

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

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

<b><u>Budgeted Amount:</u></b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b><u>Sunday Collection – 2/23/20</u></b>	<b>\$2,641.00</b>
<b><u>Special Collection – CCEE-2/23/20</u></b>	<b>\$1,136.00</b>
<b><u>Online Giving – Regular Collection -2/16/20</u></b>	<b>\$ 476.00</b>

**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**

3/2	MON:	9:00a	Intentions of the Rosary Society
3/3	TUES:	9:00a	People of our Parish
3/4	WED:	9:00a	NO MASS TODAY
3/5	THU:	9:00a	People of our Parish
3/6	FRI:	9:00a	Joyce Keating Thomas & Charles Burke Sidorski Family
3/7	SAT:	5:00p	Mr. & Mrs. Mooney Joseph Terracino
3/8	SUN:	8:30a	Gregory & Margaret Sheehan (LIV)
		10:30a	Mary Luciano John & Eleanor Murray Rita & Ed Puzio Mary Eckert Florence Di Stasi
		12:00p	Walter Losiewicz

**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.

**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.

**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.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**MARCH 1, 2020**

*Every year on the first Sunday of Lent, the focus is on temptation. Adam and Eve are tempted by the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Jesus is tempted in the desert by the devil. Though the temptations in our life may not be as dramatic as those in Genesis or the Gospels, they may be just as powerful. As we celebrate today's liturgy, let us pray to God for strength to resist temptation and for mercy when we fall.*

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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!

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**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** – Thursdays at 1:30 pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading/reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow.

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**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.**

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**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.**

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**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.**

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**SPECIAL DEVOTIONS AT ST. MONICA'S**

**Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal** – every Tuesday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

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**Chaplet of the Divine Mercy** – Every Friday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

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

Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> -\*\*First Reconciliation\*\*  
 Please arrive at Church promptly at 5 pm.

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

Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> CLASS  
 Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> CLASS

**YOUNG ADULTS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR**

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 28<sup>th</sup> CLASS –All Grades. 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://wsus1023.iheart.com), then simply click on "Closings and Delays".*

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**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.

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 **Knights of Columbus #5563 will be hosting the annual St. Patrick's Day/St Joseph's Day Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Church Hall. Sign up sheets for covered dish items are at the Church exits. BYOB/Wine. There will be a 50/50 with proceeds going to help Catholic Charities. Please plan to arrive at 3:45 pm. See you there!**



**Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**



Thank you for your generous contributions last week to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe! As a parish, we collected **\$1,136.00** to help restore the Church and build the future in more than 20 countries. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Please visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections).

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**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 17<sup>th</sup> to (973) 875-4138. Leave a message with your name and the total number in your party.

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**Lenten Retreat – "The Mystery of Lent" Tuesday & Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Knights of Columbus #5563 Turkey Dinner – Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 – 3:00 in the Church Hall.**

Details to follow in future bulletins

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**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 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!

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**Women's Spirituality Retreat, April 3-5 2020**  
**Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May Point, NJ**

Join with other women in an exploration of your own story and stories of women in faith. Come alone or with a relative or friend. A team of women has prepared this weekend of rest and renewal. Eucharist, other prayer experiences, beach walks, socials and fun are included. Cost: \$140 pp, double occupancy. For further information, please call Anthony Fucci, Center Director, at (609) 884-3829 or email [mfrcc@capemaymarianists.org](mailto:mfrcc@capemaymarianists.org).



## 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 10<sup>th</sup>  
“Lunch & Learn” – Vincent Begley, Archivist and Sr. Peggy Murphy – 12:00 noon - \$20 pp (lunch included)

**“Holy Women of Lent”** - Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> - 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 31<sup>st</sup> - 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 27<sup>th</sup> - 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 26<sup>th</sup> – 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](http://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

**“During this Lent,  
let us all ask the Lord:  
Make our hearts like yours.”**



**-Pope Francis**

## READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

**Sunday:** Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11  
**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  
**First Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26  
**First Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

This passage from Genesis narrates the creation of man, the temptation by the serpent, and the fall of Adam and Eve.

### Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Paul tells the Romans that Adam’s disobedience brought sin and death to the world, but Christ’s dying on the cross for us will bring us salvation and life.

### Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

In preparation for His ministry, Jesus goes into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. There He is tempted by the devil to give evidence of His miraculous powers, but Jesus resists the devil saying, “Away with you Satan! You shall do homage to the Lord your God; Him alone shall you adore.”

## A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

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

### First Sunday of Lent March 1, 2020

**“For if by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance grace and of the gift of justification, come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all. So through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.”**

We begin the season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, sacrifice and good works. It is not just a time to shift gears and remember, but to allow the saving work of Jesus to take place in our hearts.

Do I see the need for the abundant grace of Jesus in the world today? Am I able to move from what is around me needing salvation in Jesus, and see my own personal need for His saving, His amazing grace?

I begin my Lenten journey in a serious way, asking that the next few weeks will find me caring for my soul, my spiritual life, the spiritual well-being of others, my children. I ask forgiveness for what I have done and what I have failed to do.



## *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.

