



DECEMBER 22, 2019

The Nativity of the Lord

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." —Lk 2:11

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



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. For more information on getting involved in our parish life, 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
Bible Study
Novenas to our Lady
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Padre Pio Prayer Group
Alpha Prayer Team
Rosary Group
Cursillo & Ultreya
Prayer and Study

Encounter Jesus in Service

St. Vincent de Paul
Knights of Columbus
Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality
Commission to Aid our Brothers and Sisters in Need
Homebound Visitation
Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Altar Servers and Choir
Lectors and Greeters
Decorators
Eucharistic Ministers
Catechists

Encounter Jesus in Faith and the Community of Believers

Alpha
Alpha 2.0 (Catholic Connections)
Family Faith Formation
Adult Faith Formation
Men's Guild
RCIA
Bible Study
Formed.org
Confirmation Preparation
First Communion Preparation
Baptism Preparation
Marriage Preparation
Connect Groups
Tea and Treasure
Crafting for Life Group
Friendship Club
Faith2fitt (Faith and Fitness)



One of the fun things about being a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston is receiving our yearly Christmas gift from Cardinal Sean O'Malley. Usually it's a commentary on one of the books of the Bible (where do you think I get all of my ideas for homilies?!). This year was different. He sent the priests a book of daily meditations entitled: ***A Year With The Eucharist***.

In 2020 the Archdiocese will celebrate A Year of the Eucharist to renew our understanding of the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Studies show that Catholics are unaware of the tremendous gift of the Lord's true presence in the Eucharist. It is His same presence but under different appearances than what was beheld in the manger over 2000 years ago: God among us. God to be worshipped and adored. God to whom we can converse. God to be consumed. That's why He came in human form, why He was born in a place whose name in English means "House of Bread," and why He was laid in a makeshift cradle that was actually a trough.

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 are all brothers and sisters in Christ and want you to know that you are part of our family. 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.

One of the beautiful signs of life for our faith community in the New Year is that we will be dedicating a Chapel of the Eucharist in one parish and a Candle Shrine of Saints in the other. Our parishes are houses of God and prayer with Heaven for everyone. Please come and be with The Lord anytime of day. It is, after all, the same Presence that was found in a manger over two millennia ago.

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to all!

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - Christmas VIGIL*

4:00 PM St. Monica Church | St. Lucy Church |
St. Lucy Lower Hall | Methuen Music Hall |
St. Joseph's Chapel at St. Basil's Salvatorian Center
5:15 PM Christmas Eve Social - St. Monica School Hall
10:00 PM St. Lucy Church
DAY - We encourage all to attend Mass on **Christmas Day** since it is a Holy Day of Obligation.
9:00 AM St. Lucy Church
9:30 AM St. Monica Church
11:30 AM St. Monica Church

*Please note the change in Mass times from last year for Christmas Eve. We still have the 4:00 pm Mass offered at five different locations, but there is no 7:00 pm at St. Lucy's.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - Jan. 1st
DEC. 31st 4 PM St. Lucy Church & St. Monica Church
JAN. 1st 9 AM St. Lucy Church & St. Monica Church

St. Monica and St. Lucy Parishes would like to welcome you to our **2nd Annual Christmas Eve Social** Tuesday, December 24 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.



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



methuencatholic.org



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STAFF

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Sharon Tully
Karl Jackson
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Sharon Waning
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Kevin Fitzgerald

Pastor
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

PHOTOS FROM OUR 1ST COLLABORATIVE LESSONS AND CAROLS



From one of our parishioners: "Thank you for making this beautiful event available to us. The last time I participated in Lessons and Carols was in Rome at the English College. Ours was much more fun, although it did not lack solemnity. The two Handel preludes and the quartet were classy. All the participants were charming and very respectful. The tree lighting, the blessing of the Nativity scene, the reception (did I forget anything?) were joy-filled. Thank you for all the effort you continue to put into everything that helps unite our collaborative."

We invite you to visit our newly renovated Chapel at St. Monica's. It's open seven days a week.

Our Parish Offices will be closed this Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, Christmas Day. We will reopen on December 26.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Roses for Life for this week
Theresa A. Rickley and Maria Arasi



"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 on the **1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month** from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at St. Lucy Church for a **Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, and Evening Prayer.**

ST. MONICA PARISH**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21**

8:00 am Yvette Moran and Don Lavigne
4:00 pm People of St. Monica and St. Lucy Parishes

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 am Mark G. Hammond
9:30 am Louise Fusco
 Joseph Indoccio and family
 Connie and Albert Zampelli
 Manuel and Fernanda Cordeiro
 Jose DeFreitas
 Arthur Royer
 Robert Ouellette
 Aldona A. Belmer
 Ludwig Szablowski
11:30 am Ashley St. Onge

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:15 am John Rosatone

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:15 am Dick Doherty

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00 am **Living Mass**
 Dorothy Barnes
 Steven DiZazzo
4:00 pm Robert Putnam

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:30 am Gladys Perry
9:30 am Nancy Tardif
 Sr. Claire Ann Torla
 Ruth Clarke
 Judith Clermont
 Richard Fairbanks
11:30 am Raymond Matton

ST. LUCY PARISH**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21**

4:00 pm Dominick "Rex" Campone, Tomas and Adrianna Campone, Marion Miller, John and Rose Monaco, and Tommy and Ann Campone

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 am Catherine Petralia
11:00 am Michelangelo Iuvara
 Salvatore and Maria and Silvana Campailla
 Real Taschereau
 Charlee Charette
 Ferraro and Cardone Families
 Alan Tisbert
 Dr. George Mansour
 Gilda Connors and Daniel Connors
 John Piazza
 Francesco and Alfia Bellia
 Delia M. (Allen) Fredette
 Calvin Grady
 Phil, Grace, Anthony, and Judy Ferraro

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 am Don and Margaret Torrisi

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00 am Mary Walsh and Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

4:00 pm Thomes Wholley

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:00 am People of St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes
11:00 am Robert H. Dion
 Dorothy Baublis
 Michael Balukiewicz
 Thomas Fairbanks
 Daniel J. Kennedy
 Anne B. O'Brien
 Laura, Thomas, Mark, and Paula Cardone
 Luz and Americo Soto
 Patricia Dionne

ST. MONICA PARISH

12/15/19 regular offertory: \$10,005.00

There is only one collection this weekend and next weekend, our regular Sunday offering. The one collection at the Christmas Masses is for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust.

Christmas Collection: Each Christmas, we have the opportunity to support our priests through the Christmas collection that benefits the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust. With the goal of ensuring the health and well-being of our 564 priests, the Trust offers preventative health and wellness programs, offers one-on-one support and advocacy to priests with health concerns, and operates Regina Cleri, a state-of-the-art facility where senior priests live in community.

Please support our priests, who through their ministry create stronger communities for all, by making a gift to the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust at clergytrust.org or by giving generously to this year's Christmas collection. This special collection is a primary source of funding to care for our priests. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

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

ST. LUCY PARISH

12/15/19 regular offertory: \$6,676.00

There is only one collection this weekend and next weekend, our regular Sunday offering. The one collection at the Christmas Masses is for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust.

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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



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