



FEBRUARY 21, 2021

1st

SUNDAY OF LENT

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:15

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254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA

DAILY MASS **MON/TUE/THURS/FRI** 9 am St. Lucy **FIRST SATURDAY** 9 am St. Monica
WEEKEND SAT 4 pm (Vigil) both parishes **SUN** 9 and 11 am St. Monica, 10 am St. Lucy



From Father Joe's Desk

As we have begun the season of Lent in this year of Our Lord, 2021, God reminds us again in the cycle of the Church seasons of our continual need to turn back to Him with our whole hearts. Consider first God's call to Israel through the prophet Joel many centuries before Jesus lived, died, and rose again: "Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment" (Joel 2:12-13).

Compare that invitation to one offered more recently in the 20th century (circa 1930s): "I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls" (Diary, Saint Faustina, 1074). Is it not the same kind of invitation seemingly offered to the same kind of people, people who have strayed and are yet mercifully called back?

Another example comes to us from God through the Prophet Isaiah, who was given to Israel in a time of exile. Here again is a stern yet merciful call from God our loving Father to His wayward children who need a word of hope in the midst of seeming hopelessness: "Come now, let us set things right, says the LORD: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they may become white as wool" (Isaiah 1:16-18). Consider the words of Isaiah in the light of the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (circa 1st

Century): "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love Him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit" (1Cor2:9).

Now compare Isaiah and Saint Paul to another invitation from our 20th century mystic: "Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity" (Diary, Saint Faustina, 699). It seems that each lends credibility to the other and points to the consistent invitation of God to His wayward children. Saint Paul would have had access to the writings of the prophets and Saint Faustina may have read the Bible in its entirety. Yet, we know that Sister Faustina was only educated through the third grade. Her deep theological understanding comes from Jesus Himself as recorded in her diary. The point is that God has been calling His people back ever since Adam and Eve took that first bite.

A classic hymn speaks of God's invitation to us today and always: "Come back to Me with all your heart, don't let fear keep us apart. Integrity and justice, with tenderness, you shall know. Trees do bend, though straight and tall, so must we... Long have I waited for your coming home to Me and living deeply our new lives." Note the lyrics are slightly rearranged to emphasize the point. Yet, the point nonetheless remains and endures, from our altars as from the Altar of the Cross. God bless you.

LENT 2021

Prayer Group

Mondays, 7-8 pm
Email faithformation.stlm@gmail.com
for the Zoom link

Confessions

Wednesdays, 7-8 pm (Gethsemane Chapel)
Fridays 4-5 pm (Gethsemane Chapel)
Saturdays 3-3:45 pm (both churches)

Stations of the Cross

Fridays, 7 pm (St. Lucy's)

More Lenten offerings & the Holy Week schedule to be announced soon



We are hosting a **Virtual Baby Bottle Campaign** to raise funds for the Pregnancy Care Center.

Please visit pccfriends.org to fill a virtual baby bottle or make a check payable to PCC and mail to 158 Mammoth Rd., Lowell, MA 01845. Please note our church name on the

check. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!

The Pregnancy Care Center (PCC) offers, loving, confidential support to those facing an unplanned pregnancy. The goal of the PCC is to journey alongside women to let them know they are not alone. Additionally, they provide sexual integrity education, post abortion counseling and material assistance (baby items, food, etc.). The services are free, thanks to support from individuals and local churches. The PCC has locations in Haverhill, Lawrence and Lowell.



Our **Knights of Columbus Council 14725** has teamed up with Tiny Saints® for a contact-free, online fundraiser!

Until next Sunday, when you shop online at Tiny Saints, 25% of your order will go to our fundraiser. All you need to do is select our organization name from the dropdown menu at www.tinysaints.com (Knights of Columbus Council 14725 - Methuen, MA).

Tiny Saints® sells colorful and vibrant charms, rosaries, plushies, board books and lanyards, all themed around the saints. At \$5-15, Tiny Saints® products make fun, affordable gifts and offer something for everyone.

Funds raised will be used to continue our charitable support of the parish community. Thank you for your support and may God Bless you.



YES I CAN PROGRAM

We are in need of soups, cereal, rice, mashed potatoes, canned beans, canned fruits, and jelly.

We have placed food collection baskets in both churches. You may also drop off food at the side door of Gethsemane Chapel during the week, but please do not leave food donations at the main door or entranceway of the chapel. Thank you for your generosity!



Observances for this week

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent
 Monday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
 Tuesday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
 Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

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MASS INTENTIONS

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, February 20
4:00pm Don Lavigne & Yvette Moran

Sunday, February 21
9:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Elizabeth Chojnowska
Frank Wholley
Kirk Patrick Walsh
11:00am Mary Fairbanks

Saturday, February 27
4:00pm Laurie Jackson

Sunday, February 28
9:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Nancy Tardif
Rose Kay
11:00am Gratien Michaud

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, February 20
4:00pm Mattia, Gerardo, & Vincenzo Minicucci

Sunday, February 21
10:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Joseph S. Augeri
Frank Wholley

Monday, February 22
9:00am Manny Gianni & Christine Gianni Eldridge

Tuesday, February 23
9:00am *Living Intentions*
Theresa Jackson
Elizabeth, Joseph, and Marilyn Mugavero
Sarah Wilkens
John Wilkens
Pam Bryant

Thursday, February 25
9:00am Stephen Bellingreri

Friday, February 26
9:00am Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, February 27
4:00pm Manuel Melo

Sunday, February 28
10:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Susan Harrington



PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

SUNDAY MASS

9:00 & 11:00 AM ST. MONICA CHURCH
10:00 AM ST. LUCY CHURCH

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, & FRIDAY DAILY MASS

9:00 AM ST. LUCY CHURCH

WEDNESDAY

CONFESSIONS

7:00 - 8:00 PM GETHSEMANE CHAPEL

FRIDAY

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

2:00 - 5:00 PM GETHSEMANE CHAPEL

CONFESSIONS 4:00 - 5:00 PM

GETHSEMANE CHAPEL

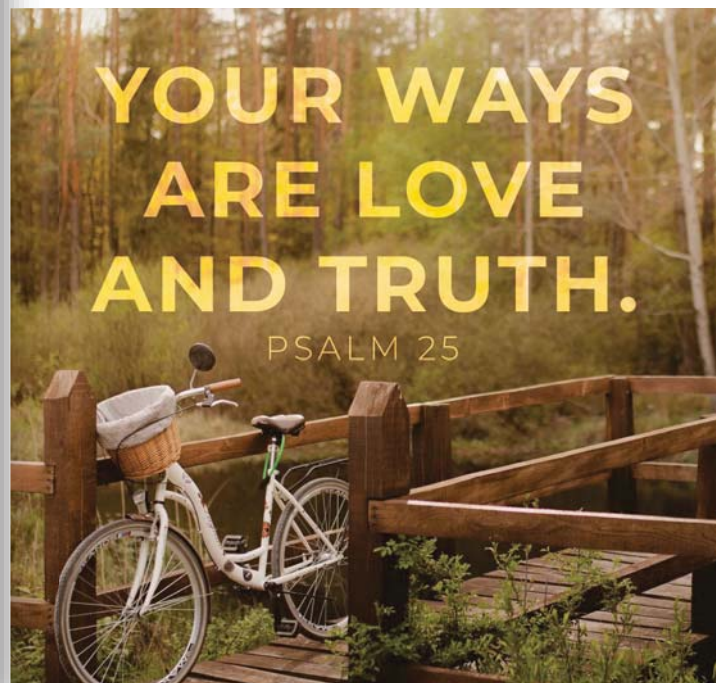
SATURDAY

CONFESSIONS 3:00 - 3:45 PM

ST. MONICA CHURCH & ST. LUCY CHURCH

VIGIL MASS 4:00 - 5:00 PM

ST. MONICA CHURCH & ST. LUCY CHURCH





Readings for this week

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **Rosemary Lahage, Sara Thornhill, Robyn Hurst, Kate Boyko, John Wilkens, and Sarah Wilkens.**

Please pray for **Helena Berthold** and **Michael Duchnowski** whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at St. Monica's. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

Please pray for our priests, seminarians, and vocations daily. Pick up a Pray for Our Priests calendar and a seminarian prayer card at the back of the church or use this list each day. Our priests and seminarians need our prayers!


Day	Date	Priest	Seminarian
Sun	02/21	Msgr. Peter Conley	Diego Valdez
Mon	02/22	Pope Francis	John Gonzalez
Tue	02/23	Fr. John Healy	Rafael Milla
Wed	02/24	Fr. George Hines	Gerson Garcia
Thurs	02/25	Fr. Roger Jacques	Aaron Arbizo
Fri	02/26	Fr. Edward Gallagher	Patrick O'Connor
Sat	02/27	Fr. Robert Labrie	Nathaniel Sanders


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STAFF

Fr. Darin Colarusso	Pastor
Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Pierce	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
Isabela Peixoto	Communications Associate
Donna Henderson	St. Monica School Principal
Sharon Tully	St. Monica School Administrative Assistant
Karl Jackson	Director of Mission and Formation
Eric Berthiaume	Music Director - St. Monica
Sharon Waning	Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy
Kevin Fitzgerald	Facilities Manager (St. Lucy)/RCIA Coordinator

BAPTISMS Please call the parish office. **St. Monica:** 2nd Sun. of the month @ 1pm | **St. Lucy:** 3rd Sun. of the Month @ 1pm

MARRIAGES Please call the Parish Offices at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date and before booking a reception hall.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Mondays @ 10 am. Please email all bulletin notices to methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

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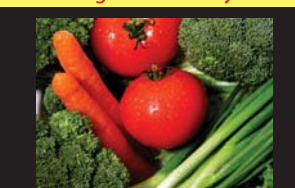
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