

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

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

<b><u>Budgeted Amount:</u></b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b><u>Sunday Collection – 4/29/18</u></b>	<b>\$2,972.00</b>
<b><u>On-Line Giving – 4/22/18</u></b>	<b>\$ 631.00</b>

**Campaign Statistics as of 4/5/2018**

Total # of Households	439
Total # Pledged	119
% of Participation	27.11%
Total Amount Pledged	\$32,660.01
Total Amount Paid	\$30,499.68
Average Pledge	\$274.02
% of Pledges Collected	93.39%

The second collection on the weekend of May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> will be taken for the 2018 Peter’s Pence Collection.

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The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In Memory of: Blanca Espejo

Given by: Isabel Sly

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

5/7	MON:	9:00a	People of the Parish
5/8	TUES:	9:00a	Blanca Espejo
5/9	WED:	9:00a	No Mass Today
5/10	THU:	9:00a	People of the Parish
5/10	THU:	7:30p	People of the Parish
5/11	FRI:	9:00a	People of the Parish
5/12	SAT:	5:00p	Marie Mayer Anna DaLena Theresa Del Monico
5/13	SUN:	8:00a	Robert Schneider Anna Sydow
		10:00a	Deceased Members - Nisler Family Sophia Yackenovitch Raymond Cullen, Jr.
		11:45a	Robert Schneider

**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)

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MAY 6, 2018**

***May Crowning of The Blessed Virgin Mary***  
***at 10:00 am Mass.***

*‘Tis the month of our Mother,  
The blessed and beautiful days,  
When our lips and our spirits  
Are glowing with love and with praise.  
All hail to dear Mary,  
The guardian of our way,  
To the fairest of Queens,  
Be the fairest of seasons sweet May.*

**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, May 8.**

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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.

**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.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:**

**PHASE II CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:** Please note that Confirmation rehearsal has been moved to Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> due to the Holyday of Obligation (The Ascension) being celebrated on Thursday. The time remains the same which is 7:30pm so please advise your sponsors of this change. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. Thank you.

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Bishop Arthur Serratelli will be here at St. Monica's to perform the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, May 13 at the 11:45am Mass.

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***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING SECOND GRADE STUDENTS WHO ARE RECEIVING THEIR FIRST EUCHARIST ON SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018***

***ISABELLA FETT  
MATTHEW FETT  
DOMENIC PARISE  
THOMAS PAYNE  
ANGELO STEFANELLI***

***MAY YOU KNOW GOD IS WITH YOU ALWAYS!***

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**FAMILY PROMISE**

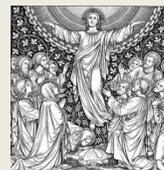
Volunteers are needed for Family Promise which serves homeless families. They will be staying at the Presbyterian Church the week of May 15. St. Monica's is a support congregation and we will be helping the following days:

Wednesday, May 16, Thursday, May 17 and Monday May 21. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Church Hall with the shifts and hours.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at 973-875-6053. Thank you very much for your support of this program.

Carol Oesen

**FR. KEN HEWITT MEMORIAL MASS**  
Fr. Ken Hewitt died in the Lord on March 23, 2018. He had been a weekend assistant at St. Monica's for a number of years. His memorial Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 3:00 PM at Resurrection Catholic Church, 651 Millbrook Ave., Randolph, NJ. All are respectfully invited.



**REMINDER: May 10th is Ascension Thursday and is a holy day of obligation. Masses are at 9:00am and 7:30pm.**

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### **First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48**

Peter preaches to the Gentiles for the first time in the house of Cornelius. Peter realized that God would accept any person who acted uprightly, regardless of his or her heritage. Then the Holy Spirit descended on the Gentiles and Peter allowed them to be baptized in the name of Jesus.

### **Second Reading: I John 4:7-10**

John advises all believers to love one another, for love is a gift from God. The person without love does not know God, whose love for us is so great he sent his only son so that we might have life through him.

### **Gospel: John 15:9-17**

Jesus asks his disciples to live on in his love and to "Love one another as I have loved you." He explains that he chose them to follow him, and promises if they keep his commandments they will have anything that they ask for in his name.

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HIS WORD TODAY *by Rev. William J. Reilly*

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 6, 2018

**"Jesus said to his disciples, 'As the Father loves Me, so I also love you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept the Father's commandments and remain in His love... This is My commandment: love one another as I love you... It was not you who chose Me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain... This I command you: love one another.'"**

In His prayer Jesus is preparing the disciples for their work when He takes leave of them. How frequently John's gospel uses the word 'remain', stay close, be cemented, don't stray. Besides telling them what to do, He assures them that He too will be part of their lives for He loves, not just loved them.

He then gives them the task to put into action, to go and bear fruit. Am I unsure or afraid what the Lord asks of me? I shouldn't be, because I am both loved by Him at this moment, and He has both chosen me and appointed me. He is waiting for my response.

## Mother's Day is next weekend. How about sharing a special retreat with your mother?

### **MOTHER & (ADULT) DAUGHTER RETREAT**

May 11-13

Marianist 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](http://www.capemaymarianists.org) or call Anthony Fucci, Center Director, 609-884-3828 for more information.

### **CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF SPAIN**

**Michael Milano from Our Lady of Mount Carmel is leading a pilgrimage to the Shrines of Spain in September visiting:**

**Barcelona/Madrid/Avila/Toledo/Granada/Montserrat and more!**

**September 10-21, 2018**

**\$3,699 per person including air from Newark.**

**Breakfast and Dinner daily.**

**Holy Mass daily at the Shrines.**

**For a flyer or more detailed information, please call Cathie or Michael Milano at 1-800-773-2660.**

### **READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Sunday** - Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

**Monday** - Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26—16:4a

**Tuesday** - Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11

**Wednesday** - Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Jn 16:12-15

**Thursday** - The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23 or

Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13; Mk 16:15-20

**Friday** - Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23

**Saturday** - Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28





#### FROM THE DESK OF FR. JAN

This Sunday five members of our community for the first time will fully participate in the Holy Eucharist because they, for the first time in their life, will receive Jesus into their hearts in Holy Communion. It is a time of great joy for them, but also for our community, that those children together with us will fully benefit from the graces Jesus offered for those coming to his table.

Jesus Christ, savior of whole human race established the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist to be with us throughout. During the Last supper, Jesus took bread and wine, gave thanks to God (*Eucharist* is a Greek word for thanksgiving), beseeched God to bless it, and distributed it with these astounding and eternal words: "This bread is my body. This wine is my blood. Every time you eat this bread and drink this wine in my name, I will be present with you."

It is not only the Last Supper, but also Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ that we commemorate through the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. The catechism states that "(in the Eucharist) Christ associates his church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once for all on the cross to his father; by his sacrifice he pours out the graces of salvation on his body which is the church." (No. 1407) The Eucharist is the crucified and risen Christ, present under the species of bread and wine. It is a true banquet, in which Christ offers himself as our nourishment.

It is impossible to understand the life of the church and our life without the Eucharist. The Second Vatican Council reminds us that the Eucharist is at the very center of our worship of God and our life as a people of God. Eucharist is the most perfect and important act of worship offered to God our Father, because in the Eucharist it is Jesus Christ, our High Priest who is offering Himself to the Father for our sins. Jesus offers his life to man through the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the eternal sacrifice of Christ made present to us sacramentally.

When we celebrate the Eucharist, we enter into the presence of God and we relive the mysteries of Our Lord's Life. Throughout the Eucharist we grow in our awareness of our sinfulness and also of His healing Love. Only if we experience the living presence of Jesus at the altar we can pray and celebrate the Eucharist with faith. Otherwise the Eucharist will not have much meaning for us especially if we stand far away and astray, we will not be able to participate fully in the Eucharistic celebration. The Eucharist is the highest form of Prayer where we become aware of the living presence of God and where we receive His peace and healing.

It is in the Eucharist we find nourishment for our souls (which need "spiritual food" like our body needs material food) and the possibility for spiritual growth and a healthy spiritual life. During Eucharist we receive the spiritual strength to do good. Mother Teresa often used to say that she received the inner strength and power to serve the poorest of poor from the Holy Eucharist. Such inner strength and power we need also to fight the deceptive temptations of evil that wants to mislead or to lead us astray.

So come let us reflect for a while and make a firm decision to participate with utmost devotion and a firm Faith in Jesus our Lord every Sunday Eucharist. We can show the world and be a witness to Jesus Christ, our redeemer, only if we are able to participate in the celebration of Holy Eucharist regularly as truly faithful Catholics.