

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Stewardship Report – Treasure
WEEKLY COLLECTION

<u>Budgeted Amount:</u>	\$5,000.00
<u>Online Giving Sunday Collection: - 3/25/18</u>	\$ 556.00
<u>Online Giving (Maintenance) – 3/25/18</u>	\$ 25.00
<u>Holy Thursday Collection – 3/29/18</u>	\$ 418.00
<u>Good Friday Collection for Holy Land – 3/30/18</u>	\$ 373.00
<u>Easter Collection – 4/1/18</u>	\$6,577.00
<u>Maintenance Collection – 4/1/18</u>	\$1,859.00

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:
In Memory of: Deceased Loved Ones
Given by: The People of the Parish

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

4/9	MON:	9:00a	People of the Parish
4/10	TUES:	9:00a	People of the Parish
4/11	WED:	9:00a	No Mass Today
4/12	THU:	9:00a	People of the Parish
4/13	FRI:	9:00a	People of the Parish
4/14	SAT:	5:00p	Robert Dross Francesca Trela Patrick Dwyer Arthur Caufield
4/15	SUN:	8:00a	Robert Schneider Thomas Cheevers
		10:00a	Susan McGovern Peter Randall John & Eleanor Murray
		11:45a	People of the Parish

ST. MONICA'S CHURCH – Contact information
Phone: 973-875-4521 **Fax:** 973-875-7538
Parish Office Hours: 9:30am – 1:30pm Mon-Fri
Website: www.stmonicasussex.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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 8, 2018

Easter is the Church's holiest day of the year. After twenty centuries, we still boldly announce to the world:

Christ lives!

Liturgically, the "eight days" begin at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and continue through the Octave of Easter. Every day is another Easter, to rejoice in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Since 2000, the Church has designated the final day of the Octave, the Second Sunday of Easter, as the Sunday of Divine Mercy to celebrate the fact that Jesus still calls us to immerse ourselves in his mercy and love.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE & DONUTS –will be served after 8:00 a.m. Mass on April 8th in the Church Hall. All are invited to 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 – The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 4 at 12:00 noon** in the Church Hall. Annual dues are \$10.00. For more information, please call Grace or Mike Casalino at 973-702-8569.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room. **The next meeting is Monday, April 16.** We are currently reading *From the Cross to the Empty Tomb*, by Bishop Serratelli. The book is \$6 and may be picked up at the rectory.

Helping Hands meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Rectory Meeting Room at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome! **The next meeting is Tuesday, April 10.**

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 ANNUAL PASTA DINNER

is scheduled for Monday evening, April 30, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at High Point Regional High School.
Adults: \$9.00, Seniors: \$8.00 and Children under 12: \$6.00.

Take-out will also be available.

Please see the flyer located at the Church exits for more information.

Help is needed. If you are able to assist, please contact Mary at (973)-875-2110 after 6:00 pm.

Thank you!

RELIGIOUS ED AND YM NEWS

ATTENTION PHASE II STUDENTS – All Confirmation paperwork should be turned in now along with the \$75.00 fee if you haven't already done so. If you are in need of any of the papers required, please contact Mrs. Vernacchio ASAP. Thank you!

CALENDAR:

GRADES 7 & 8:

Saturday April 14th

Class beginning with the 5pm Mass and followed by a light dinner and class in the rectory meeting room
Theme: "The Jesus Question" and "The Prayer Process"

YOUTH MINISTRY:

Saturday April 14th

"Day of Reflection" for both Phase I & Phase II Students beginning at 1pm. Speaker will be Fr. Carl Arico. This will be followed by the 5pm Mass with the "Rite of the Candidate" for the Phase II students with their sponsors. A Pasta dinner will follow Mass in the church hall.

Saturday April 21st

Ice Cream Social at Bristol Glen w/residents
Time: 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Saturday April 28th

Class for YM students beginning with the 5pm Mass, light dinner, class
Phase I – Theme: "The Sacraments"
Phase II – Theme: "Gifts of the Holy Spirit"

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

GRADES 1 & 2:

Tuesday April 10th

Reconciliation – Grade 2

Sunday April 15th

Class – 9:30am to 11:30am

Saturday April 21st

Gr. 2 – "Jesus Day" at Camp Auxilium in Newton 1pm to 3:30pm

Directions to follow

Sunday April 22nd

LAST CLASS for Grades 1 & 2

GRADES 4, 5 & 6:

Saturday April 14th

Class – 9am to 11am

Saturday April 21st

LAST CLASS! – 9am to 11am

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

We have a few Altar Servers that will be graduating in June. Therefore, we are in need of candidates to replace them. If you have a child who is in the 5th grade or older, who would be interested in this important service to St. Monica's Church. Please call the rectory at 973-875-4521. Or e-mail us at stmonica@ptd.net. Thank you.

Mother and (Adult) Daughter Retreat

May 11-13

(Mother's Day Weekend)

Arianist Family Retreat Center

Cape May Point, NJ 08212

Knowing that your relationship is special, and the need to nurture it throughout the years, this is a wonderful opportunity to walk upon common ground while celebrating your differences.

Eucharist, small group sharing, prayer experiences, socials and fun are included – beach walks too!

Cost: \$135 per person

Sign up online at www.capemaymarianists.org or call 609-884-3829 for more information.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
April 8, 2018**

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

This passage describes the actions of the first community of Christians. They were of “one heart and one mind.” They had no rich or poor among them, for they shared all necessary items with one another.

Second Reading: I John 5:1-6

John explains that we become God’s children by believing in Jesus. When we love God and concern ourselves only with pleasing God, our faith is strong enough to conquer the evil in our world.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Jesus appeared to the disciples despite locked doors, breathed on them so that they could receive the Holy Spirit, and gave them the power to forgive sins in his name. Thomas, who was not present, refused to believe without seeing Jesus for himself. Jesus appeared again when Thomas was present, and told him, “Blest are they who have not seen and have believed.”

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

Monday

Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday

Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday

Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday

Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

Friday

Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday

Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21

SPIRITUAL READING

As mentioned in the Beacon newspaper, Bishop Serratelli has written a book, *From the Cross to the Empty Tomb*. The book is available for \$6 and may be purchased at the rectory.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

April 8, 2018

“In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey His commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith...Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’”

One day a sign outside a church read ‘God gave us commandments, they are not suggestions.’ As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, we are well aware of the Lord’s desire to give us His peace, to offer us His mercy. There are two requirements for this to happen, 1. We ask for His gift of peace and pardon and 2. We acknowledge our dependence upon the Lord to be so blessed.

The ten commandments of Exodus were the requirement of the covenant. The great commandment of Jesus, love of God and neighbor allows me to focus more clearly on what I need to do. In both cases I must act. The question ‘how well am I doing?’ is answered when I look at the beatitudes of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount to discover that I am poor in spirit, meek, humble, working for justice, being a peacebuilder. Yes, love the children of God and keep His commandments.



FROM THE DESK OF FR. JAN: The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion

The God's mercy is one of the greatest attributes of God. God in His Divine Love and Mercy does not want death for anyone but he wants us to live with Him forever in heaven. The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. God loves us — all of us. He wants us to recognize His mercy which is greater than our sins, to repent for our sins, to call upon Him with trust, and receive His mercy. Jesus also wants the Divine Mercy to flow through us to others, thus all will come to share His love and joy.

This message of The Divine Mercy and devotion was given by Jesus to Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of the revelations she received about God's mercy.

Among all of the elements of devotion to The Divine Mercy requested by our Lord through St. Faustina, the Feast of Mercy holds first place. Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when *"all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened"*. (Diary 699) Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, on the Sunday after Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus promised that *"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."*(Diary 699) About the feast day "Divine Mercy Sunday", Jesus said *"tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon the souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.... Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy"*. (Diary 699)

Veneration of the Image of The Divine Mercy, which Our Lord requested (especially on Divine Mercy Sunday) is another form of devotion. Pope John Paul II said that the image portrays the Risen Jesus Christ bringing Mercy to the whole world. Our Lord said *"I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish"*. (Diary 341, 48). Jesus said to St. Faustina *"I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You"*. (Diary 327) *"The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the cross. ...Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."* (Diary 299)

Divine mercy chaplet is another form of devotion. Jesus wants us – if it is possible - to pray this chaplet at 3 o'clock at the time when he was dying on the cross. This prayer has enormous power and it can bring us lots of graces. Jesus said to St. Faustina: *Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at hour of death....When they say this chaplet in presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the Judge but as Merciful Savior.... My mercy is infinite. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy....Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will."* (Diary 687)

The novena is another form of devotion and good way to prepare ourselves for the Solemnity of Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus wants us to start the novena on Good Friday and through the nine consecutive days to pray to Divine Mercy.

I want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this incredible promise and graces we can obtain through the devotion to Divine Mercy. Especially I encourage you to prepare yourself and participate in the "Divine Mercy Sunday" celebration and to fully benefit from these promises.