

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW
Stewardship Report – Treasure

<u>Sunday Collection – 5/9/21</u>	\$2,050.00
<u>Peter’s Pence Collection – 5/9/21</u>	\$ 402.00
<u>On-line giving –Regular – 5/2/21</u>	\$ 608.00
<u>On-line giving – Maintenance-5/2/21</u>	\$ 125.00

If you are unable to attend Mass, 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.
 Thank you for your generosity!

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN AS OF 4/1/2021

Please support St. Monica’s Church by contributing to our Annual Campaign. Forms are located at the Church Hall Exits and at the Rectory Office. We thank you for your generosity!

Pledges to Date: \$37,930.01
Paid to date: \$35,796.68



The Sanctuary Lamp this week is
in memory of: People of our Parish

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

5/17	MON:	9:00am	People of our Parish
5/18	TUES:	9:00am	People of our Parish
5/19	WED:	9:00am	NO MASS TODAY
5/20	THU:	9:00am	People of our Parish
5/21	FRI:	9:00am	Helen Sandford
5/22	SAT:	5:00pm	Marie Fluhr Florence DiStasi Robert Abraczinskas
5/23	SUN:	8:30am 10:30am	James Dyer People of our Parish

MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY: 5:00 PM
SUNDAY: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM
WEEKDAY MASSES: MON., TUES, THURS, FRI.
AT 9:00AM (NO MASS ON WEDNESDAYS)

Deadline for bulletin submissions: Please contact the Rectory Office by 10 am on Tuesday of each week for articles to be printed on the following Sunday.



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
MAY 16, 2021



Today we celebrate a special day in the history of the Church. On the day Jesus ascended to heaven to remain with his Father, he commanded his disciples to carry on his ministry, proclaiming the good news to the whole world. Now we are that whole world. Now we are those disciples. May Christ, whom we encounter as we gather together and receive in the Eucharist on this holy day, strengthen our resolve to spread the good news in our world today.

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WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS

HELPING HANDS- The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:30 pm in the Church Hall. New members are always welcome.

SPECIAL DEVOTIONS AT ST. MONICA’S

Recitation of the Rosary – Come join us every Monday at 4:00 pm in the Church to recite the Rosary for peace in our nation and around the world.

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 A.M. Mass until 10:00 A.M.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK



Sunday	Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23
Monday	Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday	Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday	Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday	Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26
Friday	Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19
Saturday	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

For everyone's safety, face masks are required when attending Mass. Also, remember to social distance and use the hand sanitizing stations at the church entrances. If you are sick, or have come in contact with someone with COVID, PLEASE STAY HOME! The Link for the video Mass will be available each weekend on our homepage. (stmonicasussex.org).

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. 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.



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE ILL OR HOSPITALIZED



Due to restrictions placed upon us due to COVID, the book requesting prayers for the sick, which was available in the back of the church, has been removed as you may have noticed. Each week, the prayer list was placed on the altar. Many parishioners have been asking for prayers for loved ones who are ill or hospitalized. Therefore, if you have a prayer request for someone, please call the rectory (973-875-4521) and provide the name of the person who you would like to be remembered for that week. Alternatively, you can ask me before or after Mass, and I will gladly include the name on the altar.

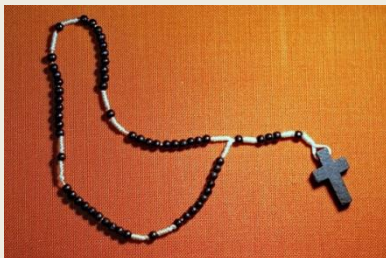
Thank you.
Grace Casalino



PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION
"Be a sign of mercy"

Thank you for your generous support of last week's Peter's Pence Collection! As a parish, we collected \$402. Our contributions will join those from our brothers and sisters around the world to help Pope Francis in his ministry to the Universal Church, including relief to people in need and support for the Holy See. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give. Visit www.peterspence.va/en.html.

WEEKLY ROSARY AT ST. MONICA'S



Each day, we listen to news reports that can be very disturbing. We wonder how all of these things can be happening in our nation and in the world. We feel so helpless. But there is something we can do...PRAY! Therefore, please consider joining us every Monday evening at 4:00 pm in the Church to recite the Rosary. This invitation is open to all parishioners.

Why pray the Rosary? The benefits of praying the Rosary are countless. It is simple and powerful. It may be something you can pray every Monday at St. Monica's, or perhaps once a month or every day. The point is, praying the Rosary is an incredible prayer that can change your life if you make it a spiritual habit. The Rosary is Mary's perspective of Jesus' life. In the Rosary we ponder the life of Jesus through the eyes of his mother. This is an incredibly powerful experience if we enter into it fully. Quite simply, the Rosary works! Please join us on Monday evenings, especially in May, the Month of Mary. You will be glad you did!!!

Church of St. Jude The Apostle
4 Beaver Run Road, Hardyston, NJ 07419
“Grieving is not a journey to be taken alone”



We invite you to join us for our Bereavement Support Group sessions of information, mutual sharing and support in a spiritual, caring, *strictly confidential* setting. Guest speakers will be scheduled and grief video clips shown, as time and attendance allow. The group is led by a trained facilitator certified by the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Newark and the Karen Ann Quinlan Organization. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 24, from 7pm-8:30pm in All Hallows Parish Hall. Going forward meetings will be held on the third Monday in the Parish Hall from 7pm-8:30pm. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Rectory at 973-827-8030. **FACE COVERINGS ARE MANDATORY, AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE PRACTICED!**



Looking for a fulfilling and rewarding volunteer opportunity for yourself, a friend, or family member? Consider volunteering with VNA! 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. Please call (973) 451-4128 to speak with the Development Coordinator, Rachel Enderle.

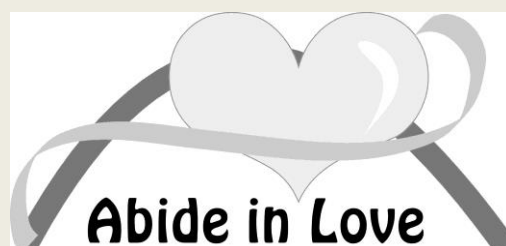
- Phone calls only at this time (no emails or texts)
- As a nonprofit, volunteering with VNANNJ should qualify for community service hours
- A brief training will be provided
- A suggested script is available
- ***Both student and adult volunteers are accepted!***

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

*The Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Newark decided to transfer the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord from Thursday, May 13, 2021 to Sunday, May 16, 2021, replacing the Seventh Sunday of Easter. **(This change is only for the present year).***

Today we recall Christ's ascension to his Father in heaven. Before he left, he promised his disciples that he would be with them always. Indeed, the Lord is with us as we listen to the word of God, and as the bread and wine are consecrated. Let us celebrate the assurance that Christ is with us always, now and until the end of time.

In today's readings, we hear the familiar account of Jesus ascending to heaven while his disciples looked on. In the Gospel, we hear Jesus send his disciples on their mission. In between we hear Saint Paul tell the Ephesians, "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened", praying that they may gain perception in their passion for Jesus Christ. Whenever we gather and listen to God's word, may the eyes of our hearts be enlightened as well.



FROM THE DESK OF FR. JAN:

This Sunday five members of our community for the first time will fully participate in the Holy Eucharist because they for the first time in their life will receive Jesus into their hearts in Holy Communion. It is a time of great joy for them but also for our whole community that those children together with us will fully benefit from the graces Jesus offered for those coming to his table.

Jesus Christ, Savior of the whole human race established the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist to be with us throughout. During the Last Supper Jesus took bread and wine, gave thanks to God (*Eucharist* is a Greek word for thanksgiving), beseeched God to bless it, and distributed it with these astounding and eternal words: "This bread is my body. This wine is my blood. Every time you eat this bread and drink this wine in my name, I will be present with you."

It is not only the Last Supper, but also Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ that we commemorate through the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. The catechism states that "(in the Eucharist) Christ associates his church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once for all on the cross to his father; by his sacrifice he pours out the graces of salvation on his body which is the church." (No. 1407) The Eucharist is the crucified and risen Christ, present under the species of bread and wine. It is a true banquet, in which Christ offers himself as our nourishment.

It is impossible to understand the life of the church and our life without the Eucharist. The Second Vatican Council reminds us that the Eucharist is at the very center of our worship of God and our life as a people of God. The Eucharist is the most perfect and important act of worship offered to God our Father, because in the Eucharist it is Jesus Christ, our High Priest who is offering Himself to the Father for our sins. Jesus offers his life to man through the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the eternal sacrifice of Christ made present to us sacramentally.

When we celebrate the Eucharist, we enter into the presence of God and we relive the mysteries of Our Lord's Life. Throughout the Eucharist we grow in our awareness of our sinfulness and also of His healing Love. Only if we experience the living presence of Jesus at the altar we can pray and celebrate the Eucharist with faith. Otherwise the Eucharist will not have much meaning for us especially if we stand far away and go astray, we will not be able to participate fully in the Eucharistic celebration. The Eucharist is the highest form of Prayer where we become aware of the living presence of God and where we receive His peace and healing.

It is in the Eucharist we find nourishment for our souls (which need "spiritual food" like our body needs material food) and the possibility for spiritual growth and a healthy spiritual life. During the Eucharist we receive the spiritual strength to do good. Mother Teresa often used to say that she received the inner strength and power to serve the poorest of poor from the Holy Eucharist. Such inner strength and power we need also to fight the deceptive temptations of evil that wants to mislead or to lead us astray.

So come let us reflect for a while and make a firm decision, to participate with utmost devotion and a firm Faith in Jesus our Lord every Sunday Eucharist. Only when we regularly participate in the celebration of Holy Eucharist we can be recognized as true witnesses of Jesus Christ and faithful Catholics.

May our Lord who is truly present in Holy Eucharist bless all of you, especially may he bless those members of our community who receive Him today in their hearts for the first time.

