

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Stewardship Report – Treasure
WEEKLY COLLECTION

<u>Budgeted Amount:</u>	\$5,000.00
<u>Sunday Collection – 3/3/19</u>	\$3,744.00
<u>Second Collection (Fuel) 3/3/19</u>	\$1,451.00
<u>Online Giving – 2/24/19</u>	\$ 471.00
<u>Online Giving = 2/24/19 – Maintenance</u>	25.00

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:
In Memory of: Patrick O’Shea
Given by: Mike and Grace Casalino

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

3/11	MON:	9:00a	People of our Parish
3/12	TUES.	9:00a	People of our Parish
3/13	WED:	9:00a	NO MASS TODAY
3/14	THU:	9:00a	People of our Parish
3/15	FRI:	9:00a	People of our Parish
3/16	SAT:	5:00p	Regina Filipowicz
3/17	SUN:	8:30a	Neal Stebal
		10:30a	Susan and Catherine McGovern Thomas and Charles Burke Annie Randall
		12:00p	Marie Monzo

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.

SANCTUARY LAMP: \$10.00

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Fridays of Lent – Stations of the Cross will be held after 9:00am Mass and at 7:30pm.

Mondays of Lent – Confessions will be heard from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 10, 2019

Always on the First Sunday of Lent we hear Jesus being tempted by the devil during the forty days he spent in the desert. We too are beginning a forty-day period during which we are challenged to repent and re-orient ourselves toward God. We face temptations every day that distract us from following the Lord or lead us away from God. May our gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist inspire us and nourish us in the weeks ahead.

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 meet on **Monday, March 18th** 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, March 12th.**

BIBLE STUDY “Ephesians: Discover Your Inheritance” on **Tuesday, March 12, 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 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.

LUNCH & LEARN

A Lunch and Learn entitled “The NY Carmelites and Irish Freedom” will be held on Wednesday, March 13th at 12:00 noon at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY.

Archivist Vincent Begley and Sr. Margaret Murphy of Mt. Saint Mary College, Newburgh will present a lively and historic story of Irish Freedom through the lens of the Carmelite order from New York. The cost to attend is \$15 per person and reservations are required. Please see the flyers on the bulletin boards at the church exits. Call Carol Bezak, Director, at 845-343-1879 to register.



FISH AND CHIPS DINNER

Mark your calendars! Helping Hands is hosting a FISH AND CHIPS DINNER here at St. Monica's on THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH, 5:30 – 7:30 PM.



Tastefully British will be catering the event. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and will be sold after all masses beginning the weekend of March 23/24 through April 6/7. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the rectory office. The meal includes fish, French Fries, cole slaw, drink and dessert. Chicken is also available upon request. Adults \$15; Children \$10. Takeout will also be 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.

Saturday	FHC Class ONLY – March 23 Reconciliation Workshop
Sunday	First Grade only Class – March 24
Tuesday	FHC Class Only – March 26 First Reconciliation
Saturday	Jesus Day – April 6 FHC Class only – Sacred Heart Ctr., Newton, NJ
Sunday	Class – April 14
Sunday	Class – April 28

GRADES 3, 4, 5 & 6
 Classes run from 9am to 11am in Church Hall

Saturday March 16
 Saturday April 6 LAST CLASS!

YOUNG ADULTS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CALENDAR

Saturday	March 23 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 2:30 pm
Saturday	April 6 YM/Rel Ed Activity Ice Cream Social at Bristol Glen w/residents Meeting Point: Church Hall Time: Leaving at 1:30 pm and returning by 3:30 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 - Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13
Monday - Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday - Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday - Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday - Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
Friday - Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday - Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses discusses the power God has displayed in freeing his people from oppression and leading them to a rich land. He tells the people that they should make offerings to God to show their gratitude, then celebrate over the great things he has given them.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Paul tells us that if we proclaim, "Jesus is Lord" and truly believe that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved. For God shows his mercy toward everyone who calls upon his name.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days, and then Satan appeared to him and tempted him to turn stone into bread. After Jesus refused, Satan promised him great powers if Jesus would worship him. Jesus replied that he would worship God and no one else. Then Satan tried to persuade Jesus to put God to the test, but again Jesus resisted his temptation.

First Sunday of Lent
March 10, 2019

“What does the Scripture say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we preach), for if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

We have launched the Holy Season of Repentance and Reform. It is not just a change in the calendar, but a moment in which we are summoned to repentance, admit our need for the Savior. We are called in two directions, to re-form our own lives, and to walk the Lenten journey with others.

Our resolve to live Lent 2019 is truly important. The saving work of Jesus is at work in us, and through us, for others. Jesus' mission focuses on Calvary, His death and resurrection. The church too, in its mission to evangelize asks us to focus on Jesus, His cross, and our salvation. We are not just revisiting former Lents, or the first Good Friday, we ask that the paschal mystery touch, penetrate and transform us.

We move from the word on our lips to the belief in our hearts that Jesus is here to save us today. 'Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Savior of the world.'



From the Desk of Fr. Jan.....



With Ash Wednesday, the Catholic Church throughout the world has started observance of the season of Lent. We begin the season of Lent with receiving the ashes on our foreheads which symbolizes our willingness to follow Jesus more closely in the love of God and of the service to our neighbors.

Lent is a special penitential season when through prayer, penance, fasting, and self-restraint we prepare ourselves for the Solemn Paschal Triduum - the celebration of the Lord's supper, his passion and death on the cross, but also for the joyful celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Day.

Excluding Sundays, it is a season of forty days, in imitation of Jesus spending forty days in the desert where He fasted and overcame the devil's temptations. Forty is a significant number in the scriptures. Moses went to the mountain to seek the face of God for forty days in prayer and fasting. The people of Israel were in the wilderness for forty years in preparation for their entry into the promised land. Elijah fasted for forty days as he journeyed in the wilderness to the mountain of God. In this special season of Lent, we as God's People are called to live our life with the Lord in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Why did Jesus single out prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for his disciples? The Jews considered these three as the cardinal works of the religious life. These were seen as the key signs of a pious person, the three great pillars on which the good life was based. Jesus pointed to the heart of the matter. Why do we pray, fast, and give alms? To draw attention to ourselves so that others may notice and think highly of us? Or to give glory to God? The Lord warns his disciples of self-seeking glory – the preoccupation with looking good and seeking praise from others. True piety is something more than feeling good or looking holy. True piety is loving devotion to God. It is an attitude of awe, reverence, worship and obedience. It is a gift and working of the Holy Spirit that enables us to devote our lives to God with a holy desire to please him in all things. (Isaiah 11:1-2)

God wants us to grow in love and holiness so Jesus stressed out importance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in this process. Prayer purifies our intentions and relates all we do to God. Fasting detaches us from our comfort and from our ego. Almsgiving opens us for the needs of the poor. It reflects on our brotherhood with the poor of Jesus' family, and reminds us that our true wealth is not in things in this world but in love of God.

On Ash Wednesday we were called to journey with the Lord in a special season of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and penance as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Easter, the Christian Passover. The Lord gives us spiritual food and supernatural strength to prepare ourselves for spiritual combat, testing and spiritual growth. We, too, must follow in the way of the cross in order to share in the victory of Christ's death and resurrection.

So as we begin this holy season of testing and preparation, let's ask the Lord for a fresh outpouring of his Holy Spirit that we may grow in faith, hope, and love and embrace his will more fully in our lives.