

ST. MONICA PARISH

ST. LUCY PARISH

212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA

Renew, Rebuild, and Reach Out: Disciples in Heartfelt Communion with Jesus Christ

DAILY MASS MON/TUE/THURS/FRI 9 am St. Lucy
WEEKEND SAT 4 pm (Vigil) both parishes SUN 9 and 11 am St. Monica, 10 am St. Lucy



The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." With these words Mary became a mother.

Mary had waited in faith trying to understand her seemingly paradoxical desires to be completely devoted to God as a virgin, and at the same time her deepest desire to be a mother.

With the angel Gabriel's appearance, in dialogue with him and in pondering within herself, in interior reflection, she came to understand God's plan for her. She would be the virgin mother of God the Son through the Holy Spirit and the power of the Most High. In her freedom she would need to consent.

Without knowing every detail of what the future held, Mary, in the freedom of perfect faith, became the mother of God through her "yes". Her "yes" would take her through joys and through sorrows and to the foot of the cross where her suffering son said to her, "Woman, behold your son." Then to John, the beloved disciple, "Behold your mother." From that hour the beloved disciple took her into his own home; he was to be Mary's child, and along with him all of mankind, each of us a beloved child and disciple. This is how the Church has seen it from the very beginning.

As members of the Church of the Roman Rite we pray at each Mass from the Roman Missal. We can say that whatever else we may be we are Romans with our deepest history in Galilee. In his letter to the Romans St. Paul writes that the Son is "the first-born among many brethren." Mary helps us with a mother's love. She will accompany us in the many tasks of the day,

through every decision and difficulty, the joys and the sorrows.

At a wedding feast at Cana in Galilee Mary, with her woman's intuition and her mother's anticipation, saw a need before anyone else and alerted her son, "They have no wine." Our Blessed Mother also anticipates our needs and alerts her son. He fills our lives to overflowing.

And on through the centuries. In 1531 in the high altitude of Guadalupe Mary would say to a worried Juan Diego, "Am I not here, I who have the honor to be your mother? Are you not in my shadow and under my protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantel, in the crossing of my arms?"

Mary is always present to the presence of God, and therefore, always in the present and attentive to both God and to others. She is not depressed about the past or anxious about the future. This is the way of the saints.

In the mysteries of the Rosary Our Blessed Mother guides our meditation on the events of the Gospels, beginning in Galilee and journeying to Jerusalem, and then into our lives now where there is someone dear to to us waiting to be visited and assisted in their need, someone dear to us waiting to hear of Jesus and his merciful love, someone dear to us suffering alone in their Gethsemane and needing a faithful friend to keep watch with them.

Our Mother understands that she had been given every grace. In her humility she sees herself as the poorest of the poor in spirit. As she prays, "My soul magnifies the Lord," she does not magnify herself, but God. She will help us to grow in humility and gratitude for the many gifts and graces that have been given to us. She will accompany us in our mission of evangelization.

Mary, mother of grace, mother of mercy, in life, in death, protect us Our Lady.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021

SUN 1/03 Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/

Mt 2:1-12

MON 1/04 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

TUE 1/05 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

WED **1/06** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

THR 1/07 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

FRI 1/08 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

SAT 1/09 1 In 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/In 3:22-30

SUN 1/10 Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk

1:7-11 or ls 55:1-11/ls 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3)]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week

Monday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Tuesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop

Wednesday: St. André Bessette, Religious

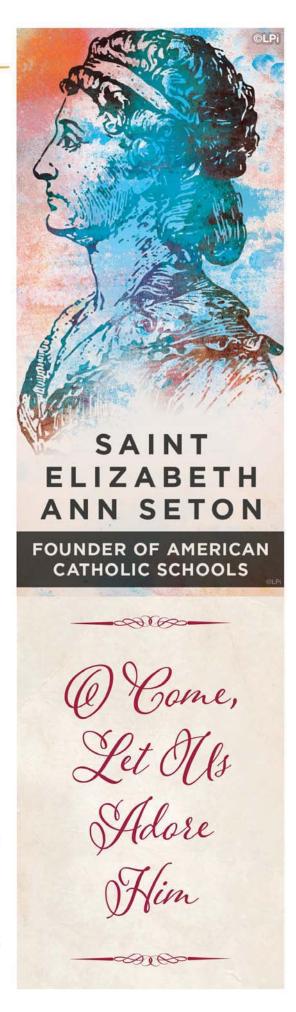
Thursday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

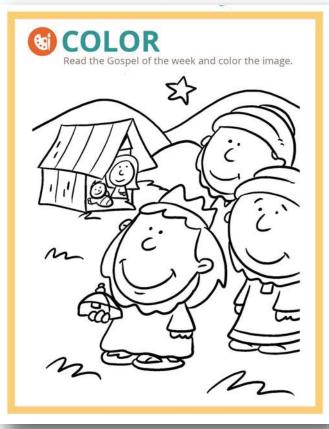
Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?





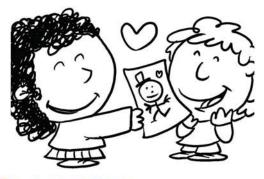


Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

WISE MEN STAR HEROD			MESSIAH WORSHIP EXCITED			GIFTS WARNED DREAM				
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J	1	Ν	Ε	G	Α	J	W	1	Ν	G
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Ν	Ε	Χ	C	1	Т	Ε	D	U	D	F
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Н	Ε	R	0	D	Ε	N	Υ	0	G	S
W	(N)	Α	Н	R	Т	Υ	Н	R	S	F
S	0	Υ	1	Ε	0	М	Α	S	Т	U
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MISSION

Solve a puzzle together with your family. Work together like the wise men did.

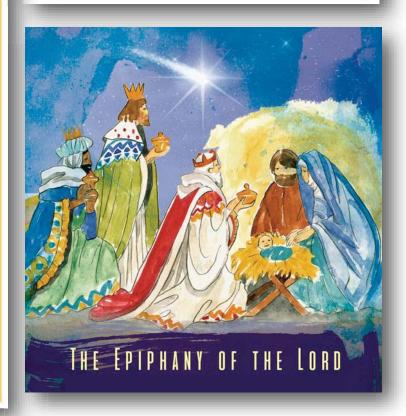


GOSPEL

God wants these gifts from you: love, forgiveness, and sharing. The wise men took Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. You may not have these to give to God. You can give God gifts more valuable than gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Forgive someone. It is worth more than a piece of gold. Say NO to bad ways. This is worth more than frankincense. Share with others. This is worth more than myrrh.



Lord, help me do things worth more than gold for you.



ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, January 2

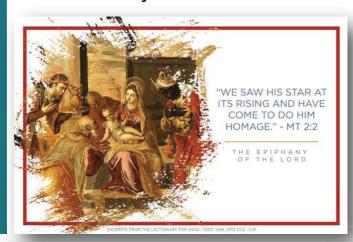
9:00am First Saturday Mass4:00pm Harold & Ida Sullivan

Sunday, January 3

9:00am Multiple Intentions

Andrew Szablowski Bernadette Lucien Jutras Charlie & Rose Hanafin Jenny & James Slattery

11:00am Ronny Caron



ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, January 2

4:00pm Harry & Marion Cunha &

Joseph Moreau

Sunday, January 3

10:00am Multiple Intentions

Carmine & Maria Santantonio Vincenzo & Raffaela Santantonio

Elaine Parrino

Norman E. Wrenn, III

Alan Tisbert

Alexander Vellette

Monday, January 4

9:00am James A. Mahoney

Tuesday, January 5

9:00am Yvonne Soucy

Thursday, January 7

9:00am Catherine Goff

Friday, January 8

9:00am Christine Ferguson

PARISH SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS

CONFESSIONS 3:00 - 3:45 PM ST. MONICA CHURCH & ST. LUCY CHURCH VIGIL MASS 4:00 - 5:00 PM ST. MONICA CHURCH & ST. LUCY CHURCH

SUNDAYS SUNDAY MASS

9:00 & 11:00 AM ST. MONICA CHURCH 10:00 AM ST. LUCY CHURCH

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, & FRIDAY DAILY MASS

9:00 AM ST. LUCY CHURCH

FRIDAY

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

12:00 - 3:00 PM GETHSEMANE CHAPEL CONFESSIONS 2:00 - 3:00 PM GETHSEMANE CHAPEL

A Way to Increase Your Prayer Life

Prayer Group

This is a weekly group that meets on Zoom for prayer and a book discussion. Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com or 978-270-3366 for the Zoom link and more information.



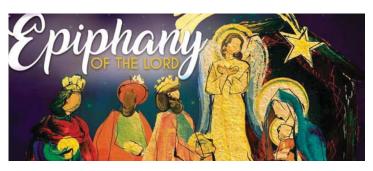
RCIA Program

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 canned spaghetti, canned carrots, canned baked beans, pancake syrup and soups.

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!



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PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Paula D., Raymond L'Hereux, and Marie L'Hereux.

Please pray for Joan Castricone, Charles Crafts, and David Coelho 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
01/03	All Carmelites of Mary Immaculate	Diego Valdez
01/04	Fr. Robert Poitras	John Gonzalez
01/05	All Bishops	Rafael Milla
01/06	Fr. Aidan Walsh	Ferson Garcia
01/07	Fr. Richard T. Conway	Aaron Arbizo
01/08	Fr. Oliver Verrill	Patrick O'Connor

IN LOVING MEMORY

Roses for Life for this week Theresa A. Rickley



To sign up, please visit

methuencatholic.org/onlinegiving

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

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St. Monica School Administrative Assistant **Sharon Tully**

Karl Jackson Director of Mission and 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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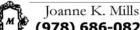


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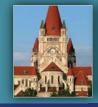
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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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