

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

ST. MONICA PARISH ST. LUCY PARISH

212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA Renew, Rebuild, and Reach Out: Disciples in Heartfelt Communion with Jesus Christ

HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 10, 2021



From Father Joe's Desk

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, perhaps we can consider the Sacrament of Baptism and its relationship with the Holy Eucharist. One of the more obscure gospel passages in the Baptismal Rite involves the account of Jesus' death through the eyes of St. John, who was the only apostle to remain at the foot of the Cross with Our Lady and a few others. John recorded what he witnessed. Only the Gospel of John contains the following account.

The soldiers came to break the legs of the crucified in order to hasten death and remove their bodies before the Passover Sabbath. Since Jesus was already dead, the centurion ordered a fatal lance thrust just to be sure. When the soldier withdrew his lance, immediately blood and water flowed out. While entirely natural, this flow of blood and water is also theologically and sacramentally significant for us Catholics. The Blood of Christ flowing from Christ's side points us to the Most Holy Eucharist while the water points us to the Sacrament of Baptism.

In 1931, Jesus instructed St. Faustina Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament. Secretary and Apostle of Divine Mercy, to have the image of Divine Mercy painted. In the image of the Divine Mercy, red and white rays emanate from the Heart of Jesus. At one point, Jesus taught her to pray these words: "O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus, as a fount of mercy for us. I trust in You" (Diary, entry 84; cf. 309). Continuing from St. Faustina's diary: "When on one occasion my confessor told me to ask the Lord Jesus the meaning of the two rays in the image, I answered, 'Very well, I will ask the Lord.' During prayer I heard these words within me: 'The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the water that 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'" (Diary, 299).

Jesus' words--"The pale ray stands for water that makes souls righteous"--point to the waters of Baptism. Baptism cleanses its recipient from all sin including Original Sin, making souls truly righteous. "The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls," namely the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, the true Food which sustains the life of the soul. And just as the life of the body is sustained by the soul, so also the life of the soul-revived in Baptism--is sustained by the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Thus, Baptism and the Eucharist are as intimately tied together as are the Blood and water flowing commingled from the Body of Christ. One cannot approach the Altar of Sacrifice, one cannot receive the Most Blessed Eucharist. without first passing through the cleansing laver of Baptism. Baptism is truly the gateway sacrament to all the sacraments of the Church that flow from Christ's wounded side as He died upon the Cross, as witnessed in the Gospel of John and in the revelations of the Divine Mercy to Saint Faustina.

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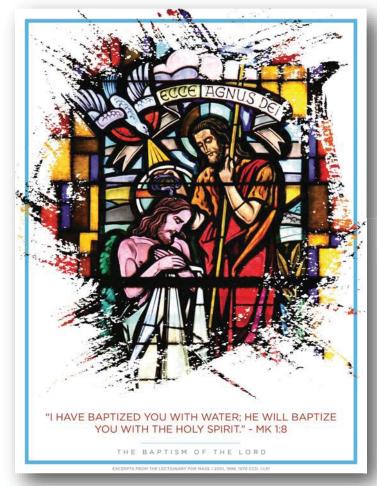
A series by Dr. Mark Miravalle, a theology professor specializing in Mariology, who has been teaching at the Franciscan University of Steubenville for over 25 years.

To access the content, search for Mariology for Everyone on YouTube.



RCIA Program

Are you interested in taking steps to enter the Catholic Church or complete your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist)? If so, please contact Bonnie at 978-609-7307 for more information.





Christmas Tree Pick-up for Methuen Residents

St. Monica School will be happy to pick up your Christmas tree on January 10, 15 or 16!

Fee is \$10 per tree, checks made payable to St. Monica School. Please contact Marc Krzywicki at 978-500-7880 to schedule your pick-up.



Saint Monica School

WINTER CALENDAR RAFFLE

February 2021

(If your name is picked on the day, you win that amount)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
	\$150	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$100
7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
\$100	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$100
14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
\$100	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$100
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
\$100	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$100
28.						
\$150						

We must sell 195 tickets. If we do not sell 195 tickets, we will have a 50/50 raffle and one winner will be drawn and the winner will receive 50% of the monies collected and the school will receive the other 50%. (This raffle has always sold enough tickets to be held!)

All payments will be sent to winner/winners mid-March.

Please return this portion of ticket with payment to Sharon Tully in the School Office.

St. Monica School Calendar Raffle \$10 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$50

Checks made out to St. Monica School by 1/31/21

Name	Phone (REQUIRED)			
Address (REQUIRED)				
St. Monica Student who sold ticket:	(if purchased through a school child)			

Names of St. Monica School children who sell winning tickets will be put in a raffle for a prize. If there is only one winner due to 50/50, that child will win a prize (if a St. Monica Child sold ticket).

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, January 9

4:00pm Eileen T. Dowd

Sunday, January 10

9:00am Multiple Intentions

Shirley Barbagallo Nellie J. Fichera Jeffrey J. Clark

11:00am Foley, Faria, Wells, Nuss, &

Ardagna Families

Saturday, January 16

4:00pm Judith Blaisdell

Sunday, January 17

9:00am Multiple Intentions

Don Lavigne Yvette Moran Claire Waterworth

11:00am Ilona Jankow

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, January 9

4:00pm Richard Giles

Sunday, January 10

10:00am Multiple Intentions

Joan Jackson Ciofolo Family DiVincentis Family Kevin Morgan Sharon Alarcon Bobby Wysocki Manuel Leal

Monday, January 11

9:00am Timothy Jackson

Tuesday, January 12 9:00am John Wajda

Thursday, January 14 9:00am Ida Lazzara

Friday, January 15 9:00am Dick Doherty

Saturday, January 16

4:00pm James M. Mahoney

Sunday, January 17

10:00am Multiple Intentions

Theresa A. Rickley



SATURDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY MASS

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

10.00 AM OT. LOOT OHOKOTI

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, & FRIDAY

DAILY MASS

9:00 AM ST. LUCY CHURCH

FRIDAY

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

12:00 - 3:00 PM GETHSEMANE CHAPEL

CONFESSIONS 2:00 - 3:00 PM

GETHSEMANE CHAPEL



YES I CAN PROGRAM

We are in need of canned carrots, canned baked beans, pancake syrup and peanut butter.

We will have food collection baskets available in both churches in the usual locations. You may also drop off food at the side door of Gethsemane Chapel during the week, but food donations are not to be left at the main door or entranceway of the chapel. Thank you for your generosity!

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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IN LOVING MEMORY

Roses for Life for this week Theresa A. Rickley



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Raymond L'Hereux, Marie L'Hereux, Delores R., Lawrence R., Laura C., Mike T.. and Joanne K.

Please pray for Lorraine Dufresne-Imonti and Richard R. Pelletier whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at St. Lucy's. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

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

Date	Priest	Seminarian	
01/10	Fr. Richard Cannon	Nicholas Stano	
01/11	Fr. William English	Deacon Fernando Ayala	
01/12	Fr. Christopher Gomes	Deacon David Campo	
01/13	Fr. Michael Drea	Deacon Robert LeBlanc	
01/14	Fr. Robert Soucy	Deacon Steven Restrepo	
01/15	Fr. Robert Cullen	Deacon Kevin Pleitez	
01/16	Fr. Benjamin LeTran	Deacon Leonardo Moreira	

Parish Offices: 254 Merrimack Street, Methuen Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm St. Monica School: 212 Lawrence St., Methuen



Parishes: methuencatholic@gmail.com School: smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

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Dan Bolster Weekend Organist - 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.

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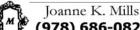


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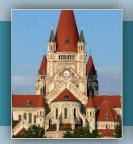
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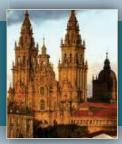
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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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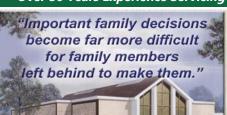
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