

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW
Stewardship Report – Treasure

WEEKLY COLLECTION

<u>Budgeted Amount:</u>	\$5,000.00
<u>Sunday Collection – 11/17/2019</u>	\$3,342.00
<u>Online Giving – 11/10/2019</u>	\$ 336.00
<u>Online Maintenance Collection – 11/10/2019</u>	\$ 45.00



The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:
In Memory of: Frank Rankl
Given by: Carol Rankl

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

11/25	MON:	9:00a	People of our Parish
11/26	TUES:	9:00a	People of our Parish
11/27	WED:	9:00a	NO MASS TODAY
11/28	THU:	9:00a	Family Life
11/29	FRI:	9:00a	Pelagia Jurasz
11/30	SAT:	5:00p	Richard Olsen Marie Dorothy Stearns
12/01	SUN:	8:30a	Frank Rankl
		10:30a	Gregory & Sonja Frankowski Carmen Fluhr Richard P. Olsen
		12:00	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 at 12 noon for articles to be printed on the following Sunday.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

St. Monica's Thanksgiving Day Mass will be held at 9:00 am. Please come and first give thanks to God. Each year, freshly baked loaves of bread are blessed and distributed to each family in attendance.

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
KING OF THE UNIVERSE
NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, acknowledging that Jesus Christ is above all temporal rulers, past, present or future. We also recognize that Jesus Christ should reign in our lives, guiding us in our thoughts, our decisions and our conduct. In both the universe that is the entire world, and the universe that is our own heart, Jesus Christ is Lord.

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 Members only: The Christmas Party is on **Wednesday, December 11** at 12:30pm at the Lamp Post Restaurant. If you were not at the November meeting and would like to attend the Christmas Party, please call Grace or Mike Casalino at 973-702-8569 before December 2nd. **There will be no meeting on December 4th.**

HELPING HANDS meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m. There will be no meeting in December. **Next meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2020.**

ST. MONICA'S ROSARY SOCIETY – meets on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be **Monday, December 2nd** 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 am Mass until 10:00 am.

ST. MONICA'S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Every registered parish family should have received a letter from Fr. Jan asking for a contribution to our Annual Campaign. The participation of ALL parishioners is essential for the success of this effort. Extra letters can be found on the table in the hall in case you did not receive one.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

GRADES 1&2 (First Holy Communion Class)

Rectory Meeting Room
 Classes start promptly @ 9:30 am to 10:25 am
 Children will attend 10:30 am Mass after Class-Mass
 attendance is part of the Religious Education
 requirement.

Saturday December 7th - *CLASS
 *Christmas in Bethlehem 9:30am-11am
 Crafts, songs and fun for grades
 1,2,3&4
 Sunday December 15th - CLASS

GRADES 3, 4, 5 & 6

Saturday December 7th - *CLASS
 *Christmas in Bethlehem 9:30am-11am
 Crafts, songs and fun for grades
 1,2,3&4
 Saturday December 14th – CLASS
 Saturday December 21st – CLASS (5th & 6th) only

**YOUNG ADULTS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 CALENDAR**

Saturday, Nov. 23rd CLASS – all grades.
 Saturday, Dec. 14th CLASS – all grades



**FIESTA DE LE NUESTRA SENORA DE
 GUADALUPE**

Helping Hands will be hosting our 9th Fiesta
 de la Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe on
 Sunday, December 8th, 2019. There will be
 prayer, music, and a covered-dish dinner beginning at
 3:00 pm. Mexican, Spanish and American foods will be
 served. Please sign up on the form in the Church Hall.
 For further information, please contact Mary Ellen
 Schoen at (862) 266-0573.

SNOW REMOVAL HELP for St. Monica's is needed.
 Shoveling steps and snow blowing sidewalks at Church
 and Rectory. Please see Fr. Jan or call the Rectory Office.



**ST. MONICA'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
 COOKIE SALE IS BACK!**

Our Rosary Society and Leisure Group are conducting a
 Christmas Cookie Sale in the Church Hall on Saturday,
 December 14th and Sunday, December 15th. The
 cookies are \$5 a plate. Anyone wishing to participate by
 baking cookies for the sale is welcome to do so! Please
 be sure to bring your cookies to the Church Hall on
 Saturday afternoon, December 14th between 1-3 pm.
**(Cookies containing nuts must be labeled and kept
 separate from cookies without nuts).**

Music Ministry for Fiesta

Helping Hands is in need of children to volunteer to sing
 at the Fiesta to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday,
 December 8th at 3:00 pm. Please contact the Rectory or
 Anne Chirico at (862) 268-0875. We need your voices!!

**St. Monica's Annual Children's Christmas Eve
 Pageant will be held at the 5:00 pm 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.**



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 from November 29th
 to December 23rd from 9 am to 4pm.

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

**2019 DIOCESAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:
 FEMININE, FAITHFUL, FEARLESS**

Join fellow Catholic women as we stand firmly in faith
 and focus on using our God-given gifts to fearlessly fulfill
 our vocations. There will be fantastic speakers,
 Adoration, networking, giveaways and much more! Join
 speakers Jenny Hubbard, Jenny Pankow and Sr.
 Graciela Colon on **Saturday, December 7th**. To
 register, visit [https://insidethewalls.org/womens-
 conference](https://insidethewalls.org/womens-conference).



Members of the Rosary Society of St. Monica's attended and
 enjoyed a Rosary Retreat day on October 12, 2019 at The
 National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown,
 NY.

First Thursday of Advent at Sacred Heart Center

Come join us for our monthly First Thursday Retreat at Sacred
 Heart Spirituality Center on December 5th. Our topic for this
 month is "Encountering Jesus". The day begins at 9 am with
 'Coffee and' and includes an opening prayer, a short talk,
 Eucharistic Adoration, the opportunity for Confession, Mass at
 12:00 noon and a light lunch. The day concludes at about 1:30
 pm. \$15 is the suggested offering. There is no need to pre-
 register- all are welcome. For further information, visit our
 web site; sacredheartspiritualitycenter.org or call (973) 383-
 2620.



GIVING WREATH

With Thanksgiving comes the "Giving Wreath", filled with tags for you to pick from. If you are new to St. Monica's Parish, the tags have names of children from needy families in the area. If you wish, take a tag, buy a gift for that child and return it to the Church Hall during the week of December 15th through December 20th. (NOTE: if the gift is not returned by Friday, December 20th, it cannot be used this year). The gifts should be wrapped and the TAG SECURELY PLACED on it!!

These gifts are intended to be a "Help with Santa". They are gathered and given to the appropriate needy families. There are also some tags for Senior Citizens.

Thank you for your caring and sharing. May God give you and yours a Blessed Christmas! Any questions, please call Joan at (973) 875-6417 or (973) 903-4344.

**Women's Weekend Retreat at Sacred Heart Center
January 3-5, 2020**

Come join us for our Women's Weekend Retreat at Sacred Heart Spirituality Center on January 3-5, 2020. Our theme for the retreat is "Spirit-Filled Living". The Retreat begins at 5:00 pm on Friday, January 3rd and finishes at 1:30 pm on Sunday, January 5th. There is also an option to attend for the day on Saturday, January 4th.

Registration Forms are available in the Church Hall. For more information, call (973) 383-2620 or e-mail us at shretreatcenter@gmail.com.

**VOLUNTEER SUPPORT
NEEDED**



Catholic Charities is in urgent need of volunteer help at Father English Center in Paterson. Father English has been the

donation drop off site for Straight and Narrow fire relief donations. The donations of clothing, active wear, toiletries and other needed items have been immense, for which we are truly thankful! However, our current volunteers at the pantry have been unable to keep up with them as they come in.

Volunteer support is needed to help with sorting through the many bags, shipments and boxes of donated items. Our food pantry staff and volunteers will work with you on how to sort the items. We need help on Thursdays between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. and Saturdays between the hours of 8:00 am and 1 pm for the foreseeable future.

If you have questions, please contact Sr. Maureen Sullivan, Director of Pastoral Ministry, Community Programs & Volunteers at CFCS at (973) 279-7100 x2203 or Chris Brancato at Catholic Charities at (973) 944-5992.



**2019 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
"For I Was Hungry...."**

This time of year, as we come together to celebrate Thanksgiving, please consider making a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal as a way to give thanks for our many blessings. Each year, tens of thousands of people in profound need seek out the services of our Catholic Charities and, with the help for the Bishop's Annual Appeal, they find an open door and a compassionate response. Please make a pledge to our Annual Appeal today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2019appeal.org.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday:	2 Sm 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43
Monday:	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Dn 2:31-45; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Dn 6:12-28; Lk 21:20-28
Friday:	Dn 7:2-14; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE
UNIVERSE**

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

Samuel describes how all the tribes of Israel went to David in Hebron and said they were his bone and his flesh and it was he who led them back to Israel. The Lord told David he would be a shepherd to His people. David made an agreement with the elders and was anointed king.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:12-20

Paul explains to the Colossians that God has made them fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light and that through the Son we have redemption and forgiveness of sin. He describes Jesus as the image of the invisible God, the head of the church and in Him all things hold together.

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

Jesus is mocked by the crowd as he hung on the cross. Above him was an inscription that read "This is the king of the Jews." One of the men being crucified with Jesus tells Him to save them and Himself, while the other asks that he be remembered when Jesus is in his kingdom. Jesus said in reply, "Amen I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."



Christ the King Sunday

On Christ the King Sunday, the Catholic Church celebrates the all-embracing authority of Christ as King and Lord of all things. Officially it is called "The Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King of the Universe," and it is celebrated on the final Sunday of Ordinary Time, which ends the liturgical year in the Catholic Church.

Pope Pius XI instituted The Feast of Christ the King in 1925 for the universal church in his encyclical *Quas Primas*. He connected the increasing denial of Christ as king to the rise of secularism throughout Europe. At the time of *Quas Primas*, many Christians (including Catholics) began to doubt Christ's authority and existence, as well as the Church's power to continue Christ's authority.

Pius XI, and the rest of the Christian world, witnessed the rise of non-Christian dictatorships in Europe, and saw Catholics being taken in by these earthly leaders. These dictators often attempted to assert authority over the Church. Just as the Feast of Corpus Christi was instituted when devotion to the Eucharist was at a low point, the Feast of Christ the King was instituted during a time when respect for Christ and the Church was waning, when the feast was needed most.

Today, the same distrust of authority exists, although the problem has gotten worse. Individualism has been embraced to such an extreme, that for many, the only authority is the individual self. The idea of Christ as ruler is rejected in such a strongly individualistic system. Also, many balk at the idea of kings and queens, believing them to be antiquated and possibly oppressive. Some even reject the titles of "lord" and "king" for Christ because they believe that such titles are borrowed from oppressive systems of government. These individuals who think in this way miss the point: Christ's kingship is one of humility and service. Jesus said: *"You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to become great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"*. (Mark 10:42-45). And when Pilate asked Jesus about his kingship he answered: *"My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here."* So Pilate said to him, *"Then you are a king?"* Jesus answered, *"You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth."* (John 18:33b, 36-37).

Thus, Jesus knew the oppressive nature of secular kings, and in contrast to them, he connected his role as king to humble service, and commanded his followers to be servants as well. When we celebrate Christ as King, we are not celebrating an oppressive ruler, but one willing to die for humanity and whose "loving-kindness, peace and mercy endures forever." Christ is the king that gives us true freedom, freedom in Him. Thus we must never forget that Christ radically redefined and transformed the concept of kingship.

Christians have long celebrated Jesus Christ as King, and his reign is celebrated to some degree in Advent (when Christians wait for his second coming in glory), Christmas (when "born this day is the King of the Jews"), Holy Week (when Christ is the Crucified King), Easter (when Jesus is resurrected in power and glory), and the Ascension (when Jesus returns to the glory he had with the Father before the world was created). However, Pius XI wanted to specifically commemorate Christ as king, and instituted the feast in the Western calendar in 1925.

In the 21st century in a chaotic and unjust world that seems to scorn any kind of authority, the Catholic Church proudly celebrates Christ the King Sunday, where the loving and merciful - and just - king of the universe is praised and glorified.

Fr. Jan