

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW
Stewardship Report – Treasure

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 29, 2020

WEEKLY COLLECTION

As parishioners attend adoration, weekly collection envelopes may be deposited in the collection box located near the pulpit. Weekly collection envelopes may also be mailed directly to the Rectory office.



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

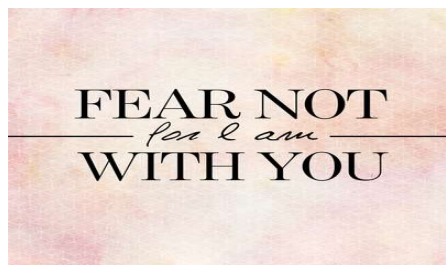
MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

- 3/30 MON: 9:00a People of our Parish
- 3/31 TUES: 9:00a People of our Parish
- 4/01 WED: 9:00a NO MASS TODAY
- 4/02 THU: 9:00a People of our Parish
- 4/03 FRI: 9:00a Helen & Kazimierz
Pelczynski
- 4/04 SAT: 5:00p Rose Marie Kontra
Martin Tobias
- 4/05 SUN: 8:30a People of our Parish
10:30a People of our Parish
12:00p Alexander Truong

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 has been cancelled
MONDAYS OF LENT – Confessions have been cancelled.



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, please contact the Church office at (973) 875-4521.

As we enter this final week before Holy Week, the narrative of Jesus’ life on earth builds to a climax. In the Gospels of the last two weeks, Jesus gave water to those who thirsted and light to those who could not see. Water and light are essentials of life. Today we hear Jesus giving life itself to someone who has died. The giver of water and light is also the giver of life itself. Let us thank God for the gift of our Savior as we prepare for the final two weeks of Lent.

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WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS

Due to the current restrictions on social gatherings imposed by the Governor of New Jersey and the mandates received from Bishop Serratelli’s office, we regret to announce the following:

- COFFEE & DONUTS** – Cancelled until further notice.

- SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** – Cancelled until further notice.

- ST. MONICA’S LEISURE GROUP** There will be no meetings until further notice.

- HELPING HANDS** There will be no meetings until further notice.

- ST. MONICA’S ROSARY SOCIETY** There will be no meetings until further notice.

- SPECIAL DEVOTIONS AT ST. MONICA’S**
Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are cancelled until further notice.

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IMPORTANT NEWS

During this unprecedented time when we are unable to attend Mass and participate together in parish events due to measures taken by our diocese to halt the spread of the coronavirus, we are going to try to keep all of you updated on latest developments by posting our bulletin on Fridays each week on our website, stmonicasussex.org. Please see the following announcements for this week:

1. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN ADORATION HOURS EFFECTIVE MONDAY, MARCH 30:** In light of Governor Murphy's stay-at-home orders, people are hesitant to leave their houses which includes, among other things, visiting the Church for adoration. However, the church will continue to be open for adoration and private prayer every day except Wednesday from **10 am to 12 noon**. During this time, confessions may be heard or by appointment.
2. Mass intentions will be continue to be offered at Fr. Jan's private Mass; therefore, the deceased loved ones listed in our mass book will be remembered. If anyone would like to change the date already requested for their intention, please contact the church office.
3. **The parish office is closed until further notice.** Voice mail and email messages will be monitored as often as possible. Mass cards may be requested by calling the church office. We will continue to prepare a bulletin to keep you updated with any news.

God bless you all and we pray that we will all be able to worship together again soon.

INFORMATION REGARDING HOLY WEEK, THE PASCAL TRIDUUM AND EASTER IN THE DIOCESE OF PATERSON BY MANDATE OF THE BISHOP:

The date of Easter is the linchpin of the entire liturgical year and is declared immovable of the Apostolic See through mandate of the Supreme Pontiff. The date of Easter remains April 12, 2020.

Passion (Palm) Sunday: Palm is not to be blessed for distribution at this time; it will be blessed and distributed at a later time.

Holy Thursday: The priests of the parish may celebrate the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at any hour of the day in any suitable place without people. The washing of feet is omitted in every celebration this year.

Good Friday: To the measure that is possible, the parish priest should celebrate the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion without people present. The parish should not be kept open on Good Friday to prevent the gathering of people.

Easter food is not blessed at the parish or any other public setting.

The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday may be celebrated and the faithful joined spiritually through the internet or by televised masses.

In addition to the guidelines listed above, the following are Health and Safety Measures for Pastoral Life in the Diocese of Paterson effective immediately by mandate of the Bishop which will remain in effect until further notice:

Suspension of Public Masses

All public Masses are hereby suspended in the Diocese of Paterson until further notice. Since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, all priests of the Diocese of Paterson must celebrate Mass privately for the good of all of the Christian faithful entrusted to their care and for all people during this critical time. Priests should celebrate this private Mass even if another priest or deacon cannot be with them to assist. Priests are reminded of the obligation to offer Mass for the intentions of those who have made an offering for the Mass.

We take to heart the admonition of Saint Paul: "*Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.*" (Romans 12:12). This would be a time to encourage families to pray the Rosary at home, and to make the grace before meals a time for fathers and mothers, and all families, to center their homes on prayer and reliance upon God's mercy.

Suspension of Welcome Home to Healing Confessions, Lenten Penance Services

The *Welcome Home to Healing* initiative of Monday night confessions is suspended. Any scheduled Penance Services or penitential Liturgies are suspended. Any gatherings of the faithful for private devotions such as the Stations of the Cross are also suspended. Our churches are to remain open to the faithful for private prayer. Please note that praying in large clusters or groups of people is prohibited. You must observe the government curfews.

Suspension of the Sacrament of Confirmation

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is hereby suspended in the Diocese of Paterson. Confirmation retreats should be deferred. As developments continue to unfold, we will assess the situation. When it is prudent, we will make the necessary arrangements for the celebration of the Sacrament.

First Penance and First Holy Communion

Since the celebrations of First Penance and First Holy Communion bring together large groups of people, both celebrations are to be deferred in all parishes until further notice.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The celebration of baptisms, weddings, and funerals is left to the discretion of the local pastor. The pastor must take into account the ongoing guidance from civil authorities regarding the acceptable size of crowds in public spaces. Every effort to guide couples with pastoral sensitivity must be made. Priests must always be attentive to the grieving and pray for God’s mercy upon the departed. Should questions arise, please contact the Office of the Vicar General.

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO OUR PARISHIONERS:

Since we are unable to attend Mass or if you are otherwise homebound, consider watching Masses on EWTN or other religious television or online broadcasts and making an act of Spiritual Communion. St. Thomas Aquinas described Spiritual Communion as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.”

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

MY JESUS,

I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT IN THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT.

I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU INTO MY SOUL.

SINCE I CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY, COME AT

LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART.

I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE AND UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY

TO YOU.

NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU. AMEN.

PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS FOR PROTECTION AND HELP

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You know what we need, and we are sure you will provide to that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of those of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday - Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

Monday - Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62

Tuesday - Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday - Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday - Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

First Friday - Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

First Saturday - Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

This reading is a loving promise that the Lord will put His spirit into his people and will let them live.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Paul reminds the Romans that they are not people of the flesh but people of the Spirit because the Spirit of God dwells in them.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

In great detail, John tells the story of the raising of Lazarus to life. Upon learning of the death of Lazarus, his dear friend, Jesus goes to comfort Martha and Mary. After proclaiming, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and restores him to life.

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

"I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you in your own land, thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord... If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Christ from the dead, will give life to your mortal bodies also, through the spirit dwelling in you."

Jesus told us He came that we might have life, and have it in its fullness. The pending celebration of Holy Week and the Paschal Mystery are the steps He took to restore us to that life. As He brought Lazarus from death, He wishes us to be renewed. His promises never fail and He wishes to give life to our mortal bodies. What is this life? It is the life of grace, the very life of God, given as a gift, and accepted.

Is the spirit of God dwelling in you? Do you want Him to restore you to life in abundance? Perhaps the Sacrament of Reconciliation, confession, are the steps we can take to be sure that His gift is in us.

We never learned how Lazarus felt when Jesus touched him. How will you feel?



May God protect us during this critical time.