

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW
Stewardship Report – Treasury
WEEKLY COLLECTION

<u>Budgeted Amount:</u>	\$5,000.00
<u>Sunday Collection – 8/20/17</u>	\$3,098.00
<u>Parish Pay – 8/20/17</u>	\$ 561.00
<u>Total Sunday Collection – 8/20/17</u>	\$3,659.00
<u>Sunday Collection – 8/27/17</u>	\$2,830.00
<u>Parish Pay – 8/27/17 (not reported yet)</u>	
<u>Missionary Appeal Collection – 8/27/17</u>	\$1,603.00

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

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:
In memory of: Frank and Marie Casalino
Given by: Mike and Grace Casalino

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

9/4	MON:	9:00a	People of the Parish
9/5	TUES:	9:00a	Frank Rankl
9/6	WED:	9:00a	No Mass today
9/7	THU:	9:00a	Michael A. Orecchio Kathleen & Philip Kunz Kathy & Greg Shaw (LIV)
9/8	FRI:	9:00a	People of the Parish
9/9	SAT:	5:00p	John Hoch, Sr. Mary Ann Hingel Joseph Vozza, Jr.
9/10	SUN:	8:00a	People of the Parish
		10:00a	Richard Randall Richard Olsen Gilbert Benjamin Baum, Jr.
		11:45a	People of the Parish

DAILY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday - Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27
Monday - 1 Thes 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday - 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday - Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday - Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11
Friday - Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Saturday - Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5

ST. MONICA'S CHURCH – Contact info

Phone # 973-875-4521 Fax # 973-875-7538
Parish office hours: 9:30– 1:30pm Mon-Fri
 The Parish office will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.
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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE & DONUTS – are served after 8:00 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of each month in the Church Hall. All are invited to join us.

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

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.
 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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The Tricky Tray Committee's next meeting will take place on Sunday, September 10th at 12:00 in the rectory meeting room. If anyone wants to help, please join us. Those who wish to donate to the Tricky Tray can start by dropping off items to the Tricky Tray box located in the church hall. Any monetary donations can be given to a member of the Tricky Tray Committee or brought to the rectory. Business donation notifications will be available soon. If anyone knows or works for a business which can donate, please start the process of obtaining the donation as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support.

- The Tricky Tray Committee

SPECIAL DEVOTIONS AT ST. MONICA'S

Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal – every Tuesday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

Chaplet of the Divine Mercy - Every Friday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – First Friday of the month after the 9:00 A.M. Mass until 10:00 A.M.

Helping hands is sponsoring a pig roast in the church hall on Sunday, September 24th from 3-6 p.m. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children age 10 and under. Representatives will be selling tickets in the hall after all masses the weekends of Sept. 2nd and 3rd through September 16th and 17th. Please join us for a delicious meal and fellowship! Please see the flyer for more information.

ATTENTION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY FAMILIES!

Registration forms for the 2017/2018 school year can be found on the table in the church hall and at the rectory office. All former Rel. Ed. and YM students need to re-register for this school year. Any new family who has a child entering First Grade in September and would like their child to partake in our Religious Education Program should contact the rectory office. Should you have any questions, please contact Mary Vernacchio at 973-875-4521 or 972-875-2110 after 6 p.m.

The fees are as follows: 1 child - \$75.00, 2 children - \$110.00 and 3 or more - \$150.00.

Please complete and return the registration form(s) as soon as possible, Thank you!

**HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 3, 2017**

“I urge you brothers and sisters... Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good, pleasing and perfect... Then Jesus said to his disciples ‘Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.’”

One of the most difficult tasks for our parents is to bring the saving message of Jesus to their children. In an age when values, customs and traditions are challenged, what is important for families and parents is often rejected or even scorned. St. Paul’s message certainly does not conform to this attitude. We are asked to be renewed and seek – 1. what is good, not just what I want to satisfy myself, 2. what is pleasing to God and to others, and 3. what is perfect, as we try to follow the way of the Lord.

The challenge never ends, but requires us to change and look for ways the gospel values become part of our daily living. Perhaps the secret for all of us is to find ourselves, praying, reflecting and asking what is the will of God for me, for us, in our particular circumstance. Unfortunately, we often forget to ask His help and go it alone. Yes, we deny self when we say ‘yes’ to the Lord, we embrace whatever comes our way, and determine once again to follow Him more closely.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

In this particularly poetic passage, Jeremiah complains that while teaching the Lord’s word, he is subjected to insults and derision. He determines to remain silent, but he cannot because the desire to speak the Lord’s name is “like a fire burning in my heart.”

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Paul tells the Christians to make sacrifices to avoid the trappings of the times, and to do God’s will.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus tries to make his disciples realize that by following him, they will endure suffering, degradation, and death. He tells them that they must deny themselves and take up the cross in order to be his disciples.

*Thank
You*

Many thanks to Fr. Jan and all who played a role in organizing my farewell party on Sunday, August 20th. I enjoyed being with those in attendance and thank you for all the good wishes and thoughtful gifts. My years at St. Monica's were fruitful and plentiful; joyful and at times stressful; but most of all filled with love and care for all whose path crossed mine! Years of ministry planning have planted seeds of faith and courage for others to move forward. I feel blessed and affirmed and I thank you for your friendship and your love! I hope to see you and be with you as my schedule allows. You know where to find me if you ever need me. May God continue to bless all of you!

Carol Bezak



A SHORT HISTORY ON THE FIRST LABOR DAY

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

LABOR DAY PRAYER

Spirit of the Living God, bless the work of our hands, our minds, and our hearts. May the work offered be a reflection of all that is good within us. In planning, creating, doing, grant us the courage to patiently listen for the stirring of your Presence. May unity, beauty and truth be the fruit of our labor. Amen.



..... *From the desk of Fr. Jan*

Celebrated every year on September 8, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the birth of Mary, Mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century.

Sacred Scripture does not record Mary's birth. The earliest known writing regarding Mary's birth is found in the *Protoevangelium of James* (5:2), which is an apocryphal writing (not part of the authentic canon of Scripture) from the late second century, where Saint Anne and Saint Joachim are mentioned as being Mary's parents. According to this account, Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were both advanced in age yet together they prayed and fasted believing that God would grant their desire for a child. As they were praying they received the promise of a child that would advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the very beginning. This work (apocryphal) has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety and fills the gap in the beliefs of the Church.

In the case of Saints, the Church commemorates the day of their passing, the day of their return to the Lord. However, in the case of the Blessed Virgin, the Church also celebrates the day of her birth. The reason for this is found in the singular mission that was hers in the History of Salvation, but traditionally also because she alone was holy in her very birth. The birth of Mary was miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son (the feast of her Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8 – nine months prior to her Nativity). The Church dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, though generally believed throughout the Church for many centuries, was formally declared by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

The birth of Mary is ordained in particular toward her mission as Mother of the Savior. Her existence is inseparably connected with that of Christ: it partakes of a unique plan of salvation and grace. God's mysterious plan regarding the Incarnation of the Word embraces also the Virgin who is His Mother. In this way, the Birth of Mary is inserted at the very heart of the History of Salvation. (M. Valentini, *Dictionary of Mary*, pp. 36-7.)

In celebrating the Nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and Birth of her Divine Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us honor our Blessed Mother on her birthday by offering the below prayer to her:

**Lord God,
the day of our salvation dawned
when the Blessed Virgin gave birth to your Son.
As we celebrate her nativity
grant us your grace and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.**