

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

**Stewardship Report – Treasure**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Regular Sunday collection – April 12 \$ 699.00  
Easter Sunday collection – April 12 \$ 2,955.00  
Palm Sunday collection – April 5 \$ 396.00  
On-line giving for – April 5 (Not reported yet)

**ST. MONICA’S CHURCH IS CLOSED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY  
APRIL 19, 2020**

**Many thanks to those who are continuing to support St. Monica’s Church by sending in weekly collection envelopes. Bills still need to be paid, and we are very grateful for your generosity during this difficult time.**

Weekly collection envelopes may be mailed directly to the Rectory office at 33 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461. Collection envelopes may also be dropped in the metal milk box located to the left of the front door of the rectory. Another option to continue to support St. Monica’s is to go to the Diocesan link on their website which is: <http://helpmyparish.thankyou4caring.org>. Follow the prompts to make a one-time or recurring gift.

**Thank you for your continued support!**

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*We celebrate God’s mercy today – that gift of compassionate forgiveness that is offered to all. For generations people had turned away from God, failing to respect the law or the prophets. Yet God sent us the Son, who took upon himself the sins of the world in order to redeem us all. May we be grateful as we lift up our hearts and voices to the author of divine mercy.*

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**WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS**

*Due to the current restrictions on social gatherings imposed by the Governor of New Jersey and the mandates received from Bishop Serratelli’s office, we regret to announce that all parish events and devotions are cancelled until further notice.*

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During this unprecedented time when we are unable to attend Mass and participate together in parish events due to measures taken by our diocese to halt the spread of the coronavirus, we are going to try to keep all of you updated on latest developments by posting our bulletin each weekend on our website, [stmonicasussex.org](http://stmonicasussex.org).

Mass intentions will be continue to be offered at Fr. Jan’s private Mass; therefore, the deceased loved ones listed in our mass book will be remembered. If anyone would like to change the date already requested for their intention, please contact the church office.

**The parish office is closed until further notice.** Voice mail and email messages will be monitored as often as possible. Mass cards may be requested by leaving a message at the church office. We will continue to prepare a bulletin to keep you updated with any news.

God bless you all and we pray that we will all be able to worship together again soon.



The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

**In Memory of: Giorgio Gallara**

**Given by: The Gallara Family**

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

4/20 MON: People of our Parish  
4/21 TUES: People of our Parish  
4/22 WED: NO MASS TODAY  
4/23 THU: People of our Parish  
4/24 FRI: People of our Parish  
4/25 SAT: Vic & Grace DiGerolamo  
4/26 SUN: George Sampar  
Jim & Maureen  
McGaughran

Pass the word to those who do not have access to internet and are unable to receive the bulletin on line, that they may pick up a printed copy from the metal box at the entrance to the Rectory.

**St. Monica’s Church contact information:**  
**Phone:** 973-875-4521 **Fax:** 973-875-7538  
**Website:** [www.stmonicasussex.org](http://www.stmonicasussex.org)  
**Email:** [stmonica@ptd.net](mailto:stmonica@ptd.net)

## READINGS FOR THIS WEEK



### **Sunday**

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

### **Monday**

Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8

### **Tuesday**

Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15

### **Wednesday**

Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

### **Thursday**

Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

### **Friday**

Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

### **Saturday**

1 Pt 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20

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

**Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)  
April 19, 2020**

**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... Although you have never seen him, you love him, even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”**

There are two letters of Saint Peter in the scriptures, directed to the early Christians, providing encouragement in living their new found faith in Jesus, risen from the dead. It is through the gift of faith that we are able to live as true disciples.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, may I express my gratitude for the mercy that Jesus continues to pour out on me, as I place my trust in Him. Pope Francis once said that God’s last name is mercy and he is constantly reminding us, ‘God’s love for us is so great, so deep it is an unfailing love, one that always takes us by the hand and supports us, lifts us up and leads us on.’



**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM**  
**THE DIOCESE OF PATERSON**

**Pope Francis Accepts Resignation of Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli;**  
**Names Father Kevin Sweeney of Diocese of Brooklyn as Successor**

April 15, 2020



Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Paterson and has named Father Kevin Sweeney, a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn as Bishop-elect of Paterson. He will become the Diocese of Paterson's eighth Bishop.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, publicized the appointment in Washington, D.C. on April 15, 2020.

Bishop Serratelli was installed as the Diocese of Paterson's seventh bishop on July 6, 2004 and served as Bishop for nearly 16 years.

Bishop-elect Sweeney was born on Jan. 17, 1970 in Elmhurst, Queens and grew up in Whitestone, Queens. His parents, the late James P. Sweeney and the late Agnes Blewitt were both born and raised in County Mayo, Ireland. Agnes came to New York in 1951 and James in 1963. They were married in St. Bartholomew's Church in Elmhurst, N.Y. in 1967 and moved to Whitestone in 1971.

Bishop-Elect Sweeney attended St. Luke's Parochial School in Whitestone and Cathedral Preparatory High School in Elmhurst. He graduated from St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y., with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy in 1992 and received a master's degree in Divinity from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, Long Island in 1997. Bishop-Elect Sweeney was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Brooklyn by the Most Reverend Thomas V. Daily at St. James' Cathedral on June 28, 1997. He was assigned as Parochial Vicar to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish in Jamaica, where he served until June of 2003. He was then assigned to Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Corona, where he served for a year. Rev. Sweeney was named as the Vocation Director of the Diocese of Brooklyn by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio in June of 2004. In January 2010, he was named Pastor of St. Michael Parish in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, where he continues to serve.

The date of Bishop-elect Sweeney's episcopal ordination as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Paterson has not been scheduled due to the pandemic. Bishop Serratelli will serve as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Paterson until that time.

**PLEASE SEE ST. MONICA'S WEBSITE FOR THE FULL VIDEO FROM BISHOP SERRATELLI REGARDING HIS RESIGNATION.**

## The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion



God's mercy is one of the greatest attributes of God. God in His Divine Love and Mercy does not want the death of anyone but he wants us to live with him forever in heaven. The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. God loves us — all of us. He wants us to recognize His mercy which is greater than our sins, to repent for our sins, to call upon Him with trust, and receive His mercy. Jesus also wants the Divine Mercy to flow through us to others, especially during this time of the coronavirus pandemic.

This message of The Divine Mercy and devotion was given by Jesus to Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of the revelations she received about God's mercy. About the feast day "Divine Mercy Sunday", Jesus said *"tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon the souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.... Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy"*. (Diary 699)

Veneration of the Image of The Divine Mercy, which Our Lord requested (especially on Divine Mercy Sunday) is another form of devotion. Pope John Paul II said that the image portrays the Risen Jesus Christ bringing Mercy to the whole world. Our Lord said: *"I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish"*. (Diary 341, 48).

Jesus said to St. Faustina *"I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You"*. (Diary 327) *"The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the cross. ...Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."* (Diary 299)

Divine Mercy chaplet is another form of devotion. [Jesus wants us –if it is possible- to pray this chaplet at 3 o'clock in the time when he was dying on the cross.](#) This prayer has enormous power and it can bring us lots of graces, especially now when his grace is most needed. Jesus said to St. Faustina: *Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at hour of death....When they say this chaplet in presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the Judge but as Merciful Savior.... My mercy is infinite. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy....Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will* (Diary 687).

I want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this incredible promise and graces we can obtain through the devotion to Divine Mercy. Especially I encourage you to prepare yourself and participate in "Divine Mercy Sunday" celebration and to fully benefit from these promises. Since we are unable to come together at St. Monica's to pray the Chaplet, you may participate another way: **The Catholic TV network (EWTN) will televise the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 pm on Sunday, April 19, at 3:00 pm from the Chapel of the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA. (20 minutes).**

May the Divine Mercy of our Lord and Savior be with you and keep you and your loved ones safe during the coronavirus pandemic. God bless each and every one of you.

*Fr. Jan*