

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS
FLOW**

Stewardship Report – Treasure

Regular Collection – 8/28/22 \$2,145.00

**Online Giving Totals will appear in next week's
bulletin**

If you are unable to attend Mass, 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.

Thank you for your generosity!

“Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.”

Deuteronomy 15:10

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The Sanctuary Lamp is given this week:

In Memory of: People of our Parish

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

9/5	MON:	9:00am	People of our Parish
9/6	TUES:	9:00am	The Futia Family
9/7	WED:	9:00am	NO MASS TODAY
9/8	THUR:	9:00am	People of our Parish
9/9	FRI:	9:00am	People of our Parish
9/10	SAT:	5:00pm	Alice Hahn Mary Wells
9/11	SUN:	8:30am 10:30am	People of our Parish Florence Di Stasi Mary Eckert Nick and Linda Busanic

READINGS FOR 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



**PLEASE NOTE: THE PARISH
OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2022 IN
OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.**

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 4, 2022



Celebrate

the work of our hands

Labor Day

The Holy Spirit draws us here today to worship our Lord, to listen to God's word, and to celebrate the Eucharist. On this holiday weekend, as we recognize the blessings of human labor and of all those who work, whether they are paid or unpaid, we are also inspired to take part in the Lord's work. May this Eucharist strengthen us as we labor in the vineyard, helping to bring Christ's saving message to a hungry world.

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WEEKLY/MONTHLY PARISH EVENTS

COFFEE & DONUTS– The first Sunday of each month after the 8:30 am mass. All are welcome!

HELPING HANDS– The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 7:30 pm in the Church Hall. New members are always welcome.

LEISURE GROUP– Meets the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 7th at 1:00 pm in the Church Hall.

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SPECIAL DEVOTIONS AT ST. MONICA'S

Recitation of the Rosary – Come join us every Monday at 4:00 pm in the Church to recite the Rosary for peace in our nation and around the world.

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.

MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY: 5:00 PM

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES: MON., TUES, THURS, FRI. AT 9:00AM (NO MASS ON WEDNESDAYS)

Deadline for bulletin submissions: Please contact the Rectory Office by 10 am on Tuesday of each week for articles to be printed on the following Sunday.



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. There are blank registration forms on the table near the Church exits. Please fill it out and give it to Fr. Jan after Mass or drop it in the collection basket.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR DECEASED, ILL OR HOSPITALIZED



If you have a prayer request for someone who is deceased, ill or hospitalized, please enter the name of the person in the prayer request book located in the Church Hall. Each week, the prayer list is placed on the altar.



A VERY SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Marking their 50th wedding anniversary, Greg and Bonnie Puzio renewed their wedding vows at the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, August 28, 2022. Greg and Bonnie (center) are pictured here with their family: Jay, Kristin, Reese and Eric Van Benschoten.

Congratulations, Greg and Bonnie! May God continue to bless your marriage in the years ahead.



FALL MUM SALE *Sponsored by Helping Hands*

Want to exchange those wilting summer flower pots for some fresh Fall color?

Helping Hands is sponsoring a **Fall Mum Sale** with C & C Growers in Newton, NJ from Thursday, September 1st until Thursday, October 1st. Pick up an orange flyer/coupon from the table at the church exits for more information.



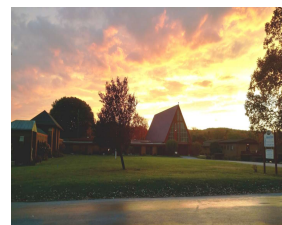
SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS Sunday, November 6, 2022 3:00 pm

Couples, were you married in 1972 or 1997? Or have you been married for 60 years or more? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th, 50th or 60th+ wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion.

Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. ***The deadline to submit your completed registration to your parish office is Thursday, October 6, 2022.*** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed.

Congratulations on this joyous occasion!!

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown NY



MORNING OF PRAYER

Art and Spirituality with Peggy Murphy, OP -Thursday, September 15th 9:30-11:00am followed by 11:30am Mass for Our Lady of Sorrows. Call Carol Bezak, Shrine Director to register, 845-343-1879 or see the flyers on the table in the Church Hall.



OLD CLOVE CHURCH ROUTE 23, WANTAGE, NJ

Old Clove Church will be having their Annual Worship Service on Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 2:00 pm. The worship service will be led by Pastor Kendall Everett of the Sussex Christian Reformed Church. Special music will be provided by The Church Choir. For more information, go to www.olderclovechurch.org.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians 3:17



PARKING LOT PAVING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners and friends of St. Monica, our church has reached our goal of \$40,000 towards The Parking Lot Paving Campaign funding! The response has been so overwhelming and a sincere THANK YOU to all of you who have given so generously. As of Monday, August 29, 2022, the following has been received:

PLEDGES TO DATE: \$42,327.00
PAID TO DATE: \$40,872.00

As stated in Father Jan's original letter, our goal of \$40,000 is only a portion of what will be required to pay for this project. Therefore, any outstanding pledges will still be needed towards it's completion. We are hoping to have the paving project under way sometime in September. We will update you on the exact dates when known. God bless you all!

LABOR DAY PRAYER

*Spirit of the Living God, bless the work of our hands, our minds, and our hearts.
May the work offered be a reflection of all that is good within us.
In planning, creating, doing, grant us the courage to patiently listen
for the stirring of your Presence.
May unity, beauty and truth be the fruit of our labor. Amen.*



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY

*by Rev. William J. Reilly
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ*

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 4, 2022

"If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if there is enough for its completion? ...In the same way, anyone who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

A surprising challenge. A famous Lutheran martyr, Bonhoeffer, wrote a telling book, 'The Cost of Discipleship.' The title itself echoes the challenge Jesus put to the crowds who were seeking and following Him. The gospel cost Jesus His life, for us. As we claim discipleship, we learn not to hate, but to make sure our relationship with others does not interfere with or block our relationship with God. Nothing should get in the way of that basic requirement.

We might summarize the first commandment God gave to Moses and the first part of the great commandment of Jesus simply by stating: 'God comes first in my life.' The Spanish speaking people use this expression continually, 'Dios primero.'

Does He?





Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Celebrated every year on September 8th, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the birth of Mary, Mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century.

Sacred Scripture does not record Mary's birth. The earliest known writing regarding Mary's birth is found in the *Protoevangelium of James* (5:2), which is an apocryphal writing (not part of the authentic canon of Scripture) from the late second century, where Saint Anne and Saint Joachim are mentioned as being Mary's parents. According to this account, Saint Anne and Saint Joachim were both advanced in age yet together they prayed and fasted believing that God would grant their desire for a child. As they were praying they received the promise of a child that would advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the very beginning. This work (apocryphal) has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety and fills the gap in the beliefs of the Church.

In the case of Saints, the Church commemorates the day of their passing, the day of their return to the Lord. However, in the case of the Blessed Virgin, the Church also celebrates the day of her birth. The reason for this is found in the singular mission that was hers in the History of Salvation, but traditionally also because she alone was holy in her very birth. The birth of Mary was miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son (the feast of her Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8 – nine months prior to her Nativity). The Church dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, though generally believed throughout the Church for many centuries, was formally declared by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

The birth of Mary is ordained in particular toward her mission as Mother of the Savior. Her existence is inseparably connected with that of Christ: it partakes of a unique plan of salvation and grace. God's mysterious plan regarding the Incarnation of the Word also embraces the Virgin who is His Mother. In this way, the Birth of Mary is inserted at the very heart of the History of Salvation. (M. Valentini, *Dictionary of Mary*, pp. 36-7.)

In celebrating the Nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and Birth of her Divine Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us honor our Blessed Mother on her birthday by offering the below prayer to her:

**Lord God,
the day of our salvation dawned
when the Blessed Virgin gave birth to your Son.
As we celebrate her nativity
grant us your grace and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Fr. Jan