

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Stewardship Report – Treasure

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Budgeted Amount: \$5,000.00

Epiphany of the Lord – 1/8/17: \$2,976.00
Parish Pay – 1/8/17: \$ 616.00
Total - Epiphany of the Lord – 1/8/17: \$3,592.00

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1/15/17: \$2,872.00
Parish Pay – 1/15/17: \$ 526.00
Total – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1/15/17: \$3,398.00

(Please note – the above are revised figures from last week’s bulletin.

We are always at least one week behind in reporting Parish Pay figures – so the process can be confusing - the above figures are now correct)

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1/22/17: \$3,642.00
Parish Pay – 1/22/17: 606.00
Total – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1/22/17: \$4,248.00

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

An Addendum to the announcement last week on the arrangements on paying down the debt to the Diocese using our savings account: Let it be known that the savings account is made up of bequests that have been received by the parish over the years – one of which was \$30,000, two at \$10,000 each and the others at varying amounts. No money from the regular collection was ever put into the savings account.

2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN STATISTICS – AS OF 1/13/17

Total # of Families: 442
Total # Pledged: 127
% of Participation 28.73%
Total Amount Pledged: \$37,465.00
Total Amount paid: \$31,080.00
Average Pledge: \$ 295.00
% of Pledges Collected: 82.96%

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In memory of: Virginia Ephrussi

Given by: Emmy Dudzinski

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

1/30 **MON:** 9:00a Special Intention (LIV)
1/31 **TUES:** 9:00a Special Intention (LIV)
2/1 **WED:** 9:00a No Mass today
2/2 **THU:** 9:00a John Skehan
2/3 **FRI:** 9:00a People of the Parish
2/4 **SAT:** 5:00p Jean Yocamelli
2/5 **SUN:** 8:00a Frank Rankl
Marion & Rebecca Stebal
10:00a James Marion
Leonardo Galari
Margie Stubbs
Annie Randall
11:45a Mary Losiewicz
Ibrahim Qidso

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am
- 8:00am
Sat. 9:00am
own, NY

ST. MONICA’S CHURCH – Contact info
Phone # 973-875-4521 Fax # 973-875-7538
Parish office hours: 9:30– 1:30pm Mon-Fri
Website: www.stmonicasussex.org
Email: stmonica@ptd.net

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 29, 2017



Special thanks....to all who helped to make Fr. Charles’ Retirement Open House a huge success!! We are blessed with so many wonderful, caring parishioners – also thank you to the Youth Ministry students for their help and to Anne Chirico and all children and adults who contributed their voices to the wonderful music and special remembrance song to Fr. Charles! The attendance was fantastic and the outpouring of love and friendship was great – it was a memorable day for all!

COFFEE & DONUTS – first Sunday of each month after the 8:00am Mass in the Church Hall. Next Coffee and Donuts is Sunday, February 5th – plan to join us.

HELPING HANDS – second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the rectory meeting room. Contact Terry Westdyke at 845-258-8051.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION – every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading/ reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow. Call Carol at 973-875-4521 for further information.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SESSION – the next Bereavement Support session will be held on Thursday, January 26th at 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room. Please call the Rectory if you would like to attend – 973-875-4521 and leave a message with your name and phone # (in case of inclement weather, we will reschedule)

ST. MONICA’S LEISURE GROUP - There will be no meetings of St. Monica’s Leisure Group during the months of January and February. Meetings will resume beginning Wednesday, March 8, 2017 in the Church Hall. I take this opportunity to thank our members for helping to make the Leisure Group a success during the past year, and look forward to getting together again in March.

---Grace Casalino

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION

A Baptismal Preparation session for parents who are planning to have their child Baptized in the near future will be held on Thursday evening, February 9th at 7:00pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. If you are anticipating having your child Baptized soon, and would like to attend, please call the Rectory – 973-875-4521 to discuss the details. Baptisms are not held during the season of Lent which begins on March 1 – we will begin to celebrate Baptisms after Easter although you may attend the Baptismal session now.

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK
Sunday Zep 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a
Monday Heb 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
First Friday Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29
First Saturday Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34

YOUTH MINISTRY

MASS ATTENDANCE – Please remember that Mass should be an important part of your life and you should try to make every effort to attend each week. Remember to sign in each week. The books are located at both doors of the church.

SERVICE PROJECTS – The sign up sheet for “Souper Bowl” Sunday is now up on the bulletin board. Please remember that you need three church and three community service projects each year to fulfill your requirement. Please stop and sign up for this upcoming event.

PHASE I & PHASE II CANDIDATES – Your Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 21st at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton. The time is from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Lunch will be served. More info will be forthcoming. Please mark your calendar now. This retreat is a requirement for the reception of Confirmation. If there are any questions or conflicts, please contact Mrs. Vernacchio as soon as possible.

CALENDAR:

Saturday/Sunday - February 4th/5th – “Souper Bowl” of Caring collection after each Mass

Saturday, February 11th– YM Class – beginning with the 5pm Mass, followed by dinner than class; Phase I – Theme-“ The Bible” - Phase II – Theme – “Made for Mission”

Sunday, February 12th - Make up class – no dinner 6:30 to 8:30pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Grades 1-8

CALENDAR FOR 2017

FIRST AND SECOND GRADE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SESSION/GRADE(S)</u>
2/5	9th session
2/12	10th session
3/5	11th session
3/19	12th session
4/2	13 th session
4/23	14 th session

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SESSION/GRADE(S)</u>
2/5	9th session
2/12	10th session
3/5	11th session
3/19	12th session
4/2	13 th session
4/23	14 th session

FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SESSION/GRADE(S)</u>
1/28	8th session
2/4	9th session
2/25	10th session
3/11	11th session
3/25	12th session
4/8	13th session
4/29	14th session

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.

-----Carol Bezak, Coordinator of ReligiousFormation

AN INVITATION TO ALL CATECHISTS.....A short meeting followed by an Afternoon of Reflection “*God’s Call to Speak about our Faith*” is planned for Saturday, February 25th in the church hall from 1:30 – 3:30pm - lunch will be served. Call Carol at 862-266-6626 to RSVP.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

All those who use collection envelopes on a weekly basis will be receiving a contribution statement from our envelope company, DP Murphy Co., Inc. If you do not receive this statement by the end of January, please let us know by calling the Rectory.

Also, all those who gave a contribution of \$250 or above to the 2016 Annual Campaign will receive a Gift Acknowledgment letter from the parish office by next week sometime.

WOMEN’S CONFERENCE – “Feminine, Faithful, Fearless” will be held on Saturday, April 1st at St. Paul Inside the Walls Evangelization Center. Early Bird Special until February 28, 2017 \$20 - Adult \$10 - Student \$30 - One (1) Adult and One (1) Student - Prices will go up after February 28, 2017. Visit the website for St. Paul Inside the Walls for registration information.

INTERESTED IN TRAVEL FOR 2017?

If you like to travel or if you wish to begin some new travel adventures, come and share the company of others who do!! The “Cruise Café” may offer an interesting and exciting opportunity to meet new people and possibly travel together. This group meets once a month for dinner at a local venue in and around the Sussex/Newton/Lafayette area and welcomes anyone. The next “Cruise Café” gathering will be held on Sunday, February 5th at 2:00pm at Bella Italia Restaurant , Rt. 206 in Andover, NJ.

Upcoming travel/cruise opportunities include: Halifax, Nova Scotia and Boston – July 1-6, 2017(with 4th of July fireworks in Boston harbor) on the Queen Mary 2Bermuda.....New England and Canada..... Caribbean.....Hawaii..... and possibly Fatima, Portugal & Spain (still in planning stages) Call Carol at 862-266-6626 if interested. This is the Stuff of Dreams!!

Help People with Disabilities – Support the Murray House Dinner Dance! www.dpd.org/murray

Please help support the Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD), a Catholic Charities Agency, as they host their 47th Annual Murray House Dinner Dance at the Brownstone in Paterson. DPD provides care for over 100 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the Diocese of Paterson.

The Annual Gala will be held on February 19th at 6:00 PM. This year, DPD will be honoring Joe Duffy, past Catholic Charities President as their Person of the Year, as well as several service recipients, volunteers and employees.

Help support the event by attending, taking out an ad, or by sponsoring a DPD resident to attend. Last year over 60 individuals were sponsored to attend this event!

For more information visit: www.dpd.org/Murray or contact DPD’s Development Office at 973-406-1104 or at Chrisb@dpd.org.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK.....

Dear Members of St. Monica's,

It never occurred to me how difficult it would be to express my feelings about leaving St. Monica's Parish. This is an incredibly emotional time, and hopefully this note will convey some of my thoughts.

I am filled with gratitude to God for my twenty seven years in this parish. I have been blessed to serve God with a faith filled community providing me with love, support, understanding, and dedication.

The Parish staff, Pastoral Associate, secretaries, Bookkeeper, Accountant, Minister to seniors, organists have worked tirelessly to keep the parish running efficiently. Thee religious education teachers, Financial Committee, Trustees, Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers are people dedicated to God and this parish.

We have so many volunteers who are always willing to clean the church, count the collection, serve in the kitchen, run various committees, decorate for holidays, help with my many "fix-it" projects, haul garbage or just calm me down.

All of you, and the parish community as a whole, are very special to me. I am humbled to have been part of your lives. Administering the sacraments and watching your children grow have enriched me as a priest and a person.

To quote a parishioner in their good wishes for me "God determines the path of our lives and those who enter upon it. I am grateful to God that our paths have crossed here in Sussex," over these many years.

Like all humans, I am not perfect. Sometimes in my frustration, I may have hurt or disappointed some of you. For this I am very sorry, please accept my sincere apology.

As I retire, I ask for your prayers during this unsettling transition, I will in turn pray for my St. Monica's family.

As Monsignor Fitzpatrick told me, retirement is a time to become a better priest. Without the distractions of running a parish, I can now focus on my service as a priest. For you never retire from being a priest, just as you never retire from being a parent.

May God continue to bless you!.....Fr. Charles

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies with us." ---Ralph Waldo Emerson



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13

Zephaniah prophesies that the Lord will punish wicked nations along with Jerusalem, but he will shelter from his anger those who practice justice and humility and do no wrong.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Paul tells the Corinthians that God prefers the humble, the weak, the lowly of station — people like themselves. In Christ Jesus they will find wisdom, honor and justice.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

Jesus teaches the Beatitudes in his Sermon on the Mount. He extols those who are merciful, peaceful, lowly, poor in spirit and promises them that "the reign of God is theirs."

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

His Word Today by Rev. William J. Reilly

“Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger. But I will have as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly... How blest are the poor in spirit...”

How many people we know who spend their time pursuing what they do not have. Those without work read the want ads, write lengthy resumes and try to connect with someone to help them. Those with health issues look for a second opinion or find a specialist to address their needs. Young people look to guidance counselors at school to assist them in making a career choice.

But how few of us earnestly and eagerly seek the Lord. We presume God’s presence, but how rarely do we set out to strengthen our relationship with Him. Do I work for justice, am I humble and dependent before the Lord? The Lord asks me to ‘act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly before my God.’

The Beatitudes in the gospel today will help us to see our lives as the Lord looks upon us, not in anger but with love. I want to be poor in spirit, putting God first. I want to be humble, work for justice, walk the way of holiness and care for those in need. All disciples are called to be people of the beatitudes and look for ways to put them into practice.

A NIGHT AT THE RACES

The Knights of Columbus, Blessed Titus Brandsma Council, Middletown, NY #16519 presents “A Night at the Races – Saturday, February 11, 2017 (Snow date: February 18th) Post Time: 7:30pm. Admission Price: \$25pp Location: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Center, Wayayanda Ave., Middletown, NY. Come join us for a winter break – your donation includes admission, food, beverages, coffee and dessert. Besides the races (cash donation to pick a horse with cash payout to the winning players) there will also be raffles, door prizes, giveaways, 50/50 and much more. All money raised will be donated to Mt. Carmel Parish. Mail your \$25/person donation admission to: P.O. Box 965, Middletown, NY 10940. For further information, call Marty Sillen between 6pm and 8pm at 646-315-8120. Admission tickets will be mailed to you.

