

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasury**  
**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

<b><u>Budgeted Amount:</u></b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b><u>Sunday Collection – 2/4/18</u></b>	<b>\$2,868.00</b>
<b><u>Maintenance Collection – 2/4/18</u></b>	<b>\$1,146.00</b>

**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN** – There is still time to donate to the campaign if you would like. Just complete and return the form, which is located at the church and hall exits, at your earliest convenience. We are very grateful to all who have already sent in their pledges and we sincerely thank you.

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

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

2/12	MON:	9:00a	People of the Parish
2/13	TUES:	9:00a	Francesco DiMaria Joseph Stefankiewicz
2/14	WED:	9:00a 7:30p	People of the Parish People of the Parish
2/15	THU:	9:00a	Lou Kulsar Olga Glynn
2/16	FRI:	9:00a	William Staszewski (LIV)
2/17	SAT:	5:00p	Paul Jackson Rachid Ghachem Richie Olsen Lillian Evans Frank Gozzolino
2/18	SUN:	8:00a 10:00a 11:45a	Rev. James Regan John and Eleanor Murray Rita and Edwin Puzio Ron Bobiak People of the Parish

**LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14.**

Masses with the distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 9:00am and 7:30pm. A prayer service with the distribution of ashes will be held at 4:15pm.

**LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Mondays of Lent - Beginning February 19, confessions will be heard from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.  
Fridays of Lent - Beginning February 16, Stations of the Cross will be held after 9:00am Mass and at 7:30pm.

IMMEDIATE NEED – A pair of men’s size 10 ½ wide shoes suitable and gently worn, for weather and everyday wear. Leave in church hall for Joan. Thank you!

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2018**

**WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS**

**COFFEE & DONUTS** – are served after 8:00 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of each month in the Church Hall. All are invited to join us.  
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**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** –Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading/ reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow.  
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**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 14, 2018 at 12:00 noon in the Church Hall.  
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**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room.  
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**Helping Hands** meets the second Tuesday of every month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m. Next meeting will take place Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, following our Mardi Gras celebration.  
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**SPECIAL DEVOTIONS AT ST. MONICA’S**  
**Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal** – every Tuesday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

**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.

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**MARDI GRAS** - Tuesday, February 13 – Join us for fun and a covered-dish dinner beginning at 5:30pm. Please sign up on the form in the church hall. For further information, please contact Mary Eileen Schoen at 862-266-0573. *Laissez les bon temp rouler!!*

**BIBLE STUDY** – Do you understand the meaning behind the parts of the mass? In his video-based study, *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. In this study, you will come to know and understand the Mass as never before, leading you to a richer, more fruitful worship experience. Join us here at St. Monica's for five sessions of *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* on Feb.27, March 6, April 3, 17, and 24. Afternoon sessions are 1:00 - 2:30pm, evening sessions are 7:30 – 9:00pm. For more information or to register for the study, call Terry Westdyke at 845-258-8051 or email: [mtw195@embarqmail.com](mailto:mtw195@embarqmail.com)

**Fish & Chips Dinner**

St. Monica's will have a Fish and Chips dinner in the church hall on Thursday, March 8, from 5:30-7:30 pm, prepared by Tastefully British. Members of Helping Hands will be taking reservations and payments after all masses the weekends of Feb. 18, 25, and March 4. Adults \$15 Children \$10 Take-out is available.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

Grades 1 & 2 –

Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> Class - 9:30 to 11:30

Grades 4,5,6 –

Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> Class – 9am to 11am

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:**

**MASS ATTENDANCE** –We sincerely hope that each and every one of you is living up to your commitment of attending weekly Mass. This is an integral part of your faith journey as you prepare for the reception of Confirmation.

**SERVICE:** Completion certificates should be handed in on a timely basis. These include whatever service you perform for school. For those who assisted with the Tricky Tray, I already have your name so there is no need to hand in a completion certificate. Remember you are required to perform 3 services for church and 3 for community.

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT** for both Phase I and Phase II students is scheduled for Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton from 10am to 4pm. Lunch will be served to the students. This is one of the requirements for the reception of Confirmation so attendance is necessary. If you cannot make this retreat, please contact Mrs.Vernacchio as soon as possible.

**CALENDAR:**

Saturday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> YM – Phase I and II – Confirmation Retreat at the Sacred Heart Center  
Time: 10am to 4pm. – More info to follow.

**NEW CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED FOR LENT AND EASTER**

We have a core group of singers who would support any new or timid people. Rehearsals will be on five specific Thursdays at 7:15pm: Feb. 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22 in the church. We would be learning music to sing at some of the Sundays during Lent at the 10:00am Mass. If you are interested, please see Judy Consentino, our choir director.

**Come and visit the schools of The Catholic Academy of Sussex County** – Pope John XXIII Regional High School (Grades 8-12), Pope John XXIII Middle School (Grades 5-7), and Rev. George A. Brown Memorial School (Grades PreK – 4) – on **Welcome Wednesdays!** Each school is open for tours at 8:30am and we look forward to meeting you. See one school or all three! For more information, contact Anne Kaiser, Admissions, at 973-729-6126 or [annekaiser@popejohn.org](mailto:annekaiser@popejohn.org).

Save the date for “**An Evening with Sisters**” – Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8:30pm at Morris Catholic High School (200 Morris Avenue, Denville). This event is open to high school and college-aged women to enjoy an evening of conversation, prayer, food, and fun! To RSVP and for more details, email Sister Bernadette McCauley on or before February 20<sup>th</sup>: [sbernadette@scceast.org](mailto:sbernadette@scceast.org)

**Pizza Night with Bishop** will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at Pope John XXII High School in Sparta from 7-9pm. Open to all young men in the parish, this is a night of adoration followed by a talk by Bishop, fellowship, and of course, delicious pizza. For more information, contact the Vocations Office at 973-777-8818, ext. 711, or by email at [mnunez@patersondiocese.org](mailto:mnunez@patersondiocese.org).

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### **First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46**

The Lord tells Moses and Aaron that anyone bearing the sore of leprosy must first be seen by Aaron or one of the other priests, and that as long as the sore is upon him, "He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1**

Paul instructs the Corinthians to do everything for the glory of God, to avoid offending others, and to be imitators of Christ.

### **Gospel: Mark 1:40-45**

Jesus takes pity on a leper and cures him of his disease with a warning not to say but to show himself to the priest and make an offering. Instead of remaining silent, the leper greatly publicized the healing, making it impossible for Jesus to enter the town openly.

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

### **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 11, 2018**

**"A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, 'If you wish you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"**

This week, we begin the season of Lent, a time of renewal and repentance. We have a tendency to approach this time from a traditional posture. Ashes, meatless Fridays and Stations of the Cross. All are part of our practice and tradition.

Wait a minute. Picture the lonely leper, ill and isolated, but with firm faith and determination, violating the rules imposed through Moses, approaching Jesus, seeking much needed help. I am he!

Consider for a moment what it took for him to act. He was desperate, knowing the reality of His condition. He spoke 'If you wish,..' He heard the will of Jesus, felt His compassion, was touched by the healer. I am he!

May I seriously consider how to begin Lent this year and live renewal and repentance with the leper to be healed, cleansed and enlivened. Lent is God's gift to me this year.



### **READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Sunday** - Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1;  
Mk 1:40-45

**Monday** - Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday** - Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21

**Wednesday** - Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2;  
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday** - Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

**Friday** - Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday** - Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

## LENTEN REGULATIONS – FAST AND ABSTINENCE FOR THE 2018 LENTEN SEASON

With the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent, the Church proclaims anew Christ's call to penance and conversion of Life. "Any who wish to come after me, must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me." (Mt 16, 24) The entire season of Lent, from Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018 to the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive, March 29, 2018 is a penitential season, a time for self-denial, prayers and Christian charity. (Instruction on the calendar and Liturgical year (ICEL translation).

"The Easter Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday." The Fast of Good Friday differs from that of Ash Wednesday. As a paschal Fast required by the Church, the instruction recommends that it extend past Friday to the Easter Vigil. "On Good Friday and, if possible, on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter Fast is observed everywhere.

During this season Catholics are encouraged to celebrate Eucharist frequently, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, participate in Lenten Devotions and the Stations of the Cross, read the Scriptures prayerfully and perform acts of self-denial, charity and works of mercy. The specific discipline of the Church of the United States regarding penitential days is as follows:

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance. This may be physical mortification or acts of religion, charity or Christian witness. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast; by this obligation the individual is permitted only one full meal in the day. From the age of 14 all are obliged to abstain. The law of abstinence forbids eating meat, but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind even though made from animal fat.

The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence "substantially" or as a whole is a serious obligation. Failure to observe any penitential day in itself is not considered serious. It is the failure to observe any penitential days at all or a substantial number of such days, which is considered serious. The time for fulfilling the paschal precept (Easter Duty) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018 to Trinity Sunday, May 27, 2018.

### A Mardi Gras Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
For it is from your goodness that we have this day to  
Celebrate on the threshold of the Season of Lent.

Tomorrow we will fast and abstain from meat,  
Today we feast.  
We thank you for the abundance of gifts you shower upon us.  
We thank you especially for one another,  
As we give thanks.  
We are mindful of those who have so much less than we do  
As we share these wonderful gifts together,  
We commit ourselves to greater generosity toward those  
Who need our support.

Prepare us for tomorrow.  
Tasting the fullness of what we have today,  
Let us experience some hunger tomorrow.  
May our fasting make us more alert and may it heighten our  
Consciousness so that we might be ready to hear your Word  
And respond to your call.

As our feasting fills with gratitude  
So may our fasting and abstinence hollow out in us  
A place for deeper desires and an attentiveness  
To hear the cry of the poor.  
May our self – denial turn our hearts to you  
And give us a new freedom for  
Generous service to others.  
We ask you these graces with our hearts full of delight  
And stirring with readiness for the journey ahead.  
We ask them with confidence in the name of Jesus the Lord.  
Amen.