

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 18

2022



Emmanuel

She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.

~Matthew 1:21

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

St. Joseph, Guardian and Guide of Husbands, Father of Fathers

In today's gospel reading from the beginning of St. Matthew, he tells us of how the birth of Jesus came about, of how his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph her husband, of how she was found with child through the Holy Spirit, of how Joseph resolved to end his betrothal with Mary.

Catholic tradition proposes three main interpretations to explain Joseph's dilemma. Given what St. Matthew has written it is possible to see the reasoning in each interpretation. There are saintly doctors of the Church who hold to each tradition.

The tradition that is most beautiful takes into account St. Joseph's holiness, his reverence, his personal love and compassion for Mary, and his awareness of her vulnerability, holding that he knew the miraculous cause of Mary's pregnancy from very early on. Mary would have told him of the event of the Annunciation, probably before she left to visit Elizabeth. St. Luke tells us that she left in *haste*; he doesn't say that she left *immediately*. Her immediate concern was for Joseph her husband. That we know nothing of their conversation provides us with the greatest model of intimacy in marriage given by the holiest husband and wife.

But still, the event of the Annunciation plunged Joseph into confusion. What could be his place in what was unfolding? As a *just man* could he give his name to a child who wasn't his?

In a wonderful book, *Life of Jesus*, written by Fr. Francisco Fernandez-Carvajal, a Spanish Roman Catholic priest, the author tells us that everything Joseph knew of Mary, "through their intimate conversations, the grace reflected in her face, her happiness," would not have allowed for him to think negatively of her. "The look in her eyes was clear, pure and serene as always...her countenance was even more radiant than in the months before".

Fr. Fernandez continues, "We cannot forget that Joseph was in all likelihood the person who, after Mary, received the most graces from God...He was a man chosen and prepared by the Blessed Trinity to care for the people most loved by God here on earth: Jesus and Mary. God paid special attention in choosing him and forming him interiorly for the entirely unique situation". His mission was to care for the household of God.

Fr. Fernandez makes the point that the *just man* in union with God doesn't flounder when things become complicated, or when he does not understand, or when faced with God's silence. In his deep faith and with profound reasoning Joseph considered and waited prayerfully in the silence of Nazareth.

Joseph's love for Mary was transcendent, as was his mercy. Fr. Fernandez writes that Joseph decided to protect Mary with secrecy, putting her away quietly so that nothing unworthy could be attributed to her; he would not allow her to be exposed to shame.

Convinced of Mary's virtue Joseph would be the witness and guardian of it. Fr. Fernandez writes that Joseph's idea was "to move away, leaving the betrothal promises unfulfilled. Mary would become an abandoned woman suffering misfortune caused by another's offense....He would be the culprit...He would go away even though it broke his heart..."

And then the angel in a dream!

In *Fire of Mercy*, a beautiful four-volume meditation on the Gospel of St. Matthew begun in 1996 and completed 25 years later in 2021, Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis who is now Trappist Fr. Simeon of St. Joseph Abbey in Spencer writes that Joseph "is called upon to love his wife in virginity, to nurture another's Child, expecting no personal reward, to mobilize all his practical resourcefulness and thus cooperate in giving birth to God's plan of salvation. His vocation is to be the visible fatherhood of God on earth, to serve the Son of God and his Mother selflessly, and such service is reward enough in itself".

In these days we husbands and fathers are blessed to hear again within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Matthew's infancy narrative where he places Joseph before us. As we prayerfully reflect on Joseph's dilemma and the way in which he determined to solve it, the love we have for our own wives fills our hearts to overflowing. The overflow spills out to our own children, inspiring us to be fathers after the heart of Joseph. The overflow also spills into the world just as Joseph's love continues to do in his quiet, silent way.

What a gift this beginning of St. Matthew's Gospel is to the Church and to the world! What a gift is St. Joseph!

St. Joseph, pray for us.

METHUEN COLLABORATIVE
ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

Advent & Christmas Seasons

December 18
4th Sunday of Advent

Lessons & Carols

December 18 | 4pm | St. Monica

December 24-25, 31-January 1
Christmas Season Masses

St. Lucy Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm & 10pm

Christmas Day | 10am

New Years Eve | 4pm

New Years Day | 10:30am

St. Monica Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm & 7pm

Christmas Day | 9am

New Years Eve | 4pm

New Years Day | 9am & 12pm

SPECIAL ADVENT MASSES

November 30, December 7, 14 & 21

6:45am

St. Monica Church



Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will hold its regular hours of 9am-2pm with the following exceptions:

Monday, December 5th.....11am-2pm

Monday, December 12th....11am-2pm

Monday, December 19th....11am-2pm

Friday, December 23rd.....CLOSED

Monday, December 26th....CLOSED

Friday, December 30th....CLOSED

Monday, January 2nd....CLOSED



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 18 at 4pm

St. Monica Church

Come and celebrate the season with Advent Lessons and Carols at St Monica's!

A professional quartet of singers will lead a volunteer choir in singing anthems and hymns to tell the story of Jesus and Christmas.

There is a special Children's Pageant section during the Lessons and Carols.

Please get in touch with Karl Jackson if your child would like to participate.

Take a break from shopping, wrapping and stress and enjoy beautiful music and meaningful readings from the Gospel. All are Welcome!



Week 4 - The LOVE Candle

Also known as the Angel's Candle, this fourth candle of Advent symbolizes love and reminds us that God is love.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.

John 3:16



Nativity Crèche

In its present form, the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on Christmas Eve or at another time:

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

“TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;
IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;
WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.
OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY
AND COURAGE. AMEN.”

— POPE FRANCIS



INVITE CHRIST INTO CHRISTMAS

A CONCERT FEATURING

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SOPRANO

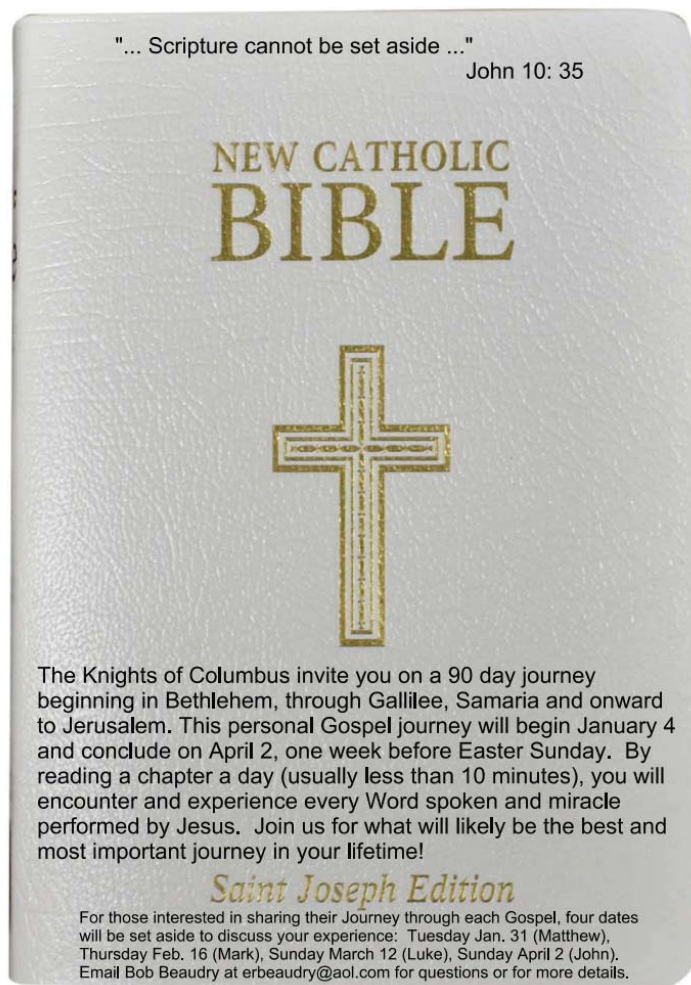
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PIANIST



JANUARY 1ST - 2PM

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH - 200 LAWRENCE RD, SALEM, NH

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION
VOLUNTARY DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED



A WORD OF THANKS

Our FKMV Board is so grateful for your ongoing generosity. Today almost 300 kids received their Christmas presents & had a wonderful time jumping @ Launch Park.

To be sure, we couldn't accomplish these goals without your generous support.
Thank you for partnering with us!!

ULTREYA

**Tuesday, December 20th
7- 9 PM**

**St. Lucy Church Hall
All Are Welcome!**

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

- RCIA Meeting 10-11:30am St. Monica House
- Pageant Practice 2:30-3pm St. Monica Church
- Lessons & Carols Choir Practice 3-4pm St. Monica Church
- Lessons & Carols 4-5pm St. Monica Church followed by refreshments in School
- AA 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- School Mass 1pm St. Monica Church
- Ultreya 7-9pm St. Lucy Church & Lower Church Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- HALF DAY OF SCHOOL
- Mass 6:45am St. Monica Church
- Alanon 10-11:15am St. Lucy School House
- Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

- SCHOOL CLOSED
- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Rosary 6pm (Zoom)
- Catechism for Adults 6:30 (Zoom)
- AA 6:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

- SCHOOL /PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Eucharistic Adoration 2-5pm Gethsemane Chapel
- Confessions 4-5pm Gethsemane Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

- Mass 9am St. Monica Church
- Confessions 3-3:45pm Gethsemane Chapel
- Christmas Eve Masses 4pm & 7pm St. Monica Church
- Christmas Eve Masses 4pm & 10pm St. Lucy Church



OFFERTORY | NOVEMBER 19 & 20

St. Monica - \$8,072.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$4,960.⁰⁰

Weekly Offertory needed to sustain parish operations: St. Monica - \$10,000 | St. Lucy - \$6,000

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



Yes, I CAN... We are in need of soups, spaghetti sauce, cereal, canned fruit, canned tuna, baked beans, canned carrots, canned peas, rice, rice sides, pancake mix, pancake syrup, peanut butter, jelly, canned beans, mashed potatoes. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the entrances to St. Lucy and the side door of Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Mondays @ 10 am. Please email all bulletin notices to parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com.

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ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE

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BAPTISMS 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:00pm St. Monica's | 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:30am at St. Lucy's

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

MASS SCHEDULE

SAT 4 pm (VIGIL) both parishes

SUN 9 am & 11 am St. Monica | 10 am St. Lucy

MON/TUES/THURS/FRI 9 am St. Lucy

SATURDAY 9 am St. Monica

CONFESSIONS

3 - 3:45 pm both parishes | Sat

4 - 5pm Gethsemane Chapel | Fri

6 - 7pm St. Lucy Church | Wed

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

2 - 5 pm Friday Gethsemane Chapel

6 - 7 pm Wednesday St. Lucy Church

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844

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

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PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Darin Colarusso

Pastor

Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio

Parochial Vicar

Deacon John Pierce

Permanent Deacon

Deacon John Kobrenski

Permanent Deacon

Kera Mansour

Business Manager

methuencatholic@gmail.com

Karl Jackson

Director of Parish Life

faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Brink Bush

Music Director

Sharon Waning

Music Ministry (St. Lucy)

Kevin Fitzgerald

Facilities (St. Lucy) / RCIA

Christine Ryan

Administrative Assistant

parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com



ST. MONICA SCHOOL

212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844

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SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson

Principal

Sharon Tully

Administrative Assistant

smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Is 45: 8*

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring fourth a Savior.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *SSM23 #241*

1. O come, O come, Em - ma - nu - el, And
 2. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In

1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 2. one the hearts of all man - kind; Bid thou our sad di -

1. ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2. vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our King of Peace.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall
 come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

PENETENTIAL ACT*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Is 7: 10-14*

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalms 24*

Let the Lord en - ter; he is king of glo - ry.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.
 For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place?
 One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior.
 Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

SECOND READING*Rom 1: 1-7*

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
And they shall name him Emmanuel.

GOSPEL*Mt 1: 18-24*

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Is 7: 14*


Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER FOR PASTORAL PLANNING

Almighty Father, give us grace to follow where your Son leads.
Make our priests holy and effective ministers of the Gospel,
our staff and parishioners dedicated and enthusiastic disciples,
and all of us docile to the Holy Spirit and obedient to your will.
Help us make our parishes a light for those seeking you
and a safe harbor for those who hope in you.


COMMUNION HYMN*My Soul Rejoices*

Refrain



My soul re-joic-es in God, my Sav-ior. My spir-it finds its

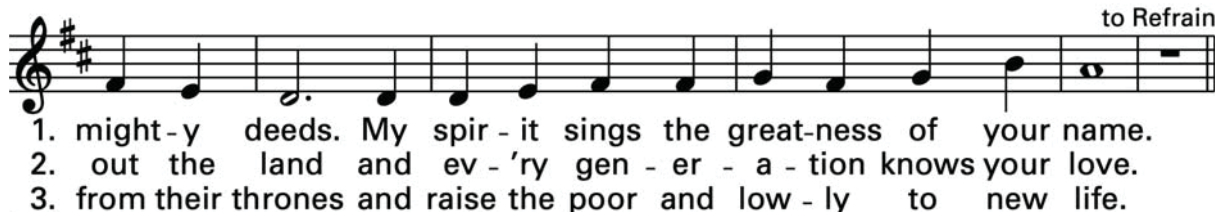
Verses



joy in God, the liv-ing God.

1. My soul pro-claims your
2. Your mer-cy flows through-
3. You cast the might - y

to Refrain



1. might-y deeds. My spir-it sings the great-ness of your name.
2. out the land and ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion knows your love.
3. from their thrones and raise the poor and low-ly to new life.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*O Come Divine Messiah*


1. O come, Di-vine Mes-si-ah, The
2. O you, whom na-tions sigh for, Whom



1. world in si-lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
2. priest and proph-et long fore-told, Will break the cap-tive



1. tri-umph, And sad-ness flee a-way.
2. fet-ters, Re-deem the long-lost fold. Dear Sav-ior, haste!



Come, come to earth. Dis-pel the night and show your



face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, Di-vine Mes



si-ah, The world in si-lence waits the day When



hope shall sing its tri-umph, And sad-ness flee a-way.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 17

9:00am Paul Dionne

4:00pm William F. Hutton

Sunday, December 18

9:00am Marion Bench
Amy Waterworth
Robert Putnam
Nancy Tardif
Robert Ouellette, Sr.
Robert Ouellette, Jr.
Richard Fairbanks

11:00 am Joseph Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Michael Milnes

Saturday, December 24

9:00am For the Parishioners of
St. Monica & St. Lucy

4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

7:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday, December 25

9:00am Christmas Day Mass

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 17

4:00pm Charles J. Piro

Sunday, December 18

10:00am Thomas Wholley
Dominick "Rex" Campone
Tomas & Adrianna Campone & Family
Anne-Louise Glynn
Catherine Petralia
Elaine Parrino

Monday, December 19

9:00am Manny Gianni
Christine Gianni Eldridge

Tuesday, December 20

9:00am Trudy Mulligan

Thursday, December 22

9:00am Bertrand LeBlanc
Gerard Taschereau
Real Taschereau

Friday, December 23

9:00am Margaret Torrisi
Amelia Luciano

Saturday, December 24

4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday, December 25

10:00am Christmas Day Mass

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/18/22	Fr. Stephen LeBlanc	Deacon Paul Born
Mon	12/19/22	Fr. Kevin Staley-Joyce	Deacon Rodrigo Martinez
Tues	12/20/22	Fr. Charles Stanley	Deacon Peter Schirripa
Wed	12/21/22	Fr. Stephen Koen	Deacon Hien Vu
Thurs	12/22/22	Fr. Robert Dedham	Nicholas Colon
Fri	12/23/22	Fr. John Kearns	Kyle Greg
Sat	12/24/22	Fr. Arnold Kelley	Ryan Henderson

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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Please pray for Zack, Barbara & Bill

Please pray for Dorothy Calderone & Marcelle Snell whose funerals we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



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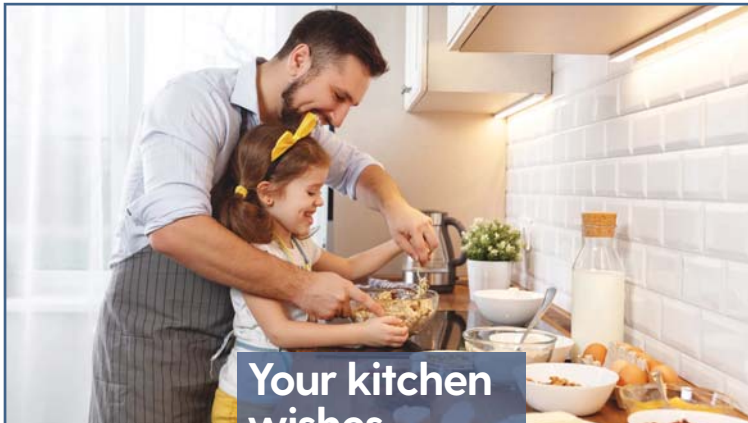
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