

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Stewardship Report – Treasure

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Budgeted Amount:	\$5,000.00
Sunday Collection – 2/26/17:	\$2,859.00
Parish Pay – 2/26/17:	506.00
Total – Sunday Collection – 2/26/17:	\$3,365.00

Parish Pay ---is a convenient way for you to set up your weekly contributions - online – visit ParishPay.com

2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN STATISTICS – AS OF 3/7/17

Total # of Families:	442
Total # Pledged:	129
% of Participation	29.35%
Total Amount Pledged:	\$38,115.00
Total Amount paid:	\$34,640.00
Average Pledge:	\$ 293.19
% of Pledges Collected:	90.88%

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In memory of: Chester Mooney

Given by: Mary Del Monico

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

3/13	MON:	9:00a	Linda & Frank Decker Mary Jones (LIV) Kristen Ann Veltri
3/14	TUES:	9:00a	Elzbieta Bialas Kathy Shaw (LIV)
3/15	WED:	9:00a	No Mass today
3/16	THU:	9:00a	Judy Ann Futia
3/17	FRI:	9:00a	Thomas & Evelyn Burke Charles Jacobs
3/18	SAT:	5:00p	Wanda Gluszc Robert Weiss
3/19	SUN:	8:00a	Virginia Matas
		10:00a	Susan McGovern Eileen Randall Edward Losiewicz James Fischer
		11:45a	Marie Monzo Ruth Muller

WEEKDAY MASSES IN THE AREA:

St. Jude's, Hamburg – Mon. – Sat. – 8:45am
 St. Francis de Sales, McAfee – Mon. -Sat – 8:30am
 Our Lady Queen of Peace, Branchville – Mon.-Fri. – 8:00am
 Immac. Concept., Franklin –Tues, Wed. Fri, 7:30am, Sat. 9:00am
 National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Middletown, NY
 Mon.-Fri. 11:30am

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9
Monday Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
Friday Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 12, 2017

Mondays of Lent – “Welcome Home to Healing” – confessions will be heard from 7:00 – 8:30pm in Church
Fridays of Lent – Stations of the Cross - 9:00am & 7:30pm.

A NOTE FROM FR. JAN.....

I want to update you about our parish’s goal for the 2016 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. To date \$6,058.00 has been pledged on our \$17,640.00 goal. I believe that our goal is attainable and so I am asking for your help. If you have not yet done so, please make a pledge so we can reach our goal and help thousands of people in need throughout our Diocese. Not one person can do everything, but I am confident that everyone can do something. Whatever you are able to do to help is a great blessing. Please know, too, that 50% of all cash received over our parish goal is returned to us for our own parish needs. Please return your Appeal pledge card in the mail today or mail your gift directly to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, 777 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013. You can also make an on-line gift by going to www.2016appeal.org. Thank you in advance for helping our parish reach its goal!

COFFEE & DONUTS – first Sunday of each month after the 8:00am Mass in the Church Hall. Join us!

HELPING HANDS – Tuesday, March 14th at 7:30 PM in the rectory meeting room. Contact Terry at 845-258-8051.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION – every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading/ reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow. Call Carol at 973-875-4521 for information.

HELPING HANDS will meet on Tuesday, March 14, at 7:30 PM in the rectory meeting room. For further information, call Terry Westdyke, 845-258-8051.

ST. MONICA’S LEISURE GROUP - St. Monica's Leisure Group will meet in Wednesday, March 8, at 12:00 in the Church Hall. Beat the winter blues and join us for a good time. We look forward to seeing all of you again! Membership dues are \$10 a year. Please call Grace Casalino if you need further details. 973-702-8569.

BOOK DISCUSSION – Mon., March 20th – 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room. We will finish the book Jesus, A Pilgrimage. Focus question sheets can be found on the table in the Church Hall. Please call Carol at 862-266-6626 to RSVP.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SESSION – the next session will be held on Tuesday, March 21st at 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room. Please call Carol at 862-266-6626 to RSVP.

ST. PATRICK/ST. JOSEPH CELEBRATION – Sunday, March 19th at 4:00pm. **HELP IS NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT** –Sign up sheets for helpers and guests will be available after all Masses.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES now available on the tables at the Church and Hall exits. If you wish to have a loved one remembered at all of the Easter Masses with a flower placed on the altar, fill out the information on the envelope and return it to the box near the pulpit by no later than Sunday, April 9th. A list of names will be prepared and placed on the altar and a copy of all names will be printed and inserted into the bulletin. The suggested donation is \$10 per plant.

YOUTH MINISTRY

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY visit is scheduled for Saturday, March 18th. The sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the church hall. Please consider giving of your time to bring some cheer to these young adults. We guarantee that you will come away feeling very uplifted and rewarded.

YOUTH MINISTRY STUDENTS – Help is needed at the St. Joseph/St. Patrick Dinner. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the church hall. Many still need church service so here is your opportunity. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact your catechist or Mrs. Vernacchio.

PHASE II CANDIDATES – your Confirmation forms are due. Forms that were missing were forwarded to you a week or so ago. Please get them completed and return to Mrs. Vernacchio as soon as possible. The Confirmation Fee of \$75.00 is also due at this time.

Saturday, Mar. 18th – Visit to Dept. of Persons with Disabilities in Jefferson – leaving at 11am and returning by 2pm. More info to follow

Saturday, Apr. 1st – YM Class – beginning with the 5pm Mass, Phase I- Theme: “Relationships”

Phase II – Theme: “Holiness is Possible”

Saturday, Apr. 8th – Ice Cream Social at Bristol Glen w/residents – Time: 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Saturday, Apr. 15th - Spring Roadside Clean Up – more info to follow

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

His Word Today by Rev. William J. Reilly

“God has saved us and has called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours but according to his own design – the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus before the world began but now made manifest through the appearance of our Savior. He has robbed death of its power...”

With Peter, James and John we join Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. It is a transforming moment, when the Lord reveals to us who He is. The voice speaks, not only telling us of Jesus, but also that we are chosen, His favor rests in us, and our lent is our moment to be transformed by God’s forgiving grace. We remember the simple definition that ‘grace is the very life of God, communicated to us as a gift, and accepted.’

We begin our second week on our journey, aware that we have been chosen. God offers us the gift of His grace, but we need to seek it and accept it. As Paul told Timothy, God’s grace robs sin of its power. Another name for grace is ‘power.’ Use it, seek forgiveness and forgive someone else.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Grades 1-8

CALENDAR FOR 2017

FIRST AND SECOND GRADE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SESSION/GRADE(S)</u>
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3/19	12th session
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4/2	13 th session
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4/23	14 th session
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2nd GRADE NEWS

First Reconciliation Rehearsal - Saturday, March 18th – 9:00am in the Church Hall.

First Reconciliation – Saturday, March 25th 3:45pm in the Church. Families should plan to attend the 5:00pm Mass and stay for a light dinner afterwards.

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SESSION/GRADE(S)</u>
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3/19	12th session
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4/2	13 th session
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4/23	14 th session
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FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SESSION/GRADE(S)</u>
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3/11	11th session
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3/25	12th session
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4/8	13th session
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4/29	14th session
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CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD – this program is open to children in Grades 1-4 at the 10:00am Mass each week. The children are dismissed to listen to the Sunday readings with volunteer Catechists who read and reflect with the children. Please consider having your child participate each week.

-----Carol Bezak, Coordinator of Religious Formation

FOOD DONATIONS – can be dropped off in the baskets located under the table in the Church Hall – donations are picked up weekly and brought to food pantries in Sussex. If you are donating a turkey, call the Rectory – 973-875-4521. Thank you!!

NEW PARISHIONERS – WELCOME.... Have you been attending, but haven’t formally registered yet? Registration forms are located in a large white envelope on the table near the Church Hall exit. Please fill it out, mail it back to the Rectory (address on front of bulletin) – Thank you.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2017

If you like to travel or if you wish to begin some new travel adventures, come and share the company of others who do!! The “Cruise Café” travel group may offer an interesting and exciting opportunity to meet new people and possibly travel together. We continue to meet once a month for dinner at a local venue in and around the Sussex/Newton/Lafayette area – next meeting: Thurs., March 16th at 6:30pm at The Lafayette House, Rt. 15, Lafayette.

Upcoming travel/cruise opportunities include:

BUS TRIP: One World Observatory/September 11th

Memorial – Sunday, May 7th – Lunch, shopping included.

CRUISES: Halifax, Nova Scotia and Boston (with 4th of July fireworks in Boston harbor) on the Queen Mary 2 departing July 1st from NY and returns on July 6th

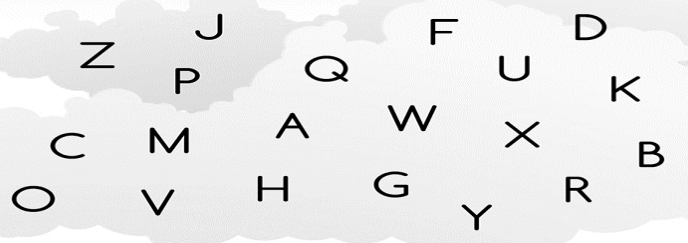
FATIMA, PORTUGAL & SPAIN – May 28 – June 4, 2017
Brochures now ready Call Carol at 862-266-6626.

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today Second Sunday of Lent | Matthew 17:1-9

On the mountain Jesus is Transfigured and appears with Moses and Elijah, who in the old testament both remind the people to "Obey God". Jesus tells Peter, James and John to believe and obey Him and keep this vision a secret until the resurrection.

Believe... Obey God



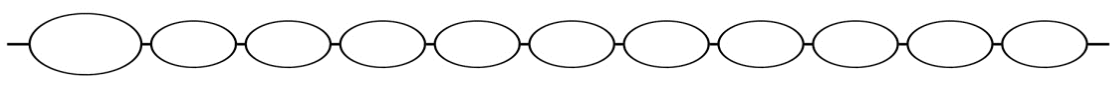
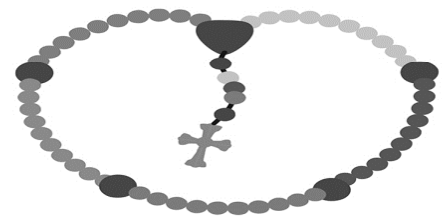
Find and write the missing letters not listed (from A to Z).

Unscramble the letters and fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below.

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.
_____ to him!" *Matthew 17:5*

The Second Sorrowful Mystery - The Scourging at the Pillar

Think about this mystery before praying.
Jesus obeyed His Father and suffered for our sins.



This week: Say an Our Father and color the large bead - say 10 Hail Mary's and color each small bead. End with the Glory Be to the Father. Tell Jesus you are sorry for your sins.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God calls Abraham to leave his family and people and go to a new land. God promises to make the people of this new nation great and to bless Abraham.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Paul, from his place of imprisonment in Rome, writes words of encouragement to Timothy, telling him that Christ is for them everlasting life.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Wishing to reveal His glory to Peter, James and John, Jesus takes them to a mountain where he is transfigured before them. When Peter exclaims that he will build three tabernacles here in honor of Jesus, Moses and Elijah, a voice from above proclaims: "This is My beloved Son on whom My favor rests. Listen to him."

ST. MONICA'S CHURCH - Contact info
Phone # 973-875-4521 Fax # 973-875-7538
Parish office hours: 9:30- 1:30pm Mon-Fri
Website: www.stmonicasussex.org
Email: stmonica@ptd.net
Deadline for bulletin submissions: Tuesday of each week for information to be printed on the following Sunday. Email to stmonica@ptd.net

A PERSONAL INVITATION FROM BISHOP ARTHUR SERRATELLI



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Nothing is more startling and, at the same time, more consoling than the truth for which Jesus lived and preached and died. It is this: God is love. As the Psalmist says, “The Lord is a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, most loving and true” (Ps 86:15).

Throughout his public ministry, Jesus shows the face of God as compassionate and merciful in his healing miracles and exorcisms. Even before Jesus issues the summons to repent, he announces, “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand” (Mk 1:15). The kingdom is nothing other than the presence of God making his love known and felt in our lives.

Jesus opens us to the profound meaning of the kingdom with his parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15: 11-32). It is found at the very center of Luke’s Gospel. It is the very heart of the gospel itself! The son who takes his inheritance, squanders it away and finds himself unfulfilled is each of us. We take the gifts that God gives us and use them against God’s will. We are the ones left empty, longing and desiring more than our sinful lives can give.

As in the parable, so in life. God is the Father who sees us, runs to us and embraces us. He takes our feeble confession of sin and turns it into a moment of great rejoicing. Our sins strip us of our dignity. God clothes us with his grace and peace. Nothing can make God stop loving us. In fact, as Paul says, “God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us”

(Rom 5: 8). When Jesus preached such great love to sinners, the self-righteous took scandal. But not the tax-collector and the prostitutes (cf Mt 21: 31). They recognized in his ready forgiveness of even their worst sins that God was drawing them back to Himself. The self-righteous would not acknowledge their sins. They did not accept the free gift of God’s forgiveness offered in Christ. But others, like Zacchaeus and the woman caught in adultery, did and found peace.

Through the ministry of the Church, God offers us his forgiveness in Christ Crucified and Risen. In the great sacrament of Reconciliation, God is already running to meet us. He wants to welcome us. He wants to exchange our dirty rags of prideful self-indulgence with the righteousness of Christ Crucified. He wants to bring us back into the joy of his home and into the fellowship of his Church. He longs to see us reconciled with Himself and with others.

Like the prodigal son barely able to confess his sins, we, at times, are ashamed and even afraid to name those evils that separate us from God who loves us so much. But the Father is not ashamed to recognize us as his own son or daughter. He longs to wrap his arms around us. He is waiting to welcome us to home. Now is the time to meet the Lord in Confession and know the joy of coming home. May the Lord who calls us to be one with him lead us through repentance into the embrace of his love.

<http://welcomehometohealing.org>

+ Arthur J. Serratelli

