

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasure**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

**Budgeted Amount:** \$5,000.00

**Sunday Collection – 4/9/17:** \$4,125.00

**Parish Pay – 4/9/17:** 561.00

**Total Sunday Collection – 4/9/17:** \$4,686.00

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 23, 2017**

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

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**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** –Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading/ reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow.

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**ST. MONICA’S LEISURE GROUP** - St. Monica's Leisure Group meets in the Church Hall at 12:00 noon on the first Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted. Dues are \$10.00 a year. Listed below is a schedule of meetings for 2017. Please call Grace Casalino at 973-702-8569 if you would like further information.

May 3 - Pot Luck. (Team 1); June 7 - Pot Luck (Team 2)

July 12 - (2nd Wed.) Indoor Picnic

August 2 - Remember When; September 6 - Labor Day Pizza

October 4 – Oktoberfest; November 1 - Halloween Party

December 7 (Thursday) - Christmas Party at Lamp Post Rest.

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**BOOK DISCUSSION** – Tues. April 25th – 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room. We will finish the book Jesus, A Pilgrimage. Please call Carol at 862-266-6626 to RSVP.

**ST. MONICA’S ANNUAL PASTA DINNER**

**Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Pasta Dinner is cancelled. If anyone has sent in a check for payment, it will be returned to you. Thank you.**

**Special thanks.....**to those who sang in the choir for Easter. Your help was very much appreciated. A few more women are needed – if anyone would still like to join, you are welcome to do so! The choir will most likely sing for some upcoming Sacramental celebrations and also from time to time in the future. Please consider joining!

Thank you very much.....Judy Cosentino

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**NEW PARISHIONERS – WELCOME!!**

Have you been attending our parish, but haven’t formally registered yet? Registration forms are located in a large white envelope on the table near the Church Hall exit. Mail completed form to the Rectory.

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**Bishop To Lead Spiritual Journey To Fatima, Spain**

Bishop Serratelli will lead a spiritual journey to Fatima (during the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother) in Portugal and to Seville, Cordoba, Granada, Malaga in Spain from July 16 to 24. A brochure with the day-to-day itinerary and complete details may be obtained by contacting

Great Experiences Inc. at (201) 825-3725 or email

[greatexinc@verizon.net](mailto:greatexinc@verizon.net)

Parish Pay ---is a convenient way for you to set up your weekly contributions - online – visit [ParishPay.com](http://ParishPay.com)

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

**Total # of Families:** 443  
**Total # Pledged:** 131  
**% of Participation** 29.57%  
**Total Amount Pledged:** \$38,215.00  
**Total Amount paid:** \$35,610.00  
**Average Pledge:** \$ 291.72  
**% of Pledges Collected:** 93.18%

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The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In memory of: Gerry Dudzinski

Given by: Dudzinski family

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

4/24 MON: 9:00a Jakub Szewczyk  
Jakub & Mary Szewczyk  
Blanca Espejo  
4/25 TUES: 9:00a Salvatore Basile  
4/26 WED: 9:00a No Mass today  
4/27 THU: 9:00a People of the Parish  
4/28 FRI: 9:00a People of the Parish  
4/29 SAT: 5:00p James Alalen  
Margaret Schreiber  
4/30 SUN: 8:00a Frank Rankl  
Christine VanDerVelden  
10:00a Kathy Shaw (LIV)  
Catherine & John McGovern  
Daniel R. Carretta  
Cecelia Livak  
11:45a Frank Alegre  
Edward Losiewicz

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**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](http://www.stmonicasussex.org)

**Email:** [stmonica@ptd.net](mailto: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](mailto:stmonica@ptd.net)

**Second Sunday of Easter or  
Sunday of Divine Mercy**

**Sunday** Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

**Monday** Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8

**Tuesday** 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20

**Wednesday** Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday** Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

**Friday** Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

**Saturday** Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Grades 1-8**  
**CALENDAR FOR 2017**

**FIRST AND SECOND GRADE**

**DATE**      **SESSION/GRADE(S)**  
4/23          14<sup>th</sup> session

**THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE**

**DATE**      **SESSION/GRADE(S)**  
4/23          14<sup>th</sup> session

**FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE**

**DATE**      **SESSION/GRADE(S)**  
4/29          14th session

**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 ReligiousFormation

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**PHASE II CANDIDATES** – your Confirmation forms are due. These forms are extremely necessary for us to complete the paperwork for Confirmation. Some of you have forwarded your documents but there are still many outstanding. Please get them completed and return to Mrs. Vernacchio ASAP. Forms that were missing were forwarded to you a few weeks ago. The Confirmation Fee of \$75.00 is also due at this time.

**CALENDAR:**

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**- YM Class – 5pm Mass followed by a light dinner, then class. Phase I – Theme: “Mary & the Saints”; Phase II – Theme: “Holy Spirit & Confirmation”

**THIS IS THE LAST CLASS!**

**Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**- Confirmation Rehearsal – 7:30pm

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**- Phase II – Candidates and Sponsors Sacrament of Confirmation – 5pm

**Help People with Disabilities – Support the Wiegand Farm Golf Classic**

[www.dpd.org/wiegand](http://www.dpd.org/wiegand)

Please help support the Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD), a Catholic Charities Agency, as they host their 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wiegand Farm Golf Classic. DPD provides care for over 100 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the Diocese of Paterson.

The Annual event will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Springs Resort in Vernon. This year, DPD will be honoring Monsignor John Hart of Assumption Parish; DPD Board Member John Butler and the NJ State Police.

You do not have to be a golfer to participate as non-golfers can attend the dinner and silent auction, participate in the MEGA 50/50, sponsor the event, or contribute a silent auction item. For more information visit:

[www.dpd.org/wiegand](http://www.dpd.org/wiegand) or contact DPD's Development Office at [973-406-1104](tel:973-406-1104) or at [Chrisb@dpd.org](mailto:Chrisb@dpd.org).

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development** – this week's second collection helps to support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those who are struggling across the country. In addition, 25 percent of funds collected remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. Thank you for your generosity in support of this collection today! For further information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, please visit [www.usccb.org/cchd/collection](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection)



**Upcoming community events:**

**Casino Trip to Sands Casino**, Bethlehem, PA sponsored by Sussex Elks 2288 - Saturday, May 6, 2017. Chartered coach bus, continental breakfast prior to departure, 5 hours of casino fun; outlet mall on site. Cost is \$39 per person. Space is limited – RSVP as soon as possible to [973-875-3990](tel:973-875-3990) or [sussexelks2288@gmail.com](mailto:sussexelks2288@gmail.com)

**A Salute to our Veterans**, sponsored by Sussex Elks Lodge 2288 – join us for a fifth annual Salute to our Veterans at the High Point Monument in Montague, NJ – Sunday, May 21, 2017. Commemorative Wreath laying at 2:00pm, Complimentary dinner for all veterans at Sussex Elks Lodge – 4:00pm, Non-Veteran Guests Dinner - \$10 per person. To register, Contact Sussex Elks Lodge at [973-875-3990](tel:973-875-3990) or [Sussexelks2288@gmail.com](mailto:Sussexelks2288@gmail.com)

**EVENTS AT ST. PAUL INSIDE THE WALLS, MADISON, NJ**

**Catholicism from Scratch – Making Sense: Questions about the Eucharist** - A course in basic Catholicism for those who need a brush-up, those who missed it the first time around, or those who never heard it before. Fr. Paul Manning, presenter.

**Madison, Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 a.m.-noon**

**Being Single, Being Faithful (35+)** Whether single by choice or by circumstance, we must live every “single” day to the fullest. We can find fulfillment in Christ and his Church by embracing the opportunities in the Church for spiritual growth, meaningful service and a sense of community.

**Madison, Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 a.m.-noon**

**Speaking of Faith** - Fr. Manning talks with **Dr. Brian Beyerl**, Deacon at Assumption Parish, Morristown and Chief of Neurosurgery at Morristown Medical Center, about his encounter with and response to God and the integration of faith into work and life.

**Madison, Wednesday, May 17, 2017 from 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy | John 20:19-31

After His Resurrection, Jesus greeted His disciples in the locked room saying, "Peace be with you". Then He said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them". Thomas was not present, but Jesus came a week later when he was there and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands... and do not be unbelieving, but believe". *John 20:27*

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# Believe...

in the mercy of God

### Jesus wants us to...

- 1) Receive Penance during Lent, our preparation time.
- 2) Receive Communion on this day.
- 3) Venerate or respect the image of Jesus.
- 4) Perform deeds of mercy/acts of kindness for everyone out of love for Jesus.
- 5) For this, Jesus will grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishments.



### BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.

"Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed." *John 20:29*

Divine	P	E	A	C	E	J	E	S	U	S	T	C	A
Mercy	H	O	L	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	J	E	I
Jesus	S	T	O	V	E	R	J	O	Y	E	D	Y	M
Appears	E	V	I	E	C	E	R	D	I	V	I	N	E
Disciples	T	O	S	W	L	N	M	E	H	E	U	R	R
Locked	E	N	P	T	F	E	L	A	O	R	E	O	C
Room	L	T	I	P	A	E	I	E	L	Y	V	O	Y
Overjoyed	P	C	R	A	U	S	G	S	Y	O	E	M	D
Peace	M	E	I	M	S	S	E	N	D	N	I	K	E
With	O	P	T	E	T	D	E	S	S	E	L	B	K
You	C	S	M	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	C
Receive	K	E	T	D	N	E	G	A	M	I	B	D	O
Holy	Y	R	A	N	A	P	P	E	A	R	S	F	L
Spirit													
Forgive													
Seen													
Believe													
Blessed													
Messiah													
Everyone													
Complete													
Respect													
Image													
Acts													
Kindness													
Deeds													
Saint													
Faustina													

## Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy

by Rev. William J. Reilly

*"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers... All who believed were together and had all things in common... Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes... and every day the Lord added to their numbers."*

Such a description seems 'too good to be true' but this is the description of the first disciples of the Lord. The teaching of the apostles, the kerygma, telling of the resurrection of Jesus and His victory gave their discipleship new meaning. Like a family, they formed a support group, sharing joy, as well as fears, anxieties and triumphs because Christ was alive. The Eucharist became the common bond, uniting them with Christ and one another. Prayer became a binding force.

Can I not see that my life in my parish, my small group, is a mirror of those described by St. Luke or of those gathered in the upper room? Can the presence of Christ in my life, lead me to recognize His presence in others? Can I truly believe that I am not alone in my faith and move from 'God and me' to 'God and we?' On Divine Mercy Sunday, it can happen.

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## The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion

The God's mercy is one of the greatest attribute of God. God in His Divine Love and Mercy does not want death of anyone but he wants us to live with Him forever in heaven. The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. God loves us — all of us. He wants us to recognize His mercy which is greater than our sins, to repent for our sins, to call upon Him with trust, and receive His mercy. Jesus also wants the Divine Mercy to flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His love and joy.

This message of The Divine Mercy and devotion was given by Jesus to Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of the revelations she received about God's mercy.

Among all of the elements of devotion to The Divine Mercy requested by our Lord through St. Faustina, the Feast of Mercy holds first place. Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when "*all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened*". (Diary 699) Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, on the Sunday after Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus promised that "*The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.*"(Diary 699) About the feast day "Divine Mercy Sunday", Jesus said "*tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon the souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.... Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy*". (Diary 699)

Veneration of the Image of The Divine Mercy, which Our Lord requested (especially on Divine Mercy Sunday) is another form of devotion. Pope John Paul II said that the image portrays the Risen Jesus Christ bringing Mercy to the whole world. Our Lord said "*I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish*". (Diary 341, 48). Jesus said to St. Faustina "*I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You*". (Diary 327) "*The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the cross. ...Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him.*" (Diary 299)

Divine mercy chaplet is another form of devotion. Jesus wants us –if it is possible- to pray this chaplet at 3 o'clock in the time when he was dying on the cross. This prayer has enormous power and it can bring us lots of graces. Jesus said to St. Faustina: "*Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at hour of death....When they say this chaplet in presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the Judge but as Merciful Savior.... My mercy is infinite. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy....Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will.*" (Diary 687)

The novena is another form of devotion and good way to prepare ourselves for the Solemnity of Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus wants us to start the novena on Good Friday and through the ninth consecutive days to pray to Divine Mercy.

I want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this incredible promise and graces we can obtain through the devotion to Divine Mercy. Especially I encourage you to prepare yourself and participate in "Divine Mercy Sunday" celebration and to fully benefit from these promises.

Fr. Jan