

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Stewardship Report – Treasure

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Budgeted Amount:	\$5,000.00
Regular Collection – 9/18/16:	\$2,566.00
Parish Pay - 9/18/16:	\$ 541.00
Total Regular Collection – 9/18/16:	\$3,107.00

Parish Pay ---is a convenient way for you to set up your weekly contributions - online – visit ParishPay.com

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In memory of: Victor Ephrussi

Given by: Dudzinski family

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

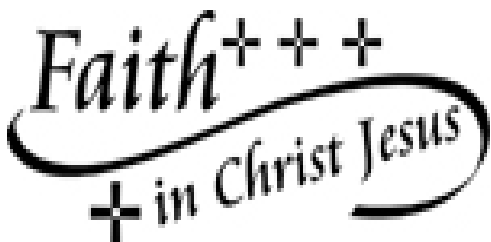
10/3	MON:	9:00a	No Mass today
10/4	TUES:	9:00a	George Fluhr Arthur Randall
10/5	WED:	9:00a	No Mass today
10/6	THU:	9:00a	Special Intention(LIV)
10/7	FRI:	9:00a	Stella Hosbach Celso Espejo
10/8	SAT:	5:00p	Vi Grabowski Antonio Postiglione
10/9	SUN:	8:00a	John T. Collins
		10:00a	Giorgio Gallara Mary Costa Eileen Randall Susan McGovern
		11:45a	Peter Horvath John Karnatski

WEEKDAY MASSES IN THE AREA:

St. Jude’s, Hamburg - Mon. - Sat. - 8:45am
 St. Francis de Sales, McAfee - Mon. -Sat - 8:30am
 Our Lady Queen of Peace, Branchville - Mon.-Fri. - 8:00am
 Immac. Concept., Franklin -Tues, Wed, Fri, 7:30am, Sat. 9:00am
 National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Middletown, NY
 Mon.-Fri. 11:30am (Holy Door for Year of Mercy)

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday Hb 1:2-3, 2:2-4; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10
 Monday Gal 1:6-12; Lk 10:25-37
 Tuesday Gal 1:13-24; Lk 10:38-42
 Wednesday Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Lk 11:1-4
 Thursday Gal 3:1-5; Lk 11:5-13
 First Friday Gal 3:7-14; Lk 11:15-26
 Saturday Gal 3:22-29; Lk 11:27-28



**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 2, 2016**

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

www.stmonicasussex.org

COFFEE & DONUTS –is held on the first Sunday of each month after the 8:00am Mass in the Church Hall –next Coffee and Donuts is Sunday, October 2nd - all are invited!

HELPING HANDS – second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting room. Call Terry at 845-258-8051.

Helping Hands at Skyland Ball Game

Because of the rain, anyone that was at the game on Saturday evening, July 9, may use your ticket stub to attend a game of your choice. Whenever you go, you must present your ticket stub to the box office.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION – Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading & reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow. Call Carol at 973-875-4521.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP – third Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. **Next session -Monday, October 17th at 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room.** The short story “Parker’s Back” by Flannery O’Connor will be shared. Call Carol for information - 973-875-4521.

ST. MONICA’S LEISURE GROUP - below are dates and themes for 2016. Each month we enjoy lunch, good company and delicious desserts made by our members. We meet at 12:00 noon in the church hall on the first Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. Dues are \$10 a year. New members are welcome. For further information please contact Grace Casalino at 973-702-8569.
TUESDAY, October 4th – Oktoberfest; November 2 – Halloween Party; December 8(Thursday) –Christmas Party at Lampost Rest.

2016 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL “*Be Rich in Good Works*”.....Many parishioners have received a letter from Bishop Serratelli requesting support for the 2016 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. This year, the theme of the Appeal is *Be Rich in Good Works*. The Bishop’s Annual Appeal supports four very worthy causes: 1) **our Catholic Charities agencies**; 2)**Nazareth Village**, our diocesan priests’ retirement residence; 3)**our inner-city elementary schools** and 4)**seminarian education**. You can help make this year’s Appeal an even greater success by making a generous pledge today. Whatever you can do to help will be a great blessing!

Order of Franciscan Seculars– Information Night

The San Damiano Fraternity-OFS is comprised of lay people who strive to follow the Gospel more intensely and develop a deeper relationship with Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. We are women and men of all ages and walks of life that engage the same struggles and challenges of the world that you do. We attempt to focus on daily conversion and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us and our community of Franciscans to support and pray for us. The challenge of a Secular Franciscan vocation and the grace, love and joy that we experience and share are beyond awesome. We’d love to share that with you too. If you’d like to learn more, please join us. **When: Wednesday, October 12, 7:30 - 9 pm**
Where: Sacred Heart Center Newton, NJ - Contact: Hugo Bader 973-579-1430 or Ruth Pisano 908-362-9904

YOUTH MINISTRY

SERVICE PROJECTS - Remember, that you are required to complete three church and three community services for the year. There are a few Phase II candidates that need to catch up on service. Please consider taking advantage of the current projects that are up on the bulletin board in the church hall. Also, please be sure to have a completion certificate completed, signed and turned into your Catechist once the project has been completed.

MASS ATTENDANCE AND SIGN INS - Mass attendance is a very integral part of your faith journey and you need to make every effort to attend each week. Please be sure to sign in each week as attendance is taken. The books can be located at both doors of the church.

CALENDAR:

Saturday, Oct. 15th - Fall Roadside Cleanup- time TBA

Saturday, Oct. 22nd - Fall Roadside Cleanup - Rain date

Saturday, Nov. 5th - YM Class - beginning with Mass, followed by light dinner then class.

Phase I - Theme: "What's Holding you Back" and a short talk on choosing a Sponsor; Phase II- Theme: "The Holy Spirit"

Sunday, Nov. 13th - Phase II Candidates - "Dist. of the Our Father"

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Grades 1-8

Our Religious Education sessions will begin this weekend (Sunday, October 2nd) for Grades 1,2,3 & 4 and Children's Liturgy of the Word and next weekend (Saturday, October 8th) for Grades 5,6,7 & 8. Your child must be registered -class lists will only reflect those who have sent in registration forms - thank you.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO PARENTS:

All Grades - Class schedules have been mailed out to all families who have turned in a registration form.

PARENTS OF 1ST & 2ND GRADERS - Please plan to attend the 10:00am Mass each week beginning TODAY - Sunday, October 2nd. Attendance at this Mass is extremely important for your child's Sacramental preparation. TODAY at the 10:00am Mass, 1st Graders will be accepted into our Religious Ed Program and 2nd Graders will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance. All must attend with their parents. This Information was been mailed out.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD - this program is open to children in Grades 1-4 at the 10:00am Mass each week. The children are dismissed to listen to the Sunday readings with volunteer Catechists who read and reflect with the children. Please consider having your child participate each week.

REGISTRATION for 2016/2017 - registration forms are still available on the table in the hall or can be downloaded from our website www.stmonicasussex.org. - go to "Faith Formation" and go to "Forms." Payment can be made at the time you send it in or if necessary later on.

Fees are as follows: 1 student - \$75.00, 2 students - \$110.00 and 3 or more is \$150.00.

-----Carol Bezak, Coordinator of Religious Formation

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - "When Do You Need An Elder Law Attorney?"

NEW DATE: Thursday evening, October 6th - 7:00pm

Nancy Heslin Reading, M.Div, J.D. will once again be at St. Monica's parish to present "Elder Care Law" - she did this presentation here back in 2008. She will cover the following topics:

Powers of Attorney - What are they, how do they preserve independence, and who needs one?

Guardianship - When is a guardianship appropriate?

Wills - Why bother?

Living Wills, Advanced Medical Directives and Health Care Powers of Attorney - What are these documents and when is it appropriate to have one?

Open to all - please call the Rectory office and leave your name and phone # if you plan to attend. For further information, please call Carol Bezak at 862-266-6626.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"BELOVED. I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake, but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God...Guard that rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us...we have done what we were obliged to do."

Paul used an image of a fire to be stirred up, as when he first laid hands on Timothy. The same gesture was used the day we were baptized, and we too are to stir up that flame, that ardor as a disciple of the Lord.

Remember the devastating forest fires last spring in Alberta, Canada? An entire town eaten up by violent, relentless flame. While fire in California came into our homes as we watched the evening news. We can almost hear the crackling flames and smell the burning trees. The fire has power to kill, as we sadly see on television, when homes are destroyed. But the flame of faith gives life and cannot be extinguished.

Fire can give warmth and stimulate life. The fire of the Holy Spirit becomes the driving force for us to live as His witnesses. We are to guard what was entrusted to us, but not as a dog protecting his bone, but as a disciple on fire to bring Christ's warmth and love to the world. Did He not tell us He came to cast fire on the earth?

OPEN HOUSE - Pope John XIII Regional High School will hold an Open House for Incoming 9th Grade on Tuesday, Oct. 11th, 7:30pm.

"Be A Lion for a Day" on Tuesday, October 18th, 8:30am - noon. Contact Anne Kaiser, Admissions at 973-729-6125 Ext 255 for information,.



ST. MONICA'S TRICKY TRAY - is November 11th!!

Have you thought about how you can best help our Tricky Tray Fundraiser? If you can donate a tray, an item for a tray, help out with wrapping, setting up, transporting trays, attending the event or cleaning up the night of the event, please fill out one of the volunteer forms - they are located on the table in the hall - and should be returned to the Rectory office as soon as possible. There is only a little over a month left to plan!

What is *Lectio Divina*.... and how can I learn more about it?

Ancient Practice of Lectio Divina – Part III

by Stephen J. Binz

The Church Fathers spoke of lectio divina as a way of pondering the Word of God. Origen urged his readers to study and pray God's Word, asking to be illumined by God. Jerome encouraged his audience to be fed each day with lectio divina. As the monastic movement developed, lectio divina was practiced as the daily way to communicate with God. St. Benedict established lectio divina, along with the liturgy, at the core of his Rule. The monastic tradition encouraged this slow and thoughtful reading of Scripture and the ensuing pondering of its meaning. Other spiritual traditions practiced lectio divina in a variety of ways. St. Albert stipulated that the Carmelites should ponder the Word of God day and night. St. John of the Cross urged the practice of lectio divina in this way: "Seek in reading and you will find in meditation; knock in prayer and it will be opened to you in contemplation" (*De officiis ministrorum* 1, 20, 88). In Dominican spirituality, listening to the Word becomes a preparation for witnessing to the Word. St. Dominic's eighth way of prayer, sitting with Scripture, leads to his ninth way of prayer, walking with Scripture. St. Ignatius of Loyola added dimensions of imagination, consolation, and discernment to lectio divina as he developed the Spiritual Exercises. The Society of Jesus, most commonly known as the Jesuits, teach that lectio divina forms people into contemplatives in action.

In recent years, lectio divina has been liberated from monasteries and religious houses to become the heart of lay spirituality. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis recommended lectio divina as a "way of listening to what the Lord wishes to tell us in his word and of letting ourselves be transformed by the Spirit" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 152). Lectio divina, he said, "consists of reading God's word in a moment of prayer and allowing it to enlighten and renew us."

Rather than keeping Scripture at a safe analytical distance, this formational reading leads us to involve ourselves intimately, openly, and receptively in what we read. Our goal is not to use the text to acquire more knowledge, or to get advice, or to form an opinion about the passage. Rather, the inspired text becomes the subject of our reading relationship and we become the object that is acted upon and shaped by Scripture. Reading with expectation, we open ourselves so that the divine Word can address us, probe us, and form us into the image of Christ.

Although some today try to create a clear distinction between studying the Bible and prayerful reflection on Scripture, the Christian patristic writers show us that we cannot create this kind of division with the Word of God. Whether we are studying or praying, we must be always clearing a path toward our hearts for Jesus to come. Bible study today must teach people how to listen personally to the voice of God in the inspired texts and how to seek a prayerful, contemplative, formative understanding and love for Scripture. There is no clear distinction here between study and prayer.

Lectio divina is similar to Eucharistic communion in that, through it, Christ in a certain sense enters under our roofs, infuses our bodies and souls with his divine presence, and forms us into his own body. Pope Benedict says that "the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart. If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church—I am convinced of it—a new spiritual springtime" (Address at the 40th anniversary of *Dei Verbum*, September 16, 2005). In a vision of Ezekiel, God invites the prophet to open his mouth and eat the scroll so that he may then speak God's Word to the people (Ez 3:1-4). Medieval writers often compared lectio divina with this process of eating: taking a bite (*lectio*), chewing on it (*meditatio*), delighting in its flavor (*oratio*), and then digesting it to become part of the body (*contemplatio*). I would add, finally, metabolizing the Word (*operatio*), so that it may be put to use in forms of witness and service.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

The prophet Habakkuk cries out despairingly to God because of the state Jerusalem has fallen into. He asks why God does nothing to stop the violence and misery. God assures him that a time will come when only the just and faithful will live.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Paul writes to Timothy from prison and urges him to continue to spread the gospel without fear or shame. He also tells Timothy to draw upon the strength of the Holy Spirit to help him face the hardships he will encounter while preaching.

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus replies that "faith the size of a mustard seed could transplant a sycamore," indicating that a person either has faith, strong and complete, or none at all. Jesus also explains that a servant will not receive gratitude for simply following his master's orders. In the same way, we are all God's servants doing no more than our duty when we obey God's commands.

A special "THANK YOU" from Catholic Charities (regarding the Clothing Bin in our parking lot)

Thanks to all the generous parishioners of St. Monica's for the donations to our Catholic Charities donation bin. Unfortunately we have removed the bin. Sadly this is due to the fact that some of the local individuals have taken to using the bin as an outlet of the Sussex County Municipal Dump. We still would like to offer the option of a house pick up for larger quantities of clothing, shoes and usable household items (sorry no furniture, no outdated technology, TV sets or similar items). You can schedule a pick up by calling our toll free number at 877-343-3651.

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time | Luke 17:5-10

Like servants who obey their masters, we are servants to God who obey His commands.

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words...
left, right, up, down
or diagonally.



- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Apostles | Commands |
| Said | Unworthy |
| Lord | Servants |
| Increase | Done |
| Faith | Duty |
| Jesus | Obliged |
| Small | Obey |
| Mustard | God |
| Seed | |



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