

DECEMBER 1, 2019

1st Sunday OF ADVENT

ST. MONICA PARISH

212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA

ST. LUCY PARISH

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA

RENEW, REBUILD, AND REACH OUT: DISCIPLES IN HEARTFELT COMMUNION WITH JESUS CHRIST

DAILY MASS **MON, TUE, & WED** 8:00 am St. Lucy **THURS & FRI** 8:15 am St. Monica **SAT** 8:00 am St. Monica
WEEKEND SAT 4:00 pm (Vigil) both parishes **SUN** 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 am St. Monica, 9:00 and 11:00 am St. Lucy

FROM THE PASTOR

Happy First Sunday of Advent! May the observances that we undertake as a people of faith this holy season, whether new or perennial favorites, be particularly fruitful for everyone in our parishes and school. A new event that I am excited about this year is our Lessons and Carols, which we will hold on the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec 15th, 4:00pm).

Lessons and Carols may be unfamiliar to many of us. It is a service of scriptural readings, prayers, and choral music to enhance our preparation for the Coming of Our Lord. Also, it will include several other dimensions, such as the Children's Pageant and lighting of the Christmas Tree. However, the one dimension that is of the highest importance (aside for the worship of God) is the fact that it is open to **everyone** regardless of whether we call ourselves a member of St. Lucy or St. Monica Parish or St. Monica School. In fact, it's open to anyone who walks in the door of the church no matter where they are from! To think otherwise, regardless of our affiliation, is to essentially negate the point of Advent when you think about it.

In that spirit, I am also very happy to announce the preliminary opening of our Chapel of the Eucharist. I call it a "preliminary" opening because it does not yet have a formal name. The name should be something, in my opinion, that is not identified with any particular collaborative entity. Just as the evening of Lessons and Carols is a service for everyone, so the Chapel will exist as a place of prayer in the Lord's presence for everyone. My initial idea for a name is something like the "Mt. Carmel Chapel of the Eucharist." Not only does it evoke a great spiritual-mystical tradition, but it refers to the history of Catholic Faith in our area. Other names are possible; we just haven't figured out a process for developing them yet.

Please participate in the many offerings available in our collaborative to receive the grace of the Advent Season. Make time for something like the St. Lucy Triduum, which includes a penance service. Going to Confession is a great way to prepare for Christmas, of course. In short, the only questions in our minds having to do with location should be whether Christ is deeply welcomed within our hearts or not.

Welcome

We're glad you're here!

New to our community? We're so happy you joined us this weekend and we'd love to have you worship with us regularly. Come discover the peace that comes from following our Lord Jesus.



St. Lucy Triduum 2019

December 11, 12, & 13

St. Lucy Church

Come celebrate with us!

Wednesday, December 11

7:00 pm Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 12

7:00 pm Advent Parish Mission

Friday, December 13

7:00 pm Feast of St. Lucy Mass



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

Mass Schedule:

8:00 am St. Lucy Church

10:00 am St. Monica Church *(School Mass)*

7:00 pm St. Monica Church



On November 18, the Commission to Aid Our Brothers and Sisters in Need brought donations of sheets and blankets from both parishes to the veterans living at Ashton Place. Our veterans were very grateful. Thank you for your generosity.



LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 15th
4:00 - 5:00 pm St. Monica Church
Followed by refreshments in the school hall.

If your child is interested in participating in the choir, please call the Parish Offices at (978) 683-1193.

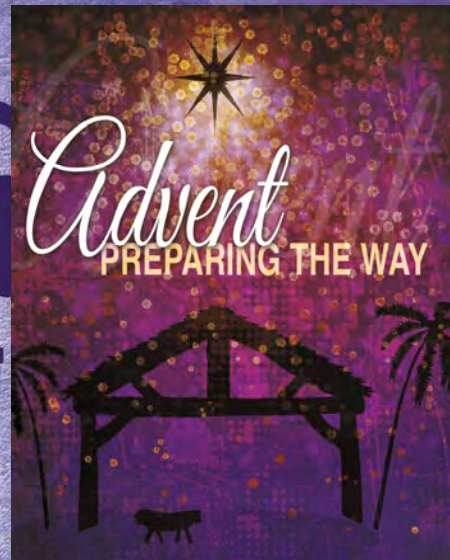
ST. LUCY'S MEN'S GUILD

There will be no Men's Guild Meeting in December. The next meeting will be Sunday, January 19.

ST. LUCY BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY

The next Sodality Mass will be at 11:00 am next Sunday, December 8th followed by our Annual Christmas Lunch in the church hall.

Yankee Swap: \$10.00 Gift! Be creative! Please give your name by Dec. 4th if you are attending. Contact Ursula Maggio at 978-628-3419.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Holy Hour: Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, and Evening Prayer

6:00 - 7:00 pm St. Lucy Church

FORMED



Lectio: Mary Episode 1 - The New Eve

The New Fulfills the Old

The Book of Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve, whose sin of disobedience breaks their relationship with God. God does not abandon his people, but gradually prepares them for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, the promised "seed" of Genesis 3:15 is the "New Adam," and his mother, the promised "woman," is the "New Eve."

New way to register:

1. Visit FORMED.org
2. Click Sign Up
3. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"
4. Find our parishes by name, zip, or our access code **(9772VM)**
5. Enter your email - and you're in!

We encourage you to extend an invitation to family and friends.

After you register, please email Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie at (978) 270 - 3366 or at the email above.

Saint Vincent de Paul Annual Giving Tree



Our St. Vincent de Paul Society Giving Tree is in the rear of the church at St. Monica's. The tree helps to enable our parish community to assist our parish's families in need and bring the light and love of Our Lord into this special time of year. Tags listing specific gift requests are placed on the tree and we encourage you, if you are able, to take one or more tags and purchase the item(s) listed. **The gifts should be returned unwrapped, or in a gift bag, with the tag attached to the gift, and placed under the tree no later than Sunday, December 8th.**

If you have any questions, please direct them to Pat Wilkens, Nativity Program Coordinator, at 978-686- 9573. Thank you.

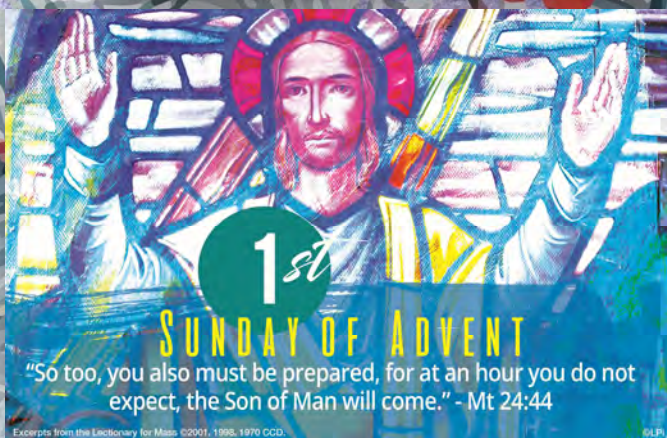
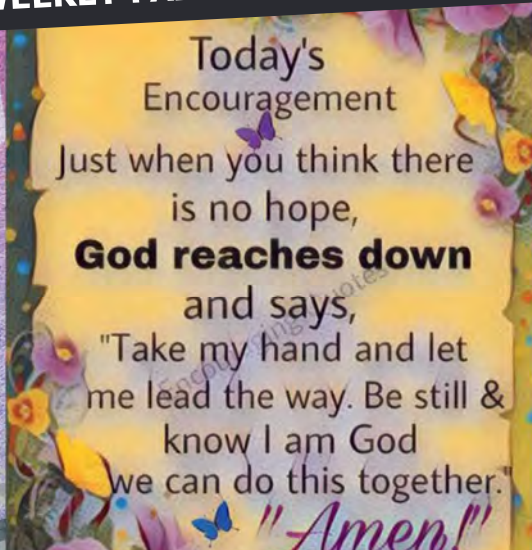
Advent Tree of Light



Once again St. Lucy Parish is partnering with Lazarus House in assisting families over the Christmas Holiday. The Advent Tree of Light will be located at the main entrance of St. Lucy Church until **December 9th**. Tags are placed on the tree for specific requests. If you are able, please make another family's Christmas brighter by taking a tag and purchasing the item requested. **Please do not wrap the gifts.** Place the gift in a gift bag and place the tag on the outside of the bag. Leave the gift bags in the rear of the Church. **All gifts must be returned by December 11.** Gifts received after December 11th will be held for next year.

Please call Annette Autiello at 978-683-5159 or 508-783-1544 with any questions. Thank you.

WEEKLY FAITH ENCOURAGEMENT



St. Monica and St. Lucy Parishes would like to welcome you to our
2nd Annual Christmas Eve Social

Tuesday, December 24, 2019
immediately following the 4 p.m. Mass
(around 5:15 – 7pm) in St. Monica's School Hall

Pot Luck – Bring an appetizer, entrée or dessert to share (If it's a dish best served warm, please bring your crock pot or hot plate – no Sternos) Water and punch will be provided.

Yankee Swap – Bring a wrapped gift to exchange (optional). The gift should be worth approximately \$10. Something you have at home that you think someone might like – this is just for fun!

Christmas Caroling – as time allows until 7pm

Santa's helpers to set up and/or tidy up would be greatly appreciated! No need to RSVP – just come if you can – we'd love to have you join us! All are welcome. Any questions, email debralori338@gmail.com

ST. MONICA PARISH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

8:00 am Joseph O'Neil

4:00 pm Mark A. McComiskey Jr. and
Michael Cestrone

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:30 am Elise White

9:30 am Charlie and Rose Hanafin
Leo and Patricia Deschamps
Will Barnes
Maryanne McGurn
Mathieu Roy
George W. Lafland
Fred J. Rapisardi
James F. Sheehy
11:30 am Sully LaTorre

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:15 am Joseph Aiesi

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:15 am

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 am

4:00 pm Velma and Thomas Fortune

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:30 am Charles Booth Jr.
Margaret and Charles Booth Sr.
Dorothy and James McCarthy
Robert O'Connor
Howard Hart

9:30 am Antonette Ragonese
Deceased members of the
Ragonese Family
Santina and Sebastian DiPietro
Archie Caredeo

11:30 am People of St. Monica and
St. Lucy Parishes

ST. LUCY PARISH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

4:00 pm People of St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:00 am George Baker Jr.

11:00 am Warren Finniss
Maria L. DiFruscia
Deceased members of the Cheltowski, Chelton,
and Daly Families
Anthony Longo and Longo and Rotondo Families
Shawn Ryan and James Ryan
Salvatore DeLucca
Sharon Forgetta
Charles Pattavina Jr.
John and Jennie Blatti

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

8:00 am Wendy Bennett

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00 am Mary Madden Welch

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:00 am **Living Mass**

A special intention
Julia Caprario
Gerry, Kay, Jeff, Noreen, Pat, and Nicolas
Felice and Freil Families
Carole
Elizabeth, Joseph, and Marilyn
Gerta, Eva, and Eileen
Sharon H.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

4:00 pm Yvonne Soucy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 am Joseph Coco
11:00 am Domenic and Mary Rotonelli
Giuseppi and Francesca Bevilacqua
John and Anna D'Agata
Joseph D. Cavallaro
Deceased members of the BVM Sodality
Mary Finocchiaro
Domenic and Margaret Nicolosi
Arcangelo, Giuseppina, Gabriele, and
Giuseppe Sangiorgio

MASS INTENTIONS

GIVE

ST. MONICA PARISH

11/24/19 regular offertory: \$8,758.00
2nd collection for retired religious sisters: \$2,893.00

The second collection this weekend is for the Christmas Flowers. There is only one collection next weekend, our regular Sunday offering.

ST. LUCY PARISH

11/24/19 regular offertory: \$5,701.00
2nd collection for retired religious sisters: \$2,033.00

The second collection this weekend is for the Christmas Flowers. There is only one collection next weekend, our regular Sunday offering.

Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parishes.

OFFERTORY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

- **RCIA Class** 10:00 am St. Lucy School House
- **Jr. Catholic Daughters of the Americas Meeting**
12:30 pm St. Monica House

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

- **8th Grade Faith Formation** 4:00 pm St. Monica House
- **Rosary Prayer Group** 6:00 pm St. Monica Church
- **Baptism Parent & Godparent Class** 7 pm St. Monica Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

- **Alpha Night Session** 6:15 pm St. Lucy Church Hall
- **Padre Pio Prayer Group** 6:30 pm St. Monica Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- **Prayer and Study** - Join us in reading "A Story of a Soul, Autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux" 10am St. Monica House
- **Friendship Club** 1:00 pm St. Monica House

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

- **Adoration and Confessions** 6:00 - 7:00 pm St. Lucy Church
- **Parish Council** 7:15 pm St. Lucy School House

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

- **Adoration** after the 8:15 am Mass until 5:30pm
St. Monica Chapel
- **Confessions** 4:30 - 5:30 pm St. Monica Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

- **Faith2fitt** 8 am St. Lucy School House
- **First Saturday Mass in honor of the Blessed Mother**
8:00 am St. Monica Church
- **Women's Prayer Group** 9:30 am St. Monica House
- **Baptism Catechesis Class** 11:30 am St. Lucy School House
- **Choir Rehearsal** 2:30 pm St. Monica Church
- **Confessions** 3- 3:45pm St. Monica Chapel & St. Lucy Church
- **Choir Rehearsal** 3:15 pm St. Lucy Church
- **Connect Group** 5:00 pm St. Lucy School House

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

- **Faith Formation at St. Monica's**
- **BVM Sodality Christmas Party** after the 11:00 am Mass
St. Lucy Lower Hall
- **Confirmation 2 Meeting** 12:45 pm St. Monica School Hall

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **Chloe, Kari N., Sylvia H., Kathleen L., Justin N., John W., Gerry, Kay, Pat, Jeff, Carole, Noreen, Gerta, Eva, Eileen, Sharon H., Tina P., Casey W., and Janice M.**

IN LOVING MEMORY

Roses for Life for this week

St. Monica Parish: **Theresa A. Rickley**

Sanctuary Candle for December

St. Monica Parish: **Donald Stewart**

St. Lucy Parish: **Joseph and Cecelia Conte and John Mugavero**

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

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PREPARE THE WAY FOR CHRIST

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month

6:00 - 7:00 pm in St. Lucy Church

Fridays beginning after the 8:15 am Mass until
5:30 pm in St. Monica Chapel

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month

6:00 - 7:00 pm in St. Lucy Church

Fridays 4:30 - 5:30 pm St. Monica Chapel

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45 pm

St. Monica Chapel & St. Lucy Church



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



Parish Offices: (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311
St. Monica School: (978) 686-1801
St. Vincent de Paul Society: (978) 686 - 9573



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



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Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio
Deacon John Pierce
Deacon John Kobrenski
Kera Mansour
Carolyn Leocata
Isabela Peixoto
Donna Henderson
Sharon Tully
Karl Jackson
Eric Berthiaume
Sharon Waning
Dan Bolster
Kevin Fitzgerald

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Parochial Vicar
Permanent Deacon
Permanent Deacon
Business Manager
Administrative Assistant
Communications Associate
St. Monica School Principal
St. Monica School Administrative Assistant
Director of Faith Formation
Music Director - St. Monica
Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy
Weekend Organist - St. Lucy
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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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



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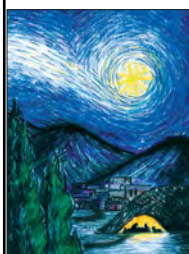
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