

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Stewardship Report – Treasure

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Budgeted Amount: \$5,000.00

Sunday Collection – 3/26/17: \$2,854.00

Parish Pay – 3/26/17: (not reported yet)

Total – Sunday Collection – 3/26/17:

Parish Pay ---is a convenient way for you to set up your weekly contributions - online – visit ParishPay.com

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%

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In memory of: John Skehan

Given by: Carol Bezak

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

4/3	MON:	9:00a	Mike Carty
4/4	TUES:	9:00a	People of the parish
4/5	WED:	9:00a	No Mass today
4/6	THU:	9:00a	Kathy Shaw (LIV)
4/7	FRI:	9:00a	Special Intention (LIV)

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

4/8	SAT:	5:00p	Salvatore Romano
4/9	SUN:	8:00a	Dorothy Sweeney Kathy Shaw (LIV) Edward J. Mitchell Jr.
		10:00a	Raymond Cullen Sonia Frankowski Christine VanDerVelden Charles Jacobs
		11:45a	Edward Losiewicz Anthony & Louise Raviele

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 Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Monday Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
First Friday Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

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.stmonicassex.org
Email: 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

April 2, 2017

Confessions

Monday, April 3rd - 7:00 –8:30pm
Saturday, April 8th – 4:00pm-4:50pm Confessions

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

The parish Penance Service will be held on Thursday, April 6th at 7:00pm. Three priests will be available for confessions. Plan to join us!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, April 7th–9:00am & 7:30pm

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 of 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.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

The next Baptismal Preparation class for parents anticipating the Baptism of their child here at St. Monica's will be held on Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Please call the Rectory and leave your name and phone # if you are interested in attending.

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

BOOK DISCUSSION – Tues. April 25th – 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room. We will finish the book Jesus, A Pilgrimage. Please call Carol at 862-266-6626 to RSVP.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES are 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 9th. 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Grades 1-8

CALENDAR FOR 2017

FIRST AND SECOND GRADE

DATE **SESSION/GRADE(S)**

4/2 13th session

4/23 14th session

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE

DATE **SESSION/GRADE(S)**

4/2 13th session

4/23 14th session

FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE

DATE **SESSION/GRADE(S)**

4/8 13th session

4/29 14th 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

SPRING CANTATA – There will be a “rehearsal” program at the Sussex Methodist Church on Sat., Eve, 7pm, April 8th.

The Ecumenical Choir will present the Cantata again on Sunday Eve, April 9th at 7pm. Sussex Christian Reformed Church. All are welcome!

NEW PARISHIONERS – WELCOME!!

Have you been attending our parish, 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

His Word Today by Rev. William J. Reilly

“O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel... I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land, that you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised and I will do it says the Lord.”

We are drawing closer to the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, recalling the passion, the dying and resurrection of Christ. The prophet Ezekiel and the raising of Lazarus, allow us to focus more clearly on the promise made to us of Jesus giving us His spirit and foretelling our final destiny and life with Him.

As I find comfort in the promise, may I also realize that I have to open my heart to receive what the Lord offers. His spirit is not forced upon me, but is given to those who earnestly ask for it. Like a gift that is given, I must reach out to accept it. A small child opens arms wide to be picked up and held. May I become like that child, reaching out for the Lord, as I continue my Lenten walk. His spirit is given that I may live, and I wish to live that life in abundance.

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 22nd 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 8th - Ice Cream Social at Bristol Glen w/residents - Time: 1:30pm to 3pm

Saturday, April 15th - Spring Road Side Clean Up

Saturday, April 22nd - Phase II Candidates – Day of Reflection/Recon Time: 1pm concluding with the Rite of the Candidate at the 5pm Mass Dinner will follow for Candidates and Sponsors/parents

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

This reading is a loving promise that the Lord will put His spirit into his people and will let them live.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Paul reminds the Romans that they are not people of the flesh but people of the Spirit because the Spirit of God dwells in them.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

In great detail, John tells the story of the raising of Lazarus to life. Upon learning of the death of Lazarus, his dear friend, Jesus goes to comfort Martha and Mary. After proclaiming, “I am the Resurrection and the Life,” Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and restores him to life.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOW AND PLAN

TO ATTEND

ST. MONICA’S ANNUAL

PASTA DINNER

MONDAY, APRIL 24TH

5:00 - 8:00pm

HIGH POINT REGIONAL

HIGH SCHOOL

Further details to follow next week!!!



PARISH PENANCE SERVICE, PALM SUNDAY & HOLY WEEK

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Thursday, April 6th – 7:00pm – Parish Penitential Service

The Church looks upon the Sacrament of Penance as a preparation for the celebration of the Triduum. Receiving this Sacrament will enable you to participate in these holiest days of the year with a renewed heart.



PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

The commemoration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem is celebrated at every Liturgy with a procession, blessing and distribution of palm, the reading of the Passion Narrative and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Sat., - April 8th – 5:00pm – (No Confessions at 4:30pm)

Sun., - April 9th – 8:00am, 10:00am (CHOIR) & 11:45am

THE TRIDUUM

This is the ancient Latin title for the three days in which our redemption was completed. They begin with sunset on Thursday and end with sunset on Sunday. We might call them "The Three Great Days", recognizing that they encompass one complex event rather than a number of separate ones, a fact which is structured into the services, in that from Holy Thursday evening no service has a Dismissal until Easter. Thus, what we are doing is celebrating an extended liturgy from Thursday evening until Sunday. So, in the three Great Days we have one liturgical event celebrating and remembering the one event of the Lord's Passover which brought about our salvation. Each of the primary liturgies is one of the acts of the drama. The Liturgical Services of Holy Week are among the very best things we do in the Church.

HOLY THURSDAY

April 13th – 7:30pm – MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(No morning Mass today)

- 1) Commemorating the Institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood
- 2) Ceremony of the Washing of the Feet
- 3) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Repository

Altar, up to 11:00pm. "Could you not watch with me one hour?" Plan to spend time in prayer in the church.

COLLECTION – FOR THE POOR

(PLEASE do not park in the Presbyterian Church parking lot)

GOOD FRIDAY

(No morning Mass today)

April 14th - (Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence)

3:00pm – SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION AND DEATH

Proclamation of the Passion Narrative

Veneration of the Cross

Communion

COLLECTION – SUPPORT OF SHRINES AND CHRISTIANS LIVING IN THE HOLY LAND

7:30pm – Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY

(No morning Mass today)

April 15th

12:00 noon – BLESSING OF EASTER FOODS

EASTER VIGIL

8:15pm – SOLEMN VIGIL AND FESTIVAL MASS OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

St. Monica's Choir

EASTER SUNDAY

April 16th – 8:00am, 10:00am (CHOIR) and 11:45am



< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

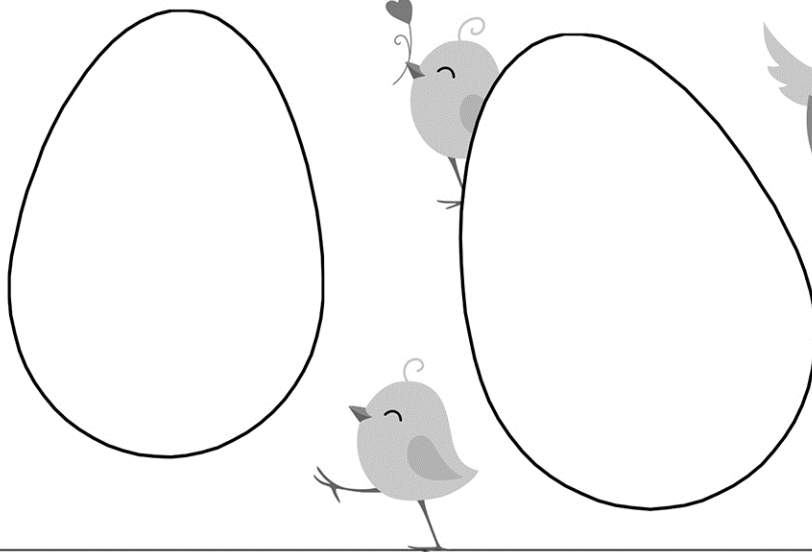
Fifth Sunday of Lent | John 11:1-45

Jesus went to the home of Martha and Mary four days after their brother Lazarus was buried. They were all very sad and crying. Jesus went to the tomb and called in a loud voice, "Lazarus come out!" When Lazarus came out of the tomb many people saw and **believed**.

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Believe... in new life

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life... whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Yes Lord, she told Him, "I believe." *John 11:20-27*



These Easter eggs represent new life... color the eggs as a reminder - Easter is almost here.

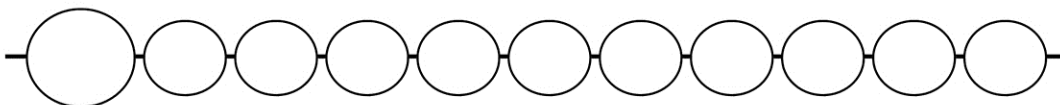


The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery - The Crucifixion and Death of our Lord

Think about how today we see Lazarus come back to earthly life and we know that following the sadness of the death of Jesus, He will rise and bring us new life - eternal life.



Lent is almost over - are you prepared?



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.