

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW
Stewardship Report – Treasure

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Sunday collection – March 29 \$1,283.00
On-line giving for – March 22 \$ 466.00

Many thanks to those who are continuing to support St. Monica's Church by sending in their weekly collection envelopes. Bills still need to be paid, and we are very grateful for your generosity during this difficult time.

Weekly collection envelopes may be mailed directly to the Rectory office at 33 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461.

Collection envelopes may also be dropped in the metal milk box located to the left of the front door of the rectory.



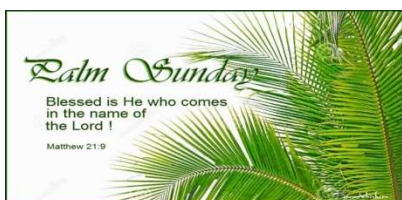
The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:
In Memory of: People of our Parish

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

4/6 **MON:** Intentions of Rosary Soc.
4/7 **TUES:** Caitrin M. Lawlor (LIV)
4/8 **WED:** NO MASS TODAY
4/9 **HOLY THU:** People of our Parish
4/10 **GOOD FRI:** NO MASS TODAY
4/11 **HOLY SAT:** Joseph Del Monico
4/12 **EASTER SUN:** Peter Randall
 Alan Szelesta
 Jennie and Canio Cestone
 Michael Patrick Sweeney

Pass the word to those who do not have access to internet and are unable to receive the bulletin on line, that they may pick up a printed copy from the metal box at the entrance to the Rectory.

St. Monica's Church contact information:
Phone: 973-875-4521 **Fax:** 973-875-7538
Website: www.stmonicasussex.org
Email: stmonica@ptd.net



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.

ST. MONICA'S CHURCH IS NOW CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY
APRIL 5, 2020

As mentioned in last week's bulletin, by Mandate of Bishop Serratelli, Palm is not to be blessed for distribution at this time. However, we still recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the holy city. It is a bittersweet remembrance because we know that no sooner had he celebrated the Passover meal with the disciples than he was arrested, tried, convicted, and put to death. But Jerusalem is more than the site of his crucifixion. It is also the site of his resurrection. Through his sacrifice we all hope to one day reach the eternal Jerusalem.



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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 each weekend on our website, stmonicasussex.org. Please see the following announcements for this week. **Detailed letters from the Bishop can be found on our website.**

Daily Adoration and private prayer have been discontinued. **The church is now closed until further notice.** Please see below the latest letter from Bishop Serratelli.

From Bishop Serratelli on April 1, 2020:

In order to provide for the safety of the faithful, I am directing that all of our church buildings and chapels be closed until further notice. Government health officials have indicated that the next two weeks will usher in a virulent spread of the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, Church buildings are not to be open for any period of time during the day or night. Access to all parish buildings is to be strictly limited to staff that are essential for onsite requirements relating to maintenance of the buildings that cannot be delayed. These norms apply to religious houses in the Diocese of Paterson as well.

Additionally, I want to emphasize that Funeral Masses are not to be celebrated at this time. Following a brief committal service for the departed, which may include the priest, funeral director, and no more than eight members of the immediate family, the priest may celebrate Mass privately for the soul of the departed. A Memorial Mass for the deceased may be celebrated when this crisis has passed.

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.

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 leaving a message at 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.

A Plenary Indulgence

The Apostolic Penitentiary, through the authority of the Supreme Pontiff, has granted a Plenary Indulgence to all of those who are suffering from the coronavirus or those who are caring for those who are ill, and additionally to all those subject to quarantine during this time of grave difficulty. In order to obtain the Indulgence, which is the remission before God of guilt for sins already forgiven, the faithful are to observe the devotions and disposition outlined in the decree:

The Plenary Indulgence is granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfill the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.

Health care workers, family members and all those, who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick of Coronavirus according to the words of the divine Redeemer: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13), will obtain the same gift of the Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions.

The Holy Father has provided this Plenary Indulgence in order for the suffering and those who selflessly labor in the care of the sick are united ever more closely with Christ the healer and reliant on the all-powerful and never failing mercy of God.

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 - Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

Monday - Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday - Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday - Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25

Thursday - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14;
1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

Friday - Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday - Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a; Gn 22:1-18 or
22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ex 14:15—15:1; Is 54:5-14;

Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10

My Dear Parishioners:

These are certainly difficult and challenging times for us, individually and as a society. But remember, prayer is our one-on-one time with the Lord. In our prayer, we need to remind ourselves that Jesus Christ is with us and wants to be with us; remember all the blessings in our life! Then, we need to read – go online and read the Sunday readings. Finally, as we conclude our prayer, we need to reflect on what we read. Listen to what God wants to say to us. Especially now.

Of course it saddens me, and I'm sure for you as well, that we are not able to receive the Eucharist or to worship and pray together during Holy Week and Easter. My promise to you is that I will celebrate Mass daily, in private, asking the Lord, the Divine Physician, to offer all of us hope and healing. And you will certainly continue to be in my prayers as well.

I recently received a letter from the Diocese of Paterson that the Diocese is launching an initiative to encourage all our faithful to provide offertory support through online giving. Some of you are already doing this on "We Share". However, the Diocese is also directing parishioners to a link on their website <http://helpmyparish.thankyou4caring.org>. You have the ability to make a one-time gift or a recurring weekly gift. The Diocesan link will have a dropdown box listing every parish from which a parishioner can chose to support. Just chose St. Monica's Church and select your option of giving.

As we want to be able to keep our services available to our parish community, we ask for your continued support through online giving or by mailing a check. I want to remind you how important your continued contributions and support are. They are so needed and appreciated.

I wish to thank each and every one of you for your continued support.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Fr. Jan

