

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**  
**Stewardship Report – Treasure**

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
**JANUARY 5, 2020**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

<b>Budgeted Amount:</b>	\$5,000.00
<b>Weekly Collection – 12/22/19</b>	\$3,276.00
<b>Religious Retirement – 12/22/19</b>	\$ 55.00
<b>Christmas Collection – 12/25/19</b>	\$7,914.00
<b>Weekly Collection – 12/29/19</b>	\$2,977.00
<b>Online Giving – Regular Collection -12/22/19</b>	\$ 531.00

*Word traveled quickly. What had originally been known only to Mary, then to Joseph, and soon shared with intimate friends like Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, was revealed to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth, and now to foreigners – the magi from the east. Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior, has been born. Let us rejoice, for his saving presence has been made manifest to all.*

**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** There will be no meetings for the months of January, February and March. Meetings will resume on **Wednesday, April 1, 2020.**

**HELPING HANDS** meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m. **Next meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2020.**

**ST. MONICA'S ROSARY SOCIETY** There will be no meetings for the months of January, February and March. Meetings will resume on **Monday, April 6, 2020.**

**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.

**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN AS OF 12/9/19**

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: \$23,365.00**

**Paid to date: \$20,173.34**



The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:  
**In Memory of: The People of our Parish**

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

1/6	MON:	9:00a	Intentions of the Rosary Society
1/7	TUES:	9:00a	Sharon Schneider (LIV)
1/8	WED:	9:00a	NO MASS TODAY
1/9	THU:	9:00a	People of our Parish
1/10	FRI:	9:00a	People of our Parish
1/11	SAT:	5:00p	Connie Mooney
1/12	SUN:	8:30a	People of our Parish
		10:30a	Estelle Glenn
		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](http://www.stmonicasussex.org)

**Email:** [stmonica@ptd.net](mailto:stmonica@ptd.net)

**Deadline for bulletin submissions:** Tuesday of each week at 12 noon for articles to be printed on the following Sunday.

**PARISH REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Are you new to our parish? If so, welcome! Do you wish to register? If you are attending Mass and using our blue "blank" visitor envelopes and wish to receive our weekly envelopes in the mail, please register with us. If you wish to become a registered member and be placed on our parish mailing list, there are blank registration forms on the table near the Church exits. Please fill it out and give it to Fr. Jan after Mass, or drop it in the collection basket.



**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.

Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> CLASS

Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup> CLASS

Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> CLASS

Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> CLASS

**(Second Grade Students –time**

***change 9:00 to 11:50 – Lenten Workshop. Children may attend 8:30 Mass before class or noon Mass after class)***

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

Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> CLASS

Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> CLASS

Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> CLASS

**YOUNG ADULTS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR**

Saturday, January 18th CLASS – all grades

**Saturday & Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – SOUPER BOWL Collection – After ALL MASSES**

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – **MAKE UP CLASS** (if needed)  
6:30-8:30 – NO DINNER SERVED

Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – CLASS (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades Only)

**Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – RETREAT – 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADES CONFIRMATION RETREAT– 10 am – 5 pm at Sacred Heart Center, 20 Old Swartswood Road, Newton, NJ 07860  
Cost - \$35 per person**

Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> CLASS – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades only



**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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**WE WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

**NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

**TRIP TO PORTUGAL AND SPAIN**

**JULY 19-28, 2020**

Join the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for a trip to Fatima, Portugal; Lourdes, France and Barcelona, Spain July 19-28, 2020. Other highlights also include the Cathedral of Burgos, a UNESCO World Heritage site; Carcassonne and medieval city in France and Gaudi's masterpiece LaSagrada Familia in Barcelona. An information meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 9:30 am at the National Shrine of our Lady of Mount Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY 10940. Call Carol Bezak, MA, Shrine Director at (845) 343-1879 for information or to obtain a trip brochure.

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**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**

**February 7-9, 2020**

**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 discussions, Eucharist and lots of fun!

**Cost:** \$135 per person, double occupancy

**Register at:** [www.capemaymarianists.org](http://www.capemaymarianists.org) or call (609) 884-3829. Some financial aid is available.

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP**



Please join St. Monica's Scripture Reflection Group which will now meet at a new time. Beginning Thursday, January 9, 2020, and each Thursday thereafter, we will meet at 1:30 pm in the Rectory Meeting Room.

The meeting will start with prayer and an introductory reflection on the upcoming Sunday's readings; then the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading and the Gospel are read. After each reading, members of the group share their answers to the reflection questions and participate in a short discussion pertaining to the readings. We then conclude with closing prayer. The entire session should take no more than 90 minutes.

By attending these weekly sessions, we hope that God's Word will become more meaningful to you within the small group environment, and also during Mass on Sunday as you hear Scripture read and taught to you.

You will not only be fed spiritually, but as an extra bonus, soup and bread will also be served for those attending. We hope you are able to join us.

**REUNION OF HEARTS** support group for families dealing with issues of estrangement. Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, January 9- March 12, 2020. St. Thomas Church, 5635 Berkshire Valley Road, Oak Ridge, NJ. To register or for more info, call or text Janet @ (201) 213-8499 or email [Janet@PfeifferPowerSeminars.com](mailto:Janet@PfeifferPowerSeminars.com).

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

Jerusalem is extolled as a place of glory and splendor because the Lord has come to His own city.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

Paul tells the Ephesians that his special mission is to make the Gentiles co-heirs with the Jews in Christ — “members of the same body and sharers of the promise.”

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

Herod learns that Wise Men from the East are searching for the newly born Christ Child. He instructs them to find the Child and to report His whereabouts to him. The Wise Men follow a star to the place where Mary and Jesus are and offer the Child gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They do not return to Herod but follow another route to their own country.

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

**The Epiphany of the Lord  
January 5, 2020**

**“God’s secret plan, as I have briefly described it, was revealed to me, unknown to men in former ages, but now revealed by the Spirit to the holy apostles and prophets. It is no less than this: in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are now coheirs with the Jews, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise through the preaching of the gospel.”**

This great day in the life of the church, tells us more than the jealousy of a threatened king, the ardent search of the wise men from the east, and their discovery of the Savior and Mary His Mother. The event has allowed so many rich traditions to develop to enhance our faith. The number of visitors with three gifts for royalty, priesthood and eventual anointing in death, the star directing them like a GPS, and the humility of these rich visitors coming before the infant.

The message to use Paul’s words is ‘no less than this’. I am included as a coheir, I have life in the Lord because He is my Savior. I am sent, like them on a different route to bring my experience of Jesus Christ to others. It is no less than this. May I offer the gift of self, the richness of my faith, and travel the journey with others in this new year.



On Sunday, December 28, 2019, Jolene Rae Pizzulli, daughter of Matthew and Rachel Pizzulli, received the Sacrament of Baptism here at St. Monica’s. The Godparents are Yianni Charitou and Lauren Pizzulli. Congratulations and God bless you, Jolene.

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**ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!**

If you had your picture taken for our Parish Directory and have not received a copy of the Directory, please stop by the Rectory to pick it up or call the Rectory Office to make other arrangements. Thank you!

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**SHRINES OF ITALY  
14 DAY TOUR FROM MILAN TO  
ROME**

Catholic Cruises and Tours

Take your Faith on a Journey with our Shrines of Italy Journey. You

will enjoy this 14 day experience – April 23, 2020 – May 6, 2020. Your included destinations while on this Journey: Milan, Italy-Turin-Pavia-Sirmione-Padua-Pomposa-Revenna-Rome Papal Audience-Pietrelcina-San Giovanni Rotondo-Excursion to Monte Sant’Angelo-Lanciano-Loreto-Assisi-Cascia and end in Rome, Italy. Land prices begin at \$2,379 per person, based on double occupancy. Deposit of only \$400 per person will reserve your space. Limited space available. Deadline date is March 1, 2020. For further info or to register, contact Michael or Eileen at (860) 399-1785 or email [Eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com](mailto:Eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com).

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
- Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22
- Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30



## FROM THE DESK OF FR. JAN .....

On this Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, sometimes called the feast of the Three Kings. There are many disputes about the three kings. Why three? Who were they (if they ever existed at all)? Where did they come from? How did we know their names? Was there really a star that led them to Bethlehem? For each of these questions there are legends and accounts in what are called the apocryphal Gospels. It is useless for us to try to give accurate answers to these questions. But for us believers there is no dispute that the real meaning of this feast is that the revelation of our salvation through Jesus Christ is for all peoples of all lands and of all races. Through the visit of the magi we realize that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is given not just to one nation or to one race but to all peoples and to all nations.

The Feast of Epiphany remains meaningful because it reminds us of the great love God has for us — God so loved us that he gave us his only son to redeem us. What is astonishing and striking of this Epiphany — the manifestation of God's graciousness, generosity, and love.

First, God shows Himself in the form of a baby, who may be seen as weak, dependent, and vulnerable. God chose to be human, to be one like us, thereby demoting God to our nature as a sign of humility, solidarity, and unity. This act of God serves as a foreshadowing of the preference and tendency of Jesus to be identified and in solidarity with the weak, powerless, and outcasts of society. These people will readily accept the salvation that Jesus lovingly offers as they recognize their total and utter dependence on him.

Second, the place where Jesus was born was Bethlehem which was not exactly the most famous place. It was not a center. In the Gospel passage, a prophet claims: "And you Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people and Israel." There seems to be an implication here of how Jesus would somehow challenge categories of importance and greatness. Since Jesus is the Messiah, the much awaited Savior and liberator, the expectation was that he would be born in class and pompousness. Yet God chose to have the birth of Jesus, otherwise.

Finally, the Messiah was much awaited by the Jews who placed their hope in him to liberate them from the clutches of power of the Romans. However, Jesus was proclaimed initially to shepherds who were outcasts of society and the magi who were pagans. The Jews for whom the Messiah was promised refused to accept him while the Gentiles came to him in greater appreciation.

In the story, the Jewish experts, guardians of tradition, easily identify the child's prophesied birthplace. But their response is one of fear and duplicity. Matthew is the only evangelist who tells the story of the magi. The wise men took a step of faith and were drawn to the Lord. They gave him gifts to recognize who he is and the role he plays in the lives of all believers. Gold is the gift for the King. Jesus is the only one we can allow to direct our lives. Frankincense is the sign of the priest. Jesus is the great high priest who bridges the gap between God and man. Myrrh is the perfume used to anoint the dead. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb whose death restored life.

Matthew thus describes beautifully in a story the same truth that Paul affirms in his letter that Jesus is for all peoples, and his mission is universal. The wise men from the east were the Gentiles, non-Jews. Like the magi, we come from all over the world and we can find Jesus and do him homage. He is the infant king of the Jews but he is not the exclusive property of any tribe, community or nation. Rather, he belongs to us all as we can all belong to him.

Jesus is the journey's end for all who seek the face of God, for all who seek for meaning and purpose in our lives. He came not only for the chosen race but for the whole human race. He is for all of us.