

A stylized, high-contrast illustration of Jesus Christ with a beard and long hair, wearing a golden crown and ornate robes. The background is dark with colorful, abstract shapes in shades of purple, blue, and green. The overall style is reminiscent of a stained-glass window or a modern religious poster.

November 25, 2018

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
*King of the Universe*

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

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



## ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

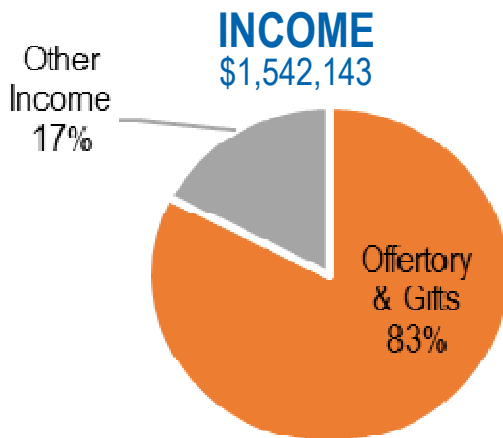
### ANNUAL REPORT

# 2018

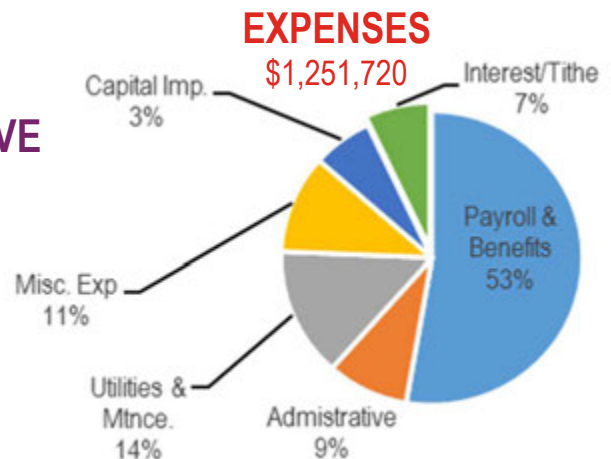
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

**557** families using  
electronic giving  
**UP 41%**

**\$17,486**  
average weekly offertory **UP 6.7%**



**COLLABORATIVE  
WIDE**



**119**   
**ADULTS**  
Attended Alpha

**416**  
campus-wide  
volunteers

**497**   
Children in  
Faith Formation

**3,849**  
total  
families

## SACRA MENTS

**112**  
Baptisms

**109**  
First  
Reconciliations

**83**  
First  
Communions

**77**  
Confirmed

**16**  
Weddings

**170**  
Funerals

**242**  
242 children enrolled  
in St. Monica School

AVERAGE WEEKEND  
MASS ATTENDANCE

**1789**

**467**  
ADULTS  
participating in parish  
sponsored religious  
programs

Welcome

# We're SO 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.



From the Family Mass last Sunday at St. Monica's



Saturday, December 8  
**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
 (Patronal Feast day of the United States)  
*Holy Day of Obligation*

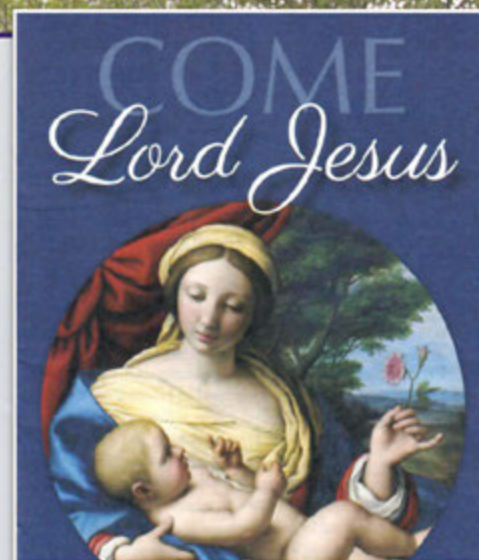
### Mass Schedule:

December 7: 6:00 pm at St. Lucy Parish  
 December 8: 8:00 am at St. Monica Parish

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

#### YES I CAN PROGRAM

WE CAN USE... Small jars of peanut butter and jelly, baked beans, spaghetti and meatballs, and canned fruit. *Donations can be dropped off anytime in the baskets located at the entrances to both churches.*



### 2018 Advent Parish Mission and St. Lucy Triduum

December 11 to December 13, 2018  
 7:00 PM at St. Lucy Parish

#### Tuesday, December 11

Penance Service

#### Wednesday, December 12

Evening of Adoration with  
 Guest Speaker Sammie Moore

#### Thursday, December 13

St. Lucy Feast Day  
 Mass followed by refreshments in the lower hall

**Come celebrate with us!**





I hope this finds you all well-rested and fed after Thanksgiving, in good spirits as we transition to Advent, and with pleasant thoughts of the approach of the Christmas Season. May whatever

cultural expression you await with excitement be fulfilling for you this year. That is, if you're a big fan of Black Friday or the Mall rush (or the exact opposite!), I hope it is in full swing for you. Personally, for example, I tend to stay away from the race of radio stations competing to see who can play holiday music the earliest, at least until after Gaudete Sunday (the day we light the **ROSE** candle and the priest wears **ROSE** vestments). Nevertheless, I have seen the most Grinch-like personalities turn to childlike glee when that first Christmas carol hits the airwaves sometime this weekend. Creating your own internet streaming channel on your own time just doesn't have the same effect as the change in the program lineup of the local station. That's the official ushering in of the Season because we are not listening alone, but with everyone else. I hope you know that joyful expectation in some way.

So, hopefully, you will maintain that joyful outlook as I announce a few differences this year in our Holy Day celebrations. First, given that it is definitely now the snowy time of year, we will plan to **celebrate the scheduled daily Mass irrespective of whether school has been cancelled** or not due to inclement weather. The one exception to this being an announced state of emergency or true blizzard conditions. This change will remove a few of the practical problems that come with randomly altering the Mass schedule, but it also brings additional responsibility on everyone's part. It is the obvious: if travelling in the weather conditions poses a safety hazard in any way, DO NOT GO OUT! In fact, it may be a good idea to use the old policy as a personal rule of thumb if you have any doubt. Please note that the Mass obligation is waved in those circumstances and, to be honest, acting imprudently is not pleasing the

Lord. That's the truth. Prudence is a virtue; it's opposite is folly and it is a vice. So I ask all of us to remind one another of these facts.

The other notable change has to do with the Mass schedule for Christmas and New Year (the Holy Day of Mary, Mother of God). On Christmas Eve we will NOT hold a Mass in the St. Monica School cafeteria, electing to plan for additional seating in the church and retaining the Mass in the Music Hall. A short way of explaining this change would be that it allows us to focus our limited resources on the Masses that we are celebrating for the 4:00 pm Vigil instead of spreading ourselves thin in a reactive way. All other Mass times in both parishes will be the same as last year. The further exception being Masses on the morning of January 1<sup>st</sup>. As we did for Thanksgiving, a 9:00 am Mass will be offered in each parish in honor of the Blessed Mother.

Finally, a wonderful ripple effect of having the cafeteria available that evening is that we are able to try something truly new and charitable. One of our parishioners has offered to host a potluck gathering in the school immediately following the Vigil for those with no plans for Christmas Eve. This opportunity is easy to misunderstand if we try see it through a typical lens: it is not a new parish social event for which we beg everyone to pitch-in and make a success. Nor is it an outreach effort to the less fortunate as such. It's an opportunity for those of the parish family to gather together on this holiest of evenings if they cannot be with their regular family or friends. As an example, I'll be there in between Masses. Let us pray that as changing seasons bring ongoing changes to our parish life, different approaches will bear ever more fruit for us as a people of faith.

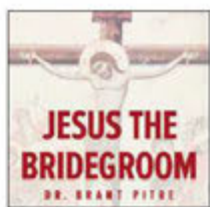
## FORMED PICK

## Jesus the Bridegroom

By Dr. Brant Pitre

## The Greatest Love Story

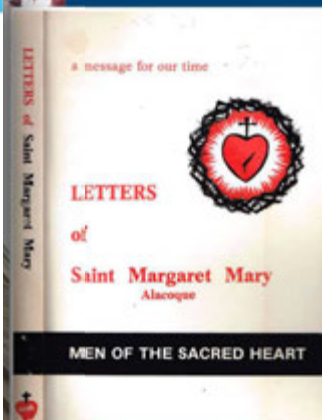
Dr. Pitre applies his knowledge of the Jewish roots of Christianity to the very heart of the Gospel: the love of Christ. You will learn what it really means to have a "personal relationship" with Jesus Christ as Lord, Savior, and Bridegroom.

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

"Dr. Pitre does a fabulous job at balancing key aspects of the faith-salvation history, Eucharist and Marriage. A must to listen to!"

—Diane R., Rockwall, TX

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION FOR THE WEEK



In a word, this divine Heart is an abyss of all good, into which the poor must plunge their necessities. It is an abyss of joy, into which we must cast all our sorrows. It is an abyss of humiliation for our pride, an abyss of mercy for the miserable, and an abyss

of love into which we must cast all our troubles. - St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, pg 211, an excerpt from **Letters of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque** (Publisher: Sacred Heart Publication Center)

This book can be purchased at <https://smile.amazon.com>. If you purchase the book from this link and choose St. Monica School as the organization to support, 0.5% of your purchase will go to our school.

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

## ST. LUCY &amp; ST. MONICA ULTREYA

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Beginning with Mass at 7:00 PM

St. Lucy Church



Our guest speakers are our dear friends **Peter & Kate Kish** who have been invited to offer a personal witness of what life was like before Cursillo and how it is now after the Cursillo experience. Come support our dear friends!



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## MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, November 24

- 8:00 am** Yvette Moran and Don Lavigne  
Leo Deschamps & Patricia Deschamps  
Will Barnes  
Dorothy Barnes (Living)
- 4:00 pm** Mark A. McComiskey Jr. and  
Michael Cestrone

## Sunday, November 25

- 7:30 am** People of St. Lucy and  
St. Monica Parishes
- 9:30 am** (multiple intentions)  
Nancy Tardif  
Virginia and Andrew Sullivan  
Mark Foderaro  
James and Henry Ralph  
Ruth Ralph Carney  
Fred J. Rapisardi  
George William Lafland  
Maurice Roy
- 11:30 am** Italia Corsaro  
Charles and Joan Corsaro (Living)

## Thursday, November 29

- 7:00 am** Timothy Jackson

## Friday, November 30

- 7:00 am**

## Saturday, December 1

- 8:00 am** First Saturday  
**4:00 pm** Vic and Elise White

## Sunday, December 2

- 7:30 am** Terry Carter (Living)
- 9:30 am** (multiple intentions)  
Manuel and Fernanda Cordeiro  
Edward Burke  
Virginia and Andrew Sullivan  
James F. Sheehy  
Jeffrey Thomas Middlemiss  
Joseph H. Petelle
- 11:30 am** Antoinette and Nemetallah Khalife

## ROSES FOR LIFE

Roses for Life have been donated in loving memory of

**Theresa A. Rickley**  
**Howard Hart Jr.**  
**Michael & Linda Giarusso**  
**Helen Giarusso**  
**Dr. Joseph Aiyeku**  
**Maria Arasi**



## Saint Vincent de Paul Annual Giving Trees

We have placed two Giving Trees at St. Monica's. The trees help 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 both trees 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, and placed under the trees no later than Sunday, December 9. If you have any questions, please direct them to Pat Wilkens, Nativity Program Coordinator, at 978-686-9573. Thank you.

## OFFERTORY

## Last Sunday, (11/18/18):

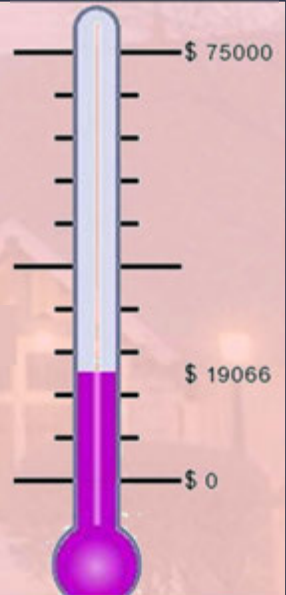
Regular Sunday Offering: \$ 8,468.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$ 3,164.00

The second collection this weekend is for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. There is only one collection next weekend, our regular Sunday offering.

## Grand Annual to date

Please remember to send in your Grand Annual envelopes.

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



## Saint Monica's Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

December 2<sup>nd</sup> following the 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. masses in the School Hall

\$5 per person & \$15 for family (We do accept credit cards)



**This Sunday, November 25**, the Catholic Lending Library will be available for free lending of books/DVDs in the back of the church after the 9:30 Mass. Books and DVDs may be returned in the "return" basket also located in the back of the church.

We are incredibly grateful to be among the recipients of a \$1,000 per year scholarship for graduates of St. Monica School who choose to go to Presentation of Mary Academy. This is renewable each year! A tremendous opportunity that we are so excited to share. We can not thank you enough Presentation of Mary Academy!



**Nov. 5** - Mrs. Henderson shared very big news. First, she announced the winners of the anti bullying contest. Our second surprise was from Auggie, our new "Saint" Bernard mascot! Auggie didn't come empty handed. He gave each student a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary shirt!



Auggie, our new mascot, came to visit his service dog friends at Extended Day. We all got to learn about them, ask questions, and even pet them!



## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, November 24****4:00 pm** Guido and Guida Iannalfo**Sunday, November 25****9:00 am** George Baker Jr.**11:00 am** Linda Monahan  
Vincenzo Tagliaferri  
Robert "Bobby" Sacchetti  
Anna Engdahl  
John and Jennie Blatti  
Mrs. Concetta D. Bella**Monday, November 26****8:00 am** Helene Giordano**Tuesday, November 27****8:00 am** Giuseppe and Maria Grazia Consoli**Wednesday, November 28****8:00 am** Vincent Minicucci and  
Gerardo and Mattia D'Andrea**Saturday, December 1****4:00 pm** Domenic and Mary Rotonelli  
Guiseppe & Francesca Bevilacqua  
Antonio and Philomena Sgueglia  
Rev. Charles Sgueglia**Sunday, December 2****9:00 am Family Mass**People of St. Lucy and  
St. Monica Parishes**11:00 am** Maria L. DiFruscia  
Domenic and Margaret Nicolosi  
Warren Finniss  
Timothy Jackson  
Harold Neville  
Sharon Forgetta

## 2018 St. Lucy Parish Annual Turkey Shoot



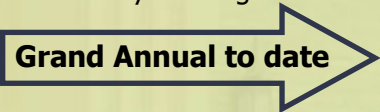
## OFFERTORY

**Last Sunday, (11/18/18):**

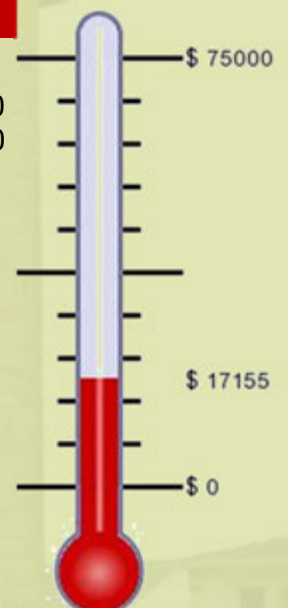
Regular Sunday Offering: \$ 7,167.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$ 1,946.00

There is only one collection this weekend and next weekend, our regular Sunday offering.


**Grand Annual to date**

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



**High Altar (Tabernacle)** - We have purchased six candle sticks to be placed on the High Altar (Tabernacle) in the church. A pair of 6", a pair of 9", and a pair of 12" candles. We would like to thank the families of Michael L. Glynn, Paul Ruggiero, Therese Bagley, Ruth Raterman Westerfield, and Margaret Fiocca Fitzpatrick for generously donating to our parish by purchasing one of the candles.

**We still have one 6" candle that is \$600. Please contact our Parish Office if you would like to purchase it in memory of a loved one.**

**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**

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**Business Manager**

Carolyn Leocata ext. 28 carolyn.leocata@gmail.com  
**Administrative Assistant**

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**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**



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**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 (for Sunday)

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 (for Sunday)

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

1<sup>st</sup> & 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

*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

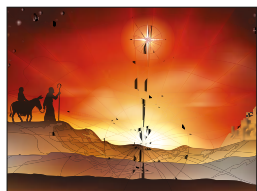
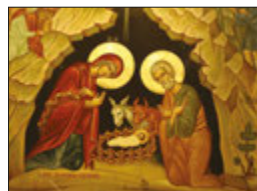
Saturday 12:30 pm/Sunday 1:00pm

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

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Two faithful sisters, Sr. Rita and Sr. Geraldine, pictured left, still volunteer weekly at a local Catholic high school. At 92-years-old, Rita and Geraldine don't feel their mission work is done

Please consider supporting a special collection **November 17-18, 2018**. Rising median ages and escalating healthcare costs leave our beloved sisters with **80% of their medical and living expenses unmet by Social Security benefits**. Your generosity assists with day-to-day needs of retired sisters including prescription medications, nursing assistance, and healthcare expenses.

*Thank you for your prayers and generous support of our sisters.*

**For more information, please contact Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637.**

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Artist's rendering

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