

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**  
**Stewardship Report – Treasury**  
**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN**  
**ORDINARY TIME**  
**NOVEMBER 5, 2017**

**Budgeted Amount:** \$5,000.00  
**Sunday Collection – 10/29/17** \$3,148.00  
**Sunday Collection – Parish pay – (not reported yet)**

**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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**The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:**  
**In Memory of: Joseph Del Monico**  
**Given by: Mary Del Monico**

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

11/6 **MON:** 9:00a People of the Parish  
11/7 **TUES:** 9:00a Kathy and Greg Shaw (LIV)  
11/8 **WED:** 9:00a No Mass Today  
11/9 **THU:** 9:00a People of the Parish  
11/10 **FRI:** 9:00a Betty Westdyke  
11/11 **SAT:** 5:00p People of the Parish  
11/12 **SUN:** 8:00a Dorothy Sweeney  
Jack Hingel  
10:00a G. Giovanni Gallara  
Eleanor and John Murray  
11:45a Greg and Sonia Frankowski

**2017 Bishop’s Annual Appeal – In Giving, We Receive**

It is important that when you give to any charitable organization, you are confident that the funds are used wisely. Be assured that your gift to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal supports four causes: our Catholic Charities agencies, seminarian education, our inner-city area elementary schools and our priests’ retirement residence. In addition, 50% of all funds received over a parish’s goal is returned to the parish directly for its own needs. Please know that the Appeal funds are used for no other purpose and serve only those who live in Morris, Passaic and Sussex counties. Please make a pledge to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal today. For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at [www.2017appeal.org](http://www.2017appeal.org). Thank you!

**READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Sunday** - Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10; 1 Thes 2:7b-9,13; Mt 23:1-12  
**Monday** - Rom 11:29-36; Lk 14:12-14  
**Tuesday** - Rom 12:5-16b; Lk 14:15-24  
**Wednesday** - Rom 13:8-10; Lk 14:25-33  
**Thursday** - Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22  
**Friday** - Rom 15:14-21; Lk 16:1-8  
**Saturday** - Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Lk 16:9-15

**WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS**

**COFFEE & DONUTS** – are served after 8:00 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of each month in the Church Hall. All are invited to join us.  
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**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** –Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading/ reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow.  
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**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.

December 7 (Thursday) - Christmas Party at Lamp Post Rest.

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**TRICKY TRAY** - The business letters have been mailed to those who have helped with our tricky tray in the past. Please stop by the table in the Church Hall and pick up a follow-up index card which will have the names of the businesses on them. It is very important that each business gets signed off in the space provided on the Business Contact List on the table. If you are able to visit any business that is not listed, please take one of the blank extra letters and sign for it on the blank list. A box is also available in the Church Hall for small, individual items to be donated. **Next Tricky Tray meeting is Sunday, November 5 at 12:00 noon in the Meeting Room.**

- The Tricky Tray Committee

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**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room. All are invited.

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**Helping Hands** meets the second Tuesday of every month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m.

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**SPECIAL DEVOTIONS AT ST. MONICA’S**

**Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal** – every Tuesday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

**Chaplet of the Divine Mercy** - Every Friday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** – First Friday of the month after the 9:00 A.M. Mass until 10:00 A.M.

**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)**



**ST. MONICA’S TRICKY TRAY IS NOVEMBER 10TH**

We will begin collecting trays on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> until Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. If you are unable to donate a full tray, single-item donations go a long, long way. By collecting individual items, the Tricky Tray Committee is able to make up wonderful, full trays. There is a box under the table in the Church Hall where individual items can be placed at any time before November 10<sup>th</sup>.

We are also in need of volunteers to help transport the trays from the Church Hall to Wallkill Valley High School on Friday November 10th at 2:00 p.m. Please indicate on the yellow volunteer form located on the table in the Church Hall as to how you would like to help out, and place it in the basket on the table. This is an important fundraiser for St. Monica’s and we need all the help we can get. THANK YOU!!

**Tricky Tray 50/50 raffle tickets are being sold after each Mass in the Church Hall.**

**NEEDED FOR SENIORS:** Older ladies’ casual wear, winter jacket, size large. Older man’s winter jacket, size XL. Clean and gently used, please. These items can be left in the Church Hall. Mark “for Joan.” Thank you!!

**MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**



Helping Hands is hosting a Fiesta to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 p.m. We are in need of children to volunteer to sing at the Fiesta. Please contact the rectory or call Anne Chirico at 862-268-0875. We need your voices!!

Our Music Minister and Choir Director, Judy Consentino, would like to get a group of people together for a Christmas Eve choir. Rehearsals will be on the four Thursdays after Thanksgiving from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Please call or text Judy at 908-294-0571 if you are interested. Come and sing of the joy of Christmas to your fellow parishioners. What a great way to celebrate Christmas Eve!

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**First Reading: Malachi 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10**

This passage from Malachi denounces the laxity and unfaithfulness of the people and especially of the priests, who failed in their duties to God and their neighbors.

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13**

Paul reminisces about his extremely happy and successful visit with the Thessalonians. He praises them once again for their immediate and open acceptance of his message as truly the word of God.

**Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12**

In a strongly worded message, Jesus again rebukes the Pharisees for the hypocritical ostentation and love of honor and position. He reminds the people and the disciples that the truly greatest one is the one who serves others. He ends with the words, “Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, but whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.”

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly  
**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**“We were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children. With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us... And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the Word of God hearing from us, you received it not as a human word but, as it truly is, the Word of God which is now at work in you who believe.”**

Imagine the great persecutor, whipped, chained, jailed and shipwrecked, comparing himself to a nursing mother. The rough edges seemed worn down, and his love and affection burst forth. Paul was gentle, but also stern.

The great saints, and our recent popes, have exhibited these same characteristics and virtues. Look at the World Youth travels of Saint John Paul II. Remember the sound teaching and leadership of Pope Benedict. Look at the humble presence of Pope Francis.

We are asked by all of them to take not only God’s Word but also their example, for that same Spirit is at work in each one of us. When we are ready to criticize what is going on, remember that God’s Spirit is truly at work, especially when we find the teaching challenging and difficult.

Surely the popes we have cited along with Saint John 23<sup>rd</sup> were gentle in guiding the church through tumultuous times. We give thanks to God for giving us them.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:**

**MASS ATTENDANCE** – It is a very important and an integral part of your son/daughter’s faith journey as they prepare for the reception of Confirmation. We ask that you make every effort to attend each week.

### **CALENDAR:**

Sunday	Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Phase II Candidates Distribution of the Our Father – 10am Mass Your attendance is required.
Saturday	Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	YM Class – beginning with the 5pm Mass, followed by a light dinner, then class Phase I & II – Theme: “The Holy Spirit” With a short talk on choosing a sponsor
Sunday	Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Make-up class – 6:30 to 8:30 – no dinner

### **GRADES 7 & 8 CALENDAR:**

Saturday	Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rel. Ed. Class – beginning with the 5pm Mass Followed by a light dinner then class 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Theme: “ The Jesus Question”
Sunday	Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Make-up class – 6:30 to 8:30 – no dinner

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

#### **Grade 1 and 2**

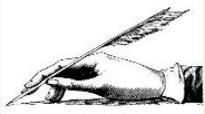
Sunday	Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Class – 9:30am to 11:30am
Sunday	Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Class – 9:30am to 11:30am

#### **Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6:**

Saturday	Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Class – 9am to 11am
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**LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN** – This is celebrated every Sunday at the 10am Mass. We encourage all families with children in Grades 1 to 4 to have your son/daughter participate in this as part of their faith formation. If anyone is interested in helping to teach our children in this important ministry, please call the rectory.



... FROM THE DESK OF FR. JAN

## Veterans Day

Ninety-nine years ago on November 11, 1918, on the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month,” a cessation of hostilities was signed between the Allies of the Western front and Germany, thus ending World War One. The War at the time, was known as the “War to end All Wars” because it was one of the deadliest conflicts in history... it was so bad that the citizens of the world said at the time that war was such an atrocity that it could not ever be allowed to happen again.

Perhaps coincidentally, November 11 is also the day we celebrate the Feast of Martin of Tours. Born in the early 300's, his father was a Roman Soldier and he was named after Mars, the God of War. He eventually became a soldier as well, but then early in life he had a conversation experience in which he maintains that he encountered Christ in the appearance of a beggar. Soon after this experience, he determined that his faith prohibited him from fighting, saying, “I am a soldier of Christ. I cannot fight.”

One of the reasons we remember Martin of Tours is because his life represents a transition from a condition of war, to a condition of peace. And after World War One ended, President Woodrow Wilson established November 11 as a national holiday to honor a day in which a similar transition from a condition of war to a condition of peace was made: Armistice Day. The day in America would eventually become known, of course, as Veterans Day in order to honor and thank all of those who have served our country in the armed forces, in order to honor all of those who put themselves in harm's way to preserve our safety and our freedom.

The freedom and the safety we have received from these men and women as well as their families, is a tremendous gift for our nation and for all people around the world. So we should commemorate and celebrate those people who have sacrificed so much for us. But in doing so, we might want to ask God for guidance on what ways we can ourselves—both as individual people and as a collective nation—move from a condition of war and conflict to a condition of peace. As Martin of Tours has shown us, there could be few better ways to use the gifts of freedom and safety we have received than to work for that transition from war to peace... both as Christians and as citizens of the world.



**THANK YOU, VETERANS**