

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Stewardship Report – Treasure

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Budgeted Amount:	\$5,000.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception – 12/8/18	\$ 481.00
Sunday Collection – 12/9/18	\$2,912.00
Retirement Fund for Religious – 12/9/18	\$ 982.00
Online Giving – 12/2/18	\$ 471.00
Online Giving - Maintenance – 12/2/18	\$ 36.00

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN as of 12/5/18

Please support St. Monica’s Church by contributing to our Annual Campaign. Forms are located at the Church Hall exits.

We thank you for your generosity.

Pledges to date: \$22,810.00

Paid to date: \$18,718.34

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In Memory of: Elizabeth Ferrara

Given by: Mike and Grace Casalino

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

12/17	MON:	9:00a	People of our Parish
12/18	TUES:	9:00a	William Barker
12/19	WED:	9:00a	NO MASS TODAY
12/20	THU:	9:00a	People of our Parish
12/21	FRI:	9:00a	People of the Parish
12/22	SAT:	5:00p	Austin May Debbie Burns Kerry Mura
12/23	SUN:	8:30a	Emil Ogrinz
		10:30a	Kristen Ann Veltri George Fluhr & Eileen Randall James, Bernard & Robert Bilz Raymond Cullen Jr. John & Eleanor Murray Susan McGovern
		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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 16, 2018

*Christmas is only nine days away now. Children—and the young at heart – can feel the excitement building. Gifts will soon be under the tree. We have been preparing for Christ’s coming for two weeks. Retailers and radio stations have been preparing for Christmas for over a month. The nearness of the holy day is palpable and so today – **Gaudete Sunday** – we rejoice. We rejoice in God’s gift to us, not to be found under a tree, but in a manger and in our hearts.*

WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS

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

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 – There will be no meetings during the months of January, February and March. Meetings will resume on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 in the Church Hall. See you in the Spring!

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, January 8th.**

ST. MONICA’S ROSARY SOCIETY There will be no meetings during the months of January, February and March. The next meeting will be Monday, April 1st, 2019.

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.

St. Monica’s Parish Penance Service will take place on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm.

Three priests will be available to hear confessions.



Christmas Flower Memorial Envelopes are available on the tables in the Church and hall - print the name(s) of your deceased loved ones and enclose your monetary donation for a poinsettia to be placed in the church. A printed list will be made available and a copy placed on the altar. Please return all envelopes to the box near the pulpit by no later than **THIS WEEKEND.**

GIVING WREATH

THANK YOU to the parishioners of St. Monica's church for your generous participation in this year's GIVING WREATH. All 109 tags were taken!!!!

By your caring and sharing, you have helped to make Christmas very special for needy children in our area.

God bless each and every one of you for your wonderful generosity!

THE FIESTA COMMITTEE OF HELPING HANDS would like to thank the following for helping with the success of our 8th Fiesta de la Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe:

- Father Jan for the beautiful service honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Mrs. Anne Chirico, Mr. Peter Kazmierski, and the children for the lovely music: Lorenzo Blanco, Aiden and Damien Castro, Angelo, Nicholas and Julianna Stefanelli, Kevin, Isabella and Matthew Fett.
- Friends and parishioners who attended and brought delicious food.

Thank you all !!

CAN YOU PLAY THE FLUTE?



We are looking ahead to our Christmas Masses and the music to accompany them. Is there anyone who can play the flute? It would be a wonderful addition to our Christmas music!! If so, please see our music director/organist, Judy Consentino or call the rectory.

Thank you to John and Linda Barcelona for their generous donation of the new Advent Wreath.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

February 8-10, 2019

Marianist Family Retreat Center
Cape May Point, NJ 08212

Come join other young adults (ages 22-35) married or single, to take a step back from our busy lives. This will be a time to examine your personal faith and your relationship with God, your family members and yourself. Our time will be filled with prayer experiences, peer group discussion, Eucharist and lots of fun!

Cost: \$135 per person, double occupancy.

Register at: www.capemaymarianists.org or call 609-884-3829. Some financial aid is available.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

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 Class - January 13
Sunday Class – January 27

GRADES 3, 4, 5 & 6

Classes run from 9am to 11am in Church Hall

Saturday January 5

Saturday January 19

YOUNG ADULTS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

Saturday January 5

YM/Rel. Ed. Classes

Gr. 7&8 – Theme: "The Jesus Question"

Phase I & Phase II – Theme: "Confirmation"

Time: 5:00 pm Mass, 6:00 pm light dinner

Class 6:30 to 9:00 pm – Church Hall

Sunday January 6

Make-up class – 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm (no dinner)

Saturday January 19

YM – Phase I and Phase II Candidates – Confirmation

Retreat – Sacred Heart Center – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Lunch will be served

Saturday and Sunday February 2 and February 3

Phase I & II Candidates

SERVICE: Superbowl Sunday Collection

All Masses

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

This is celebrated every Sunday at the 10:30 AM Mass. We encourage all families with children, Grades 1 – 4, to have your son/daughter participate in this as part of their faith formation.

St. Monica's Annual Children's Christmas Eve Pageant will be held at the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Please sign your child up on the sign-up sheet in the Church Hall OR call the Rectory. If you have any questions, please call Anne Chirico at 862-268-0875.

2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal Here I Am, Lord!

If you have not yet responded to the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal, there is still time to do so as the 2018 Appeal funds are used to support ministries and programs through the end of the diocesan fiscal year on June 30, 2019. Your gift is a great blessing and valued so we can serve Christ by serving his people. For your convenience, you can make an online gift at www.2018appeal.org.

Christmas Music CD Offer

This year, the musicians at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Church in Paterson are offering an hour-long CD of 19 freshly recorded sacred Christmas hymns with singers from both Broadway and the opera. The \$15.75 tax-deductible donation per CD will again be devoted to assisting the homeless and disadvantaged in the Paterson area. The CD will surely make a beautiful, lasting and thoughtful Christmas gift for you and others you care for.

For more information, obtain a purchase form which is located on the table in the Church Hall, or call Tom Kieren at 973-214-6473, and send it together with your check made out to "Cathedral of St. John the Baptist" to: Christmas CD Offer, 140 Notch Road, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438.

Who was "Saint Nick"? St. Nicholas of Myra is the patron saint of children. It is claimed that after the Blessed Mother, he is the saint most portrayed by Christian artists. Nicholas was loved for one reason. He loved. He loved God and God's people so much that he would do anything for them. St. Nicholas is

SAINT NICOLAS

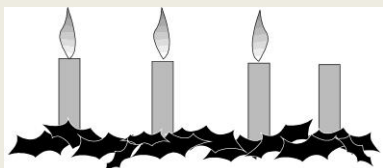


the subject of colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries. Perhaps the best known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into slavery, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift giving on the Saint's feast. In the English speaking countries St. Nicholas became by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus, further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this saintly bishop. His feast day was Dec. 6.



St. Paul's Abbey, on Route 206, one mile south of Newton, has thousands of Christmas trees ready to choose 'n' cut 7 days a week until December 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

They also have the Abbey Gift Shop with many items that make ideal Christmas gifts, including books, statues, jewelry and more!



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Paul encourages the Philippians to be ready for Christ. He tells them not to worry about their concerns, but to instead ask God's help and allow his peace to fill their hearts and minds.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist answers people who ask him what they should do, leading some to believe he was the Messiah. John clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap."

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018**

"Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord Himself is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace which is beyond understanding will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."... "The crowds asked John 'What are we to do?'...the people were full of anticipation..."

At the midway point of Advent, we too can ask the question the crowds put to John the Baptist. We might preface it with another question: 'What have we done thus far?' What is the Lord asking of me during the next ten days? St. Paul is quite clear telling his audience to focus on the Lord, offering prayer, petitions and expressions of gratitude.

Do not fall into the trap of routine or busyness, without a moment each day of prayer that God's peace may reign in your heart. Our novena of preparation can consist simply by turning to the Word of God, reflecting on the mystery of Jesus' coming, and how we want Him to find us when we celebrate His birth. Then God's own peace will be really with us.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

- Sunday** - Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
- Monday** - Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
- Tuesday** - Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
- Wednesday** - Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
- Thursday** - Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
- Friday** - Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
- Saturday** - 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS 2018

Tuesday, December 18th – PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

7:00 pm (Confessions)

Monday, December 24th – CHRISTMAS EVE (evening)

5:00 pm – Family Mass – Nativity Pageant

8:00 pm

10:30 pm – “Midnight Mass” – St. Monica’s Choir

Though traditionally associated with the actual stroke of the clock at 12:00 midnight, the term “Midnight Mass” refers more to the title of the Mass - with its own specific scripture readings and prayers. Here at St. Monica’s all the Masses celebrated on Christmas use the “Mass at Midnight” because in it are the Christmas stories with which we are most familiar. The Mass at 10:30 pm will in fact be the “traditional” Midnight Mass but rather than begin at Midnight, it will end before Midnight.

Parking in the Presbyterian Church parking lot is permissible except for 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm on Christmas Eve. The Presbyterian Church begins their Christmas Eve service at 7:30 pm and needs its parking facility while our 5:00 Mass is still going on.

Tuesday, December 25th – CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 am and 12:00 noon (No Mass at 8:30 am)

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Saturday, December 29th - 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 30th - 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 12:00 noon

NEW YEAR’S EVE MASS

Monday, December 31st – 5:00pm

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR’S DAY)

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, January 1st - 10:30am and 12:00 noon

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 5th - 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 6th - 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 12:00 noon

