

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasure**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

**Budgeted Amount: \$5,000.00**

**Regular Collection – 9/4/16: \$2,673.00**

**Parish Pay – 9/4/16: \$ 541.00**

**Total Regular Collection – 9/4/16: \$3,214.00**

**Capital Improvements/Repairs – 9/4/16: \$1,249.00**

**Parish Pay – CIR – 9/4/16: \$ 78.00**

**Total CIR – 9/4/16: \$1,327.00**

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: Martin Finn**

**Given by: Phyllis Finn**

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

9/19 **MON:** 9:00a Bob Esposito (LIV)

9/20 **TUES:** 9:00a Charles Burke  
Mike Wyssenski

9/21 **WED:** 9:00a No Mass today

9/22 **THU:** 9:00a Bob Esposito (LIV)

9/23 **FRI:** 9:00a Richard Szot  
Bob Esposito (LIV)

9/24 **SAT:** 5:00p Connie Mooney  
Jeanette Loughery  
Vincent Nocilla  
John Collins

9/25 **SUN:** 8:00a Paul Sydow  
10:00a Maureen Nisler  
Thomas Walsh  
Herbert Sandford  
John McGovern  
11:45a Ronald Bobiak

**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** Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

**Monday** Prv 3:27-34; Lk 8:16-18

**Tuesday** Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

**Thursday** Eccl 1:2-11; Lk 9:7-9

**Friday** Eccl 3:1-11; Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday** Eccl 11:9—12:8; Lk 9:43b-45

Representatives of Sussex County Right to Life will be selling raffle tickets for their annual car raffle on September 24th and September 25th after all Masses. Tickets are \$10 each. Your support of this worthy cause is greatly appreciated!

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**September 18, 2016**

***Catechetical Sunday***

***"Prayer: The Faith Prayed"***



*This year, the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday on September 18, 2016 and will focus on the theme "Prayer: The Faith Prayed."*

*Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry at the 10:00am Mass. Catechetical Sunday is a*

*wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.*

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**PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS**

[www.stmonicasussex.org](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> - 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, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room.**

**Learning to Walk in the Dark** by Barbara Brown Taylor and **Short stories of Flannery O'Connor** will be read and 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 4<sup>th</sup> – Oktoberfest; November 2 – Halloween Party; December 8(Thursday) –Christmas Party at Lampost Rest.

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

Visit the table in the Church Hall and pick up any letter for any business that you are able to visit Please remember to sign for each letter in the space provided on the Business Contact List also on the table. If you are able to visit any business that is not listed, please feel free to take one of the blank extra letters and sign for it on the blank list. **NEXT MEETING: Sunday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> – 12:00noon in the Meeting Room. 50/50 Raffle tickets are available for sale after any Mass.**

**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!

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

**PHASE I CANDIDATES** – the Rite of Acceptance is scheduled for Sunday, September 25th at the 11:45am Mass. Your attendance is required. Please remember to bring with you the signed Commitment Form which Father will take from you during this Rite.

**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.

**CLASSES** – will begin on Saturday, October 1st beginning with the 5pm Mass, followed by a light dinner than class. Classes run to approximately 8:30pm.

### **CALENDAR:**

**Sunday, Sept. 25th** - Phase I Candidates – Rite of Acceptance at the 11:45am Mass – attendance is required

**Saturday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>** -YM Class – beginning with 5pm Mass, followed by a light dinner, then class Phase I – Theme: “Life is Choices”  
Phase II – Theme: “The Eucharist”

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

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

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Grades 1-8**

**A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR PARENTS:** Last year, we saw much progress in moving all of our Religious Ed classes “closer to home” and more united with the Liturgy. THIS YEAR - Grades 1-4 will continue to meet on Sundays either before or after Mass; Grades 7 & 8 will meet on Saturday after the 5:00pm Mass; and Grades 5 & 6 will also be moved to Saturday evenings as well. Our facilities here at the parish – between the Church Hall and Meeting Room (both upstairs and downstairs) can support the size program we have and we are able to utilize our computer and video equipment for wonderful lessons, movies, etc. – register your child today!!

### **CATECHIST INFORMATION**

**Catechist Meeting** - Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Any young adult who is preparing for or has received Confirmation and would like to join our dedicated team of Catechists should plan to attend. We invite you to team-teach or help with Children’s Liturgy of the Word and share your faith with our young students. Please call Carol at 973-875-4521 and we can explore the possibilities!

**PARENTS** – thanks to all parents who have registered their child already – class schedules will be available as soon as all registrations are in. Each Catechist will meet with parents on the first day of your child’s class to go over any special details about the upcoming year.

**REGISTRATION for 2016/2017** - registration forms are available on the table in the hall or can be downloaded from our website [www.stmonicasussex.org](http://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 ReligiousFormation

## **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*“Beloved. First of all, I ask that supplications prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God. There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself as ransom for all.”*

Paul wrote an encouraging note to Timothy and we have a chance to both read it and apply it for our spiritual well being. We are taught all the elements of prayer – adoration, contrition, thanks and supplication, as we have noted before – ACTS. As I examine my prayer life, I want to include all these elements in what I include as prayer.

Timothy also is reminded of God’s will and His will for us all – salvation and encounter with the Truth. These are not earned but are offered as gifts, for which I can ask and receive. The reason for it is the reminder that Jesus is the one mediator, the savior. As labor talks, contracts are often brokered by a mediator or arbitrator, so Jesus represents us, has done all is required, and only asks us to ‘sign on’.

In Paul’s words it leads us to more quiet and tranquil lives.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION – “When Do You Need An Elder Law Attorney?”**

Nancy Heslin Reading, M.Div, J.D. will once again be at St. Monica’s parish on Monday evening, September 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## **FEAST DAY CELEBRATION – ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX**

A special event is planned at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY in honor of the **Feast Day of St. Therese of Lisieux (October 1<sup>st</sup>)** beginning Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> with Solemn Evening Prayer at 7:00pm and Saturday, October 1st with Morning Prayer, Confessions, Solemn Mass in honor of St. Therese of Lisieux with Fr. Robert Traudt, O.Carm presiding; Blessing of Roses, Veneration of her Relics; followed by Lunch and a conference given by Fr. Rob Traudt, O.Carm, and ending with Exposition. Registration forms can be found on the table in the hall and should be returned to the Shrine office. Call Carol Bezak, Shrine Director at 845-343-1879 for further information.

## **CARE AND KINDNESS CONFERENCE** – October 1, 2016 – 9:00am - on the campus of the First Reformed Church, 529 Newark

Pompton Turnpike, Pompton Plains, NJH 07444; The conference is especially beneficial for caregivers, those seeking growth/healing for themselves and others, lay leaders in religious environments delivering spiritual care and others. Please recommend this to anyone you know who may benefit. The cost for FCHP affiliates is \$35 per person. (any FCHP affiliate from NMC desiring "scholarship" can speak to Randy Parks at Newton Medical Center individually-we want you to come if your schedule permits. Keynote speaker: Dr. James Kok; Event is sponsored by Atlantic Health System.

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

## Ancient Practice of Lectio Divina – Part I

by Stephen J. Binz

St. Gregory the Great, in the sixth century, wrote: "The biblical Scriptures are letters from Almighty God to his creatures. The Lord of all has sent you his letters for your life's advantage—and yet you neglect to read them eagerly. Study them, I beg you, and meditate daily on the words of your Creator. Learn the heart of God in the words of God" (Letters, 5, 46).

Reading the Bible in this way, as the Word of God expressing the heart of God, is what the ancient church called *lectio divina*. This is what Origen meant when he wrote about *lectio divina* in the third century, and what the patristic writers in general recommended as a way of prayer. "Lectio Divina" is a Latin word that means "divine reading" or, as it is more often translated, "spiritual reading."

The most important foundation of this way of praying with Scripture is an understanding of the text's inspiration. When St. Paul declared that "all Scripture is inspired by God" (2 Tm 3:16), he used the word *theopneustos* (God-breathed). The sacred text is written by the human hand, but "breathed" by God. God is the primary source of Scripture, and human writers are the instrumental source.

Thus, inspiration is not only a charism given by God to the biblical writers, but it is a continuing characteristic of the biblical text. The Bible is always inspired, so whenever we take it in our hands to read, we know that God's Spirit has been infused into the text. So the Holy Spirit within us leads us to listen, reflect, and understand deeply the inspired words given to us in Sacred Scripture.

Because the Bible is the Word of God—"letters" from God to us—our first response must be listening (**lectio**). We must attend carefully to the text, listening to it "with the ear of the heart," as recommended by St. Benedict (Rule of St. Benedict, Prologue). If God is indeed speaking to us through the sacred text, then we must attend to the words with a sense of expectation and let go of our own agendas. No matter how many times we may have read the passage in the past, we can expect God to offer us some new wisdom every time we read. So we must listen to the text as if for the first time, paying attention to whatever God desires for us.

Listening to the inspired Word leads us to reflection (**meditatio**). We want to understand the meaning of the text in the context of our lives. Because the Scriptures are Divine Revelation, they are far more than mere information. By reflecting and pondering the text, we allow the text to be an encounter with God, and we open ourselves to the deeper significance and the grace God desires for us. Entering into this kind of meditation, we might try to place ourselves in the scene. We want to encounter God through the text with our whole selves: our minds, hearts, emotions, imaginations, and desires. Through this kind of reflection, we try to discern what God wants us to understand or experience through the sacred text.

(Next week – the next steps in the process)

Cycle C

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Luke 16:1-13

Jesus warns against cheating others to gain more material wealth. Be faithful to God.

**Love God, Not Money**


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Jesus says, the person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones.

LUKE 16:10

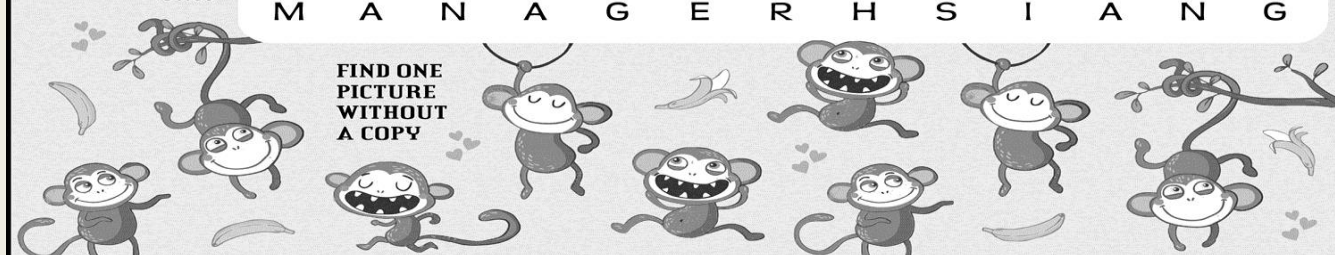
**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**

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



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| Manager     | S | T | R | U | S | T | W | O | R | T | H | Y | A |
| Jesus       | H | E | E | A | E | E | L | B | A | R | A | P | L |
| Love        | R | A | N | N | R | E | L | I | A | B | L | E | L |
| God         | E | B | L | O | V | E | H | F | T | A | E | R | G |
| Person      | W | L | F | A | I | T | H | F | U | L | N | S | H |
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| Ones        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**FIND ONE PICTURE WITHOUT A COPY**





Was the unjust steward dishonest or just clever? How would the kingdom of God benefit if you were more resourceful about promoting it here on earth? Can you think of one way you can be more resourceful or even clever in your spiritual life?

#### TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading: Amos 8:4-7**

The prophet Amos expressed disgust over people who take advantage of the poor. He describes businessmen scheming to cheat the poor, then declares that God will "never forget the things they have done."

**Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8**

Paul urges the Christians to pray for all people, especially those in authority. Paul even asked them to pray for the kings who denounced Christ's teachings, because God wants all people to be saved through Jesus.

**Gospel: Luke 16:1-13**

Jesus tells a story about a servant who tries to cheat his employer. The owner is impressed because he would do the same thing himself. Jesus then describes the importance of being trustworthy in small matters, as well as in greater ones. He then states that no one can serve two masters faithfully, so people cannot give themselves completely to both God and money.

#### 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.

