

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack St • Methuen, MA 01844
Telephone (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311
methuencatholic@gmail.com
stmonicamethuen.org • stlucymethuen.org
www.methuencatholic.org

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Father William P. Lohan ext. 992

Pastor

Father John A. Cassani ext. 993

Parochial Vicar

Father Joseph Thomas, BSO (978) 319-7873

Weekend Assistant

Father Herb Jones, O. Carm ext. 111

In Residence

Deacon John Pierce ext. 39

Permanent Deacon

Deacon John Kobrenski

Permanent Deacon

Sr. Rina Brunetti, pm ext. 34

Pastoral Associate in the Care of the Sick

Kera Mansour ext. 26

Business Manager

Carolyn Leocata ext. 28

Administrative Assistant

Isabela Peixoto ext. 29

Communications Associate
methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

Karl Jackson ext. 35

Director of Faith Formation faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Samantha Moore ext. 36

Youth Minister

youth.stlm@gmail.com

Paul Jernberg ext. 27

Music Director

pfjernberg@gmail.com

Sharon Waning

Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy

Kevin Fitzgerald

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

BAPTISMS. Please call the parish office.

St. Monica's Parish: 1st full weekend of the month

Saturday 12:30 pm/Sunday 1:00pm

St. Lucy Parish: 3rd Saturday of the Month 12:30pm

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

ST. MONICA SCHOOL

212 Lawrence St • Methuen, MA 01844 Telephone (978) 686-1801 saintmonicaoffice@verizon.net www.methuencatholic.org/school

SCHOOL STAFF

Sister Suzanne Fondini, mfic

School Principal

Sharon Tully

Administrative Assistant

PARISH SERVICES

Prayer Line (978) 683-1193 ext. 41

St. Vincent de Paul (978) 686-9573

at St. Monica's Parish

St. Lucy Parish

Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday through Wednesday 8:00 am

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00pm (for Sunday) Sunday: 8:00am/9:30am/11:30am

Holy Days of Obligation:

8:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 7:00 pm

St. Monica Parish

Daily Mass Schedule:

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

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00 pm (for Sunday)

Sunday: 7:30am/9:30am/11:30am/5:30pm

Holy Days of Obligation:

4:00pm (prior eve)/7:00 am and 10:00 am

Civic Holiday Schedule:

Normal Schedule at both Parishes

St. Monica Parish Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 6:30-7:30 pm Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

St. Lucy Parish Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

and any time by appointment

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES



MASS SCHEDULE

ST. MONICA PARISH

ST. LUCY PARISH

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00pm: 3 Masses: Church - School Hall - Music Hall

ıo:oopm (In the Church)

CHRISTMAS DAY: 7:30am and 9:30am (In the Church) DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00pm: 2 Masses: Church and Church Hall

7:00pm (in the Church)

CHRISTMAS DAY: 9:00am (In the 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. Contact us at the parish offices so we can get to know each other better. (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311.





Coming In January!!!

Blanket And Sock Drive For Lazarus House Ministries Sponsored By The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality

Again this year, St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes along with St. Monica School will be collecting new and gently used, clean blankets and new adult and children socks throughout the month of January. When shopping this Christmas season, consider picking up a blanket or some socks so that we can bring warmth to our brothers and sisters in need.

Beginning the weekend of January 7 and 8, 2017, look for the blue bins at St. Lucy's main entrance and large boxes at St. Monica's entrances.

Next week, at all our Christmas Masses, our collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergyfunds.org

Our Parish Office will be closed on December 23rd, 26th and January 2nd.

Holy Hour for our Parishioners Monday Nights at 7:00pm at St. Lucy Church

An hour dedicated to praying for an out pouring of the Holy Spirit for a rebirth of faith in our parishes, for a renewed energy in all of us who are here and for the touching of our hearts to become more active as we draw in the lost.



St. Lucy and St. Monica Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration takes place at St. Lucy's Church and St. Monica's Chapel. Please contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com or 978-270-3366 for more information about adoration at St. Monica's and the parish

office for information about adoration at St. Lucy's.

Tuesdays (St. Lucy) 1:30-4:30pm *Fridays (St. Monica) 7:30am-7:30pm

*PLEASE NOTE! Late start 9:30am January 3 and February 3. There is no adoration or confession on Dec. 23 and Dec. 30 due to holiday weekends.

Snow Storms - Please remember that on weekdays there is no Mass on days when school is cancelled. On days when Mass and school are cancelled the Parish offices will also be closed. On days school is not scheduled, we will not have Mass if the forecast is for 3 or more inches of snow in the hours leading up to the Mass. Masses for Sunday are nearly always held and are cancelled only if there is a major state of emergency.

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK Laer Realty Partners

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Please pray for Mary Crawford, Helen Gaudette, Thomas P. Canney, Charles Curtis Jr., Domenic Bertolone, Tony Longo, Carmela Rapa, and Mildred Bonanno who recently passed away. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.



Saturday, December 17

4:00 pm Michelangelo Iuvara

Sunday, December 18

8:00 am Lucille Guimond 9:30 am Nina Coco Robie 11:30 am (multiple intentions)

Therese Maher Catherine Petralia

Dominick "Rex" Campone Thomas & Ann Campone

Marian Miller, Adrianna & Thomas Campone

Rose & John Monaco, George DiRuzza

Susan DeNuzzio

Richard Kirsch Sr. & Richard Kirsch Jr.

Mr. Charles Rosario Cataldo

Jim Collins

Deceased members of the Vu Family Nicholas Ciambelli & Victoria Frascarelli

Monday, December 19

8:00 am Antonio Mercury

Tuesday, December 20

8:00 am Therese Rousseau

Wednesday, December 21

8:00am Don & Margaret Torrisi

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm For Your Deceased Relatives 7:00 pm For Your Deceased Relatives

Sunday, December 25

9:00 am For Your Deceased Relatives

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY NEWS

Christmas visits to members who are in nursing homes and homebound...... Please contact Eileen Breglia, Sunshine Chairperson, at 978-688-2978, with the names of members who would enjoy a visit from Eileen and her committee.

"When You Sing You Pray Twice"

We are looking for volunteers to join a small choir for the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass in the Church hall. You don't have to worry about carrying a tune. If interested, please call Kevin Fitzgerald at 978-686-3311.

STEWARDSHIP

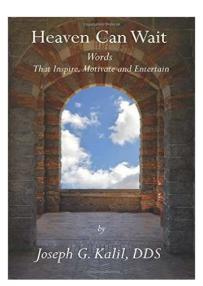
December 11, 2016

Offertory: \$6,471.00

Grand Annual: \$4,705.00

Immaculate Conception: \$1,159.00

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



Dr. Joseph Kalil will be selling copies of his book "Heaven Can Wait" after all of the Masses this weekend. The books are \$15 each and \$5 from each sale will be donated to our parish.

SHARE THE NATIVITY... This year during Advent and leading up to Christmas, we would like to place on display different nativity scenes. The size doesn't matter 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 from now through January 8th. 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 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 begin a new tradition here at St. Lucy. Forms are also available in the magazine rack at the front doors of the church.

Name:	
Phone:	
Address:	

Advent/Tree of Light

Many thanks to all parishioners for another successful year of giving to Lazarus House. Your generosity exceeded all expectations - (A special "Thank You" to Kerin McLaughlin for printing all the tags). God Bless You All! Annette Autiello - Coordinator



Saturday, December 17

8:00 am (multiple intentions)

Amy Waterworth Joseph Fitzmaurice Madeline Vachon Raymond St. Onge

4:00 pm Thomas & Velma Fortune

Sunday, December 18

7:30 am Robert O'Connor, Charles Booth Jr.,

Margaret & Charles Booth Sr., &

Dorothy & James McCarthy

9:30 am (multiple intentions)

Wells Bean Sr. & Wells Bean Jr.

Connie & Albert Zampelli

Joseph Indoccio Indoccio Family

Robert J. Ouellette Sr.

Manuel & Fernanda Cordeiro

Mark G. Hammond

Deshaies & Swinkin Families

Antonette Ragonese, Arcangelo Ragonese,

Michaud & DiBartolo Family

John J. Piccolomini Susan Halloran Albert F. Perrault Jr. Leonard Pasquale

11:30 am Marian Mulligan Bench

5:30 pm The People of St. Monica & St. Lucy Parish

Thurs., December 22

7:00 am Yvette Moran & Don Lavigne

Friday, December 23

7:00 am Ann Humlak

Saturday, December 24

8:00 am (multiple intentions)

Ludwik Szablowski Steven DiZazzo Helen Corrizzini

Ruth Debois

4:00 pm For Your Deceased Relatives **10:00 pm** For Your Deceased Relatives

Sunday, December 25

7:30 am For Your Deceased Relatives

9:30 am (multiple intentions)

For Your Deceased Relatives

STEWARDSHIP

December 11, 2016

Offertory: \$14,715.00 Grand Annual: \$18,981.00

Immaculate Conception: \$1.547.50

Thank you for your generous contribution to the

mission of our parish.

St. Vincent de Paul Society "YES I CAN" Program

WE CAN USE..... canned baked beans, canned pasta, Hamburger Helper, rice, strawberry jelly, and peanut butter.



Roses for Life have been donated...

In Loving Memory of

Michael & Linda Giarrusso Cecile and Peter Checovich



A thank you to Fr. Tom Gignac for the gift of his boyhood cassock and surplice to our Parish.



St. Monica Parish Continued

St. Monica Parish & Our Lady of Fatima Centennial 1917-2017

Honoring 100 Years:
Mass of Consecration to Our Lady
Jan 1, 2017, 11:30 AM
Feast of Mary Mother of God
Bishop Robert Hennessey Presiding

Prayer for the Newly Baptized

Bless, Lord Jesus, the newly baptized;

Hunter Bruneau Eva Grace Johnson Alyssa Marie Monfet Kirk-Ezra Vargas



Immerse them in the waters of your life and love. Seal them with the oil of gladness and strength. Illuminate their path with the light of your hope. Clothe them with goodness, kindness, and compassion. May their celebration be just the beginning of a long and fruitful journey with you. Amen.

COLLECTORS NEEDED

We are in need of collectors for the Christmas Eve, Christmas Eve night and Christmas day Masses. Please consider this appeal for participation. It will take just a small amount of your time at Mass. If you can help, please call the parish office with your name, phone number and the Mass you will be attending or see one of the collectors after Mass. We especially need help for the 4:00pm Mass in the school Christmas Eve and the 10:00 pm Mass in the church.

The Mass schedule this year is:

Saturday, December 24, 4:00pm in the church

Saturday, December 24, 4:00pm in the school

Saturday, December 24, 4:00pm at the Methuen

Memorial Music Hall

Saturday, December 24, 10:00pm in the church

Sunday, December 25, 7:30am in the church

Sunday, December 25, 9:30am in the church



The **Catholic Family Library** will be available for <u>free</u> lending of books/ DVD's this Sunday, Dec. 18 in the back of the church after the 9:30 Mass.

WELCOME!

We're glad you could join us this weekend.

Miscellaneous Information

2017 Merrimack Valley Catholic Youth Conference

Saturday March 18, 2017 11:30am-7:00pm @ Central Catholic H.S., Lawrence, MA

The 2nd Annual MVCYC promises to be a dynamic encounter of Christ and His Church, shared with hundreds of young area Christians (grades 8-12). All levels of faith are welcome. **\$20 Per Teen/\$1 Adult** Keynote Presentation by Catholic recording artist Liz Cotrupi.

Also Featuring:

Live music, engaging workshops, Eucharistic Adoration, food, fun, & games, & 5:30pm Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Hennessey To register... Check out the link on our Merrimack Valley Catholic Youth Conference Facebook Page: @Mvcyc

St. Rita's Sodality - Corpus Christi Parish 90th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Saturday, January 21, 2017 6:00 pm - 10 pm Rico Barr & the Jump' n' Jive Review Lenzi's Banquet Hall, Route 110 - Dracut, MA - \$50.00

Please call or email Mary Lou Nichols, President for further information & tickets.

Tickets sold by tables of 10 - reserved tables Marylou_nichols@comcast.net or 978-685-7164

The Christmas wafers for the traditional Christmas celebrations (Lithuanian "Kucios" & Polish "Wigilia") are available at the Corpus Christi Parish Office in Lawrence during regular business hours. You may obtain them for a free will donation. For further information you can contact David Boucher, President of Knights of Lithuania at (978) 337 - 3737.

Money - We use it to open the hearts of God's people, not to close our own

Many of you know in my younger years I was a DJ and one of the songs I would be asked to play from time to time was the "For the Love of Money" a 1970's R&B hit by a group called the O'Jays. The song serves as a warning that the love of money is a very bad thing. St. Paul writes to Timothy (1 Tim 6:10) that "the love of money is the root of all evil." The O'Jays sing poignantly of the sadness that comes if we let money "rule" us or "fool" us.

I am deeply appreciative of Dick LaPointe, Walter Andrews and Sharon Walsh for speaking in our parishes in recent weeks about the importance of the parishes' Grand Annual collections and financial support in general. They did a great job in reminding us that our parishes are our spiritual homes, the places that mean so much to our shared life together. One of the hardest parts of pastoring is talking about money. It is never easy for us, and many pastors are afraid of being accused of talking of it too much. One friend told me that it isn't that we speak about it too often but rather that we talk about it the wrong way. We often speak about it as it relates to particular needs. Any parish could need a new boiler, or roof repairs, or a number of concrete needs. Often our appeals are directly connected to such particular needs, rather than developing in the people a spirituality of using money well. Our churches are much more than just places we receive services, they are vital to the health of our spiritual lives, individually and communally. Our "spending" money in support of our church is caring for our shared home. It is a precept of the Church to support our parishes. We are challenged by the Lord to give our first fruits to God, not just to toss him our leftovers. The parable of the widows might speak very powerfully to us, regardless of the amount.

Our care for our parishes is not almsgiving, though a portion of what we collect certainly goes to that. Our giving is to ensure the health of our parishes in its programs, initiatives as well as the maintenance of our buildings. What we spend money on speaks powerfully to what we value. In economics they speak about "voting with our dollars." It truly is what we do each time we spend money. We also know that praying about how we spend our money can help us to grow spiritually. Do I place my self worth in my zip code, the car I drive, a second home, or the vacations I take? Is my self worth dictated by clothing or possessions like sports tickets? We contemplate St. John the Baptist's lifestyle in the desert and Saint Mother Theresa's admonition to the developed West that we were the poorest in the world because so many do not know God. She said our spiritual poverty is worse than physical hunger.

It is good for us to remember that over time the value of the dollar drops. As we track changes in prices over time its good for us to remember that \$1.00 in 1983 is only \$0.41 now. Another way of looking at it is if something cost \$1.00 in 1983 that same item, on average, would cost nearly \$2.50 today. A medium coffee at a workingman's chain is now over \$2.00 with tax.

I hope each of you will pray over your giving, both for the weekly offertory and the Grand Annual Collections. For the Grand Annual our goal is \$85,000 at St Monica and \$60,000 at St Lucy. I humbly ask again that each family pray about a gift of \$200 to the Grand Annual and consider a \$1 increase in the collection each week.

I promise to continue to be a good steward of the money that comes to us, I remember in prayer day that it is God's money, not mine. It is entrusted by him to us, not just to me, though it is humbling to be the person ultimately responsible for it. Please pray that God gives me, the staff, and the finance councils, the grace to use it well.



SAINT MONICA SCHOOL NEWS

Holiday Raffle

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
\$150	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
\$150	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.
\$150	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
^{22.} \$150	^{23.} \$50	^{24.} \$50	^{25.} \$50	26. \$50	^{27.} \$50	^{28.} \$50
29.	30.	31.				
\$150	\$50	\$150				

We must sell 215 tickets or all monies will be returned. All payments will be sent to winners at the beginning of February.

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

St. Monica School Calendar Raffle

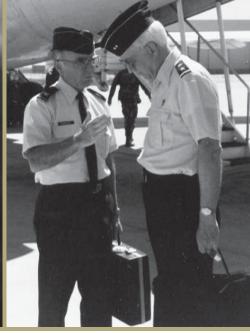
\$10 per ticket – checks made out to St. Monica School by 12/22/16

Name	_ Phone (REQUIRED)	
Address (REQUIRED)		
St. Monica Student who sold ticket:		

Names of St. Monica School children who sell winning tickets will be put in a raffle for a prize.







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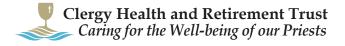
Meet Msgr. McDonough— A Priest and a General

As a native of Boston, Msgr. John P. McDonough never dreamed he would travel the world, bringing the presence of Christ to our military serving abroad. But for thirty years, that's exactly what he did. As a two-star general, Msgr. McDonough's call as a military chaplain was to ensure that men and women were able to practice their faith—Catholic or otherwise—as they served their country.

Now at 88 years of age, Msgr. McDonough reflects on a priesthood well-lived and well-served. He resides at Regina Cleri, a retirement home for senior priests in Boston, where he ministers to his brother priests, celebrates Mass with them daily, and continues traveling to parishes around the Archdiocese to assist with services.

To help ensure priests like Msgr. McDonough are cared for as they age, please support the Christmas collection this year.

To see Msgr. McDonough's full video story, visit **clergytrust.org.**



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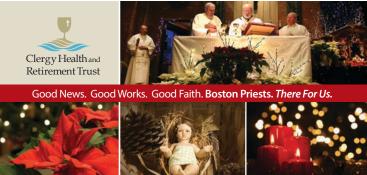
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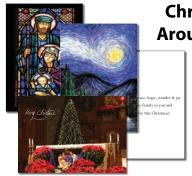






"God is Love"
1 John 4:8





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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

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ur ministry includes assisting families before a death occurs. Call today for your free pre-planning kit including: our free booklet, money saving certificate, information on payment plans and specific information on our Haverhill Catholic cemeteries.

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978-273-9255 Staff Sgt. Eugene Smith (Ret.)

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