

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

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 1, 2017

<u>Budgeted Amount:</u>	\$5,000.00
<u>Sunday Collection – 9/17/17</u>	\$2,923.00
<u>Parish Pay – 9/17/17 -</u>	\$ 571.00
<u>Total Sunday Collection – 9/17/17 -</u>	\$3,494.00
<u>Sunday Collection – 9/14/17 -</u>	\$2,929.00
<u>Parish Pay – 9/224/27 (not reported yet)</u>	
<u>Special Collection for Hurricane Victims</u>	\$1,998.00

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: Victor Ephrussi
Given by: Dudzinski Family

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

10/2	MON:	9:00a	Victor Ephrussi
10/3	TUES:	9:00a	People of the Parish
10/4	WED:	9:00a	No Mass today
10/5	THU:	9:00a	People of the Parish
10/6	FRI:	9:00a	People of the Parish
10/7	SAT:	5:00p	Kathy and Greg Shaw (LIV) Peter Confrancesco III Celso Espejo
10/8	SUN:	8:00a	Stella Hosbach
		10:00a	Eileen Randall Susan McGovern Richard Olsen Eliseo Lettieri
		11:45a	People of the Parish

MASS CARDS: Small - \$10.00. Large - \$15.00

Mass intentions are excellent means to remember our deceased loved ones, and those who are living. Anniversaries and birthdays can be remembered by offering Masses. A Mass can make a wonderful gift for a special person in your life. Please visit the rectory office to reserve a Mass this week.

DAILY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday - Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32
Monday - Zec 8:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10
Tuesday - Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday - Neh 2:1-8; Lk 9:57-62
Thursday - Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Lk 10:1-12
First Friday - Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16
First Saturday - Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Lk 10:17-24

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

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.

October 4 – Oktoberfest;
 November 1 - Halloween Party
 December 7 (Thursday) - Christmas Party at Lamp Post Rest.

TRICKY TRAY - The business letters have been mailed to those who have helped with our tricky tray in the past. Please stop by the table in the Church Hall and pick up a follow-up index card which will have the names of the businesses on them. It is very important that each business gets signed off in the space provided on the Business Contact List on the table. If you are able to visit any business that is not listed, please take one of the blank extra letters and sign for it on the blank list. Thank you for your support during this very important fundraiser. A box is also available in the Church Hall for small, individual items to be donated.

If anyone is interested in beginning to shop for the Tricky Tray, Ocean State Job Lot is having a 40% sale on items less than \$10. The sale starts Thursday, October 5th through Sunday, October 8th.

The next tricky tray meeting will be held on Sunday, October 1st at 12:00 noon in the Rectory Meeting Room.
 - The Tricky Tray Committee

Helping Hands meets the second Tuesday of every month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m.

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.

Faith, Family, Foundation, Future.

Pope John XXIII regional High School invites you to our October Open Houses:
 Open House for Incoming 9th Grade – Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m.
 Open House for Incoming 8th Grade – Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.
 Questions: Contact Anne Kaiser, Admissions
 973-729-6126 or annekaiser@pojohn.org

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
IN GIVING, WE RECEIVE

The services provided by our Catholic Charities agencies are too long to list in our bulletin – but here are just a few: emergency housing for people in extreme poverty, outpatient and residential substance abuse treatment, group homes for disabled adults, outreach to veterans who are homeless, family counseling, etc. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps bring this important work to life. In fact, Catholic Charities receives the largest percentage of Appeal funding. Your help is needed to continue providing this urgent care. Please be as generous as you are able to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge by logging on to: www.2017appeal.org. Thank you!



Helping Hands of St. Monica's is hosting a fundraiser at Lorenzo's Pizzeria and Restaurant on Main Street in Sussex on Wednesday, October 11th. Eat in or take out, all day long. Ten percent of their proceeds that day will go to St. Monica's Church. Please consider stopping in for a bite and supporting our church!

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise guests will be arriving at the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, October 3rd and staying until Tuesday, October 10th. We at St. Monica's, a support congregation, will be helping the following days:

- Wednesday, October 4th
- Thursday, October 5th
- Monday, October 9th

We are responsible on Wednesday and Thursday for the following shifts: 5–7 p.m. dinner shift; 7–9 p.m. evening shift; 9 p.m. – 7 a.m. sleepover shift. On Monday, we are responsible from 5–7 p.m. dinner shift.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Church Hall. If it's your first time and you have any questions about the program and how you can help, please don't hesitate to call me at 973-875-6053. Thank you very much for your continued interest and help. May God bless you! -- Carol Oesen



Last weekend, St. Monica's Parish collected **\$1,198.00** for the victims of the recent hurricanes. The diocese will send these funds directly to Catholic Charities, USA and will be used to help those that have the greatest need. Thank you for your generosity!!

ATTENTION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILIES

We thank you for your patience while we reorganize this program and have now set the calendar for this coming year.

1st and 2nd Graders will be meeting on the second and third Sundays of the month, unless otherwise indicated on the calendar, from 9:30 to 11:30 in the rectory meeting room, after which they will follow over to church for the 11:45am Mass. You will be receiving more details and a complete calendar in a letter that will be sent out this week. **Your first class is scheduled for Sunday, October 15th.**

3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Graders will be meeting the first and third Saturday of the month unless otherwise indicated on the calendar. You will meet in the church hall and disperse to designated areas for your lessons. Classes will begin a 9am and run to 11am. A complete calendar and letter is forthcoming this week. **Your first class is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th.**

7TH & 8TH GRADE STUDENTS – Your classes have been moved to the first Saturday of the month along with our YM Students. **There will be a short Introductory Meeting on Saturday, October 14th** after the 5pm Mass to explain this change and to receive a complete calendar for the year. We ask the parents to please try to attend this important meeting.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Vernacchio.

YOUTH MINISTRY STUDENTS - There will be an **Introductory Meeting on Saturday, October 14th** following the 5pm Mass. Class schedules, books and other important paperwork will be handed out so your attendance is important.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Vernacchio.

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Ezekiel reminds the people that if a sinner turns away from his iniquity, he will live, not die.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Paul urges the converts at Philippi to be united in spirit and ideals, avoiding rivalry and dissension. He ends with the beautiful hymn extolling the humility and sacrifice of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus speaks words of rebuke to the chief priests and the elders because they are not believing the teachings of John the Baptist. He warns them that tax collectors and prostitutes, who do believe John, will enter the Kingdom of God before them.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 1, 2017

“But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life, Since he has turned away from all the sins he has committed, he shall surely live...when John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him, but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”

We are all called to conversion, to turn away from what is wrong or evil, and turn to what is good and beautiful. Unfortunately, some believe that conversion is an event of a single moment. God's grace inspires or impels us to change and do what is right and just. The one shining moment comes and takes over.

But for most of us, conversion is a lifelong process. We constantly are on guard to avoid what is evil, resist what impedes holiness, and continue the struggle as we 'hang in there.' We all experience that fight. Maybe we can use another approach. Conversion is not so much a turning from, but a turning to. We are summoned to turn to Christ, His life, the life of grace.

It is whom we seek that is important. When we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the obstacles and barrier are lessened and the direction of our lives becomes clearer. When we realize that Jesus has His eyes on us and is seeking us, we come to THE shining moment.

“THERESA & THERESE IN ART & STORY”

Award-winning artist and author Bro. Mickey McGrath will share his paintings and the stories behind them on Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY 10940. Brother Mickey's work celebrates the deep connections between art, beauty and religious faith. The cost is \$30 per person and includes morning refreshments and lunch. **Please make your reservation by October 2nd by calling Carol Bezak, Shrine Director, at 845-343-1879.**

Sacred Heart Spirituality Center invites you to their **“First Thursday, Day of Prayer”**, on Thursday, October 5th. The day begins at 9 am with “coffee and,” and includes morning prayer, a talk by Fr. Jude Salus, Adoration, Confessions, Mass, and a light lunch. The day concludes at about 1:30 p.m. Fifteen dollars is the suggested offering.

Sacred Heart Spirituality Center
20 Old Swartwood Road
Newton, NJ 07860
973-383-2620
www.sacredheartspiritualitycenter.org.



A Solemn Pontifical Mass in Latin will be offered at the Cathedral in Paterson, on Saturday, October 14 at 9:30 a.m. and is sponsored by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter. Please see the posters on the bulletin boards at the Church exits for further details.

*Follow
the way
of righteousness*



... FROM THE DESK OF FR. JAN

October is Respect Life Month. The first Sunday of each October is dedicated as Respect Life Sunday. The American Catholic bishops initiated Respect Life Sunday in 1972, the year before the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalized abortion in the U.S.A. This special Sunday was established to promote respect for human life from conception to natural death, to bring about a conversion of heart and mind to be open to God's special gift of life. Respect for human life comes from revelation, from the fact that we were created in the image and likeness of God (Gn 1, 27). Because we were created by God, every person is unique and special, and we have dignity as God's children and our life is precious in the eyes of God - You shall not kill (Ex 20, 13). Each of us has a responsibility to God, to self and to others to nurture, protect and sustain life at all stages.

A consistent ethic of life reflects the Church's firm conviction of the dignity of each and every person. "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.' (Jer. 1:5)

Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. The teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say "abortion willed" is gravely contrary to the moral law. You shall not kill is not just a commandment for adults, but also for the embryo. We do not have the right to destroy the embryo or cause the child in the womb to be destroyed. God is giver of Life and has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life. Life must be protected with utmost care from moment of conception. Abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes. (CCC 2271)

The Life issue historically was never a debatable topic because we were all called to protect and support the rights and liberties of everyone. This unfortunately changed in the early 20th century with the advent of manufactured contraception. In the 60's and 70's contraception became mass produced as a means to block life. Society became ambivalent to the life cause, as we became more centered simply on ourselves.

The life issue has suffered greatly, not only from that point of abortion which was permitted by the Supreme Court in 1973, but also by research on embryonic stem cells, the dismantling of abstinence education, and funding of contraceptive services in schools and military bases.

Another great concern for life issue nowadays is euthanasia, also known as assisted suicide. Euthanasia, in medical terms, means to take a deliberate action with the express intention of ending a human life. This action is also called "mercy killing". From a divine point of view every human life belongs to God (Ez 18, 4) and no one has a right to terminate it. If we terminate someone's life, we do not only break the commandment (you shall not kill) but also we take away what is not ours.

The Life issue goes beyond abortion, contraception and euthanasia. It is how we appreciate, and recognize life. How we treat the least among us, respecting and helping the sick, caring for the needs of those at the end of life, and the careless use of capital punishment. Life also engenders care for those around the world who are facing persecution and death because of their religious beliefs.

God of life and love, you created us in your image and sent your Son to bring us life.

Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death.

Empower us to work for justice for the poor.

Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry.

Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn.

Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill.

Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect.

Bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life.

We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.