

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasure**  
**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

<b><u>Budgeted Amount:</u></b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b><u>Sunday Collection – 2/3/19</u></b>	<b>\$2,803.00</b>
<b><u>Sunday Collection – 2/3/19 – Maintenance</u></b>	<b>\$1,398.00</b>
<b><u>Online Giving – 1/27/19</u></b>	<b>\$ 471.00</b>
<b><u>Online Giving – Solemnity of Mary</u></b>	<b>\$ 60.00</b>

**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN as of 1/23/19**

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: \$31,470.00**  
**Paid to date: \$28,308.49**

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

**In Memory of: Anthony Giordano**  
**Given by: Loretta Giordano**

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

2/11	MON:	9:00a	People of our Parish
2/12	TUES.	9:00a	People of our Parish
2/13	WED:	9:00a	NO MASS TODAY
2/14	THU:	9:00a	People of our Parish
2/15	FRI:	9:00a	People of our Parish
2/16	SAT:	5:00p	Roseanne Smulewicz
2/17	SUN:	8:30a	James Bianco
		10:30a	Eliseo Littieri
			William Taggart
		12:00p	Maureen McGaughran

**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](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.**

**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.**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**FEBRUARY 10, 2019**

*We are called to be disciples of Jesus. It is not enough just to believe; we are asked to take up our crosses and follow him. We are challenged to make sacrifices. We are challenged to live out our faith. We are challenged to be the face of Jesus to those whom we meet. As we celebrate Mass today, let us look for ways that we can better live out our faith.*

**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 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** will resume it’s meetings on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the rectory meeting room. All are invited.

**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! **Next meeting is Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**BIBLE STUDY** “Ephesians: Discover Your Inheritance” on Tuesday, February 12 at 1:30 pm in the Rectory Meeting Room.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

**ARE YOU REGISTERED AT ST. MONICA’S?**

Many times, people think that because they attend a certain church on weekends and holydays, they are automatically members of that church. Registration at St. Monica’s, or any other parish, is a way to be included in the activities of your parish. Registration shows you belong! It is also necessary for certain benefits like scheduling sacraments (weddings, baptisms, etc.), obtaining sponsor certificates to be a Godparent or confirmation sponsor, registering your children for religious education, and getting donation statements for tax purposes. Most importantly, it is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish. Please obtain a registration form at the church exits or stop by the rectory office during the week. Registration takes just a few moments of your time. We would be happy to have you as part of our parish community.

**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 – February 24  
Sunday Class - March 10  
Saturday FHC Class ONLY – March 23  
Reconciliation Workshop  
Sunday First Grade only Class – March 24

**GRADES 3, 4, 5 & 6**

Classes run from 9am to 11am in Church Hall  
Saturday February 16  
Saturday March 2  
Saturday March 16  
Saturday April 6 LAST CLASS!

**YOUNG ADULTS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
CALENDAR**

Saturday March 2  
Phase I – Candidates  
Rite: Distribution of the Creed – 5:00 Mass  
YM/Rel Ed Classes  
Gr. 7 & 8 – YM – Phase I & Phase II – YM Class –  
Theme: “Holy Week”, Last Supper & Stations of the Cross  
Time: 5:00 pm Mass, 6:00 pm light dinner  
Class: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm – Church Hall

Sunday March 3 Make-up class – 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm (no dinner)

Saturday March TBA  
YM/Rel Ed Activity  
Visit to Dept. of Persons with Disabilities in Jefferson  
Meeting Point: Church Hall  
Time: Leaving at 11:00 am and returning by 2:00 pm

**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.**

**READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Sunday** - Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11  
**Monday** - Gn 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56  
**Tuesday** - Gn 1:20—2:4a; Mk 7:1-13  
**Wednesday** - Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23  
**Thursday** - Gn 2:18-25; Mk 7:24-30  
**Friday** - Gn 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37  
**Saturday** - Gn 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated diapers and baby wipes for the Knights of Columbus diaper drive. St. Monica’s Church, (along with St. Francis de Sales and Our Lady of Fatima) collected 5,139 packages of diapers and 125 containers of baby wipes! These were donated to the Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center. Members of the Knights of Columbus thank you for your generosity!



**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8**

Isaiah recounts the awe he felt the first time he saw the Lord, who was surrounded by angels. He began to feel despair because he was a man of unclean lips, until an angel touched an ember to his lips and pronounced them clean. The Lord asked who he should send forth, to which Isaiah replied, "Here I am, send me!"

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Paul reminds the Corinthians that Christ died for us to free us from our sins. He encourages them to remember the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection. He admits that he initially failed to believe, and therefore was very grateful to be called an apostle and preach in the name of Christ.

**Gospel: Luke 5:1-11**

Luke tells of Jesus preaching to a crowd, then joining Peter who was about to end a fruitless day of fishing. He told Peter to lower his net back in, and a great number of fish were caught. Upon seeing this, Peter and his companions, James and John, immediately abandoned their nets to follow Jesus.

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**HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly  
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**“Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts! He touched my mouth...and said ‘See now, that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for me?’ ‘Here I am, I said, send me.’”**

The call of the prophet and the new vocation of the fishermen can be the image of the call that Jesus makes for us today. We need to respond to the invitation He graciously gives us, to be sent to announce His message. It is easy for us to make excuses, to hesitate, or even flee.

The ‘unclean lips’ of Isaiah were purified to prepare him for his role. Our own lips are unclean when we use them to criticize, speak ill of others, or complain, or even use bad language. We can use the same tongue to pray, praise and show others His presence in our lives.

Peter speaks for us all as he says: ‘but at your command I will lower the nets.’ What a surprise, leading him to the humble confession ‘depart from me Lord for I am a sinful man.’ Jesus responds with the familiar phrase ‘Do not be afraid...from now on...they followed Him.’

May we identify with Isaiah, seeking what the Lord asks of us. May we leave our tangled nets, acknowledge the Lord’s call and forgiveness, and follow Him.



**INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSINGS AND DELAYS NOTIFICATIONS**

**It's that time of year!! St. Monica's is registered with WSUS 102.3 FM Radio for closings and/or delays due to inclement weather and other emergency situations. These announcements can be heard on the radio, but the quickest way is to visit the following website: [wsus1023.iheart.com](http://wsus1023.iheart.com), then simply click on "Closings and Delays".**

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**Travel Opportunities:**

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown, NY is hosting a trip to the Holy Land – October 16-24, 2019. Fr. Richard Champigny, O.Carm will accompany the group. Highlights include Tel Aviv, Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, Jerusalem & Hecht Museum in Haifa, followed by a visit to the Monastery of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Trip Information session will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY 10940. Please call Carol Bezak at 845-343-1879 or Collette Tours at 1-800-581-8942 and refer to booking #885437 if you plan to attend this session.

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**Fatima, Lourdes & Shrines of Spain**  
**(Portugal, Spain and France)**

Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY to Fatima, Lourdes and Shrines of Spain on this 12-night experience. September 24 – October 5, 2019 with Catholic Cruises and Tours, LLC and AOS-USA.

Mass and Rosary will be offered throughout your journey. Land prices begin at \$1,749 per person, based on double occupancy. Deposits of only \$400 per person will reserve your space. Space is VERY LIMITED. For further info or to register, contact Doug or Eileen at 860-399-1785. You may also contact us by email at [Eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com](mailto:Eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com).

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**ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!**

Training for new altar servers will begin next month. If you have a child who would like to become an altar server at St. Monica's, please see Fr. Jan, or call the rectory (973-875-4521). Candidates must be in fifth grade or older.

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Thanks to all who contributed to the "Souper Bowl" collection last weekend. Members of our Youth Ministry collected a total of \$476 which will benefit Harvest House. Thank you to our Youth Ministry volunteers and for the generosity of our parishioners!

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**The Light Shines in the Darkness**

There will be a special collection next weekend (February 16 and 17) to support the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. There is an envelope for this collection in your weekly envelope packet. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for further details.

## *FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JAN .....*

On February 11, the Catholic Church celebrates the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, recalling a series of 18 appearances that the Blessed Virgin Mary made to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, Saint Bernadette Soubirous. The Marian apparitions began February 11, 1858, ended July 16 that year and received the local bishop's approval after a four-year inquiry.

On February 11, 1858, Bernadette, who lived in a poor peasant family, went to gather some firewood with her sister and a friend. As she approached a grotto near a river, she saw a light coming from a spot near a rosebush. The light surrounded a woman who wore a white dress and held a rosary. Seeing the lady in white make the sign of the Cross, Bernadette knelt, took out her own rosary, and began to pray. When she finished praying, the woman motioned for her to approach. But she remained still, and the vision disappeared. Her companions had seen nothing. Bernadette described the lady in white to them, demanding they tell no one. But the secret came out later that day. The next Sunday, Bernadette returned to the grotto, where she saw the woman again. The identity of the apparition, however, would remain unknown for few weeks.

Some adults accompanied Bernadette on her third trip, on February 18, though they did not see the vision she received. The woman in white asked the girl to return for two weeks. "She told me also," Bernadette later wrote, "that she did not promise to make me happy in this world, but in the next." A group of family members and others went with her to the cave the next day, but only the young peasant girl saw the woman and heard her words.

Over the next few days, the number of people in attendance at the cave swelled. A parish priest, Father Peyramale, became concerned – as did the police. On February 24, 250 people saw Bernadette break into tears, but only she heard the woman's message: "Penance! Penance! Penance! Pray to God for the conversion of sinners." On that day Bernadette also was invited by Our Lady to scrape in the mud at the back of the Grotto until a spring came forth.

On February 27, Bernadette made a joyful discovery: the spring which she dug and which was muddy became clear. As the crowds continued to gather, this change was noticed, and a woman with a paralyzed arm came to the water hoping to be healed. Four years later, her case would be recognized as the first miraculous healing at Lourdes. Public interest continued, and Bernadette heard a recurring message from the vision: "Go, tell the priests to bring people here in procession and have a chapel built here."

While others were quick to conclude that Bernadette was seeing the Virgin Mary, the visionary herself did not claim to know the woman's identity. As she conveyed the repeated message to Fr. Peyramale, the priest told Bernadette to ask the woman her name. But when she did so, the woman smiled and remained silent. Her identity remained a mystery after the initial two-week period.

Three weeks later, on the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette visited the cave again. When she saw the lady, she kept asking to know her identity. Finally, the woman folded her hands, looked up and said: "I am the Immaculate Conception." The seer, devout but uneducated, did not know what these words meant. She related them to Fr. Peyramale, who was stunned and informed his bishop.

Bernadette saw the Blessed Virgin Mary two more times in 1858: on the Wednesday after Easter, and on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. In 1862, the local bishop declared the apparitions worthy of belief. St. Bernadette left Lourdes in 1866 to join a religious order in central France, where she died after several years of illness in 1879. By the time of her death, a basilica had been built and consecrated at the apparition site.

The Virgin Mary's appearances at Lourdes turned the small town into a popular travel destination. Thousands of people traveled there to strengthen their faith or to find physical healing. Many people have been cured through pilgrimage, prayer and the water flowing from a spring to which Bernadette was directed by the Blessed Virgin. Experts have verified 67 cases of miraculous healing at Lourdes since 1862. After many years, Lourdes still remains popular pilgrimage destination for those who seek spiritual or physical healing.