

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**  
**Stewardship Report – Treasure**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Budgeted Amount: \$5,000.00

**Regular Collection – 8/21/16:** \$2,978.40  
**Parish Pay – 8/21/16:** \$ 541.00  
**Total Regular Collection – 8/21/16:** \$3,519.40

**Mission Co-Op Collection – 8/21/16:** \$1,302.00  
**Parish Pay – 8/21/16:** \$  
**Total Mission Co-Op Collection – 8/21/16:** \$

**Regular Collection – 8/28/16:** \$2,924.60  
**Parish Pay - 8/28/16:**  
**Total Regular Collection – 8/28/16:**

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

**ST. MONICA’S ANNUAL COLLECTION**

Parish Goal \$50,000.00  
 Total # of Families 463  
 Total # Pledged 145  
 % of Participation 31.10%  
 Total Amount Pledged \$44,190.00  
 (Includes 3 matching grants pledged)  
 Total Amount Paid \$43,415.00  
 (Includes 2 matching grants pd. in full)

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The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

**In memory of:** Peter Horvath  
**Given by:** The Yetter family

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

9/5 MON: 9:00a Michael A. Orecchio  
 Bob Esposito (LIV)  
 9/6 TUES: 9:00a Eileen Randall  
 John Hoch  
 9/7 WED: 9:00a No Mass today  
 9/8 THU: 9:00a No Mass today  
 9/9 FRI: 9:00a Bobo Esposito (LIV)  
 9/10 SAT: 5:00p Charles Norris  
 William Faivre  
 9/11 SUN: 8:00a John Skehan  
 10:00a Giorgio Gallara  
 Mary Costa  
 Thomas Walsh  
 Jeanette Loughery  
 11:45a Fr. Patrick Mullan

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**FIND A CHURCH ANYTIME YOU TRAVEL!!**

*If you plan to travel and will need to look for a church*

[www.masstimes.com](http://www.masstimes.com)

**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  
 National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Middletown, NY  
 Mon.-Fri. 11:30am (Holy Door for Year of Mercy)

**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** - \$5.00. for one-week.

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**September 4, 2016**

**PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS**

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

**COFFEE & DONUTS** – is held on the first Sunday of each month after the 8:00am Mass in the Church Hall – all are invited!

**HELPING HANDS** – second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting room. **The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.** Call Terry at 845-258-8051.

**Helping Hands at Skyland Ball Game**

Because of the rain, anyone that was at the game on Saturday evening, July 9, may use your ticket stub to attend a game of your choice. Whenever you go, you must present your ticket stub to the box office.

**Helping Hands at Lorenzo’s Pizza** – Helping Hands will be having a fundraiser at Lorenzo’s Pizza, Main St. Sussex on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. So plan to enjoy either dining there or taking out on that day in support of your parish. Further information contact Terry Westdyke at 845-258-8051.

**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.

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** – is held on the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room. If you like to read books that will enhance your faith journey and keep you spiritually nourished, plan to join us. **Next session will be held on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Rectory meeting room.** These are the books chosen by members: **Learning to Walk in the Dark** by Barbara Brown Taylor and **Short stories of Flannery O’Connor** will be read and shared. Call Carol for information - 973-875-4521.

**ST. MONICA’S LEISURE GROUP** - 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. September 7 – Labor Day Celebration; **TUESDAY**, October 4<sup>th</sup> – Oktoberfest; November 2 – Halloween Party; December 8(Thursday) –Christmas Party at Lampost Rest.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

**OR R.C.I.A PROGRAM** is offered for anyone over the age of 18 who was never baptized and may wish to become Catholic; or for anyone who is already baptized Catholic but never received the sacraments of initiation (Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation) or for those who wish to be received into the Catholic Church from another Christian denomination. If you are interested in learning more, please call Carol at 973-875-4521.

**ST. MONICA’S TRICKY TRAY – is November 11th!!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!**

The business letters are ready and waiting. Please stop by the table in the Church Hall and pick up any letter for any business that you are able to visit. It is very important that sign for each letter in the space provided on the Business Contact List also on the table. If you are able to visit any business that is not listed, please feel free to take one of the blank extra letters and sign for it on the blank list. Thank you for your support during this very important fundraiser.

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**Annual Worship Service at the Old Clove Church**

Rt. 23,Wantage, NJ will take place on Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 2:00pm. Worship service led by the Reverend Barry G. Young. Music by High Point Harmonizers, Soloist – Ms. Emily Seely. Refreshments on the Lawn, Come and meet your friends!

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### **ATTENTION ALL NEW AND FORMER YM FAMILIES!**

There are still several families who have not registered for this coming year and the clock is moving fast. Class lists need to be completed, etc. so these registrations are needed ASAP. For those families that I am missing, I forwarded a registration form in the mail with the fee amount. Please complete and return them ASAP. **The "WELCOME BACK" meeting for both Phase I and Phase II students and parents has been scheduled for Saturday, September 10th following the 5pm Mass. Please mark your calendar now.**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Grades 1-8

**A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR PARENTS:** Last year, we saw much progress in moving all of our Religious Ed classes “closer to home” and more united with the Liturgy. Grades 1-4 continued to meet on Sundays either before or after Mass; Grades 7 & 8 met on Saturday after the 5:00pm Mass; and Grades 5 & 6 were meeting from 3:00pm to 4:45pm – or just before the start of 5:00pm Mass. However, in reviewing the year and listening to parents and our Catechists for Grades 5 & 6, I have decided to eliminate the 3:00pm session and move these two grades to Saturday evenings as well. Our facilities here at the parish – between the Church Hall and Meeting Room (both upstairs and downstairs) can support the size program we have and we are able to utilize our computer and video equipment for wonderful lessons, movies, etc. Further information is forthcoming soon – please, please send in your registration forms!!

**TEENS AND THOSE RECENTLY CONFIRMED** are invited and encouraged to team-teach and share their faith with our young students. Please call Carol at 973-875-4521 and we can explore the possibilities! Service doesn't end after Confirmation – it just begins.

**REGISTRATION for the 2016/2017** - registration forms are still available on the table in the hall or can be downloaded from our website [www.stmonicasussex.org](http://www.stmonicasussex.org). - go to “Faith Formation” and go to “Forms.” Payment can be made at the time you send it in or if necessary later on, but we do need the registration forms returned in order to plan the upcoming Religious Ed year. **Fees are as follows:**  
1 student - \$75.00, 2 students - \$110.00 and 3 or more is \$150.00.

-----Carol Bezak, Coordinator of ReligiousFormation

## DIOCESE OF PATERSON – Safe Environment Program

“If any person may have been abused by any priest, they should immediately contact their local County Prosecutor’s Office and the Diocese’s Victims Assistance Coordinator: Peggy Zanello at 973-879-1489. You may also be in touch with either of the Diocesan Response Officers: Rev. Msgr. James T. Mahoney, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, 973-777-8818 Ext. 205 or Sister Joan Daniel Healy, S.C.C., Chancellor/Delegate for Religious, 973-777-8818 Ext. 248. The entire text of the Policy of the Diocese of Paterson in Response to Complaints of Sexual Abuse is available on the diocesan Web site:  
[www.patersondiocese.org](http://www.patersondiocese.org)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

**Sunday** Wis 9:13-18b; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

**Monday** 1 Cor 5:1-8; Lk 6:6-11

**Tuesday** 1 Cor 6:1-11; Lk 6:12-19

**Wednesday** 1 Cor 7:25-31; Lk 6:20-26

**Thursday** Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

**Friday** 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Lk 6:39-42

**Saturday** 1 Cor 10:14-22; Lk 6:43-49

## **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*His Word Today.....by Rev. William J. Reilly*

*“Who can know God’s counsel, or who can conceive what the Lord intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans... Or who can ever know your counsel except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high. And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.”*

The Old Testament question seems to warrant the answer ‘no one.’ Because we are gifted with the teaching of Jesus, we are able to answer differently because we have been given the Holy Spirit. We know that God’s plan is for all people to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth. The gift of the Holy Spirit allows that plan to take root in our hearts.

Like Solomon who asked for an understanding heart, the gift of wise judgment, we are able to pursue God’s plan for us that our paths may be made straight.

As missionary disciples, we accept our cross and follow the Lord who has revealed Himself. Invited us, and supports us on our journey. When in doubt, ask for the Spirit to guide, lead and protect the path on which we have started.

## Program Helping Young Adults with Special Needs

The Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD) is proud to announce the fall opening of their Saturdays at the Center program (SATC)! DPD is a nonprofit, Catholic Charities organization in the Diocese of Paterson that provides support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. This endeavor is designed for young adults with disabilities living in the community, who are interested in weekend socialization and recreational activities with their peers. Education about group home and independent living is also part of the curriculum. Respite time for caregivers of the participating individuals will be provided, as the program is well supervised by experienced staff and volunteers. SATC will meet Saturdays at Gruenert Center on Rt. 15 in Lake Hopatcong and will run for a 12 week span. Meeting times are from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. The tuition for the entire program is \$120 plus minimal additional fees for special activities such as bowling or dining out. They are seeking interested participants and volunteers for their fall start date of September 17, 2016.

Please contact Patt Foth, SATC Coordinator, at (973)440-0983 or [satc@dpd.org](mailto:satc@dpd.org) for any further information or to obtain applications. You can also visit [www.dpd.org](http://www.dpd.org) or [www.facebook.com/dpdcc](http://www.facebook.com/dpdcc) for more information about DPD. Christopher Brancato, MA - Director of Development and Public Relations, Department for Persons with Disabilities, 1 Catholic Charities Way - PO Box 2539 - Oak Ridge, NJ 07438 **Phone:** 973-406-1104 **Fax:** 973-697-9603

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## **RITA GALTIN - FUNERAL INFORMATION**

For those who knew Rita Gatlin, a long-time parishioner here who has been living in Florida for the past two years, she passed away last Thursday. A Mass of Christiana burial will be celebrated on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am here at St. Monica’s beginning with 9:00am visitation in Church.

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*“I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?’*  
— **Mother Teresa**



*I, Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus, urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus. (Second Reading)*

**Rembrandt—Saint Paul in his prison, detail, 1627**

#### **Reading II: Philemon 9-10, 12-17**

The letter to Philemon is the only personal letter of Paul that has survived. Onesimus, a slave who had run away from his master, Philemon, a Christian of Colossae, had joined Paul where the latter was in prison (Rome is the traditional view; Ephesus is popular today because of the distances involved: Colossae-Ephesus rather than Colossae-Rome).

Under Paul's influence, Onesimus had become a Christian. In sending him back to his master, Paul commends him as "no longer a slave but a brother."

Paul did not thereby abolish slavery (that would have been impossible for the ancient world) but transformed the relationship between master and slave. Not until the nineteenth century did the Christian conscience come to realize that slavery as an institution is wrong.

Paul drew what consequences he could from his principle that in Christ there is neither slave nor free. Future generations will have to give their own implementation to that principle in the light of their concrete situation.

"I love this Rembrandt painting. It is an image of Paul that speaks volumes.....with writing tool in hand, looking perplexed and wondering what words he should choose to write, he resonates with our own need to find just the right words at crucial times that require it. How many times have we spoken too soon, written something too fast or pushed the "send" button too quickly on an email message that we later regretted sending.

Spending time in contemplative thought requires time.....something that we don't seem to have enough of these days, a commodity that is scarce and precious and yet, so very valuable. How we use our time....and abuse our time....is worth examining as we move through our lives.

Paul's own desires were his first thoughts: "I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel" but in deep contemplation and trust in the power of love, he sends his "brother" Onesimus back to his master, and instead suggests that a new relationship should take hold.

Paul's Christian witness to brotherhood and love gives Philemon something to contemplate. His words are a strong examination of conscience and clear message that the world can be changed through the power of love. Contemplate your next words – written or spoken – and make your own message speak volumes!"

-----Carol Bezak

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time | Luke 14:25-33

Jesus said God should be #1 in the center of our lives. Followed by ourselves, family and friends.

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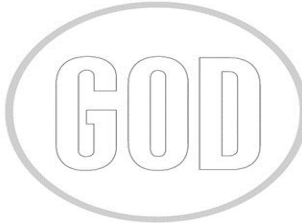
Jesus knows life is not always easy.



MY CROSS

He will help us carry our cross. Just ask!

MY LIFE



Decorate this cross with words or pictures which best describe your life each day. Remember everyone has challenges, but they are not all the same.

Cut on the dotted line and keep it as a reminder to pray and give thanks each day.



Examples of daily struggles... personal or family illness or disability, problems with family, school or neighbors... add your own.

Thank you, God, for... good times, loving and healthy family members, fun with family, school & neighbors, good friends and favorite pets... add your own.

**REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR OF MERCY** – have you experienced the grace and peace of making a personal pilgrimage to pass 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” (There are several designated 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)

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### A special “THANK YOU” from Catholic Charities (regarding the Clothing Bin in our parking lot)

I want to thank all the generous parishioners of St. Monica’s for the donations to our Catholic Charities donation bin. Unfortunately we will be removing the bin. Sadly this is due to the fact that some of the local individuals have taken to using the bin as an outlet of the Sussex County Municipal Dump. We still would like to offer the option of a house pick up for larger quantities of clothing, shoes and usable household items (sorry no furniture, no outdated technology, TV sets or similar items). You can schedule a pick up by calling our toll free number at 877-343-3651.

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**“If you judge people, you have no time to love them.”**

– Mother Teresa

