

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW
Stewardship Report – Treasure

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 6, 2019

WEEKLY COLLECTION

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| Budgeted Amount: | \$5,000.00 |
| Sunday Collection – 9/29/2019 | \$2,887.00 |
| Online Giving – 9/22/2019 | \$ 561.00 |



The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:
In Memory of: Martin Finn
Given by: Phyllis Finn

Today, on Respect Life Sunday, we hear Jesus use the image of the mustard seed. The mustard seed is tiny—not much larger than a grain of sand—yet when planted and nurtured, grows into a large, strong tree. It takes time, though. As we look around today, let us ponder how all of us were once the size of a mustard seed, but now, loved and nurtured, we have grown in body, soul, and spirit.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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| 9/30 | MON: | 9:00a | People of our Parish |
| 10/1 | TUES: | 9:00a | People of our Parish |
| 10/2 | WED: | 9:00a | NO MASS TODAY |
| 10/3 | THU: | 9:00a | Victor Ephrussi |
| 10/4 | FRI: | 9:00a | Ann on her Birthday |
| 10/5 | SAT: | 5:00p | Nicholas & Caroline Partyka Joseph Lopez |
| 10/6 | SUN: | 8:30a | Emil Ogrinz |
| | | 10:30a | Gregory & Sonja Frankowski Eileen Randall Susan McGovern |
| | | 12:00 | George Duerr |

WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE & DONUTS – First Sunday of each month after the 8:30 a.m. 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 meets the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is **Wednesday, November 6th** at 12:00 noon in the Church Hall.

HELPING HANDS meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m. **Next meeting is Tuesday, October 8th.**

ST. MONICA'S ROSARY SOCIETY – meets on the first Monday of the month. Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting will be **Monday, October 7th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

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.

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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 at 12 noon for articles to be printed on the following Sunday.

Our "Winter Schedule" resumes this weekend. Masses are now as follows:
Saturday – 5:00pm
Sunday – 8:30am, 10:30am and 12 noon.

ALL SOULS' DAY ENVELOPES – Can be found at the Church and hall exits. Saturday, November 2nd is All Soul's Day. The purpose of these envelopes is to write on the back the names of deceased persons you wish to have remembered in prayer. Please return the envelopes to the collection box near the pulpit by Sunday, October 27th. Those who receive weekly envelopes have already received the envelope in their packet. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during the month of November. We ask that the names be printed clearly as they will be divided in four groups and read allowed at the recitation the Divine Mercy Chaplet after the 9:00am mass on Fridays during the month of November.



On Saturday, September 29, Paige Elizabeth Kolb received the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Monica's. Paige's parents are Peter and Shannon Kolb. Her Godparents are Ken Farber and Gracelyn Cunningham. Congratulations and God Bless you, Paige.

SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS



Couples, were you married in 1969 or 1994? 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 on Sunday, November 3rd, 2019 at 3:30 pm. Bishop Serratelli will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion. Arrangements can be made by contacting St. Monica's parish office. The deadline to register is Friday, October 11, 2019. You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed.

Speaking of the Rosary: A Day of Retreat



*Saturday, October 12, 2019
9:30 am – 3:00 pm
National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Middletown, NY*

Please see the flyers posted in the Church Hall. Registration forms are available at the church exits. Please contact Carol Bezak, Shrine Director at (845) 343-1879 for more information.

**2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal
"For I Was Hungry..."**

One of the benefits of giving to our Bishop's Annual Appeal is the knowledge that the funds stay in our own Diocese and only support important needs in Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties. This local connection means that you may be helping your next-door neighbor, a former pastor now living in our priests' retirement residence, the store owner you see each day as you shop in town – perhaps even a family member. Please help your neighbor in need and make a pledge to the Annual Appeal today! *For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2019appeal.org*

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

GRADES 1&2 (First Holy Communion Class)

Rectory Meeting Room
Classes start promptly @ 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 6th – FIRST CLASS
Sunday October 20th
Rite of Acceptance @ 10:30 Mass

GRADES 3, 4, 5 & 6

Saturday October 12th – FIRST CLASS
Saturday October 26th

YOUNG ADULTS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

Saturday Oct. 26th FIRST CLASS all grades.
8th & 9th Grade-Rite of Acceptance @ 5PM Mass.

Saturday, Nov. 23rd CLASS – all grades.



We would like to thank all who attended or took out a dinner at our Pig Roast last Sunday. Over 100 people enjoyed the delicious pork, baked ziti, baked beans, various salads, etc. prepared by parishioner Ed Zydel. Many thanks to members of Helping Hands for organizing this event, setting up, decorating the hall, serving food, selling 50/50 tickets, and cleaning up.

The lucky winner of the 50/50, John Fedynich, went home with \$98.

Special thanks to Ed Zydel for his generosity and hard work, which helped make this such a successful event for St. Monica's parish.

If you would like to become more involved with your parish, plan to attend a Helping Hands meeting. Meetings take place the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory meeting room.

Marianne Ciccolella
Helping Hands

*Rekindle
the gift of God 
that is within you*

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TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

The prophet Habakkuk cries out despairingly to God because of the state Jerusalem has fallen into. He asks why God does nothing to stop the violence and misery. God assures him that a time will come when only the just and faithful will live.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Paul writes to Timothy from prison and urges him to continue to spread the gospel without fear or shame. He also tells Timothy to draw upon the strength of the Holy Spirit to help him face the hardships he will encounter while preaching.

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus replies that "faith the size of a mustard seed could transplant a sycamore," indicating that a person either has faith, strong and complete, or none at all. Jesus also explains that a servant will not receive gratitude for simply following his master's orders. In the same way, we are all God's servants doing no more than our duty when we obey God's commands.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 6, 2019

"I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give you a spirit of cowardice, but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake, but bear your share of the hardship for the gospel, with the strength that comes from God. Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."

We all need reminders. Emails are sent about meetings, calls made about a dentist appointment, a light on the dashboard to check the oil. Each one has importance and serves a good purpose.

Paul resorts to a reminder and uses the example of a flame. We know a small spark has great potential to become a blazing inferno. Blowing gently on embers from a barbecue can create a fire. The old song 'it only takes a spark to get a fire going' is real.

The same image was directed to Timothy, reminding him of the hands asking for the Spirit to ordain him. The same imposition of hands occurred for us at our baptism and confirmation. Yes, we too have the gift of power, love and self control. Am I ready to stir it into a flame?

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday - Hb 1:2-3, 2:2-4; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10

Monday - Jon 1:1—2:2, 11; Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday - Jon 3:1-10; Lk 10: 38-42

Wednesday - Jon 4:1-11; Lk 11:1-4

Thursday - Mal 3:13-20b; Lk 11:5-13

Friday - Jl 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Lk 11:15-26

Saturday - Jl 4:12-21; Lk 11:27-28

Respect Life Sunday

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 terms, means to take a deliberate action with the express intention of ending a human life. This action is also called "mercy killing". From the 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.**

Fr. JAN