

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Stewardship Report – Treasure
WEEKLY COLLECTION

Budgeted Amount: \$5,000.00
Sunday Collection – 9/30/18 \$3,350.00
Online Giving – Sunday Collection – 9/23 \$ 441.00

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:
In Memory of: Celso Espejo
Given by: Isabel Sly

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

10/8 MON: 9:00a People of our Parish
10/9 TUES: 9:00a People of our Parish
10/10 WED: 9:00a NO MASS TODAY
10/11 THU: 9:00a People of our Parish
10/12 FRI: 9:00a Celso Espejo
10/13 SAT: 5:00p Ann Cawley
John Metakis
10/14 SUN: 8:30a Deceased members of the
Grant Family
10:30a John & Eleanor Murray
Renee Cavanaugh
Carolyn Peter Boring
12:00p People of our Parish

ST. MONICA’S CHURCH – Contact information
Phone: 973-875-4521 Fax: 973-875-7538
Parish Office Hours: 9:30am–1:30pm Mon Tue Thurs and Fri.
THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS.
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.

MASS CARDS

SMALL: \$10.00 LARGE: \$15.00
Please stop by the Rectory during office hours to purchase
a Mass card for a loved one.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday - Gn 2:18-24; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12
Monday - Gal 1:6-12; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday - Gal 1:13-24; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday - Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday - Gal 3:1-5; Lk 11:5-13
Friday - Gal 3:7-14; Lk 11:15-26
Saturday - Gal 3:22-29; Lk 11:27-28

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 7, 2018

*“If we love one another, God remains in us,” we sing before the Gospel reading today. How appropriate on this **Respect Life Sunday**. All life, everyone’s life, is a gift from God, a gift given out of love by our Creator. Therefore, all life is precious in God’s eyes. If all life is precious, all life is worthy of our love. With that attitude and with God remaining in us, we can sing the second half of the Gospel acclamation, “and God’s love is brought to perfection in us.”*

WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE & DONUTS – First Sunday of each month after the 8:30 am Mass. All are welcome!

ST. MONICA’S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP meets on the third Monday of each month. Next meeting is **Monday, Oct. 15th at 7:30 p.m.** in the Rectory Meeting Room. Book selection is **“Fly While You Still Have Wings”** by Joyce Rupp.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION – Thursdays at 6:00pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading/reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow.

ST. MONICA’S LEISURE GROUP – The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 14th at 12:00 noon** in the Church Hall. Annual dues are \$10.00. For more information, please call Grace or Mike Casalino at 973-702-8569.

TRICKY TRAY COMMITTEE will meet in the rectory meeting room on **Sunday, October 7th at 11:30 a.m.** All are welcome. The Tricky Tray is our biggest fundraiser and many hands make light work.

HELPING HANDS meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome! **The next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 9th.**

ST. MONICA’S ROSARY SOCIETY There is no regular meeting in November. **The next meeting will be on Monday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** in the Church Hall. Be sure to bring your rosaries.

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.

PARISH REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Are you new to our parish? If so, welcome! Do you wish to register? If you are attending Mass and using our blue “blank” visitor envelopes and wish to receive our weekly envelopes in the mail, please register with us. If you wish to become a registered member and placed on our parish mailing list, there are blank registration forms on the table near the Church Hall exit. Please fill it out and give it to Fr. Jan after Mass, or either drop it in the collection basket or visit the rectory during the week between the hours of 9:30am and 1:30pm.

TRICKY TRAY NEWS

The Tricky Tray committee is looking to borrow easels to help with notifications during the tricky tray. If anyone has one and can loan it until November 9th, the Committee would appreciate it. Please drop it off at the Church Hall with your name on it so we can return it.

There is a box located in the rear of the Church Hall for anyone who wants to start dropping off new and unused items for baskets. The items do not have to complete a basket nor do they have to have the same theme. Any items will help complete other baskets or can be added on to make full baskets.

The envelopes for local businesses from last year are located on the table in the back of the Church Hall. Please sign out an envelope and deliver and follow up with each business you are able to meet. There are many other businesses who you may know of so please take a blank envelope with the paperwork inside and add the business you are thinking about visiting to the list.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

Postcard Campaign

The New Jersey Catholic Conference of Bishops has approved a statewide postcard campaign urging the State Senators and Assembly (wo)men to support the NJ Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, A-1686/S-537. If passed, this bill would protect babies in the womb at 20 weeks post-fertilization...that is 5 months and beyond. We, as parishioners, will have the opportunity to sign postcards this weekend which is **Respect Life Weekend**. These postcards will be sent to our state legislators.

Please consider signing the postcards at the end of Mass today to help educate our legislators on this important issue! There will be an information table in the church hall after all masses. Thank you.

Prayer for Life and Dignity

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(From Being Neighbor: The Catechism and Social Justice, USCCB, April 1998)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

GRADES 1 & 2 (First Holy Communion Class)
Rectory Meeting Room

Classes run from 9 am to 10:25 am

Children will attend 10:30 am Mass after Class – Mass Attendance is part of the Religious Education requirement.

Sunday	October 14 th – FIRST CLASS Rite of Welcome/Acceptance at the 10:30 am Mass
Sunday	Class – October 28
Sunday	Class – November 11
Sunday	Class - November 18
Saturday	Class – December 1 Christmas in Bethlehem
Sunday	Class – December 9

Attention All Those Who Love Music!

Our first adult choir rehearsal was held on Thursday, 9/27. It is not too late to join us! As I announced last weekend, we have a core group that will support any new members that come, so don't be afraid to try it out! Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 7:15 pm in the Church.

Also, several people have mentioned they would like a children's choir...so if you are interested for your child to sing in church, talk to me after mass on Sunday. It would be very easy to have a 20 to 30 minute rehearsal with children on Sundays either before or after the 10:30 mass. If I get a group of five children, we can definitely have a children's choir. I would love for them to sing several times during the year as they progress!

Please give it some serious thought. Your participation in Sunday's music will add so much to you personally and to the congregation at large.

.... Judy

BAPTISM

Please welcome Brooklyn Kaia Dowdell, daughter of Jerel and Jennifer Dowdell, as she received the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Monica's last Saturday, September 29th, 2018. The Godparents are Kenneth Dowdell and Jessica Murphy Crane. God bless you Brooklyn!



If you have an infant or young child, or if you are expecting, and would like to have your child baptized, please call the rectory office to register for a Baptism Preparation session.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

God created many different animals in an attempt to make a suitable partner for the first man. Then he took a rib from the man as he slept and built it up into a woman. At last God had created someone who equaled the man, as she was “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” and they proved to be suitable partners for each other.

“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him.’... That is why a man leaves father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh...whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.’ Then he embraced them and blessed them placing his hands on them.”

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

This passage describes how Jesus will become perfect through his suffering. It also reminds us that Jesus’ Father is our Father as well, making him unashamed to call us his brothers and sisters.

The Genesis creation story is the first sign of God’s loving concern for His creation. The history of human kind repeats the account as efforts are made for suitable partners. Jesus’ care was of such great importance that He made Holy Matrimony one of the grace giving Sacraments of the church.

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

The people began to ask Jesus if it was acceptable for a man to divorce his wife. Jesus tells them that two people who have been joined together by God should not be separated. People began bringing their children to Jesus, but the disciples tried to send them away. Jesus grew angry and told his disciples to allow the children to come to him.

Pope Francis in his wonderful exhortation The Joy of Love describes marriage as a lifelong project to be undertaken, a work in progress on a daily basis. Encouraging couples to overlook the deficiencies which are part of everyday life, he asks us to build our relationship on four pillars – patience, understanding, tolerance and generosity. Each one is the gift I can offer my suitable partner.

SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1968 or 1993? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th or 50th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Serratelli will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held:

Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 3:30 pm

Arrangements can be made by calling the rectory office 973-875-4521. The deadline to register is Monday, October 15, 2018. You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed.

BOYS IN GRADES K-5 LAUNCH ROCKETS WITH CUB SCOUT PACK 153



Come join our pack on Wednesday, October 10th at 7:00 pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Each boy who joins that night will receive a free model rocket kit that goes 250 ft. We will launch the rockets on 10/27 in the parking lot of Skylands Stadium. For more information, contact Al.Thomas@scouting.org. 973-765-9322 x229.

All are invited to the second annual Latin Mass Pilgrimage on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson.

Bishop Serratelli will celebrate a pontifical solemn high mass in the extraordinary form at 9:30 AM. A reception with the Bishop will follow the mass in the Rodimer Center. Free parking is available in the garage on Grand Street. For more information, please see the flyers on the bulletin boards at the Church exits or call Dr. Joseph Daly at 973-464-2954.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

At St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Paterson, Bishop Serratelli will celebrate the Annual Respect Life Mass. This Mass is sponsored by the Paterson Federation Knights of Columbus Councils. The Mass is a wonderful way for us to come together in prayer and in mutual support for protecting all of our children and all life. Please see the posters on the bulletin boards at the Church exits.



..... 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 so every person is unique and special, and we have our 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 supreme court in 1973, but also by the research on embryonic stem cell, the dismantling of abstinence education, and funding of contraceptive services in many institutions.

Another great concern for life issue nowadays is euthanasia, also known as assisted suicide. Euthanasia, in medical term, means to take a deliberate action with the express intention of ending a human life. This action is also called "mercy killing". From 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 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.