

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasure**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Budgeted Amount:	\$5,000.00
Regular Collection – 12/20/15:	\$4,087.00
Parish Pay – 12/20/15:	656.00
Total Regular Collection – 12/20/15:	\$4,743.00

<b>CHRISTMAS COLLECTION – 12/25/15:</b>	<b>\$8,026.00</b>
Parish Pay – 12/25/15:	520.00
Extra Christmas – 1/3/15:	205.00
Total CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:	\$8,751.00

Regular Collection – 12/27/15:	\$3,399.00
Parish Pay – 12/27/15:	\$ 556.00
Total Regular Collection – 12/27/15:	\$3,955.00

Regular Collection – 1/3/16:	\$3,260.00
Parish Pay – 1/3/16: (not yet reported)	
Total Regular Collection – 1/3/16:	

Capital Improvements/Repairs – 1/3/16:	
Parish Pay – CIR: (not yet reported)	
Total CIR:	

Donations collected at the Nativity: \$ 135.00  
 This has been sent to Birth Haven of Newton to provide refuge for homeless pregnant women.

**ST. MONICA’S ANNUAL COLLECTION**

Parish Goal	\$50,000.00
Total # of Families	461
Total # Pledged	138
% of Participation	29.93%
Total Amount Pledged	\$43,060.00
(Includes 3 matching grants pledged)	
Total Amount Paid	\$35,560.00
(Includes 2 matching grants pd. in full)	

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In memory of: Connie Mooney

Given by: Mary Del Monaco

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

1/11	MON:	9:00a	Robert Hahn
1/12	TUES:	9:00a	Blanca & Celso Espejo
1/13	WED:	9:00a	No Mass today
1/14	THU:	9:00a	Fran & Sal Cravotta & family John Skehan & family
1/15	FRI:	9:00a	People of the Parish
1/16	SAT:	5:00p	Charles M. Kuperus
1/17	SUN:	8:00a	Grace Marino
		10:00a	John McGovern Al Lettieri Mary B. Nemeth
		11:45a	Peter Horvath Donald Devaney

**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

**TO RESERVE FOR 2016 MASS INTENTIONS & SANCTUARY LAMP DEVOTIONS  
 CALL THE RECTORY 973-875-4521**

Masses: \$5.00 each; Mass cards: small(\$5.00) & large(\$10.00) sizes.  
 Sanctuary candle devotions - for a one-week period - \$5.00.

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

January 10, 2016

**NEW PARISHIONERS - WELCOME!!** Have you been attending, but haven’t formally registered yet? Registration forms are located in a large white envelope on the table near the Church Hall exit. Please fill it out, mail it back to the Rectory (address on front of bulletin) or give it to Fr. Charles or an usher on Sunday. Call Carol at 973-875-4521 if you need assistance.

**PARISH MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS & COORDINATORS**

- Altar Servers.....Fr. Charles
  - Baptismal Preparation.....Robert & Sharon Misyak, Terry Westdyke, Jeanne McBride
  - Bereavement Support.....Carol Bezak
  - Book Discussion.....Carol Bezak
  - Church Cleaning.....Peter & Ann Kazmierski Marie Fischer
  - FOCCUS Marriage Preparation .....Robert & Sharon Misyak
  - Family Promise.....Carol Oesen
  - Helping Hands.....Terry Westdyke
  - Leisure Group.....Grace Casalino
  - Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers.....Carol Bezak
  - RCIA .....Carol Bezak/Sr. Theresa Losiewicz
  - Scripture Reflection.....Carol Bezak
  - Sussex Help Center.....Joan Thomas
  - Ushers.....Fr. Charles
  - Website Administration.....Francisco Perez
- Would you like to become involved in any of the above ministries or groups? Please call the Rectory – we need YOU!!!*

**PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS:** If you are having a Mass offered for someone special and would like to carry the gifts of Bread and Wine to the altar, please let an usher know when you arrive.



**Retirement Fund for Religious Collection**

An undated envelope is included in this month’s packet for the Annual Retirement Fund for Religious. This collection will be taken NEXT weekend - January 16/17, 2016. Please save this envelope for that weekend.

Keep our contact information handy!

Phone #: 973-875-4521 Fax #: 973-875-7538

Website: [www.stmonicasussex.org](http://www.stmonicasussex.org)

Email: [stmonica@ptd.net](mailto:stmonica@ptd.net)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

- Sunday Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
- Monday 1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20
- Tuesday 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20, Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
- Friday 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**ATTENTION ALL CANDIDATES:** Confirmation Retreat is set for Saturday, January 23rd from 10am to 3pm at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton. Your attendance is required at this retreat. Please be prompt in arriving. Lunch will be served. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Vernacchio.

**"SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" COLLECTION:** This is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6th and Sunday, Feb. 7th. Coverage is needed at all Masses. Signup sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the church hall. The money collected this weekend is sent to Harvest House to assist them in feeding the hungry in our area.

**PHASE I CANDIDATES:** The Distribution of the Creed is scheduled for Saturday, February 13th at the 5pm Mass. Your attendance is required.

### CALENDAR:

**Saturday/Sunday, February 6/7** - "Souper Bowl of Caring" collection after all Masses this weekend.

Saturday, February 13th - Phase I Candidates - Dist. of the Creed at the 5pm Mass, YM class follows after a light dinner  
Phase I & Phase II - Theme- "Holy Week, Resurrection & Ascension"

**Sunday, February 14th** - Make up class - no dinner - 6:30 to 8:30pm

### ***HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY?***

**In order to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we should become familiar with the**

**Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy.**

The acts of compassion that Catholics call the Corporal (meaning physical) and Spiritual works of mercy are rooted in scripture.

How many Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy were you able to name? Here they are:

#### **Corporal Works of Mercy**

Feed the hungry; Give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; visit the imprisoned; shelter the homeless; visit the sick and bury the dead

#### **Spiritual Works of Mercy**

Admonish the sinner; instruct the ignorant; counsel the doubtful; comfort the sorrowful; bear wrongs patiently; forgive all injuries; pray for the living and the dead.

### **RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

*"As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful"*

This is just one witness story of the impact of those religious who have had an everlasting effect on someone's life. Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This collection will be taken next weekend, January 16/17. Please be as generous as possible.

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**FOR CANCELLATION OF PARISH  
PROGRAMS/EVENTS DUE TO  
INCLEMENT WEATHER, PLEASE VISIT  
<http://wsus102.3iheart.com> or tune in to WSUS102.3FM**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Grades 1-8

### CALENDAR:

**1st & 2nd Grades** – Sunday, January 24th - 9:00am (please be prompt) in the Meeting Room, followed by 10:00am Mass – this is the first Sunday of the month and will be called up on the altar with Fr. Charles.

**3rd & 4th Grades** – Sunday, January 17th – class will begin at 11:15am (join us right after 10:00am Mass) in the Meeting Room. (Please note: Time is changed to 11:15am to allow for a later finish of the 10:00am Mass, which can happen at times due to special ceremonies or announcements – thank you)

**5th & 6th Grades** – Saturday, January 9th & 23rd – 3:00pm in the Church Hall – attendance at 5:00pm Mass is highly encouraged for those attending class.

**7th & 8th Grades** – Saturday, January 16th & 23rd – attend the 5:00pm Mass, dinner and class will follow til 8:15pm.

**Religious Ed Calendars for 2016 are available on the table in the Church Hall – and posted on our website**

[www.stmonicasussex.org](http://www.stmonicasussex.org)

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

**COFFEE & DONUTS** - the first Sunday of each month at **9:00am** - or come before the 10:00am Mass in the Church Hall. Next date is February 7th - after the 8:00am Mass.

**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.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS** - Every Sunday morning at 9:15am sharp we practice for the 10:00am Mass. Call Judy at 908-294-0571.

**ST. MONICA'S LEISURE GROUP** - Join us - lunch is served at every meeting along with delicious desserts made by our members. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon. Leisure Group does not meet during the months of January and February. Dues are \$10 a year. New members are welcome! Call Grace Casalino -973-702-8569.

### HELPING HANDS

St. Monica's Helping Hands meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. All are invited – call Terry Westdyke at 973-875-6548.

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### MOVIE NIGHTS

In his address to Congress while in the US, Pope Francis mentioned **Dorothy Day** and **Thomas Merton**, along with Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, as Americans who have inspired us by their lives. Would you like to know more about Thomas Merton? If so, another upcoming Movie night will be held on January 7th and "**The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton**" will be held on January 21st. Both evenings begin at 7:00pm in the Church Hall. There is no cost to attend - a free-will offering will be taken for refreshments. Call 973-875-4521.

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**FOOD DONATIONS** – can be dropped off in the baskets located under the table in the Church Hall - donations are picked up weekly and brought to food pantries in Sussex. If you are donating a turkey, call the Rectory – 973-875-4521. Thank you!!

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### ST. MONICA'S MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

For gift ideas, anytime of the year, check our website – [www.stmonicasussex.org](http://www.stmonicasussex.org) for our ongoing Magazine Fundraiser. Follow the link at the bottom to the Magazine Fundraiser page. St. Monica's earns 40% of the total sales!! There is a great selection of materials – something for everyone!!

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# **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

*His Word Today by Rev. William J. Reilly*

*“...the man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. This is the message he has sent to the sons of Israel, ‘the good news of peace’ proclaimed through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all... I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John proclaimed, of the way God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good.”*

This teaching of Peter led Cornelius and his family to baptism and Christ. We listen to the words and realize that we too have been baptized, led to Christ and yes, even anointed with the Holy Spirit and power. We too come up from our Jordan, our baptismal font, and hear the similar words of praise ‘You are my Son. On you my favor rests.’

It is easy to picture the event, the people, the rippling water, a gentle breeze. We might include a word of teaching by John the Baptist. Jesus began His mission. ‘The mission of Christ the Redeemer He has entrusted to His church’, wrote Saint John Paul II. That mission continues today and we are all the hands, the face, the voice of Christ to others. At our baptism we were anointed with oil and the Holy Spirit. We have been given power to do what Jesus did ‘going about doing good.’

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## **CONSIDER A GIFT TO YOUR PARISH.....**

So often when a loved one dies the family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to organizations that were of special significance in the life of that person – like a VFW organization or sometimes it is in thanksgiving to organizations that assisted the person during their illness – American Cancer Society, The Red Cross, St. Jude’s Hospital, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, etc. Why not consider your parish where you and your family grew in faith – where so many special moments, in times of joy and sorrow, were celebrated – Baptisms, Weddings, First Communions, Funerals - the place where your relationship to God was especially meaningful. Generations to come may yet be grateful for your generous gift.

## **EPIPHANY**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

Isaiah tells of the Lord’s Servant, who will be inconspicuous, but will not rest until justice is established. The Lord then tells his servant that he was formed to be “a light for the nations.”

### **Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38**

Peter speaks to a group of pagans for the first time. He explains to them that any person who follows God’s will is acceptable to God, regardless of nationality.

### **Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

John the Baptist had claimed one would come far more powerful than himself, one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit rather than water. When Jesus came to John and was baptized, the Spirit descended on him and a voice said, “You are my beloved Son. On you my favor rests.”

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## **One Solitary Life**

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village as the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another obscure village.

He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty and then for three years was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college.

He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born.

He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness.

He had no credentials but himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of his divine manhood.

While still a young man the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. Another betrayed him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon the cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth while he was dying, and that was his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Centuries have come and gone and today he is the center of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon the earth as powerfully as has this one solitary life.

---Dr. James Allan Francis (1926)

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