

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasure**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Budgeted Amount:	\$5,000.00
<b>Regular Collection – 3/6/16:</b>	\$3,601.00
<b>Parish Pav – 3/6/16:</b>	\$
<b>Total Regular Collection – 3/6/16:</b>	\$
<b>Second Collection – Fuel – 3/6/16:</b>	\$1,352.00
<b>Parish Pav – Fuel – 3/6/16:</b>	\$
<b>Total Fuel Collection – 3/6/16:</b>	\$

**ST. MONICA’S ANNUAL COLLECTION**

Parish Goal	\$50,000.00
Total # of Families	463
Total # Pledged	144
% of Participation	31.10%
Total Amount Pledged	\$44,170.00
<i>(Includes 3 matching grants pledged)</i>	
Total Amount Paid	\$40,570.50
<i>(Includes 2 matching grants pd. in full)</i>	

\*\*\*\*\*

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In memory of: Chester Mooney

Given by: Mary Del Monico

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

3/14	MON:	9:00a	Ernesto VeEntrella
3/15	TUES:	9:00a	People of the Parish
3/16	WED:	9:00a	No Mass today
3/17	THU:	9:00a	Thomas Burke
3/18	FRI:	9:00a	Stations of the Cross & Mass
3/19	SAT:	5:00p	John Battaglia
			Chester Mooney
			Joseph Kabatyr
			Elizabeth Ann Rude
3/20	SUN:	8:00a	Paul Ferguson
		10:00a	Vicky Martell
			Joseph P. Donohue, Sr.
			George Fluhr
		11:45a	Peter Horvath
			Marie Monzo
			Richard Szot

**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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday** Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11  
**Monday** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Jn 8:12-20  
**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  
**Friday** Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42  
**Saturday** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

March 13, 2016

**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. Please fill it out, mail it back to the Rectory (address on front of bulletin) or give it to Fr. Charles or an usher on Sunday.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**FOR CANCELLATION OF PARISH PROGRAMS/EVENTS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER, PLEASE VISIT**

<http://wsus102.3iheart.com> or tune in to WSUS102.3FM

all updates are posted on this website – as well as our parish

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday thru Friday, 9:30-1:30pm – please call prior to stopping in.

Keep our contact information handy!

Phone #: 973-875-4521 Fax #: 973-875-7538

Website: [www.stmonicasussex.org](http://www.stmonicasussex.org) Email: [stmonica@ptd.net](mailto:stmonica@ptd.net)

**PARISH MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS & COORDINATORS**

Altar Servers.....Fr. Charles  
 Baptismal Preparation.....Robert & Sharon Misyak, Terry Westdyke, Jeanne McBride  
 Bereavement Support.....Carol Bezak  
 Book Discussion.....Carol Bezak  
 Church Cleaning.....Peter & Ann Kazmierski Marie Fischer  
 FOCCUS Marriage Preparation .....Robert & Sharon Misyak  
 Family Promise.....Carol Oesen  
 Helping Hands.....Terry Westdyke  
 Leisure Group.....Grace Casalino  
 Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers.....Carol Bezak  
 RCIA .....Carol Bezak/Sr. Theresa Losiewicz  
 Scripture Reflection.....Carol Bezak  
 Sussex Help Center.....Joan Thomas  
 Ushers.....Fr. Charles  
 Website Administration.....Francisco Perez  
*Would you like to become involved in any of the above ministries or groups? Please call the Rectory – we need YOU!!!*

**TO RESERVE FOR 2016 MASS INTENTIONS & SANCTUARY LAMP DEVOTIONS CALL THE RECTORY 973-875-4521**

*Masses: \$5.00 each; Mass cards: small(\$5.00) & large(\$10.00) sizes. Sanctuary candle devotions - for a one-week period - \$5.00.*

website [www.stmonicasussex.org](http://www.stmonicasussex.org)

**EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES** are

available on the tables at the Church and hall exits. If you wish to have a loved one remembered during the Easter masses, fill out the envelope with their name and include your donation in the envelope. A collection box will be located near the pulpit – please put your envelope in this box. A special list will be prepared with all names of the deceased and included in the bulletin, as well as on the altar for prayers for all the Easter masses.

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

**Classes have moved quickly into our final weeks already!  
The remaining sessions will be held after Easter as follows:**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades** – Sundays, April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am in the Rectory Meeting Room

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grades** – “Jesus Day” – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade only (with parents) – Sacred Heart Center. This is a required session.

**First Holy Communion** – Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> – 10:00am Mass (Rehearsal is Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – exact time TBA)

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades** – Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11:15am in the Rectory Meeting Room.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade only** – Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – “Fourth Commandment Breakfast, 9:00am, Church Hall.

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades** – Saturdays, April 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm, Rectory Meeting Room.

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades** – Saturdays, April 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning with 5:00pm Mass followed by dinner & class.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

**PHASE I STUDENTS:** The Distribution of the Creed has been moved to Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the 5pm Mass. It is important that you are in attendance. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

**SERVICE PROJECTS:** We are in the process of compiling all service projects that each of you have completed for this year thus far and a status report is forthcoming in the next week. If there are any discrepancies in your report, please contact Mrs. Vernacchio. There are several important service projects coming up such as the St. Joseph/St. Patrick Dinner, visit to the Department of Persons with Disabilities, Palm Sunday Helpers and Spring Road Side clean up in April to name just a few. Please be sure to check the bulletin board in the church hall for the sign up sheet. Remember your requirements are to complete three service projects for church and three for community. Please remember to turn in your completion certificates. Thank you.

### **CALENDAR:**

**SATURDAY, March 19<sup>th</sup>** - Visit to Dept. of Persons w/Disabilities Leaving at 11am and returning by 2pm

**SATURDAY, April 9<sup>th</sup>** - YM Class – Phase I Candidates: Dist. Of Creed at the 5pm Mass class to follow after a light dinner Phase I- Theme: “Church” Phase II – Theme: “Your Christian Vocation”

**SATURDAY, April 16<sup>th</sup>** - Spring Road Side Clean Up time TBA

**SATURDAY, April 23<sup>RD</sup>** - Phase II Candidates – Day of Reflection/Recon. Time: 1pm concluding with the Rite of the Candidate at the 5pm Mass. Sponsors should attend if possible. This will be followed by a Pasta Dinner for the candidates and sponsors in the Church hall. More information will be forthcoming.

## **PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS**

### **~Lenten Spiritual/Social Opportunities~**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS & MASS** – every Friday at 9:00am

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – every Friday evening at 7:30pm

**RECONCILIATION** – “Welcome Home to Healing” - confessions every Monday evening , 7:00-8:30pm in Church through Lent.

\*\*\*\*\*

**COFFEE & DONUTS** - the first Sunday of each month at **9:00am** - or come before the 10:00am Mass in the Church Hall. Next date is April 3rd after the 8:00am Mass.

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** – Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. Weekly reading & reflection of the Sunday Scriptures – fellowship time & refreshments follow. Call Carol at 973-875-4521.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS** - Every Sunday morning at 9:15am sharp we practice for the 10:00am Mass. Call Judy at 908-294-0571.

**ST. MONICA’S LEISURE GROUP** - will be resuming its monthly meetings on March 2. Listed below are dates and themes for 2016. Each month we enjoy lunch, good company and delicious desserts made by our members. We meet at 12:00 noon in the church hall on the first Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. Dues are \$10 a year. New members are welcome. For further information please contact Grace Casalino at 973-702-8569.

April 6 - “In your Easter Bonnet”

May 4 - Pot Luck I; June 1 - Pot Luck II; July 6 - Independence Day Celebration; August 3 - “Be Cool” Summer Lunch; September 7 Labor Day Celebration; October 5 - Oktoberfest; November 2 - Halloween Party; December 8 (Thursday) - Christmas Party at the Lamp Post Rest.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**“HOPE: THE SPIRIT VENTURES FORTH” – 2016 Spirituality Convocation at the College of St. Elizabeth** in Morristown, NJ will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid will keynote “Spirituality and Struggle: Walking with Hope” and Fr. Anthony Ciorra will keynote “Swimming in Mercy and Surprised by Hope: - other workshops also included in the day. Registration is required – before March 31 - \$35; at the door - \$40. Checks should be made payable to Center for Ministry and Spirituality, Annunciation Center, 2 Convent Road, Morristown, NJ 07960. Call 973-290-4337 for further information.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*"I wish to know Christ and the power flowing from his resurrection; likewise to know how to share in his sufferings by being formed into the pattern of his death. Thus do I hope that I may arrive at resurrection from the dead. It is not that I have received it yet, or have already finished my course; but I am racing to grasp the prize if possible, since I have been grasped by Christ. Brothers I do not think of myself as having reached the finish line."*

What a great difference between knowing about someone and knowing that person. The first may include statistics and data, the second a relationship.

Lent has been our special moment to foster and strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ. He reaches out to me, grasps me by the hand, holds and sustains me. I can rest, I can resist, I can reject or I can accept with eagerness and joy. Paul accepted as he continued his journey, the race.

The forgiveness Jesus offered in the gospel, after tracing in the sand, is the gift I seek, as I continue my race, my journey to Easter. The gift of mercy is being offered to me. The nonjudgmental statement of Jesus, "let the man among you who has no sin be the first to cast a stone at her."

The Jesus I want to know is the forgiving Jesus, filled with tender mercy. He knows me, my needs, and I want to know Him.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Vocations Discernment for young men 15-25** "Quo Vadis – Where are you going?" Where is the Spirit acting in your life? Where is the Lord encouraging you to go? Quo Vadis Days is a time of recreation, fellowship, and prayer to help you explore the Lord's call in your life. Activities will include prayer, Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary, games, sports, talks, great food, and discussions. It is a time to share our faith and meet other young men seeking God's will. Quo Vadis Days will be held June 29- July 1 at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton, New Jersey. There is no cost. For more information and/or registration, contact the coordinators Fr. Jared Brogan and Fr. Edgar Rivera in the Vocations Office at (973) 777-8818, ext. #711. You can also email Frs. Brogan and Rivera at [jbrogan@patersondiocese.org](mailto:jbrogan@patersondiocese.org) or [fredgar@patersondiocese.org](mailto:fredgar@patersondiocese.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

**"Faustina – Messenger of Divine Mercy"** - The Immaculate Conception Legion of Mary, Franklin, is proud to announce that "Faustina! Messenger of Mercy" live theater will be coming to Sparta on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Pope John XXIII High School, 28 Andover Road, Sparta, NJ. This is a professional production. It is a one woman show which is a riveting performance. It weaves 2 modern day real life dramas into the messages of mercy that Jesus revealed to Sr. Faustina. The school has the capacity to hold 1,000 people in their auditorium! In order to bring as many youth as possible, 600 tickets (@ \$5.00 ea.) have been reserved for students (Middle, HS, or college) 300 seats are for adults (@ \$10). Visit [www.faustinasparta.eventbrite.com](http://www.faustinasparta.eventbrite.com) - for more information call 862-684-0984.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ST. FAUSTINA MAJOR RELICS** will be coming to The National Shrine of our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown, NY on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 2:30pm. Prayer service, special talk on St. Faustina Kowalska's life, followed by a Healing Mass at 7:00pm. All are invited. Call Carol Bezak, Shrine Director at 845-343-1879 Ext. 22 for details.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pizza Night with Bishop –** Thursday, March 17, 2016 – Pope John XXIII High School, Sparta at 7:00pm. If you are a young man in high school or college, or even older, come join Bishop Serratelli and priests from the Diocese of Paterson for adoration, reflection, fellowship and or course, pizza. For more information, please contact the Vocation Office at 973-777-8818, ext. 711.

\*\*\*\*\*



### **WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY? How about passing through a Holy Door?**

Passing through a Holy Door is part of the pilgrimage that all Catholics are encouraged to make, whether during a trip to Rome, or a trip to the cathedrals or specially designated churches in and around their own dioceses. These pilgrimages come with special graces, and they allow each of us to share in the many blessings of the Holy Year. Passing through the Holy Door symbolizes our leaving the world outside and entering into the realm of salvation. As Pope St. John Paul II said, the Holy Door "evokes the passage from sin to grace which every Christian is called to accomplish"

*"By crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us." Pope Francis (Misericordiae Vultu).*  
**(There are several Holy Doors in the surrounding area – St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC, Sacred Heart Basilica in Newark, The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown, NY)**

