

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasure**  
**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

<b>Budgeted Amount:</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>Sunday Collection – 5/6/18</b>	<b>\$3,437.00</b>
<b>Monthly Maintenance Collection – 5/6/18</b>	<b>\$1,569.00</b>

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**The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:**  
**In Memory of: The People of the Parish**

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

5/14	MON:	9:00a	Grayce Grant-Ventore (LIV)
5/15	TUES:	9:00a	People of the Parish
5/16	WED:	9:00a	No Mass Today
5/17	THU:	9:00a	People of the Parish
5/18	FRI:	9:00a	People of the Parish
5/19	SAT:	5:00p	Anna Sydow
5/20	SUN:	8:00a	Robert Schneider
			Florence M. Swiss
		10:00a	Susan McGovern
			Mildred Randall
			John & Eleanor Murray
			James Murray
			Rita & Edwin Puzio
		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](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)**

**READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Sunday** - Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19  
**Monday** - Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17  
**Tuesday** - Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a  
**Wednesday** - Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19  
**Thursday** - Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26  
**Friday** - Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19  
**Saturday** - Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

**PARISH REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Are you new to our parish? If so, welcome! Do you wish to register? If you are attending Mass and using our blue “blank” visitor envelopes and wish to receive our weekly envelopes in the mail, please register with us. If you wish to become a registered member and placed on our parish mailing list, there are blank registration forms on the table near the Church Hall exit. Please fill it out and give it to Fr. Jan after Mass, or either drop it in the collection basket or visit the rectory during the week between the hours of 9:30am and 1:30pm.

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MAY 13, 2018**

**MOTHER’S DAY PRAYER**

‘Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.’

**WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS**

**COFFEE & DONUTS** – are served after 8:00 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of the 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** – The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 6 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.

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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. **The next meeting is Monday, May 21.** We will be reading **Perfectly Yourself (Discovering God’s Dream for You)** by Matthew Kelly.

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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! **The next meeting is Tuesday, June 12.**

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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.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING YOUTH MINISTRY  
STUDENTS WHO ARE BEING ADMINISTERED THE  
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION BY BISHOP ARTHUR J. SERRATELLI  
ON SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018**

**ELIZABETH CRISSEY  
LUKE MINONG  
CAMERON MINTTEER  
JULIE PROKOP  
MATTHEW VERA**

***“...Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed,  
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” Joshua 1:9***

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***THANK YOU! Our thanks to all who contributed to our annual Pasta dinner in any way with special thanks to our cooks, Angela and MaryAnn, not only for giving of their time and talents, but for the very generous donation of all the food for our main meal. Their generosity goes beyond words. Special thanks also to our YM students, all those who came to help sell tickets, man the baked goods counter and assisted in the kitchen. Without all your help, this event would not have been possible. We were able to realize a profit of \$1322.89. Our fifty/fifty winner was Karen Keiber who received \$112.00.***

**Special Event at National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Middletown, NY**

The LaPieta International Prayer Group and founder Emma de Guzman will offer a day of Eucharistic celebration and Healing Service on Saturday, May 19, 2018 beginning at 11:00am with Confessions, followed by a Healing Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with rosary and divine mercy chaplet. Fr. Justin Cinnante, O.Carm. will preside at the Mass and offer healing prayers with Emma deGuzman, whose ministry is to spread “Love, Peace and Joy” to all; to help the poor and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through devotion of Adoration and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Call Carol Bezak, Shrine Director at 845-383-1879 or Bro. Von Sandoval, O. Carm. at 260-849-0205 for further information.

**TOUR OF ALPINE COUNTRIES**

Bishop Serratelli will be the spiritual director for a tour of the Alpine countries of Switzerland, Austria and Germany from July 8 to July 17, 2018.

Reservations are limited. For a brochure and information, contact:

Great Experiences at 201-825-3725 or by email at [Anne@greatexperiencesnj.com](mailto:Anne@greatexperiencesnj.com).

**EVERY  
WORD  
OF GOD  
PROVES  
TRUE.**  
Proverbs 30:5 ESV  
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## Appearance Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima

May is a month which is especially dedicated to Our Lady Mother of God. On May 13, we also celebrate the anniversary of the first appearance of Blessed Virgin in Fatima, Portugal.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, appeared six times to three shepherd children; Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta; between May 13 and October 13, 1917. She came to the little village of Fatima which had remained faithful to the Catholic Church during the recent persecutions by the government. Our Lady came with a message of peace from God to all people. Coming at a time when civilization was torn by war and bloody violence, She promised that Heaven would grant peace to all the world if Her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed. She told that war is a punishment for sins; war is a consequence of our sins and our egoism, and we can stop a war by praying the Rosary every day, by conversion and by reparation for our sins.

In all Her appearances at Fatima, Our Mother repeatedly emphasized the necessity of praying the Rosary daily, of wearing the Brown Scapular of Mount Carmel and of performing acts of reparation and sacrifice.

Our Lady's Message to the world is contained in what has come to be called the "Secret". The Secret actually consists of three parts, the first two of which have been revealed. The first part of the Secret was a horrifying vision of hell "where the souls of poor sinners go" and contained an urgent plea from Our Lady for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save souls. The second part of the Secret told of the outbreak of World War II and asked for the Consecration of Russia as a condition of world peace. It also predicted the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart following Russia's consecration and conversion. The last part of the Secret (often called the "Third Secret") was written down by Sister Lucia in 1944 and is in the possession of the Holy See.

As a great sign of the whole message truly coming from God, a marvelous miracle was worked in the sky above Fatima before 70,000 witnesses on October 13, 1917, at the time, date and place that Lucy and the other two children had prophesized in the name of Our Lady of Fatima. The children were told by Our Lady that God would perform a miracle so that people would believe in the apparitions. The date the children prophesized was October 13, 1917, in Fatima. On that date, 70,000 people came to see the phenomenon. The miracle occurred with the sun. All could stare perfectly at the sun without blinking, or even hurting their eyes. While all were watching the sun, it rotated, got large and small, got close to the people, and got far away from them. The sun "danced ". Every single person who was there testified to seeing the sun dance, even non- believers.

Our Lady of Fatima continues to work miracles even today through Fatima water which is sent from Fatima, around the world. This Fatima water is known to cure people with sicknesses and poor health. Still, other people are cured when they go on pilgrimage to Fatima, which is about 90 miles north of Lisbon.

The Catholic Church has officially endorsed the Fatima Message as worthy of belief since 1930. Pope John Paul II has publicly credited Our Lady of Fatima for saving his life during the assassination attempt in 1981. The following year, he went to Fatima to give thanks for Her intervention.

So encouraged by Our Lady and by so many messages and events, let us keep on praying the Rosary daily until true peace will prevail.





## FROM THE DESK OF FR. JAN.....

This weekend we can take great joy in the fact that we are hosting our Bishop Arthur Serratelli who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in our Parish. This Sunday five students are receiving the great seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These High School students have made decision to confirm their commitment to the faith. It is encouraging and a true blessing to the Church that they realize the grace offered by Confirmation and how it will help them in their faith journey.

There is a great excitement for each of our high school students who receive the special graces of the sacrament as they are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

The Sacrament of Confirmation impresses a character on each of us, for one is enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and is bound more perfectly to the Church. It strengthens each recipient of the sacrament, as it obliges them more firmly to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed, and to spread and defend the faith.

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation as one passes into the life of adult Christian witness. The Catechism tells us that there is a deepened presence of the Spirit, who comes to us in order to sustain us in a lifetime of witness to Christ and service to others. The Gift that we receive in this sacrament is the Spirit himself.

So who is this Holy Spirit that plays such a significant role in our lives?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who is co-eternal and co-equal with the Father and the Son. It is the Father and the Son who sends forth the Spirit. Though the world cannot see Him, He speaks to us through the prophets of old and dwells within all of us, if we believe in Him and Jesus.

It is the Holy Spirit that inspired the Scriptures, inspires and assists the Church Magisterium, intercedes for us through prayer, puts us into communion with Christ at the sacred liturgy, builds up the Church and is found in the signs of apostolic and missionary life.

The Holy Spirit imparts on us the spirits and gifts of: Understanding, Wisdom, Fortitude, Knowledge, Counsel, Piety and Holy Fear in God's Presence.

The Holy Spirit is someone who should not be ignored or denied, for the Spirit is of God. As St. John of Damascus said: "the Spirit of God is direct authoritative, the fountain of wisdom, life, and holiness." Additionally, in Galatians 4:6 we find: "God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, Abba! Father!"

We congratulate each of our young men and women who will be confirmed. As we now await Pentecost, let us gravitate to the Third Person of the Trinity. May we let the Spirit dwell in our hearts and direct our actions. Seek the Spirit's help to guide you to God the Father and to God the Son. May our tongues, souls, and mind be on fire with the Holy Spirit. Let us share in the joy of the newly confirmed and realize how awesome the Spirit is in our life.

