

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

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

**Sunday Collection – 2/11/18** \$2,981.00

**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN** – There is still time to donate to the campaign if you would like. Just complete and return the form, which is located at the church and hall exits, at your earliest convenience. We are very grateful to all who have already sent in their pledges and we sincerely thank you.

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The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:  
**In Memory of:** Rudy and Virginia Ephrussi  
**Given by:** Emmy Dudzinski

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

2/19 MON: 9:00a People of the Parish  
2/20 TUES: 9:00a Dorothy Gawenus  
2/21 WED: 9:00a No Mass Today  
2/22 THU: 9:00a People of the Parish  
2/23 FRI: 9:00a Rudy and Virginia Ephrussi  
2/24 SAT: 5:00p Rosario and Jack Barcelona  
Rachid Ghachem  
George Broyles  
Charlie Stipo  
2/25 SUN: 8:00a Nabeeha Constant  
Dorothy Gawenus  
10:00a Francesco B. DiMaria  
Santo DiFulco  
Curtis Rohel  
11:45a People of the Parish

**LENTEN SCHEDULE**

**Mondays of Lent** - Beginning February 19, confessions will be heard from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

**Fridays of Lent** - Stations of the Cross will be held after 9:00am Mass and at 7:30pm.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19, in observance of Presidents' Day.

**Prices for Mass Cards:** Large - \$15.00  
Small - \$10.00

**Sanctuary Lamp:** \$10.00

Please stop by the Rectory Office between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to purchase a Mass card or Sanctuary Lamp for a loved one.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2018**

**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** - There will be no meetings of St. Monica's Leisure Group during the months of January and February. Meetings will resume beginning Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 12:00 noon in the Church Hall.  
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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.  
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**Helping Hands** meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome!  
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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.

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**BIBLE STUDY** – Do you understand the meaning behind the parts of the mass? In his video-based study, *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. In this study, you will come to know and understand the Mass as never before, leading you to a richer, more fruitful worship experience. Join us here at St. Monica's for five sessions of *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* on Feb.27, March 6, April 3, 17, and 24. Afternoon sessions are 1:00 - 2:30pm, evening sessions are 7:30 – 9:00pm. For more information or to register for the study, call Terry Westdyke at 845-258-8051 or email: [mtw195@embarqmail.com](mailto:mtw195@embarqmail.com)

**Fish & Chips Dinner**

St. Monica's will have a Fish and Chips dinner in the church hall on Thursday, March 8, from 5:30-7:30 pm, prepared by Tastefully British. Members of Helping Hands will be taking reservations and payments after all masses the weekends of Feb. 18, 25, and March 4. Adults \$15 Children \$10 Take-out is available.

**St. Patrick/St. Joseph Dinner** – Sunday, March 18, at 4pm in the church hall. More details to follow.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

**Grades 1 & 2 –**

Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 11      Class - 9:30 to 11:30

**Grades 4,5,6 –**

Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>      Class – 9am to 11am

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:**

**MASS ATTENDANCE** –We sincerely hope that each and every one of you is living up to your commitment of attending weekly Mass. This is an integral part of your faith journey as you prepare for the reception of Confirmation.

**SERVICE:**      Completion certificates should be handed in on a timely basis. These include whatever service you perform for school. For those who assisted with the Tricky Tray, I already have your name so there is no need to hand in a completion certificate. Remember you are required to perform 3 services for church and 3 for community.

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT** for both Phase I and Phase II students is scheduled for Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton from 10am to 4pm. Lunch will be served to the students. This is one of the requirements for the reception of Confirmation so attendance is necessary. If you cannot make this retreat, please contact Mrs. Vernacchio as soon as possible.

**GRADES 7, 8, AND YOUTH MINISTRY:**

Saturday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>      Confirmation Retreat for Phase I and Phase II students at the Sacred Heart Center  
10am to 4pm

Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>      Phase I Candidates – Dist. of the Creed – 5pm Mass  
Classes for all, following a light dinner  
Theme: The Last Supper Activity – “Holy Week” and the Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>      Visit to Dept. of Persons with Disabilities in Jefferson  
Leaving at 11am and returning by 2pm

**FAMILY PROMISE**

Volunteers are needed for Family Promise, which serves homeless families. They will be staying at the Presbyterian Church the week of Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. We are responsible for Wed., Feb. 28, Thurs., March 1, and Mon., March 5. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the church hall. Thank you for your continued support.      –Carol Oeson

**NEW CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED FOR LENT AND EASTER**

We have a core group of singers who would support any new or timid people. Rehearsals will be on five specific Thursdays at 7:15pm: Feb. 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22 in the church. We would be learning music to sing at some of the Sundays during Lent at the 10:00am Mass. If you are interested, please see Judy Consentino, our choir director.

Save the date for “**An Evening with Sisters**” – Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8:30pm at Morris Catholic High School (200 Morris Avenue, Denville). This event is open to high school and college-aged women to enjoy an evening of conversation, prayer, food, and fun! To RSVP and for more details, email Sister Bernadette McCauley on or before February 20<sup>th</sup>: [sbernadette@scceast.org](mailto:sbernadette@scceast.org)

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### **First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15**

God made a promise to Noah that he would never again devastate the entire planet with a flood. He also told Noah that the symbol of this promise would be a rainbow in the clouds.

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

This letter from Peter reminds all people that Christ died for us so that we might be led to God. We have been saved by our baptism; not a physical cleansing, but a promise to continually strive to obey God.

### **Gospel: Mark 1:12-15**

Mark briefly tells of Jesus' stay in the desert, where he was tested by Satan. He did not give in to temptation, but reappeared in Galilee to proclaim the good news.

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

**First Sunday of Lent**  
**February 18, 2018**

**“Beloved, Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit... This prefigured baptism, which saves you now.... ‘The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.’”**

Lent, often described as a journey, is the opportunity for all to come closer to the Lord. In a baptismal sermon Peter tells us that the suffering of Christ, which we recall during these days of prayer, has but one purpose to lead us to God. It is not what I do, but the work of the Lord, bringing me on my desert journey. The gospel tells us Jesus was led by the Spirit for His desert experience to announce that the kingdom is at hand.

God's word spoke of a special moment in time, a moment which speaks to me today. Lent is that special time for me to meet the Lord in a new and different way. Through the threefold steps of prayer, sacrifice and good works, the kingdom becomes more present for me.

My journey began on Wednesday. Be honest, where is the Spirit leading you?

### **A Retreat for Widows - April 27-29**

Marianist Family Retreat Center  
Cape May Point, NJ 08212  
609-884-3829

Join with other widows as we look at our own individual stories for courage and wisdom. We hope to discover how in the sharing of our stories we continue to find strength and hope. There will be time for sharing in small groups, Eucharist, and other appropriate liturgies. Beach walks, socials, and fun are also included!

**Cost:** \$135pp, double occ.

**Visit:** [www.capemaymarianists.org](http://www.capemaymarianists.org) – you can sign up online or call us to register.

### **READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

#### **First Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday** - Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

**Monday** - Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday** - Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday** - Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday** - 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

**Friday** - Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday** - Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

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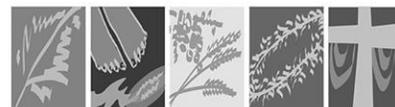
## Gospel Today First Sunday of Lent | Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit sent Jesus to the desert for 40 days where He prayed and fasted and angels took care of Him.

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### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Like Jesus, we too will spend 40 days praying and fasting.



## Give us New Life, O Lord.

My plan for Lent, one week at a time...

This week I will pray for \_\_\_\_\_

This week I will give up/do without \_\_\_\_\_

This week I will do this act of love/good deed \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sundays optional)*

## LET'S MAKE PRETZELS

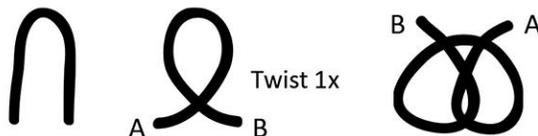
### INGREDIENTS

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 4 cups flour
- Kosher salt
- Water to hold salt on

Latin - Bracellae "Little arms", the original Lenten bread dating back to the 4th century.

Place yeast, salt, sugar & warm water in a large bowl and let stand. Add flour, mix well and knead to form smooth ball.

Divide into 12 pieces and roll each into a "rope" about 10-12 inches long. Form into a pretzel and place on baking sheet, brush with water and sprinkle with kosher salt. Let rise slightly and bake at 425° about 12-15 minutes.



Flip ends over to resemble arms crossed over chest - praying little arms