

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

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MAY 17, 2020**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Regular Sunday Collection– 5/10/20	\$ 2,464.00
Regular On-line giving for – 5/3	\$ 536.00
Collection – Peter’s Pence – 5/10/20	\$ 69.00
Maintenance On-line giving for 5/3	\$ 91.00
On-Line Collection for Human Dev.	\$ 100.00

**Many thanks** to those who are continuing to support St. Monica’s Church by sending in 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. Another option to continue to support St. Monica’s is to go to the Diocesan link on their website which is: <http://helpmyparish.thankyou4caring.org>. Follow the prompts to make a one-time or recurring gift. Thank you for your generosity!

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The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:  
**In Memory of:** All those who have died due to the coronavirus

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

- 5/18 MON: People of our Parish
- 5/19 TUES: People of our Parish
- 5/20 WED: NO MASS TODAY
- 5/21 THU: People of our Parish
- 5/22 FRI: People of our Parish
- 5/23 SAT: People of our Parish
- 5/24 SUN: Helen Bay  
Michael White  
Nora Walsh

**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 IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



**St. Monica’s Church contact information:**

**Pastor:** Fr. Jan Wodziak  
33 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461  
**Phone:** 973-875-4521 **Fax:** 973-875-7538  
**Website:** [www.stmonicasussex.org](http://www.stmonicasussex.org)  
**Email:** [stmonica@ptd.net](mailto:stmonica@ptd.net)

**JOIN US ON-LINE EACH SUNDAY TO CELEBRATE MASS.**

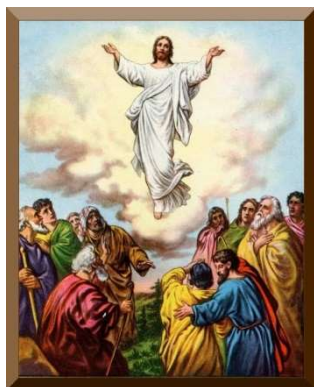
The Link for the video Mass will be available each weekend on our homepage. ([stmonicasussex.org](http://stmonicasussex.org)).

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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 that all parish events and devotions are cancelled until further notice. **FR. JAN IS HEARING CONFESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT. PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY OFFICE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE OR SEND AN E-MAIL.***

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**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION (ASCENSION THURSDAY)**

The Bishops of New Jersey have agreed to transfer the celebration of the Solemnity of the Ascension (Ascension Thursday) from a holy day of obligation observed on Thursday, May 21, 2020, to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 24, 2020, replacing the Mass and readings of the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

**The transfer of the feast is for this year only.**

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](http://stmonicasussex.org).

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.

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**WANTED: LOOKING FOR A USED, REASONABLY PRICED, RELIABLE CAR. IF ANYONE HAS ONE TO SELL, PLEASE CONTACT TONY SZWARTZ AT [aszwartz@yahoo.com](mailto:aszwartz@yahoo.com).**

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**READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Sunday - Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21**

**Monday - Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26—16:4a**

**Tuesday - Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11**

**Wednesday - Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Jn 16:12-15**

**Thursday - Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20**

**Friday - Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23**

**Saturday - Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28**

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A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

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

**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 17, 2020**

**“Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear... For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is the will of God, than for doing evil...for Christ suffered that he might lead you to God.”**

How wonderful if you would take the time or make the opportunity to read the entire letter of Saint Peter. He spent his time, helping the first and persecuted Christians to remain strong in their faith.

Are you ready to answer questions people might pose, because you are a believer? There are so many people hungry for the truth and for the Lord, and you might be the instrument He uses to bring them back, or even to meet Him for the first time.

The reason others approach you is because they find something special in you, they want what you have. If you are not sure how to respond, suggest a bible study or faith sharing group – and join one yourself. In this way all can grow together in faith as we walk the journey together. As someone told me today, they heard a voice saying ‘I am waiting for you.’

## THE ASCENSION OF JESUS AND THE NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT



The Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord, also called Ascension Thursday, follows 40 days after Easter Sunday and is a Holy Day of Obligation. This year, however, the feast has been transferred to Sunday, May 24.

The Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost is closely connected. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples were instructed to go to Jerusalem and wait. They, together with the Blessed Virgin Mary, waited and prayed for a period of nine days until the Holy Spirit was poured out on them at Pentecost. This period of nine days of prayer to the Holy Spirit is something that we can enter into again.

Below is a Novena and Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit that can be prayed daily between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost. The novena traditionally begins the Friday after Ascension Thursday and concludes nine days later, on the vigil of Pentecost.

### NOVENA PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Bestow upon me:



**The Spirit of Wisdom** that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal.

**The Spirit of Understanding** to enlighten my mind with the light of your divine truth.

**The Spirit of Counsel** that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation.

**The Spirit of Fortitude** that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation,

**The Spirit of Knowledge** that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints,

**The Spirit of Piety** that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and

**The Spirit of Fear of the Lord** that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him.

Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples and animate me in all things with Your Spirit, Amen.





## ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself, soul and body to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace, and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light and listen to Your voice and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness.

Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened side and stricken heart, I implore You Holy Spirit, helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace O Holy Spirit of the Father and the Son, to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak Lord, for Your servant hears." Amen.

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## **A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**

**O Mary, You always brighten 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  
while remaining steadfast in faith.**

**O loving Mother,  
You know what we need,  
and we are confident you will provide for us  
as at Cana in Galilee.**

**Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,  
The Divine Physician,  
for those who have fallen ill,  
for those who are vulnerable,  
and for those who have died.**

**Intercede also for those charged with  
Protecting the health and safety of others  
and for those who are tending the sick  
and seeking a cure.**

**Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who took it upon himself our  
sufferings and carried our sorrows,  
so as to lead us, through the Cross,  
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.**

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,  
O Holy Mother of God.  
In our needs, despise not our petitions,  
but deliver us always from all danger,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*



*Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis.*