

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasure**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

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

**Sunday Collection – 5/6/17:** \$2,956.00

**Parish Pay – 5/6/17 (not yet reported)** \$

**Total Sunday Collection – 5/6/17:** \$

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

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**The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:**

**In memory of:** Anna Dalena

**Given by:** Mary DelMonico

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

- 5/15 **MON:** 9:00a Kathy Shaw (LIV)
- 5/16 **TUES:** 9:00a People of the Parish
- 5/17 **WED:** 9:00a No Mass today
- 5/18 **THU:** 9:00a Kathy Shaw (LIV)
- 5/19 **FRI:** 9:00a People of the Parish
- 5/20 **SAT:** 5:00p Margaret Schreiber  
John Orr  
Jack Schoen  
Julia Devine
- 5/21 **SUN:** 8:00a Florence Mitchell Swiss  
Helen Sandford  
Kathy Shaw (LIV)  
10:00a Dorothy Sweeney  
John & Eleanor Murray  
Edwin & Rita Puzio  
Mary Eckert  
11:45a Kristen Veltri  
Sr. Felicia Tanzella

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- Sunday** Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12
- Monday** Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
- Tuesday** Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a
- Wednesday** Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
- Thursday** Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11
- Friday** Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17
- Saturday** Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

**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)

**MASS CARDS**

(New prices:)

Small - \$10.00

Large - \$15

**SANCTUARY LAMPS**

(New price)

\$10.00 per week

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 14, 2017**

**WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS**

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

**HELPING HANDS** – meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room – all invited.

**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 of you would like further information.

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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**FAMILY PROMISE.....**Our guests from Family Promise will be at the Presbyterian Church for one week beginning Tuesday, May 16. We at St. Monica’s are a support congregation and our help is needed Wed. May 17 and Thursday, May 18 (dinner shift 5-7pm; evening shift 7pm-9pm and overnight shift 9pm to 7am) and Monday, May 22 (dinner shift 5pm – 7pm). This sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Church Hall. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about the program please call me at 973-875-6053. Thank you for all your continued help and support. God Bless You. ----Carol Oesen

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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)

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**RUMMAGE SALE** at *Holy Spirit Orthodox Church*, 102 Route 284, Wantage, NJ 07461 on Friday-Saturday, May 26-27, 2017, 9:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. There will be many

treasures, gently used summer clothing, household items, toys, games, much more and affordable! For more information or directions, [www.holyspiritorthodox.org](http://www.holyspiritorthodox.org).

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**Apparition Hill .....**a powerful new film that chronicles the incredible journey of 7 strangers who embark across the globe to investigate one of the greatest mysteries of the modern era. It is a “cinematic pilgrimage” to the little-known village of Medjugorje nestled along the Croatian-Bosnia-Herzegovina borders. This film will be shown at The Historic Milford Theater, 114 E. Catherine St. Milford, PA on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Tickets online: [apparitionhill.org](http://apparitionhill.org) or call Mary Ann Condit at 973-219-3352





## 100th Anniversary of Appearance of Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima

May is a month which is especially dedicated to Our Lady Mother of God. On May 13, this year we also celebrate 100th anniversary of the first appearance of Blessed Virgin in Fatima, Portugal. The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, appeared 6 times to 3 shepherd children; Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta; between May 13 and October 13, 1917. She came to the little village of Fatima which had remained faithful to the Catholic Church during the recent persecutions by the government. Our Lady came with a message of peace from God to all people. Coming at a time when civilization was torn by war and bloody violence, she promised that Heaven would grant peace to all the world if Her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed. She said that war is a consequence of our sins and our egoism, and we can stop a war by praying Rosary every day, by conversion and by reparation for our sins.

In all Her appearances at Fatima, Our Mother repeatedly emphasized the necessity of praying the Rosary daily, of wearing the Brown Scapular of Mount Carmel and of performing acts of reparation and sacrifice.

Our Lady's Message to the world is contained in what has come to be called the 'Secret'. The Secret actually consists of three parts, the first two of which have been revealed. The first part of the Secret was a horrifying vision of hell "where the souls of poor sinners go" and contained an urgent plea from Our Lady for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save souls. The second part of the Secret told of the outbreak of World War II and asked for the Consecration of Russia as a condition of world peace. It also predicted the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart following Russia's consecration and conversion. The last part of the Secret (often called the "Third Secret") was wrote down by sister Lucia in 1944 and is in the possession of the Holy See.

As a great sign of the whole message truly coming from God, a marvelous miracle was worked in the sky above Fatima before 70,000 witnesses on October 13, 1917 at the time, date and place that Lucy and the other two children had prophesized in the name of Our Lady of Fatima. The children were told by Our Lady that God would perform a miracle so that people would believe in the apparitions. The date the children was October 13, 1917, in Fatima. On that date, 70,000 people came to see the phenomenon. The miracle occurred with the sun. All could stare perfectly at the sun without blinking, or even hurting their eyes. While all were watching the sun, it rotated, got large and small, got close to the people, and got far away from them. The sun "danced ". Every single person who was there testified to seeing the sun dance, even non- believers.

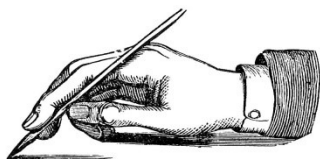
The Catholic Church has officially endorsed the Fatima Message as worthy of belief since 1930. Pope John Paul II has publicly credited Our Lady of Fatima for saving his life during the assassination attempt in 1981. The following year, he went to Fatima to give thanks for Her intervention.

On March 25, 1984 on the feast of Annunciation Pope John Paul II consecrated Russia to Immaculate Heart of Mary to comply with Mary's request. Inspired by this event and celebrating 100 anniversary of appearances of Our Lady in Fatima our Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli consecrated our Diocese to Immaculate Heart of Mary on May 13, this Saturday Morning, after the Mass of ordination to diaconate in St. Philip Church in Clifton. To express our unity with our Bishop after every mass during this weekend priests together with lay people throughout the whole diocese will read the act of consecration to Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Encouraged by those events and message of Our Lady let us together with our Bishop and with all people in Diocese of Paterson consecrate our Parish and ourselves to Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let this act of consecration be for us an inspiration for deeper relation with Our Blessed Mother and let it strengthen our spiritual life.

.....*Fr. Jan*

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. JAN,



This weekend we can take great joy in the fact that we are hosting our Bishop Arthur Serratelli who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in our Parish. This Saturday Fifteen students are receiving the great seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These High School students have made decision to confirm their commitment to the faith. It is encouraging and a true blessing to the Church that they realize the grace offered by Confirmation and how it will help them in faith journey.

There is a great excitement for each of our high school students who receive the special graces of the sacrament as they are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

The Sacrament of Confirmation impresses a character on each of us, for one is enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and is bound more perfectly to the Church. It strengthens each recipient of the sacrament, as it obliges them more firmly to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed, and to spread and defend the faith.

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation as one passes into the life of adult Christian witness. The Catechism tells us that there is a deepened presence of the Spirit, who comes to us in order to sustain us in a lifetime of witness to Christ and service to others. The Gift that we receive in this sacrament is the Spirit himself.

So who is this Holy Spirit that plays such a significant role in our lives?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who is coeternal and coequal with the Father and the Son. It is the Father and the Son who sends forth the Spirit. Though the world cannot see Him, He speaks to us through the prophets of old and dwells within all of us, if we believe in Him and Jesus.

It is the Holy Spirit that inspired the Scriptures, inspires and assists the Church Magisterium, intercedes for us through prayer. Puts us into communion with Christ at the sacred liturgy, builds up the Church and is found in the signs of apostolic and missionary life.

The Holy Spirit imparts on us the spirits and gifts of: Understanding, Wisdom, Fortitude, Knowledge, Counsel, Piety and Holy Fear in God's Presence.

The Holy Spirit is someone who should not be ignored or denied for the Spirit of God. As St. John of Damascus said: "the Spirit of God is direct authoritative, the fountain of wisdom, life, and holiness." Additionally in Galatians 4:6 we find: "God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, Abba! Father!"

We congratulate each of our young men and women who will be confirmed. As we now await Pentecost, let us gravitate to the Third Person of the Trinity. May we let the Spirit dwell in our hearts and direct our actions. Seek the Spirit's help to guide you to God the Father and to God the Son. May our tongues, souls, and mind be on fire with the Holy Spirit. Let us share in joy of the newly confirmed and realize how awesome the Spirit is in our life.

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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### **First Reading: Acts 6:1-7**

During the early growth of the Church, the apostles realized that they needed more disciples in order to carry out effectively the ministry of the Church. The community selected seven men, one of whom was Stephen.

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9**

Citing many uses of the word "stone" in the sayings of Jesus and in the Old Testament, Peter urges the Christians to be "living stones...an edifice of spirit."

### **Gospel: John 14:1-12**

In this beautiful passage from the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, Jesus promises that he is preparing a place for the apostles. He tells them, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me." When Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus answers, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."