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WE ARE OPEN AGAIN

Last week's bulletin entry was eerily timely. I wrote that our collaborative schedule incorporates "many moving parts" in order to balance several parish events and safety protocols. This happens constantly throughout the week and may not be observable at Sunday Mass. Additionally, we need to be able to respond to a turn of events with teamwork and patience. Any response to changing circumstances is never perfect, but that doesn't mean change can't be anticipated either. That's why the collaborative schedule is what it is.

To paraphrase last week's bulletin:

You may find it unusual to think that the manner in which we run our Religious Ed classes or offer Mass for the students of St. Monica School could affect so many other events in our calendar, even on a different day, but it's true. In COVID world, everything produces a ripple effect. That's because the time and effort it takes to prepare for, run, and cleanup up after any event has many safety protocols. It's never just as easy as adding an event to the calendar or asking for more volunteers to help. Any change affects several aspects of what needs to be done for other events and who is available to make it work.

Also, protocol changes from the State, Archdiocese, or Methuen COVID code can quickly throw a monkey wrench into what we can or cannot do. This makes planning major events very difficult and requires almost a month-to-month, even week -to-week mindset. When something outside of our expectations happens-someone informs us that they've tested positive for COVID-19 or a larger than expected number of people show up for an event-- these circumstances require on the ground

decisions or a contingency plan. However, a major change in how we operate is not practical or necessary.

I used the words "eerily timely" regarding that bulletin entry because it was written before the events of last week. Though Fr D'Onofrio and I are perfectly healthy, we still had to respond to someone else's condition by being tested and going into temporary quarantine. Our tests came back negative, we are both still asymptomatic, and expect to be back at Mass this weekend based on the timing of when we were possibly exposed. Nevertheless and unfortunately, I elected to suspend the Sunday Mass schedule last weekend due to this and other unrelated events. I did not think it was prudent or safe to celebrate mass when it required hurriedly coordinating several moving parts and key players. Call it an "operational pause."

Simplicity is helpful. I have said any number of times during the weekly preparatory instructions before Mass that if one feels crowded at one particular parish Mass, that person may need to think about attending another, even if it is a different parish. Similarly, Daily Mass is much simpler and safer to celebrate (especially for a visiting priest) at St. Lucy Parish. That's why we are holding Daily Mass there through Thanksgiving weekend. In fact, that simplicity is why we are even able to have a Thanksgiving Mass this year at all. These occasional adjustments that we all must endure aren't meant to signal anything about parish life beyond COVID world. To the contrary, they facilitate a fruitful parish life until we get there.

The Sunday Mass schedule is back on, praise God, in a timely manner. I'm sorry for the concern and inconvenience suspending the local Mass caused all of us, but we must remain responsive to the world around us and thankful to the parishes nearby that picked up the load. Hopefully, by being both structurally sound and flexible at the same time, we won't have the same circumstance occur anytime again soon.



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.



Yes I Can Program

We are in need of soups, canned spaghetti, rice, canned carrots, peas, corn and mashed potatoes.

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!

Join us for **The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation** Bible Study on Wednesdays at **6:00 pm** on Zoom.

Contact Bonnie Doherty for more information and to register: bonnieocds@gmail.com or 978-270-3366 (cell).





The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Thanksgiving and Christmas Programs

Recognizing the challenges our parish

community continues to face in 2020, and the anticipated surge in the COVID virus, we have had to modify our 2020 Thanksgiving and Christmas programs to ensure the safety of our parishioners and the families we serve.

For Thanksgiving this year, your ongoing generosity has made it possible for us to provide each of our families with a grocery store gift card and bag of holiday related food items.

In place of an Advent Tree with tags and gift requests, we are going to offer Target or Wal-Mart gift cards to the children we serve in our ministry. If you would like to participate in our Nativity Program for 2020, we will have designated boxes as you enter the church each week where you can leave a gift card in any denomination you choose. You may also mail gift cards directly to the Parish Office, SVDP Nativity Program, 254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844.

We plan to provide our families with a supermarket gift card to help with their Christmas meal.

As always, thank you for your generosity and support of our programs. The families we serve truly appreciate the assistance your donations provide. God bless you.



Prayer Group

Every Wednesday at 10:00 am on Zoom. Contact Bonnie Doherty for the link to join. bonnieocds@gmail.com



Our Fundraiser is Here!

We're raising money for St Monica Elementary (ID 189583), and we need your help. It's easy! No order forms, no checks to collect, no handing out items. Just send, share, and shop. 40% of purchases go directly to our cause. Fundraiser ends 11/30/2020.







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I'm Dreaming of a "Green" Christmas Third Day of Christmas

Baby, It's Cold Outside

Fourth Day of Christmas

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Fifth Day of Christmas

You're a "Green" One-McGrinch

Sixth Day of Christmas Feliz Navidad

Seventh Day of Christmas Prospero Año

Eighth Day of Christmas

I'll Make Myself At Home This Christmas

Ninth Day of Christmas

I Wanna Win the Lottery for Christmas

Tenth Day of Christmas

We Need a Little "Spa Time"

Eleventh Day of Christmas

Have Yourself a YETI Little Christmas Twelfth Day of Christmas

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ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, November 21 4:00pm - Elise White

Sunday, November 22

9:00am - Multiple Intentions

Chouinard Family

Richard & Margaret McCarron

Yvette Moran Don Lavigne Patricia Timmons Barbara Carey, OCDS

Rita Doherty

11:00am - Deceased Members of the

Knights of Columbus

Please note: Due to the Covid-19 exposure at our parishes, all daily Masses including the Thanksgiving Day Mass this week will be offered at St. Lucy Church.

Please note that the Mass intentions from last weekend's canceled Masses from both parishes are being offered in private by our priests this week.



Observances for this week

Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Monday: St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St. Columban,

Abbot; Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro, Priest and

Martyr

Tuesday: St. Andrew D ng-L c, Priest, and Companions,

Martyrs

Wednesday: St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

Thursday: Thanksgiving Day
Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, November 21

4:00pm - Deceased Members of the Rickley Family

Sunday, November 22

10:00am - Multiple Intentions

Reverend Charles Sgueglia Antonio & Philomena Sgueglia Antonio & Mildred Ferraro John & Anna D'Agata Salomeja Rembisz Gilda Connors Daniel Connors William G. Klier

Monday, November 23

9:00am - Manny Gianni & Christine Gianni Eldridge

Tuesday, November 24

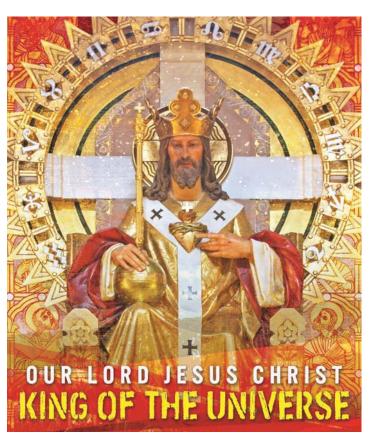
9:00am - Al & Margarite DeLuca, Carmen DeLuca, Sandra DeLuca, and Ann Bradley

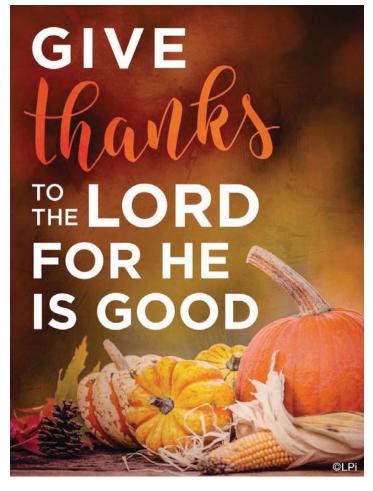
Thursday, November 26

9:00am - Thanksgiving Day Mass

Friday, November 27

9:00am - Real & Gerard Taschereau (originally scheduled for St. Monica's)





IN LOVING MEMORY

Roses for Life for this week Theresa A. Rickley

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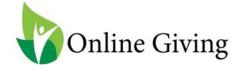
PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Will F., Sarah Wilkens, Ann H., Julie M., Eric H., Pat, Dick Lynch, Joyce C., Joseph V. for healing of his eyes, Justice C., and Tom C.

Please pray for Norma Hart and Robert Pitocchelli whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at our parishes. 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
11/22/2020	Fr. Fernando Vivas	Nicholas Stano
11/23/2020	Fr. James Burke	Deacon Fernando Ayala
11/24/2020	Fr. Hoang Le	Deacon David Campo
11/25/2020	Fr. Thomas MacDonald	Deacon Robert LeBlanc
11/26/2020	Fr. John Gallagher	Deacon Steven Restrepo
11/27/2020	Fr. John Farrell	Deacon Kevin Pleitez
11/28/2020	Fr. Robert Casey	Deacon Leonardo Moreira



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

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STAFF

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Isabela Peixoto **Communications Associate**

Donna Henderson St. Monica School Principal

St. Monica School Administrative Assistant **Sharon Tully Karl Jackson Director of Faith Formation**

Eric Berthiaume Music Director - St. Monica

Sharon Waning Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy **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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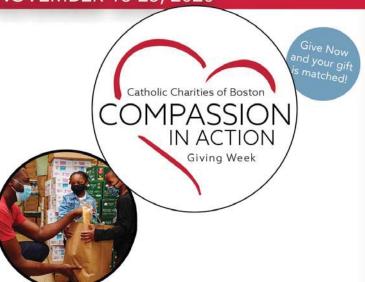
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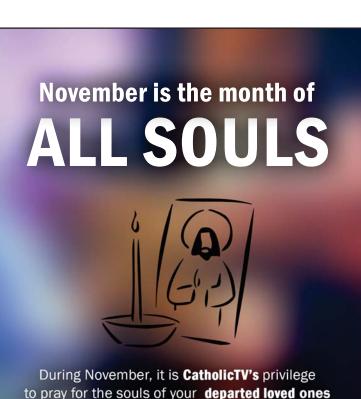


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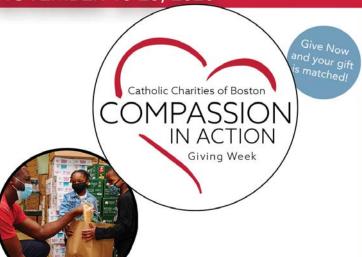
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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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