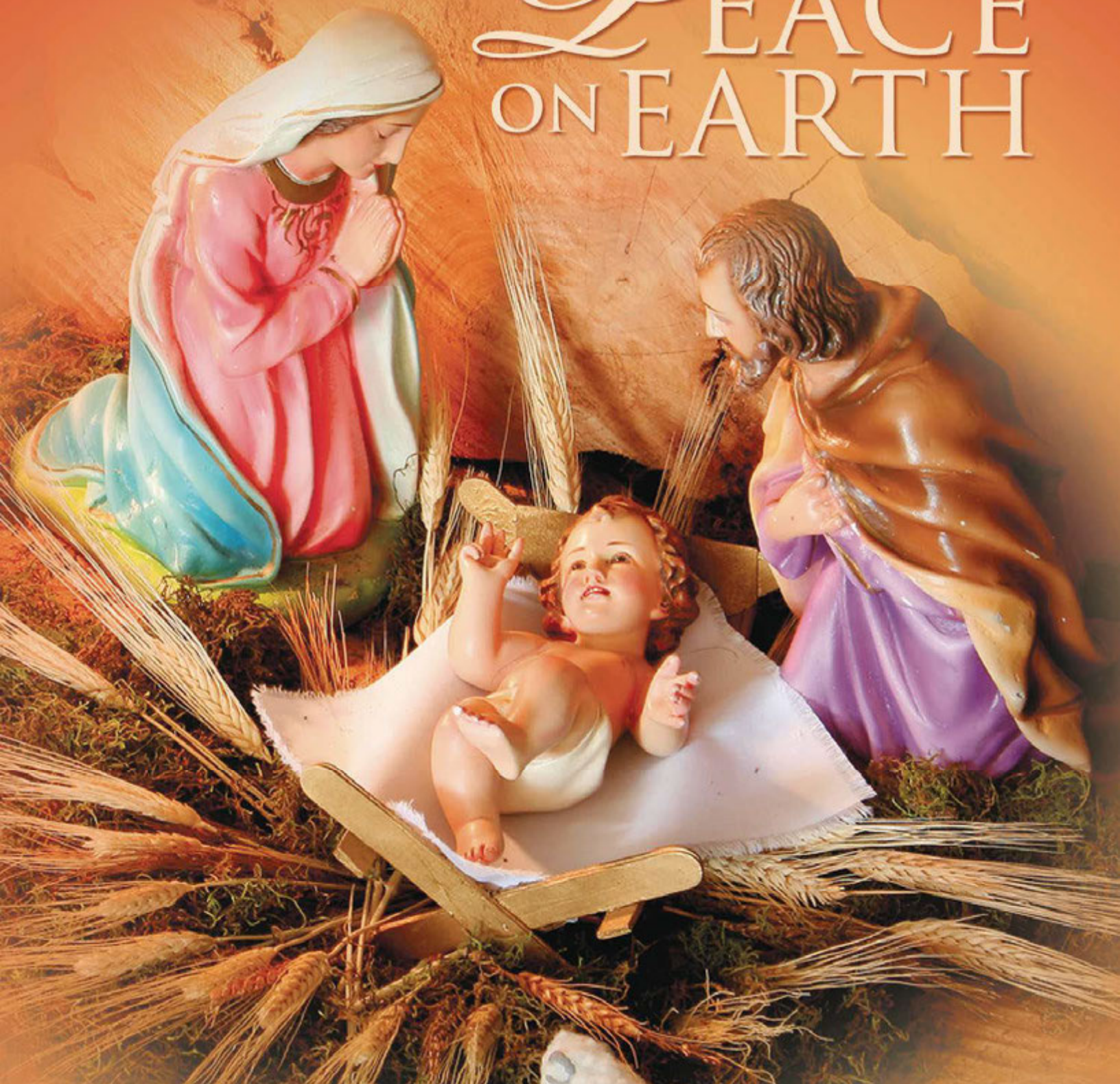


December 23, 2018

# PEACE ON EARTH



**ST. MONICA PARISH    ST. LUCY PARISH**

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





WELCOME to the Catholic Parishes of St. Monica and St. Lucy. We feel so blessed to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, with you and your family.

Please join us for Mass again.

We would love the opportunity to continue to walk with you and your family in faith. We have placed *Connect Cards* in all of the pews, and we invite you to fill one out and place it in the offertory basket.

For more information on any of the ministries listed on this page, please call our Parish Offices at (978) 683 - 1193.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU and may the Christ child be with you and yours throughout Christmas and the New Year.



## Encounter Jesus in Prayer

Eucharistic Adoration  
Prayer Groups  
Bible Study  
Novenas to our Lady  
Divine Mercy Chaplet  
Padre Pio Prayer Group  
Alpha Prayer Team  
Cursillo & Ultreya  
Prayer and Study  
Ignatius Spiritual Exercise Group

## Encounter Jesus in Service

St. Vincent de Paul  
Knights of Columbus  
Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality  
Commission to Assist our  
Brothers and Sisters in Need  
Homebound Visitation  
Green Thumb Committee  
Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Altar Servers and Choir  
Lectors and Greeters

## Encounter Jesus in Faith and the Community of Believers

Alpha  
Alpha 2.0 (Catholic Connections)  
Family Faith Formation  
Adult Faith Formation  
Men's Guild  
Bible Study  
Formed.org  
Confirmation Preparation  
First Communion Preparation  
Baptism Preparation  
Marriage Preparation  
Connect Groups  
Tea and Treasure  
Creating Life Group  
Friendship Club  
Faith and Fitness



## St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes Christmas Schedule

The Word became flesh and  
made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory, the  
glory as of the Father's only  
Son, full of grace and truth.  
John 1:14

### Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

- 4:00 PM St. Monica Church
- 4:00 PM Methuen Memorial Music Hall (192 Broadway, Methuen)
- 4:00 PM St. Lucy Church
- 4:00 PM St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- 7:00 PM St. Lucy Church
- 10:00 PM St. Monica Church

### Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

- 7:30 AM St. Monica Church
- 9:00 AM St. Lucy Church
- 10:30 AM St. Monica Church



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.



#### MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday, December 31, 2018**

4:00 pm at each parish

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019**

9:00 am at each parish



"Imagine for a moment that we are living in Jesus' time and He has invited us to visit with Him and spend some quiet time getting to know Him better. Being aware of who He was, we would be humbled and honored by such an invitation. The good news is that Jesus is here with us TODAY - body, blood, soul and divinity". - *Mother Teresa's Reflection/St. Daniels Church*

#### Join us for Eucharistic Adoration

- Fridays: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm in the St. Monica Chapel
- \*Typically on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month 6:00 - 7:00 pm in St. Lucy Church

\* ***In January, Eucharistic Adoration at St. Lucy's will be on 1/10/19 and 1/24/19.***

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to all of our Faith Formation volunteers and families! Thank you for your continued dedication to our young people.

- From the Office of Faith Formation

On your way out of Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, please take home with you a copy of the book "The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity". The books will be located at the entrances to both churches.



### Trip to Medjugorje May 21 - 29, 2019

with Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio  
as Spiritual Director

To be where Our Blessed Mother still appears to visionaries every day. The place the whole world is talking about. Five star accommodations, 2 meals a day, motor coach transportation while in Medjugorje, professional guide every day, and visit with visionary. For more information or to register, please contact Claude Langlois at (978) 682 - 6012. In celebrating the Month of Mary, be with us in Medjugorje.

### Italy Pilgrimage - Including The Passion Play of Oberammergau

11 Days: June 1-11, 2020

Hosted by Fr. Jeremy St. Martin &  
Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio

Visiting Rome, Assisi, Florence, Venice, Innsbruck, and Munich  
\$4299 from Boston

For more information, please contact  
Ms. Patricia Buckjune - Group Leader at  
(978) 433 - 7897

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit [www.clergyfunds.org](http://www.clergyfunds.org)

*Do you hear what I hear?* Listen to...  
**iCatholicRadio** | Mobile App  
**1060AM | Boston**  
thestationofthecross.com

*Merry Christmas from Catholic Radio Boston*

Our Parish Offices will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and on New Year's Day.

### Christmas Eve Social

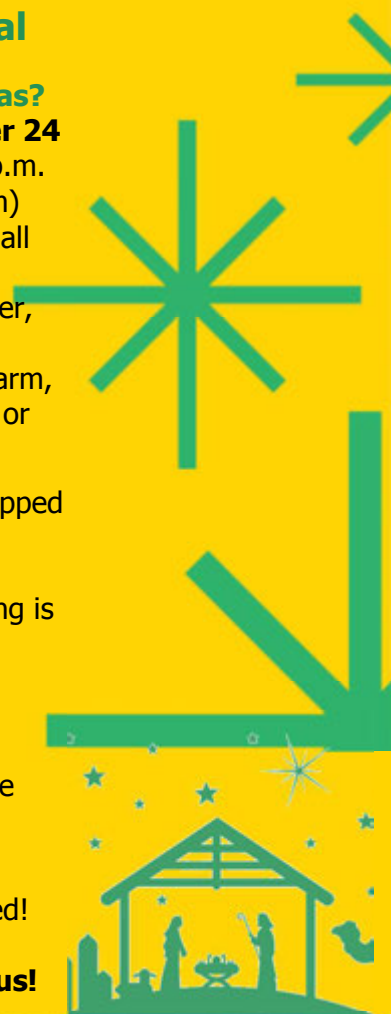
#### Not too busy this Christmas?

Join us on Monday, **December 24**  
immediately following the 4 p.m.

Vigil Mass (until about 7 pm)  
In the 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)
- \* Yankee Swap – Bring a wrapped gift to exchange (optional) The gift should be worth approximately \$10. Re-gifting is ok – this is just for fun!
- \* Water and punch will be provided
- \* Christmas Caroling – as time allows until 7pm
- \* Santa's helpers to tidy up would be greatly appreciated!

**We'd love to have you join us!**



### FORMED PICK

## The Story of the Nativity

### Explore the Birth of Christ

This fast-paced look at the true story of the Nativity clears away misunderstandings about Jesus's origin and is invaluable for learning more about the truth of Christmas.



Watch on [formed.org](http://formed.org)

If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Doherty at (978) 270 - 3366 or [bonnieocds@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieocds@gmail.com). To quickly register for Formed, please go to [methuencatholic.formed.org](http://methuencatholic.formed.org). We encourage you to extend an invitation to family and friends. **Access Code for our parishes: 9772VM**



Our Lord has invited all humanity to gather around the manger at Christmas. The call went out to lowly shepherds no less than to highly regarded wise men. Indeed all of creation is represented in Bethlehem: humanity through the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, the angels in song, and even the animals. Like the Heavenly Hosts, all are drawn to the mystery of “Emmanuel,” the God who is with us in Jesus Christ.

We, too, are drawn from many diverse circumstances and come for various reasons to acknowledge God on this most holy day of the year. Crowds flock to our Methuen parishes in great numbers each Christmas. Some are used to attending Mass once a day; others will arrive only once this year. All are called to enter into communion with God and one another.

I would like to provide an excerpt from one of Cardinal Sean’s previous Pastoral Letters entitled *Jesus’ Eager Desire: Our Participation in the Sunday Mass*. Regardless of the frequency with which we pass through the church doors, no person is left out of God’s plan of salvation. I hope that his words will motivate us to prayerfully consider the meaning contained in the invitation to Bethlehem.

*Jesus instituted the Eucharist and founded the Church to foster communion with Him, and through Him, communion with each other.*

*Some have drifted away from the Church and have been waiting for a good time to return. Some have made a choice to stop coming to Church because you have been hurt or because of a difficulty with a Church teaching. Please do not let [anything] separate you from the love of Christ or prevent you from receiving the grace of the sacraments.*

*We recognize that many struggle to reconcile Church teaching with social norms in American society today. We want you to know that you are part of our family. We want to assure you that God loves you and waits for you at Sunday Mass.*

*We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. An inability to fulfill all aspects of Christian worship or to receive Communion should not keep you from Mass. In fact, the habit of being faithful to the Sunday obligation can provide the actual grace, if you cooperate with it, to give you the strength to overcome current obstacles and find paths of reconciliation. We stand ready to help you.*

Our Lord speaks to us not only in his words, but through the events of his life. It’s just that sometimes we are too familiar with the story to hear what He is saying. A manger is a place of nourishment. At that first Christmas the great and small alike were invited to adore the God who gently came not just *for* communion, but *as* Communion. That Christmas invitation remains open every year and every week. In fact, this is the deepest meaning of the phrase to “hold Christmas in our hearts every day of the year.”

**A blessed and Merry Christmas to all!**



## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 22**

**8:00 am** Yvette Moran & Don Lavigne  
Gladys Perry  
Joseph Fitzmaurice

**4:00 pm** Thomas and Velma Fortune

**Sunday, December 23**

**7:30 am** People of St. Monica &  
St. Lucy Parishes

**9:30 am** (*multiple intentions*)  
Joseph Indoccio and Family  
Arthur Royer  
Connie and Albert Zampelli  
Manuel & Fernanda Cordeiro  
William and Catherine Lee  
Nancy Tardif  
Ashley St. Onge  
Ruth Dubois & Helen Corrizzini  
Mark G. Hammond

**11:30 am** Jean and Jack Carney

**Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

**4:00 pm** in the church

**4:00 pm** in the Methuen Music Hall

**10:00 pm** in the church

**Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

**7:30 am** MASS

**10:30 am** MASS

**Thursday, December 27**

**7:00 am** Lucille Labrecque

**Friday, December 28**

**7:00 am**

**Saturday, December 29**

**8:00 am** William Eskel  
Joseph O'Neil

**4:00 pm** Robert Putnam

**Sunday, December 30**

**7:30 am** Michael and Laura Cote

**9:30 am** (*multiple intentions*)  
Sr. Claire Torla  
Living and deceased members  
of the Monaco, Leslie, Wetzel,  
& Vicari Families  
Riccardo Lonardo

**11:30 am** Arthur and Imelda Gagne

## ROSES FOR LIFE

Roses for Life have been donated in loving memory of

**Theresa A. Rickley**  
**Michael & Linda Giarusso**  
**Helen Giarrusso**  
**Maria Arasi**  
**Brother Donald Coffey**  
**Catherine Sullivan**  
**Mildred and John Lavin**  
**Francis Bahan**  
**Patricia Keenan**

If you would like to honor a loved one and support our activities, for a donation of \$10, we'll purchase a rose and place it in the vase before the statue of the Blessed Mother for a week.

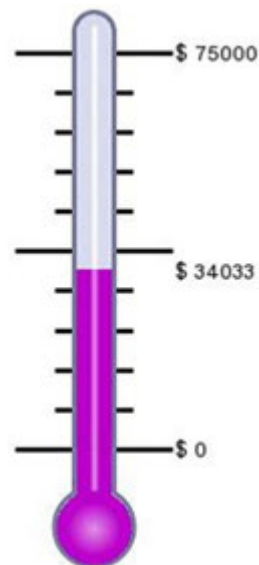
Please contact the parish office at (978) 683-1193.

There is only one collection for our weekend masses for the remainder of the year.

The one collection at the Christmas Masses will be for the Clergy Benefit Trust.

**Please remember to send in your Grand Annual envelopes. Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.**

Grand Annual to date

**St. Monica Music Ministry**

Music ministry provides beauty, joy, comfort, inspiration, and musical prayer for our communal liturgies and various parish celebrations. This is possible due to the generous sharing of time and talent of diverse and committed members. If you can carry a tune and want to learn, come sing with us. No auditions necessary! We currently rehearse Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM in the church. Though it is preferable that you are available for these rehearsals, we are flexible and will work around schedules as best as we can.

**We are looking primarily for musicians to join the Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 9:30 Masses. Please get in touch with Eric, our music director after Mass or via e-mail at eberthiaume1@gmail.com if you have any questions.**

## MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, December 22

**4:00 pm** Michelangelo Iuvara,  
Salvatore, Maria, and Silvana Campailla

## Sunday, December 23

**9:00 am** Albert and Connie Zampelli

**11:00 am** Catherine Petralia  
James (Jimmy) Melnick  
Angelo and Laura Chester  
Elizabeth Leonard and Family **(Living)**  
Filippo Cali  
Giuseppe Ardizzone  
Carmela Ardizzone  
Lucienne Abbas  
Domenico and Antonio Tammaro  
Vincenzo, Vincenzina, Anthony & Paul Sr. Meli  
Vincenzo and Isabella Dadducci  
Alfio Lombardo  
Mary Bova

## Monday, December 24

**8:00 am Daily Mass**

*Christmas Eve*

**4:00 pm upper church**

**4:00 pm lower church**

**7:00 pm upper church**

## Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

**9:00 am** MASS

## Wednesday, December 26

**8:00 am** Manny Gianni

## Saturday, December 29

**4:00 pm** M. Janet Szostak

## Sunday, December 30

**9:00 am** People of St. Lucy & St. Monica Parishes

**11:00 am** Daniel Connors  
Vincenzo Tagliaferri  
Laurie Judson  
Anthony Salvatore Mercury  
Arcangelo, Giuseppina, Gabriele and  
Giuseppe Sangiorgio  
Vito and Giuseppina Cunsolo  
Salvatore and Maria Greco  
Domenico, Antonio, & Tamara Tammaro  
Mary Bova

## BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY

If you have been thinking about joining the Sodality, please come to our January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting after the 9:00 mass and the praying of the Rosary. Our plans for 2019 will be planned. You are always welcome! We are a Sodality dedicated to the Blessed Mother in service to our parish and our community. Please call the office for more information.

## Parents or Grandparents:

Would you like to see your child or grandchild help serve at the Altar? We are currently offering training classes for any child that wants to become an Altar Server. Classes are held once a week, after school hours, and run 3 to 4 weeks. Please complete the form below and drop it into the collection basket, drop off at the Parish Office, or return it to your child's religious ed. teacher.

## Contact Information:

Guardian's or Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian's or Parent's phone or e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day of the week that is best for you to bring your child to the training classes: \_\_\_\_\_

## Share the Nativity

This year during Christmas, we are putting on display different Nativity Scenes. They can be of any size and pictures or banners are also welcome. All items will be returned after the holidays. The scenes will be displayed in the lower church hall and will be available for viewing until Jan. 6. If you would like to have your Nativity scene displayed here at St. Lucy, please drop it off at the office during the week or give it to one of the Ushers before each Mass. Please use the form below so that we have your contact info so each display can be returned. Let's truly celebrate together the "Reason for the Season" and continue this tradition at St. Lucy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

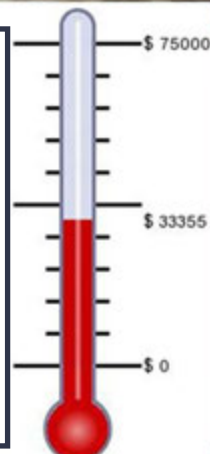
## OFFERTORY

There is only one collection for our weekend masses for the remainder of the year.

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**Please remember to send in your Grand Annual envelopes. Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.**

Grand Annual to date







CHRISTMAS  
BLESSINGS



*St. Monica School ~2018*



## NEWS

A sincere thank you to all of the wonderful parishioners and families of St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes who supported our holiday calendar raffle. We truly appreciate your continued support of our school!

You may still mail in your raffle tickets, even during school vacation. We will start pulling winners when we return on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Winners will be called when their names are pulled and all winners will be published in the bulletin at the beginning of February.

**With our wish for Christmas blessings,  
The Staff and Students of St. Monica School**

Saint Monica School is a distinctively Catholic School, a faith community of the Catholic Church. Our mission is that of the Church; to spread the Gospel and prepare students for their state in life. In our striving for academic excellence, we keep in focus that this is a Catholic School where religious and moral formation are the first in the hierarchy of values. In fostering leadership in our students, we prepare them to take their place in the Church and Society as leaders who will be prepared to serve all with respect, dignity, and justice.



1958 - 2018  
**60**  
ANNIVERSARY

## Save the Date!

We will be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at a Gala on Friday, May 17, 2019 at Lenzi's in Dracut.

More information will follow.



**St. Monica Parish:** 212 Lawrence Street  
**St. Lucy Parish:** 254 Merrimack Street  
Methuen, MA

## PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack St • Methuen, MA 01844

Telephone (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311

methuencatholic@gmail.com

www.methuencatholic.org

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

## PASTORAL STAFF

Father Darin Colarusso ext. 24

**Pastor**

frcolarusso@verizon.net

Father Joseph D'Onofrio ext. 23

**Parochial Vicar**

frjoedo@gmail.com

Father Joseph Thomas, BSO (978) 319-7873  
**Weekend Assistant** irenaiosbso2002@cs.com

Deacon John Pierce ext. 39

**Permanent Deacon**

dnjbpierce@gmail.com

Deacon John Kobrenski jpk500@verizon.net

**Permanent Deacon**

Kera Mansour ext. 26 methuencatholic@gmail.com

**Business Manager**

Carolyn Leocata ext. 28 carolyn.leocata@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant**

Isabela Peixoto ext. 29

**Communications Associate**

methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

Karl Jackson ext. 35

**Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry**

faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Mark Forrester youth.stlm@gmail.com

**Confirmation Coordinator**

Eric Berthiaume eberthiaume1@gmail.com

**Music Director - St. Monica**

Sharon Waning sharon.waning@yahoo.com

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

Kevin Fitzgerald

**Facilities Manager (St. Lucy's) & RCIA Coordinator**



**Follow us on Facebook at**  
www.facebook.com/methuencatholic/

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Mondays at 10 a.m. Please email all bulletin notices to methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

**MARRIAGES.** Please call the parish office at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date and before booking a reception hall. 9

## ST. MONICA SCHOOL

212 Lawrence St • Methuen, MA 01844

Telephone (978) 686-1801

smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

www.methuencatholic.org/school

## SCHOOL STAFF

Mrs. Donna Henderson

**School Principal**

principal@methuencatholic.org

Sharon Tully

**Administrative Assistant**

## PARISH SERVICES

St. Vincent de Paul (978) 686 - 9573

### St. Lucy Parish

#### Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday through Wednesday 8:00 am

#### Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

### St. Monica Parish

#### Daily Mass Schedule:

Thursday and Friday 7:00 am, Saturday 8:00 am

#### Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 7:30 am/9:30 am/11:30 am

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

### St. Monica Parish

Friday 4:30-5:30 pm and Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

### St. Lucy Parish

Typically 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month

6:00 - 7:00 pm.

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

*and any time by appointment*

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

*Fridays: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm St. Monica Chapel*

*Typically 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month*

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

For more information on Adoration at St. Monica's, please contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com or (978) 270 - 3366  
If school is cancelled due to weather, Adoration is also cancelled.

**BAPTISMS.** Please call the parish office.

St. Monica's Parish: 1<sup>st</sup> full weekend of the month

Saturday 12:30 pm/Sunday 1:00pm

St. Lucy Parish: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month 12:30pm





Please give to the  
Clergy Health and  
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through the special  
**Christmas collection**  
or visit [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org)

## Priests have been a constant presence throughout our lives. **Boston Priests. Here for us.**

From the time that we were young kids growing up in Dorchester receiving First Communion, through our marriage, as we brought up our own four boys, and now as grandparents, Boston priests have been a guiding light that we reach out to in different situations that have come up in our lives.

As parents, our faith life has helped us to guide our family. We are an ordinary family, and, like all families, things don't always go smoothly. The priests we have known through the years, like Fr. Peter Martocchio, have helped us to learn to take things in stride and put our faith in God, and that there is always hope.

While not perfect, ours has been a wonderful life, which has been enriched by many Boston priests who have helped us along the way.

**Kevin and Trisha Muldoon**  
**Immaculate Conception Parish, Weymouth,**  
*with Fr. Peter Martocchio, now living at Regina Cleri,*  
*a residence for retired priests in good standing in Boston.*



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**Christmas Masses on CatholicTV**

 <b>Maryland</b> <b>12/24 11:30pm</b>	 <b>Chicago</b> <b>12/25 1am</b>	 <b>Vatican</b> <b>12/25 7am</b>
 <b>CatholicTV</b> <b>12/25 9:30am</b>	 <b>Washington, D.C.</b> <b>12/25 5pm</b>	 <b>CatholicTV Spanish</b> <b>12/25 9:30pm</b>

We pray that your heart be filled with peace, joy,  
and wonder at the coming of our Savior.  
Merry Christmas!




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