

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Stewardship Report – Treasure

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Budgeted Amount: \$5,000.00

Sunday Collection – 5/8/16: \$3,010.00

Parish Pav – 5/8/16: \$ 641.00

Total Sunday Collection – 5/8/16: \$3,651.00

Feast of the Ascension –Holy Day- 5/5/16: \$ 598.00

Parish Pav – Holy Day – 5/5/16: 50.00

Total Holy Day – 5/5/16: \$ 648.00

ST. MONICA’S ANNUAL COLLECTION

Parish Goal \$50,000.00

Total # of Families 463

Total # Pledged 144

% of Participation 31.10%

Total Amount Pledged \$44,170.00

(Includes 3 matching grants pledged)

Total Amount Paid \$42,300.00

(Includes 2 matching grants pd. in full)

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In memory of: Theresa Del Monico

Given by: Mary Del Monico

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

5/16 MON: 9:00a Special Intention(LIV)

5/17 TUES: 9:00a Marie Perricone

5/18 WED: 9:00a No Mass today

5/19 THU: 9:00a Mildred Randall

5/20 FRI: 9:00a Special Intention(LIV)

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – PASTORAL VISIT

Bishop Arthur Serratelli

5/21 SAT: 5:00p Helen Sandford
Michael Lawlor
Talia Marie Phalon

5/22 SUN: 8:00a Florence M. Swiss
Fran & Sal Cravotta & family
Dec. members of the Facarro family
10:00a John & Eleanor Murray
Edwin & Rita Puzio
Florence DiStasi
Mary Eckert
11:45a Peter Horvath
Sr. Felicia Tanzzella

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 - \$5.00 for one-week.

Pentecost Sunday

May 15, 2016

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

www.stmonicasussex.org

COFFEE & DONUTS -first Sunday of each month at 9:00am - come before the 10:00am Mass in the Church Hall on Sunday, June 5th. Plan to join us!!

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 – will resume the third Monday of the month schedule at 7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. If you like to read books that will enhance your faith journey and keep you spiritually nourished, plan to join us. Members gave input and suggestions and the following three books will be covered in the next several months: **Walk in a Relaxed Manner** by Joyce Rupp;

Sanctuary by Terry Hershey; **Beautiful Mercy** by Matthew Kelly and **Learning to Walk in the Dark** by Barbara Brown Taylor. Short stories of Flannery O’Connor will also be read and shared by all. Next meeting will be Monday, May 16th at 7:30pm. Open to all. Call 973-875-4521 to RSVP.

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. June 1 - Pot Luck II; July 6 - Independence Day Celebration; August 3 – “Be Cool” Summer Lunch; September 7 – Labor Day Celebration; October 5 – Oktoberfest; November 2 – Halloween Party; December 8(Thursday) –Christmas Party at Lampost Rest.

HELPING HANDS – Skylands Ballpark Outing
Mark your calendars and plan to join us for another fun night at Skylands Ballpark for a game followed by great fireworks. Our visit there last summer was so successful and fun for all that we’re planning another for Saturday evening, July 9. Almost 100 people attended last year and hope those and more will join us again. Cost will remain the same at \$10/person. In the coming weeks, listen for announcements and watch for sign up sheets in the hall. For info, contact Terry Westdyke at 845-258-8051.

TRICKY TRAY 2016 - Our tricky tray committee will be coming together for their first meeting to plan for the upcoming Fall event on Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 12 noon in the Rectory meeting room. Please consider joining us to unite our thoughts and ideas towards another successful fundraiser.

CORPUS CHRISTI FOOD DRIVE

Due to unprecedented requests for assistance from Catholic Charities’ food pantries and in order to fulfill our obligations to the poor, Bishop Serratelli has authorized a Diocesan-wide food collection in all parishes and agencies on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Saturday/Sunday, May 28-29, 2016. Our parish is asked to collect **Cookies and Crackers** for this food drive. St. Monica’s Helping Hands members will be in back of the Church Hall that weekend to accept these donations, and will coordinate the effort to have the food delivered to the local Catholic Charities food pantry in Franklin, NJ. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!!

YOUTH MINISTRY

PHASE II CANDIDATES - Important dates to remember so please mark your calendars! Confirmation rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, May 19th at 7:30pm in the church with your sponsor if possible. There is only one rehearsal so your attendance is required. Confirmation is set for Saturday, May 21st at 5pm. You should plan on arriving by 4:15pm. A letter was forwarded to each of you regarding dress code, pictures, etc. There will be a reception in the church hall afterwards which we hope you plan on attending. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Vernacchio.

SERVICE PROJECTS: All certificates need to be turned in ASAP so that you can get credit. Please remember that whatever hours of community service you have performed for your high school hours can be counted toward this. You just have to make sure you get a certificate signed by whoever is running that particular event and turn it into us. If you are short on church service, all events are pretty much done for this year so you will have to make up whatever you need when next year comes around. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Vernacchio.

CALENDAR:

Thursday, May 19th - Confirmation rehearsal w/sponsor if possible. Time: 7:30pm

Saturday, May 21st - Confirmation - 5:00pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Grades 1-8

CATECHIST DINNER OF APPRECIATION

Thursday, June 2nd – 7:00pm

St. Monica's Church Hall

All Religious Ed and Youth Ministry Catechists invited!

FIRST COMMUNICANTS/FAMILIES - Bishop Serratelli invites those who received First Communion this year to a special Diocesan gathering for a Catechesis on the Eucharist, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a Procession and Benediction on **Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 3:00pm** at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 179 Baldwin Road, Parsippany, NJ. If you and your child would like to attend, please call Carol at the Rectory for further details. Space is limited – deadline to sign up is Friday, May 27, 2016.

REGISTRATION for the 2016/2017 will begin on the weekend of May 22nd - registration forms will be available on the table in the hall. Deadline for all registrations is June 30th – no exceptions. Payment can be made at the time you send it in or if necessary later on, but we do need the registration forms returned in order to plan the upcoming Religious Ed year. Your cooperation is appreciated!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

Monday Jas 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday Jas 4:13-17; Mk 9:38-40

Thursday Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:41-50

Friday Jas 5:9-12; Mk 10:1-12

Saturday Jas 5:13-20; Mk 10:13-16

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 PreparationRobert & Sharon Misyak
Family Promise.....Carol Oesen
Helping Hands.....Terry Westdyke
Leisure Group.....Grace Casalino
Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers.....Carol Bezak
RCIACarol 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!!!

Sussex County Right to Life Meeting

Thursday, May 19 at 7pm

St Joseph Parish Center

Halsted St, Newton

Anyone interested in the defense of life is encouraged to attend.

More info: **Dian Koster**

973-579-6001 adriandian96@gmail.com

“VIVERE CHRISTUS...to live is Christ”

Saint Paul's message conveys an attitude of sacrifice and humble service to be lived by all in proclaiming the Gospel. Essential to this work of the Church are the many dedicated lay men and women of the Diocese of Paterson who continually live as faithful stewards of God's grace and generosity.

The Diocese of Paterson asks each parish to identify a person who exemplifies this attitude in their daily lives and to recommend that person to receive the annual *Vivere Christus* award. This year, **Sr. Theresa Losiewicz** will be receiving this award TODAY, Sunday, May 15th at 3:30pm at a vesper service at St. Phillip the Apostle Church in Clifton. Please offer your prayers and sincere congratulations to her!!

“For to me, to live is Christ....” (Philippians 1:21)

Item for Sale or ? Sony DVD Player #S550 – perfect condition. Original cost \$500 – purchased in year 2000. In excellent condition. Price \$100 or best offer. If interested, call the Rectory office – 973-875-4521



PENTECOST SUNDAY
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

“In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will.”

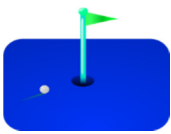
How beautiful and varied are the scripture passages, telling of the coming of the Holy Spirit, its impact on the life of the primitive church, and the effect of the Spirit’s presence in the church today.

Regardless of the source, whether the story in the Acts of the Apostles, or the teachings found in St. Paul, all speak of a sweeping change in the creation of witnesses and the power of God’s presence in the lives of others. Fast forward, and today we find the same Spirit invigorating, animating and directing the church.

All change involves some pain, as we like to retain things of the past, but the presence of the spirit allows us to move in uncharted waters. The Pentecost event is a prime example, and today we ask that same Spirit to guide and direct us as we live as missionary disciples in the service of the Lord.

Some ask ‘what is in your wallet?’ , we ask ‘Where is God’s Spirit leading me?’

UPCOMING GOLF OUTINGS



ICRS Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser - Friday, May 20th at Black Bear Golf Course in Franklin, NJ. Registration begins at 12:30 pm followed by a 2 pm shotgun start. Dinner to follow at approximately 6:30 pm. Register and pay online at www.mkt.com/ICRSgolfOuting or contact the school at 973-827-3777 or info@icrsshool.com

Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD) Golf Classic – June 27th at Bowling Green Gold

Club or Berkshire Valley Golf Course in Oak Ridge

www.dpd.org/wiegand - Support the Department for Persons with Disabilities, a Catholic Charities agency in the Diocese of Paterson. DPD provides a high level of care for adults with developmental disabilities. On June 27th , they will be hosting their annual Wiegand Farm Golf Classic and you do not have to be a golfer to participate. Here is how you can get involved:

Golf in the event: At the Bowling Green Golf Club or Berkshire Valley Golf Course in Oak Ridge. \$145 includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and 18 holes of golf. **Participate in the MEGA 50/50:** Tickets are being sold for \$10 each or a book of 6 for \$50. *Last year’s winner took home \$11,000!*

Donate a Silent Auction Item: DPD is in need of gift certificates, sporting event tickets, memorabilia, vacation packages, or whatever else you can offer! **Sponsor the event:** Show your support of adults with developmental disabilities, take out an ad or advertise your business! **Sponsor a resident to attend the outing:** For \$50 you can sponsor someone who lives at DPD to attend the dinner reception. For more information or to participate in the event please go to www.dpd.org/wiegand or contact Chris Brancato in the Development Office at (973) 406-1104 or at Chrisb@dpd.org.

The Carmelite Friars 28TH Annual “Father Forrester Memorial Padre Golf Tournament” - Monday, July 25, 2016 at West Hills Country Club, Middletown, NY. www.westhillscountryclub.com . Price is \$150 per player - outing includes greens fee, golf cart with GPS & canopy, tee bag, hospitality on the course, continental breakfast, 10:15am Shotgun start, Lunch on the Turn (BBQ-style lunch), Cocktail hour, Dinner Buffet. Hole-in-One Opportunities \$10,000 top prize; Tournament Raffle – 1st Prize - \$1,000; 2nd Prize -\$4500; 3rd & 4th Prizes each \$100 NYS scratch-off Lottery Tickets. If early registration by June 6, 2016 – 3 Free Raffle Tickets. Registration Deadline is July 18, 2016. For information contact Gloria at 845-344-0876 or info@carmelitedevelopment.org



REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR OF MERCY

“Jesus’ attitude is striking: we do not hear the words of scorn, we do not hear words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy, which are an invitation to conversation. “Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.” Ah! Brothers and Sisters, God’s face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient. Have you thought about God’s patience, the patience He has with each one of us? That is His mercy. He always has patience, patience with us, He understands us, He waits for us, He does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to Him with a contrite heart. “Great is God’s mercy,” says the Psalm.

— Pope Francis, Angelus on March 17, 2013

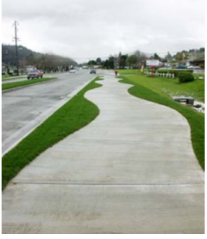
Have you passed through a Holy Door yet? Passing through a Holy Door is part of the pilgrimage that all Catholics are encouraged to make, whether during a trip to Rome, or a trip to the cathedrals or specially designated churches in and around their own dioceses. These pilgrimages come with special graces, and they allow each of us to share in the many blessings of the Holy Year. Passing through the Holy Door symbolizes our leaving the world outside and entering into the realm of salvation. As Pope St. John Paul II said, the Holy Door “evokes the passage from sin to grace which every Christian is called to accomplish”

(There are several designated Holy Doors in the surrounding area – St. Patrick’s Cathedral in NYC, Sacred Heart Basilica in Newark, The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown, NY)

Vocations Discernment for young men 15-25 - “Quo Vadis – Where are you going?” Where is the Spirit acting in your life? Where is the Lord encouraging you to go? Quo Vadis Days is a time of recreation, fellowship, and prayer to help you explore the Lord’s call in your life. Activities will include prayer, Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary, games, sports, talks, great food, and discussions. It is a time to share our faith and meet other young men seeking God’s will. Quo Vadis Days will be held June 29- July 1 at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton, New Jersey. There is no cost. For more information and/or registration, contact the coordinators Fr. Jared Brogan and Fr. Edgar Rivera in the Vocations Office at (973) 777-8818, ext. #711. You can also email Frs. Brogan and Rivera at jbrogan@patersondiocese.org or fredgar@patersondiocese.org.

All endings.....are also new beginnings.....

I know that and believe it with all my heart.



My ending, or should I say my new beginning, came this weekend as I stood in humble acceptance of my Master's Degree in Theology from the College of St. Elizabeth. The day was filled with amazement at so much accomplished, deep reflection on so many sleepless hours and yet, many more hopes and dreams that lie ahead.

The journey was filled with memories and wonderful challenges and I have grown in many new ways. First and foremost, I realize more than ever that God's hand is the hand that has guided me to this moment in time, and that my own hand is just His tool. Second, I understand that setting a goal for oneself can make all the difference in the world and that my goal could never be reached without the support of those who love me. Third, I know that an academic accomplishment is always just that, and there have been more life lessons than academic ones for me in the past years.

My journey would not be complete without special "thank you's"..... to Fr. Charles for understanding when I walked around with a glazed, dazed look on my face because I needed to disappear to study; who actually guided my studies with practical examples of good liturgy, great homilies and even greater insights than he realizes; and for being a part of this journey as my pastor and friend. Thanks also to parishioner friends and family members who put up with absenteeism at necessary times and very special thanks to The College of St. Elizabeth and faculty members who have guided, mentored and prayed for and with me through this journey.

I want to say that though my "ending" is real I know myself all too well, and also know that another new "beginning" will be right around the corner. But for now, it's time for relaxing in the spirit and having unscheduled, unhurried time, a time to read and write for fun and take a lesson from children and just follow the chalk-white arrows! --Carol Bezak

Where the Sidewalk Ends

by Shel Silverstein

There is a place where the sidewalk ends
And before the street begins,
And there the grass grows soft and white,
And there the sun burns crimson bright,
And there the moon-bird rests from his flight
To cool in the peppermint wind.
Let us leave this place where the smoke blows black
and the dark street winds and bends.
Past the pits where the asphalt flowers grow
We shall walk with a walk that is measured and slow,
And watch where the chalk-white arrows go
To the place where the sidewalk ends.
Yes we'll walk with a walk that is measured and slow,
And we'll go where the chalk-white arrows go,
For the children, they mark, and the children, they know
The place where the sidewalk ends.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

The disciples were celebrating Pentecost together when "tongues of fire appeared which parted, then came to rest on each of them." The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in foreign tongues. Visitors from many different countries were amazed that each guest could hear his or her native language being spoken as the disciples proclaimed God's glory.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Each person has received different manifestations of the same spirit to contribute to the common good of all. All members of the church have been baptized into one body because of our belief in the Holy Spirit, who was sent to us by God.

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Jesus appeared to the disciples even though they had locked the doors in fear. Jesus then showed the disciples his hands and his side; and they rejoiced at his presence. He breathed on them saying "Receive the Holy Spirit." He then gave the disciples the power to forgive others or hold them accountable for their sins.

