches will submit their contributions to their corresponding bodies.



-continued on next page

Elements of the diocesan phase of the Synod for the Diocese of Trenton are being prepared.

An integral part of the diocesan synodal journey itself with its principal themes of “communion, participation, mission,” is the effort to reach out to as many Catholics of the Diocese as possible: clergy and consecrated religious, active as well as “lapsed” or non-practicing Catholic lay faithful women and men, both married and single, of every generation, race, national and ethnic background, different point of view, social, political and economic status. In other words, all those who have in the past or still call the Catholic Church “home” are called to actively participate in the synodality of the Church by pausing to listen to one another on this journey together.

Some questions and points of reflection for all the participants described above include: what has been/is your experience of the Catholic Church? How has that experience shaped or affected your life and your faith in God? What obstacles to worship, learning and service have you encountered that may have negatively influenced the practice of your Catholic faith? What do you need as a Catholic to be a stronger, more intentional, more committed, more connected member of the Church, to belong and feel like you belong to the Church? How can we better “journey together” as Catholics in Mercer, Burlington, Ocean and Monmouth counties?

As I think of the meaning of synodality in the Catholic Church, I am reminded of the Irish poet and novelist James Joyce’s (1882-1941) famous description of the Catholic Church in *Finnegan’s Wake*: “Here comes everybody!” Can that ever be true of our Church again? Can the diocesan synodal journey take us there together?

Since there are two other later phases to this Synod --- the “continental phase” at the level of the Episcopal Conference (that is, for us, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) and the “universal phase” in Rome --- the Sixteenth Ordinary Synod of Bishops will not be completed until October 2023. Hopefully, it will not end there.

At the conclusion of each Synod of Bishops, the Pope usually issues a post-synod “apostolic exhortation,” summarizing the major emphases and determinations of the Synod. Along with a review by the College of bishops attending, these documents are considered part of the Pope’s ordinary magisterium or teaching authority, to be believed by all the faithful.

That is the program or plan for our Church’s “journeying together” through 2023. The success and fruits of these undertakings will depend upon our common development and application of its contents by the Church at every level and, most importantly, upon our openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The enduring results of the Synod will, of course, take time to emerge.

As Cardinal Greich has stated, “the Synod is not just an event but also a process that involves in synergy (that is, by collaboration and cooperation) the People of God, the college of bishops and the Bishop of Rome, each according to their proper function.” He cautions, however, that this Synod “is not about democracy or populism or anything like that. Rather, it is the Church as the People of God, a People who, by virtue of baptism, is an active *subject* in the life of the Church.” That is how the Church fulfills its missionary role: a “listening Church;” a “discerning Church;” a Church of “communion, participation and mission,” “journeying together.”

I ask the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Trenton to pray for the Church as it prepares for this important spiritual endeavor. It is my hope, as Bishop of the Diocese, that we will all fruitfully participate in and benefit from the Synod at the diocesan level, listening to one another as we share our different “stories,” experiences, challenges and hopes for the Church at this exciting time in its history.

In conclusion, I invite the entire Diocese of Trenton to join in this “Prayer for the Success of the Synod”:

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Trenton on this Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 10th in the Year of Our Lord 2021.

David M. O'Connell, C.M.



Most Reverend David M. O’Connell, C.M., J.C.D.
Bishop of Trenton



Welcome New Parishioners!!

The Bryant Family

Welcome Recently Baptized!!

Mia Grace Vito

Christian James Manrique

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY

We meet every Saturday at 12 Noon
at the Jackson Municipal Building
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For information,
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PRAY THE ROSARY IN OCTOBER

How To Pray the Rosary

Catholics use the rosary to pray to God through the intercession of Mary. With the prayers of the rosary, we ask Mary to pray for us and to guide us by the example of her son, Jesus.

The rosary usually has 59 beads, a crucifix, and a medal, with certain prayers for each of these different pieces. The prayers of the rosary can be divided into three categories.

Introductory Prayers

The introductory prayers prepare you for deep reflection. Think of any needs or struggles in your life and bring them to Mary. She cares for you like a loving mother, and wants to take your needs to Jesus. If you are praying with a group, you can say your intentions out loud so the rest of the group can pray for them as well.

Mysteries of the Rosary

As you pray the decades, you can also meditate on the mysteries of the rosary and learn valuable lessons from the lives of Jesus and Mary. Traditionally Catholics reflect on specific mysteries each day of the week. The prayers for each decade are repeated many times. These words are deeply rooted in the Bible and Christian tradition and can serve as a powerful meditation.

Closing Prayers

The closing prayers are prayed on the medal, and they end the rosary. With these prayers we ask God and Mary to watch over us, guide us, and help us become a better-version-of-ourselves.

SEE More:

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary.html#introductory-prayers>

The Eucharist - St Monica**Masses & Reconciliation**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am
 Saturday 4:00 pm
 Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am
 Holy Days As Noted
 Reconciliation Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 pm
 or by appt.

Exposition of the Holy Sacrament & Benediction

1st Wednesday of each month 9:30 am

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 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

Catholic Men coming together selflessly for others through Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Visit our Website at www.kofc11529.org.

St Vincent de Paul Society

Emergency Assistance Helpline: 732-370-0098

Bereavement Ministry

Please contact the parish office for more information.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Fridays 7:30 - 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

For those seeking full membership in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish office.

Youth Group

Open to all children of St Monica registered families and we would love to have you join us. For more information, contact Theresa Calsetta 732-299-0261.

New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Registration forms may be downloaded at www.saintmonica.com. Please contact the parish office for further information.

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 requests 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 ongoing 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 visitation of families, the sick and assisting with pastoral needs.

Women of St Monica

Ministry of Catholic women of the parish striving to fulfill their spiritual needs, sharing their faith, promoting community and conduct fundraisers throughout the year and enhance parish life in a variety of ways.

Ancient Order of Hibernians

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is an Irish Catholic fraternity looking for members to bond in Brotherhood, Unity & Christian Charity. Contact Patrick Jockel (609) 489-9221 or at patrickaoh@hotmail.com

Reflections on the Readings for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time—October 17, 2021

SUFFERING FOR CHRIST

Have you ever longed for a role, a job, or place in life, for which you would give just about anything to have? And then, after you finally got what you wanted, you realized that it was more than or different from what you were expecting? In today's Gospel, two of Jesus's disciples ask for a huge role - to sit at his right and left side in his eternal kingdom, and thereby suffer in a similar passion and death to that of Christ's. They cannot imagine the suffering that they would undergo to have this desire fulfilled, however. With gentleness and love, Jesus tells them he will give them some of what they ask for, but not all. Hearing that we can't do it all or have it all requires deep humility. Are you ready to acquire profound humility?



PRAYER

In this Gospel passage, James and John are proud in their bold request to sit on the left and right side of Christ. Nevertheless, this request may come from a deeper desire, namely, to spend eternity with Christ. What do you desire to ask of the Lord? Consider whether your requests simply come from pride, or if you are truly and humbly seeking the will of God. Ask for those things that you desire, and then abandon everything to God's divine providence, which might not involve those things for which you are asking.

Jesus tells us in this reading that the greatest among us will be our servants. What does this mean for you? How are you serving those around you, especially your family? Do you expect things to be done for you at home and at your parish? Or, are you finding ways in which you can give your life in service to those you love?

RESOLUTION

Serve fearlessly this week. If you feel called to be part of a ministry at Church, take the leap of faith and volunteer. Find a way each day to serve your family or a co-worker. Do not be afraid of the demands of service, for it is when we give ourselves fully in sacrifice that we are most closely united with Jesus's Passion.

Our acts of service do not have to be great deeds. Remember how Saint Thérèse of Lisieux tells us repeatedly to do little things with great love. Moreover, Saint Teresa of Calcutta frequently said, "Love begins here," meaning that we do not need to go all the way to Calcutta, India to preform acts of love; rather, all of us simply need to love those who around us in our schools, homes, and work. Many of us lead simple lives. We can be powerful servants and bearers of Christ's love through thoughtful acts of service and kindness to make another's day brighter or easier. |[formed.org](https://www.formed.org)



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