

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasure**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

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

**Sunday Collection – 3/12/17:** \$3,393.00

**Parish Pay – 3/12/17:** 586.00

**Total – Sunday Collection – 3/12/17:** \$3,979.00

**Sunday Collection – 3/19/17:** \$3,308.00

**Parish Pay – 3/19/17:** 596.00

**Total – Sunday Collection – 3/19/17:** \$3,904.00

Parish Pay ---is a convenient way for you to set up your weekly contributions - online – visit [ParishPay.com](http://ParishPay.com)

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**2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN STATISTICS – AS OF 3/7/17**

**Total # of Families:** 442

**Total # Pledged:** 129

**% of Participation** 29.35%

**Total Amount Pledged:** \$38,115.00

**Total Amount paid:** \$34,640.00

**Average Pledge:** \$ 293.19

**% of Pledges Collected:** 90.88%

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The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In memory of: John Battaglia

Given by: Jane Battaglia

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

- 3/27 **MON:** 9:00a Malgorzata Kapel
- 3/28 **TUES:** 9:00a Carty Family (LIV)
- 3/29 **WED:** 9:00a No Mass today
- 3/30 **THU:** 9:00a Judy Ann Futia  
Kathy Shaw (LIV)
- 3/31 **FRI:** 9:00a People of the parish
- 4/1 **SAT:** 5:00p Tina Sudaley
- 4/2 **SUN:** 8:00a Frank Rankl  
John Russo & family  
Gennaro Esposito
- 10:00a Gilma Bustello  
Henrietta Polomski (LIV)  
Christine Vander Velden  
Frank Scott
- 11:45a Edward Losiewicz

**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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK**

- Sunday** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14;  
Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- Monday** Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday** Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday** Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday** Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
- Friday** Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- First Saturday** Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 19, 2017**

**Mondays of Lent** – “Welcome Home to Healing” – confessions will be heard from 7:00 – 8:30pm in Church  
**Fridays of Lent** – Stations of the Cross - 9:00am & 7:30pm.

**A NOTE FROM FR. JAN.....**

I want to update you about our parish’s goal for the 2016 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. To date \$6,058.00 has been pledged on our \$17,640.00 goal. I believe that our goal is attainable and so I am asking for your help. If you have not yet done so, please make a pledge so we can reach our goal and help thousands of people in need throughout our Diocese. Not one person can do everything, but I am confident that everyone can do something. Whatever you are able to do to help is a great blessing. Please know, too, that 50% of all cash received over our parish goal is returned to us for our own parish needs. Please return your Appeal pledge card in the mail today or mail your gift directly to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, 777 Valley Road, Clifton, NJ 07013. You can also make an on-line gift by going to [www.2016appeal.org](http://www.2016appeal.org). Thank you in advance for helping our parish reach its goal!

**COFFEE & DONUTS** – first Sunday of each month after the 8:00am Mass in the Church Hall. Join us!

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** – Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading/ reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow.

**ST. MONICA’S LEISURE GROUP** - St. Monica's Leisure Group meets in the Church Hall at 12:00 noon on the first Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted. Dues are \$10.00 a year. Listed below is a schedule of meetings for 2017. Please call Grace Casalino at 973-702-8569 if you would like further information.

- April 5 - Pizza Party; May 3 - Pot Luck. (Team 1)
- June 7 - Pot Luck (Team 2)
- July 12 - (2nd Wed.) Indoor Picnic
- August 2 - Remember When
- September 6 - Labor Day Pizza
- October 4 – Oktoberfest; November 1 - Halloween Party
- December 7 (Thursday) - Christmas Party at Lamp Post Rest.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SESSION** – Thursday, April 20h at 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room. Call Carol at 862-266-6626 to RSVP.

**BOOK DISCUSSION** – Tues. April 27th – 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room. We will finish the book Jesus, A Pilgrimage. Please call Carol at 862-266-6626 to RSVP.

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**NEW!!!! ART & ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

The Liturgical seasons have a special place in our faith journey. If you would like to learn more about why we use the liturgical colors we do, how to create a fitting liturgical space, and possibly be a part of this special parish ministry, a meeting will be held after Easter. Call Carol at 862-266-6626 if interested.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**PHASE II CANDIDATES** – your Confirmation forms are due. These forms are extremely necessary for us to complete the paperwork for Confirmation. Some of you have forwarded your documents but there are still many outstanding. Please get them completed and return to Mrs. Vernacchio ASAP. Forms that were missing were forwarded to you a few weeks ago. The Confirmation Fee of \$75.00 is also due at this time.

**PHASE II CANDIDATES** – Please remember that a Day of Reflection is scheduled for Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm and your presence is required. It will be followed by Reconciliation and the 5pm Mass at which the Rite of the Candidate will be celebrated. We hope your sponsor can attend with you; if not, a parent can fill in. More information will follow.

**SERVICE PROJECTS** – there are several service projects that are coming up; the Ice Cream Social at Bristol Glen with the residents, Spring Road Side Clean Up, Palm Sunday Helpers to Distribute Palms and the Pasta Dinner. Please check the bulletin board in the church hall for the sign up sheets. Your assistance and help with these events is appreciated.

### **CALENDAR:**

**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** - YM Class – beginning with the 5pm Mass, followed by a light dinner then class  
Phase I – Theme: “Relationships”  
Phase II – Theme: “Holiness is Possible”

**Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** - Ice Cream Social at Bristol Glen w/residents - Time: 1:30pm to 3pm

**Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** - Spring Road Side Clean Up

**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Phase II Candidates – Day of Reflection/Recon

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

His Word Today by Rev. William J. Reilly

*“There was a time when you were in darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Well, then, live as children of light. Light produces every kind of goodness, and justice and truth.... Then he told him, ‘Go wash in the pool of Siloam.’ (This name means ‘One who has been sent.’)”*

With the coming of spring, days become longer and darkness fades. St. Paul tells his readers that they are children of the light. Jesus told us we are the light of the world. We recognize our role through our good works, our efforts to make a just society, and walking with Jesus who is the way, truth and life. How common it is for us to look for a place to charge our telephones, renew the power in our ipad, or charge our battery. Sadly people fight to plug their charger and renew their telephone, computer or game. Lent is to produce the same effect. The light can become stronger as we strive for goodness, justice and truth. Lent is meant to restore power, or grace, fully. Lent is our opportunity to be and remain connected. We are to be charged by the Lord and radiate His presence.

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### **FAMILY PROMISE**

Thank you to the following people for providing support at the Presbyterian Church the week of March 1 to two single women and a single mother with 5 children ages 2-12,: Denise Wilson, Barbara Yetter, Donna Ferguson, Sharon Misyak and family, Maria & Chris nasca, Roberta Bootsma, Mary Eileen Schoen, Bernhard Oesen and Ed Stefankiewicz. Again, thank you for your volunteer hours and ongoing support to make hosting Family Promise a success. ---Carol Oesen.

### **EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES**

now available on the tables at the Church and Hall exits. If you wish to have a loved one remembered at all of the Easter Masses with a flower placed on the altar, fill out the information on the envelope and return it to the box near the pulpit by no later than Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. A list of names will be prepared and placed on the altar and a copy of all names will be printed and inserted into the bulletin. The suggested donation is \$10 per plant.

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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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**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. Mail completed form to the Rectory.

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

### **CALENDAR FOR 2017**

#### **FIRST AND SECOND GRADE**

**DATE**      **SESSION/GRADE(S)**

4/2            13<sup>th</sup> session

4/23          14<sup>th</sup> session

#### **THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE**

**DATE**      **SESSION/GRADE(S)**

4/2            13<sup>th</sup> session

4/23          14<sup>th</sup> session

#### **FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE**

**DATE**      **SESSION/GRADE(S)**

3/25          12<sup>th</sup> session

4/8            13<sup>th</sup> session

4/29          14<sup>th</sup> 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

### **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](http://www.stmonicasussex.org)**

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

**Deadline for bulletin submissions: Tuesday of each week for information to be printed on the following Sunday. Email to [stmonica@ptd.net](mailto:stmonica@ptd.net)**

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

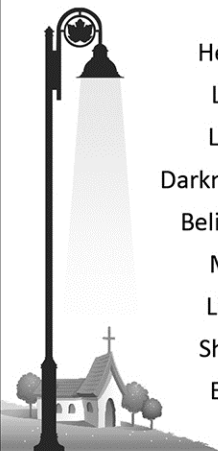
**Fourth Sunday of Lent | John 9:1-41** A man, born blind, was healed by Jesus. The blind beggar's eyes were opened to our world but also, more importantly to Jesus - the Light of the World. When the townspeople did not believe Jesus healed the blind man, Jesus asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" *John 9:35* The man replied, "I do **believe**, Lord", and he worshiped Him. *John 9:39*

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# Believe... Jesus is the light of the world

He shines the light of His love on us so we don't live in darkness or sin.

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH** Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.



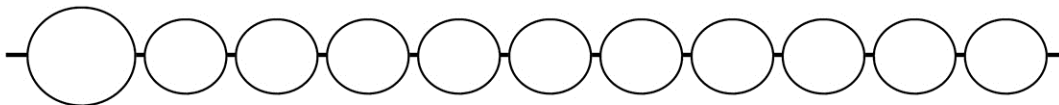
- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Life     | Importantly |
| Heart    | Jesus       |
| Lent     | Born        |
| Love     | Worshiped   |
| Darkness | World       |
| Believe  | People      |
| Man      | Town        |
| Light    | Healed      |
| Shine    | Blind       |
| Eyes     | Lord        |

J E S U S H E A R T B E S  
 B D H E B E E L P H O L S  
 E V O L O L Y S R G R W E  
 L R A W P L M E B I N O N  
 I M P O R T A N T L Y E K  
 E S E R L M N I D E I P R  
 V P S L Y O U H E F L N A  
 E E R D W O R S H I P E D  
 T R H E A L E D L L E N T

### The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery - The Carrying of the Cross

Think about how Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry the cross.

The blind man is no longer living in the dark - he has new eyesight and in his heart a new life in Jesus, he says, "I do \_\_\_\_\_, Lord".



Some people call struggles or difficult life situations a "cross to bear". Believe that Jesus, the Light of the World, will help you like he helped & healed the blind man. How can you be like Jesus & help others?

**This week:** Say an Our Father and color the large bead - say 10 Hail Mary's and color each small bead. End with Glory Be to the Father.

**Journey to the Foot of the Cross:  
Bishop Ricken Offers 10 Things to Remember For Lent**

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, former chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offers “10 Things to Remember for Lent”:

1. **Remember the formula.** The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.
2. **It’s a time of prayer.** Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.
3. **It’s a time to fast.** With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that’s why it gets all the attention. “What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?” It’s almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.
4. **It’s a time to work on discipline.** The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. “I’m going to exercise more. I’m going to pray more. I’m going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers.”
5. **It’s about dying to yourself.** The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it’s about more than self-control – it’s about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.
6. **Don’t do too much.** It’s tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it’s best to keep it simple and focused. There’s a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don’t try to cram it all in one Lent. That’s a recipe for failure.
7. **Lent reminds us of our weakness.** Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we’re all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God’s help with renewed urgency and sincerity.
8. **Be patient with yourself.** When we’re confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. “What a bad person I am!” But that’s the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.
9. **Reach out in charity.** As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It’s about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it’s about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God’s unconditional love.
10. **Learn to love like Christ.** Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

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**Upcoming events at St. Paul Inside the Wall Madison, NJ**

----**2017 Women's Conference - Feminine, Faithful, Fearless.** Registration and information is available at [www.insidethewalls.org](http://www.insidethewalls.org). **Madison, Saturday, April 1, 2017**

---- **2017 Diocesan Catechetical Conference - Keynote speaker: Chris Stefanick**

Registration and information is available at [www.insidethewalls.org](http://www.insidethewalls.org). - **Madison, Saturday, April 22 from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Check out all upcoming events at [www.insidethewalls.org](http://www.insidethewalls.org)

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