

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

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
NOVEMBER 19, 2017

Budgeted Amount: \$5,000.00

Sunday Collection – 11/12/17 \$2,864.00

Parish Pay – 11/12/17 (not reported yet)

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

The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In Memory of: Sameer Michael

Given by: Peter and Awatef Constant

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

11/20 **MON:** 9:00a People of the Parish

11/21 **TUES:** 9:00a People of the Parish

11/22 **WED:** 9:00a No Mass Today

11/23 **THU:** 9:00a Eliseo Lettieri

Eusebia Dorado

11/24 **FRI:** 9:00a People of the Parish

11/25 **SAT:** 5:00p Jack Hingel

John & Hillary Battaglia

11/26 **SUN:** 8:00a George Sampar

10:00a Raymond Cullen

Catherine McGovern

Jack O'Brien

11:45a Stanley Losiewicz

Bea VanDyk

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal – In Giving, We Receive

This time of year, as our nation plans to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us reflect on how we use all of the gifts given to us by a loving God. Consider showing your thanks for all your blessings by making a gift to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. As we are reminded in this year's Appeal theme - *In Giving, We Receive* - your participation not only impacts the lives of tens of thousands of people in need, but it benefits you as well. Please make a pledge today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2017appeal.org.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SAVE THE DATE:

On December 9th, 2017, we will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the actual date of the creation of the Diocese (Dec. 9, 1937). You are invited to a special 9:30 a.m. Solemn Mass at the Cathedral with Bishop Serratelli, followed by a breakfast at the Brownstone, Paterson at 11:00 a.m. *All are invited to attend this communion breakfast!* Tickets are \$40 per person and are available online at www.rcdop.org/breakfast.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday - Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

Monday - 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday - 2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday - 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday - 1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44

Friday - 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday - 1 Mc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40

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.

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 if you would like further information.

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

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room. Next meeting is on November 20. All are invited.

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

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

The Parish office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 23.

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

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

St. Monica's Thanksgiving Day Mass will be held at 9:00am. Please come and first give thanks to God. Each year, freshly baked loaves of bread are blessed and distributed to each family in attendance.

ALL ARE WELCOME – Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Church Service will be held at the Beemerville Presbyterian Church, Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. We hope you can begin saying “thanks” by sharing our worship.



Helping Hands will be hosting their **Annual Fiesta de la Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe** on Sunday December 10th, 2017. There will be prayer, music, and a covered-dish dinner beginning at 3:00 p.m. Mexican, Spanish and American foods will be served. Please sign up on the form in the church hall. For Further information please contact Mary Eileen Schoen at 862-266-0573.



Last Sunday, Fr. Jan installed, left to right, Mai-Lani Castro, Morgan Castro, Galena Misyak and Ellanora Cabrara (not present), as our new altar servers. We wish them success in their new ministry. May God bless them.

DO YOU HAVE a gently used artificial Christmas tree, maybe 4 feet or just a bit more? If so, it can simply be left in the Church Hall. Thanks for making Christmas happier for a less fortunate family. God bless!

CONGRATULATIONS to Giuseppe and Josephine Ciaccio on their 50th wedding anniversary on October 23rd! They attended Bishop Serratelli's Silver and Gold Anniversary Mass on November 5th at the Cathedral in Paterson and received a personalized commemorative certificate. Please join us in wishing Joe and Josephine continued happiness and blessings.

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!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Many thanks to all who contributed to our annual Tricky Tray this year. Without your help, this could not have been accomplished. Special thanks to our young adults who also helped. We are still awaiting some expense receipts, but should realize a profit of approximately \$8,600.00. Our fifty/fifty winner was Irene Frankowski, who will receive a check for \$829.50.

THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, on this Thanksgiving Day, let us pause to express our gratitude for Your constant Love and care and for the many graces and blessings You have bestowed on us. We thank you for all the countless gifts that continually delight and surprise us, especially our family and friends. Loving God, today and every day help us to remember that Thanksgiving is: first thanks, and then giving. Amen.

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017, 7:30 p.m. Fr. Jude Salus, Chaplain of Newton Medical Center and Chaplain to the Filippini Sisters at Villa Walsh Motherhouse in Morristown, will be our guest here at St. Monica's Church Hall. He will give an Advent talk titled "Jesus's Prayer: "Be calm, be still, it's only me." Please be sure to join us for this inspiring and uplifting reflection.



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:

Saturday	Dec. 2 nd	YM Class – beginning with the 5pm Mass, followed by a light dinner, then class Phase I & II –
Sunday	Dec. 3 rd	Make up class – 6:30 to 8:30 – no dinner

GRADES 7 & 8 CALENDAR:

Saturday	Dec. 2 nd	Rel. Ed. Class – beginning with the 5pm Mass Followed by a light dinner then class 7 th & 8 th Gr.
Sunday	Dec. 3 rd	Make up class – 6:30 to 8:30 – no dinner

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION : Grade 1 and 2

Sunday	Dec. 3 rd	10am Mass – 2 nd graders on altar w/Fr. Jan
Sunday	Dec. 10 th	Class – 9:30am to 11:30am
Sunday	Dec. 16 th	“Christmas in Bethlehem” - More info to follow

Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6:

Saturday	Dec. 2 nd	Class – 9am to 11am
Saturday	Dec. 16 th	“Christmas in Bethlehem” for Grade 4 Class – Grade 5 & 6

WISHING ALL OF OUR FAMILIES A VERY BLESSED AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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.

LOOK! The “Giving Tree” is coming. For the masses Thanksgiving weekend, the “Giving Tree” will be in the Church Hall filled with tags for your taking. Because Christmas is falling on a Monday, our “giveaway” has to be Saturday, December 16. That means this year you have less shopping time. Gifts can be left in the hall from Sunday, December 10 thru Thursday, December 14. We really do need your beautifully wrapped gift (with your tag attached securely) for Friday, the 15th!! We hope you understand that gifts received late (on Saturday, the 16th) CANNOT be used this year and will just be held over. Thanks for your cooperation and please take a tag if you can – each represents a gift for a child of one of our needy families. Happy Christmas!!



... FROM THE DESK OF FR. JAN

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Many of the celebrations in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary are based on Gospel texts. St. Luke tells of her acceptance of God's invitation to be the mother of the Savior at the Annunciation. We know of her maternity and of her faithfulness to her son, Jesus, even, as St. John reports, standing at the side of his cross. But the Evangelists tell us nothing about Mary's early life. The inspired Word makes no mention of the event celebrated each year on November 21st, her Presentation in the Temple. This devotion is testified by a tradition that comes from apostolic times. The Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple is told in Apocryphal text, the *Protoevangelium of James*, which has been dated by historians prior to the year 200 AD.

This book offers a colorful account of many aspects of Mary's early life, which *prepared for the Gospel*. Her father, Joachim, tells Anna his wife that he wishes to bring their child to serve in the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. Anna gets him to wait until the child is three years old, before having her live away from her parents. When the day arrived, a group of chaste Hebrew girls accompany Mary to the Temple, with their lamps burning. There the priest receives her, blesses her, and kisses her in welcome. He proclaims, "The Lord has magnified your name in all generations. In you, the Lord will manifest His redemption to the children of Israel." Mary was placed on the third step of the Temple, where she "danced with joy and all the house of Israel loved her." The story goes on to describe how she continued in the Temple, living in the service of the Lord, while her parents returned home, glorifying God. The focus of the book is clear: from her earliest childhood Mary was completely dedicated and given over to God. It is to this beautiful apocryphal account that we owe the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lady.

In the 6th century the Emperor Justinian built a splendid church dedicated to Mary in the Temple area in Jerusalem. This basilica was dedicated in 543 but was destroyed by the Persians within a century. Several church Fathers such as Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople (+730) and his contemporary John Damascene, preached homilies on this feast, referring to Mary as God's special flower which was being nurtured for better things. "She was planted in the House of God, nourished by the Holy Spirit and kept her body and soul spotless to receive God in her bosom. He who is all-holy rests among the holy."

In the Eastern Church the Presentation is one of the twelve great feasts of the liturgical year. For the Easterns it celebrates the same belief that we in the West have focused even more sharply through the feast of the Immaculate Conception: Mary's unique holiness. It appears that by the ninth century at least, the Presentation was treasured in the monasteries of southern Italy influenced by the Byzantine tradition. It is recorded that it was celebrated in Avignon, France in 1373. Its wider acceptance in the West was slow and only in the year 1472 did Pope Sixtus IV extend its celebration to the universal Church.

Pope Paul VI in the 1974 encyclical *Marialis Cultus*, n.8, wrote of this feast that "despite its apocryphal content, it presents lofty and exemplary values and carries on the venerable traditions having their origins in the Eastern churches."

On the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary we honor the memory of Our Lady, whose hidden life brings light and warmth to the Church in every place. Her presentation in the temple at Jerusalem reveals her as a temple where God truly lives among us. May Mary's example give us the strength to radiate that light and warmth to the Church, and help us to be dwelling places of God's joyful presence on earth.