

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW
Stewardship Report – Treasure

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Budgeted Amount:	\$5,000.00
Sunday Collection – 2/16/20	\$2,720.00
Online Giving – Regular Collection -2/9/20	\$ 466.00
Maintenance Collection – 2/9/20	\$ 61.00

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN AS OF 1/13/20

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:	\$35,830.00
Paid to date:	\$32,888.34



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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

2/24	MON:	9:00a	William J. Sheehan
2/25	TUES:	9:00a	People of our Parish
2/26	WED:	9:00a	People of our Parish
		7:30 p	People of our Parish
2/27	THU:	9:00a	People of our Parish
2/28	FRI:	9:00a	People of our Parish
2/29	SAT:	5:00p	Jack Barcelona
3/1	SUN:	8:30a	People of our Parish
		10:30a	Joseph & Lyona Drutarovsky Alexander Zaccaro
		12:00p	People of our Parish

Deadline for bulletin submissions: Please contact the Rectory Office by 12 noon on Tuesday of each week for articles to be printed on the following Sunday.



ASH WEDNESDAY – February 26th - Masses with the distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 9:00am and 7:30pm. A prayer service with the distribution of ashes will be held at 4:15 pm.

FRIDAYS OF LENT – Beginning February 28th, Stations of the Cross will be held after 9:00am Mass and at 7:30pm.

MONDAYS OF LENT – Beginning March 2nd, confessions will be heard from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Jesus challenges us to turn the other cheek and to love our enemies. These are not our instincts. It is not easy.

We get angry, we are upset, we want to do or say something to express that pain and rage. As we approach the season of Lent, let the example of our Lord inspire us to respond to hurt and conflict with mercy and forgiveness.

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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 1:30 pm 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, March 10, 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.**

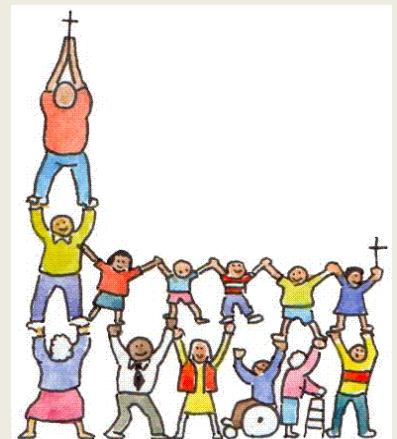
SPECIAL DEVOTIONS AT ST. MONICA'S

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.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

GRADES 1&2 (First Holy Communion Class)

Rectory Meeting Room
 Classes start promptly @ 9:00 am to 10:30 am
 Children will attend 10:30 am Mass after Class-Mass attendance is part of the Religious Education requirement.

Sunday February 23rd 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)

Sunday March 1st CLASS
 Sunday March 15th CLASS
 (Second Grade Students –time change 9:00 to 11:50 – First Reconciliation Workshop. Children may attend noon Mass after class)

Thursday March 19th -**First Reconciliation**
 Please arrive at Church promptly at 5 pm.

GRADES 3, 4, 5 & 6 – Classes start promptly @ 9:30 - 11:00 am

Saturday March 7th CLASS
 Saturday March 21st CLASS

YOUNG ADULTS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

Saturday, February 29th CLASS – 9th and 10th Grades only

Saturday – DATE TBD – Youth Ministry Activity. Visit Dept. of Persons with Disabilities, 1 Catholic Charities Way, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438. 12 pm – 2:30 pm.

Saturday, March 28th CLASS –All Grades. 8th & 9th Grade – Distribution of the Creed – 5 PM Mass

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.

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, then simply click on "Closings and Delays".

PRAYER REQUESTS



St. Monica's Rosary Society has placed "Prayer Request" boxes on the tables at the exits of the Church. If you have a special prayer request, please write it on a slip of paper and drop it in the box. The requests will be picked up after each weekend and distributed to the members of St. Monica's Rosary Society. Your intentions will be included in their prayers each day.



"WELCOME HOME TO HEALING"

Confessions will be held on Mondays in March from 7:00pm-8:30pm in every parish in the Diocese of Paterson. This is a wonderful opportunity to come to Confession as a family or to invite a friend who you know has not had the opportunity to go to Confession in some time. Don't be afraid! Information will be provided. Ask the priest to help you. Experience the gracious mercy of God! www.WelcomeHomeToHealing.org

FAMILY PROMISE

Volunteers are needed for Family Promise which serves homeless families. They will be staying at the Presbyterian Church from Feb. 25th through March 3rd. Please consider helping Wednesday 2/26 or Thursday 2/27 for 5 pm-7 pm dinner shift, 7 pm- 9 pm evening shift, 9 pm – 7 am sleep over and Monday, 3/2, 5 pm - 7 pm dinner shift. Please consider helping. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Church Hall. Any questions about the program and how you can help, please call Carol Oesen at (973) 875-6053. Thank you!!



St. Patrick's Day/St. Joseph's Day Annual Dinner - Sunday, March 22nd at 4:00 pm in the Church Hall.

Lenten Retreat – "The Mystery of Lent" Tuesday & Wednesday, March 24th & 25th 7:00 pm at St. Monica's Church.

St. Monica's Third Annual Fish and Chips Dinner, Thursday, April 2, 2020 in the Church Hall.

Details to follow in future bulletins!

Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe



This week our special collection supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today helps restore the Church and Build the future in more than 20 countries still struggling to recover from Communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Please be generous to the collection today. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/ccee.



SUSSEX MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNUAL SENIOR BREAKFAST

10 Loomis Avenue
 Sussex, NJ 07461

You are invited to our ANNUAL SENIOR BREAKFAST being held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 in the school cafeteria. Breakfast will be served from 8:45 am to 9:45 am. Following the breakfast, there will be a showing of this year's musical, DISNEY FROZEN, JR.

Please RSVP by March 17th to (973) 875-4138. Leave a message with your name and the total number in your party.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF
NORTHERN
NEW JERSEY

We offer a range of volunteer activities for people in all walks of life, including students we are looking for a meaningful way to volunteer with a parent or grandparent. Make a difference in your community by volunteering your time and services to someone in need. Volunteers are needed for various tasks or activities such as grocery shopping for the homebound, friendly visitors, hospice and others. Please call (973) 451-4128 to speak to our Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Enderle. Thank you!



LENTEN RETREAT
OPPORTUNITIES

*National Shrine of Our Lady of
Mt. Carmel
70 Carmelite Drive,
Middletown, NY 109402
(845) 343-1879*

“Lenten Lectio/Soup & Scripture” – Thursdays Feb. 27, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 – 12:00 noon-Read/reflect on the Sunday scriptures with us – Soup/bread; free-will offering

“The NY Carmelites and the Irish Struggle for Independence” & “Saints of Ireland” –Tuesday, March 10th
“Lunch & Learn” – Vincent Begley, Archivist and Sr. Peggy Murphy – 12:00 noon - \$20 pp (lunch included)

“Holy Women of Lent” - Tuesday, March 24th - Retreat Day of Art & Stories with Artist and Storyteller- Brother Mickey McGrath, - 9:30 – 3:00pm - \$45pp (breakfast & lunch included)

“The Potter and the Clay” Lenten Retreat - Tuesday, March 31st - Ray Boswell shares pottery work & invites us to reflect upon God’s healing power of love - two sessions - 1:30pm or 7:00pm - \$20pp

“Luke for Lent” Morning Retreat - Friday, March 27th - Journey Luke’s Gospel - Conference with Fr. Tim Ennis O. Carm followed by 11:30am Mass & Stations of the Cross – 9:00 - 12:30pm; \$15pp- (breakfast included)

“Taize Prayer Healing Service” - Thursday, March 26th – Taize “Prayer around the Cross” - 7:00pm - sung prayer, silence and scripture; Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick; come join us in prayer

Visit our website – www.ourladyofmtcarmelshrine.com for registration forms & further information.

“We are one of 70 or so National Shrines in the United States and our presence here in Middletown, NY is closer than many people imagine! Easily accessible from many major roadways and highways and nestled on 60 pastoral, peaceful acres, we are a hidden gem waiting to be discovered.”

---Carol Bezak, MA, Shrine Director

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday:	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48
Monday:	Jas 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday:	Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20–6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

The Lord urges Moses to tell the Israelite Community to love their neighbors as themselves. They should bear no grudge or hatred against another.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Paul, once again, reminds the Corinthians that they are the temple of God, and, as such, must avoid internal disputes and wrangling. He tries to make them realize that they belong to Christ and that the Spirit of God dwells within them.

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to do an extraordinary thing — to love their enemies and to pray for their oppressors. He reminds them that there is nothing laudatory in loving those who love them for even the “pagans” do this. He urges them to “turn the other cheek” and to “walk the extra mile.”

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

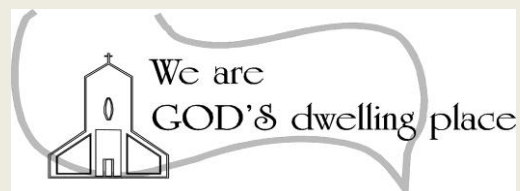
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 23, 2020**

“You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord... Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

The sin of anger constantly knocks on our door. Driving, they call it road rage, when we discriminate we call it hate, when we are jealous, envy takes over.

The expression ‘I don’t get mad I just get even’ is a violation of the direction of the earliest pages of scripture. I might find it hard to show love for someone who disagrees with me, or has injured me in some way.

It is the loving Lord who knows our trials and our wounds, He suffered them as well. If I realize that He lives in me, and in others, it might make it easier to say ‘Lord because you are in me, please help me to find You in the other. May I love You in them.’



LENTEN REGULATIONS – FAST AND ABSTINENCE FOR THE 2020 LENTEN SEASON



With the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent, the Church proclaims anew Christ's call to penance and conversion of Life. "Any who wish to come after me, must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me." (Mt 16, 24) The entire season of Lent, from Ash Wednesday, February 26th, to the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive, April 9th, is a penitential season, a time for self-denial, prayers and Christian charity. (Instruction on the calendar and Liturgical year (ICEL translation). "The Easter Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday."

The Fast of Good Friday differs from that of Ash Wednesday. As a paschal Fast required by the Church, the instruction recommends that it extend past Friday to the Easter Vigil. "On Good Friday and, if possible, on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter Fast is observed everywhere. During this season Catholics are encouraged to celebrate Eucharist frequently, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, participate in Lenten Devotions and the Stations of the Cross, read the Scriptures prayerfully and perform acts of self-denial, charity and works of mercy. The specific discipline of the Church of the United States regarding penitential days is as follows:

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance. This may be physical mortification or acts of religion, charity or Christian witness.

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast; by this obligation the individual is permitted only one full meal in the day. From the age of 14 all are obliged to abstain. The law of abstinence forbids eating meat. Eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind are allowed even though made from animal fat.

The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence "substantially" or as a whole is a serious obligation. Failure to observe any penitential day in itself is not considered serious. It is the failure to observe any penitential days at all or a substantial number of such days, which is considered serious. The time for fulfilling the paschal precept (Easter Duty) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, March 1st, to Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020.

