

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

APR 13
2025

PALM SUNDAY



**Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Luke 19: 38

Holy Week

Dear Parishioners,

One of the blessings I always thank God for is the faith I have received since I was a child. I remember when I was little, my parents sent us to catechism (although I honestly don't remember the content), but what impressed me most was the celebration of Holy Week. The community where I lived was far from the parish church, so going to town for Holy Week was almost impossible. Therefore, the parish organized missionaries who came to our communities and stayed there for the entire week. Typically, these missions were carried out by seminarians or catechists of the parish.

Holy Week was a true celebration for us, filled with spirituality and tradition. Among the things that have remained most engraved in my memory are the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. The Stations of the Cross because it was a procession outside the chapel, and we children were tasked with collecting the crosses that had been placed to mark the stations. It was almost a competition to see who could collect the most crosses and bring them back to the chapel. Easter Vigil, on the other hand, started also outside the chapel with the Liturgy of Fire. Since we lived in the countryside, firewood was prepared for a good bonfire, a wire cable was placed connecting the firewood to one of the nearby trees, and when it was time to light the fire, someone would climb the tree, light a ball of fire that would slide down the wire cable and fall onto the firewood. That was quite a spectacle for a six-year-old boy. I don't remember the rest of the vigil as much (I was probably asleep), but I will never forget the devotion and joy of the entire community as they celebrated Holy Week so intensely.

But it wasn't always like this. When I ask my parents how they became Catholic, they tell me that on Sundays, a person would come from the parish (which was a little over two hours away) to give catechism classes to my parents and the other residents of that community. This person's name is Santiago, and I met him when I was ordained a priest. He came to my ordination and told me: "*You are the fruit of my mission,*" and of course I am. "Don Santiaguito", as my parents called him, visited that community every Sunday for several years. Sometimes, he would arrive at the chapel and there would be almost no one there because the community had organized a soccer game. So, "Don Santiaguito" would go to where everyone was playing and give them catechism classes there, of course after the game was over. May God bless this great missionary, who made it possible for a community to grow in faith, and for me to respond to the vocation of being a priest.

Dear Parishioners, Holy Week is upon us, reminding us of how much God loves us. I'm not sure if all of you have the same memories I have, but I am certain that we all have the same opportunities to imitate "Don Santiaguito", or those missionaries who came to the community where I was born to help us celebrate Holy Week with great devotion. In these days when we renew Christ's sacrifice to save us, I invite you to live Holy Week actively, with great joy, and to help others know God's love for us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Marcos Pena

THE PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

Good Friday, April 18th
&

Easter Monday, April 21st

We will re-open on
Tuesday, April 22nd at 9am.



HOLY WEEK

RULES OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE
GOOD FRIDAY is an obligatory day of fast and abstinence for Catholics.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. (USCCB)

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, April 13th

St. Monica School Hall
following the 9:00am Mass

Sunday, April 27th

St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
following the 10:30am Mass

ALL ARE WELCOME!

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

APRIL 17 - Holy Thursday
St. Vincent de Paul

APRIL 18 - Good Friday
Holy Land Shrines

The Good Friday collection supports the sacred places and the educational, charitable, and peace-seeking ministries of the Church in the Holy Land.

APRIL 20 - Easter
Clergy Trust

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



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

As we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we are reminded that Lent is coming to close and the Resurrection is nearing. What have you learned about yourself this Lent? What have you learned about your relationship with God?

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Did you know that St. Monica's Sunday masses are available on cable TV? Replays are on Fridays at 7:30 am and Sundays at 5 pm. Comcast 22 / FIOS 33 & HD channel 2133. The mass streams at those same times on methuentv.org - Select Live Stream - "Community TV"

METHUEN COLLABORATIVE
ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SEASON

April 13 | Palm Sunday

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

The Palm Sunday Masses begin with the Blessing of the Palms and Procession. On Palm Sunday, April 13 the 9:00am (SM) and 10:30am (SL) Masses will begin with a Solemn Procession. These processions will start at the statues of Our Lady outside the Church (weather permitting).

April 17 | Holy Thursday

9:00am Morning Prayer and Rosary (St. Lucy Church)

7:00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (St. Monica Church)

April 18 | Good Friday

9:00am Morning Prayer and Rosary (St. Lucy Church)

3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (St. Lucy Church)

7:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (St. Lucy Church)

April 19 | Holy Saturday

9:00am Morning Prayer and Rosary (St. Monica Church)

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass (St. Lucy Church)

April 20 | Easter Sunday

8:00am Mass (St. Lucy Church)

10:30am Mass (St. Lucy Church)

9:00am Mass (St. Monica Church)

12:00pm Mass (St. Monica Church)

April 26 / 27 | Divine Mercy Sunday

Regular Weekend Mass schedule

24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration, starting immediately following the 4:00pm Mass at St. Monica's until 4:00pm on Sunday, April 27th (Gethsemane Chapel)

2:00pm Divine Mercy Devotion (St. Monica Church)

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

The novena begins on Good Friday and continues to Divine Mercy Sunday. Pamphlets are available in the magazine racks in both churches.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 27th

Celebrate with us with a service at St. Monica Church beginning at 2pm.

- ◆ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- ◆ Recitation of the Rosary
- ◆ The Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- ◆ Confessions
- ◆ Veneration of the image of Divine Mercy



Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality Morning of Reflection

Sodality members and guests participated in our annual Morning of Reflection on Saturday, March 22nd. The morning began at 8:30 with Mass celebrated by Father Marcos who so generously gave his time, his singing voice and poignant homily in honor of our Sodality! Following a buffet breakfast, a discussion led by our guest speaker, Father Dan McCoy on the Blessed Virgin Mary's emotional turmoil during the crucifixion. Father Dan McCoy also included both a witty and somber interpretation of several incidents from the bible that kept everyone engaged.



St. Joseph's Home Clothing Drive

On March 9th Sodality members collected diapers and infant clothing to assist residents of the newly opened St. Joseph's Home for unwed mothers. When this need was brought to our attention, members rallied to generously support these women.



Sodality welcomes our new member **Angela Bella!** All women are welcomed to join our organization. Sodality meets on the 2nd Sunday each month following the 10:30 Mass.

ST MONICA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, APRIL 26 2025 after the 4:00 PM Mass ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY and Sunday, APRIL 27 2025 ST. MONICA after the 9:00 AM, and 12:00PM Masses. ST. LUCY AFTER 10:30AM All proceeds are used for scholarships for 8th grade students going to Catholic high schools.



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES SCRIPTURE CLASS

This 5-week class will be held every Thursday, from April 24 to May 22 with a re-presentation every Saturday, from April 26 to May 24.

All sessions will be held at the St. Lucy Schoolhouse from 2:30-3:30pm.

To register, please contact Rachel Voiland at rachelvoiland@comcast.net

WORTHY

is the Lamb that was slain

REVELATION 5: 12

Faith **2** FITT
SATURDAYS 8AM

**St. Lucy's
Lower Church
Hall**

MARCH 29 & 30

St. Monica - \$7,135.00 St. Lucy - \$4,037.00

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 Mashed Potatoes, Cereal, Canned Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Soups, Peanut Butter & Jelly. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the entrances to St. Lucy Church and the side door of Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

GETHSEMANE CHAPEL AT ST. MONICA CHURCH
 Open 7 days per week from 6am-7pm

**CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
 ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE**
 Open Mon-Sat from 9am-5pm

BAPTISMS 2nd Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Monica's | 3rd Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Lucy's
 Please call the Parish Offices at least 2 months in advance to schedule.

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 & 12 pm St. Monica
 10:30 am St. Lucy
 MON/TUES/THURS/FRI 9 am St. Lucy
 SATURDAY 9 am St. Monica

CONFESSIONS
 SAT 3-3:45pm at both parishes

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844
 978.683.1193

www.methuencatholic.org

**Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 1pm
 Closed Wed**



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
 978.686.9573

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Marcos Peña	Administrator
frmarcosmethuen@gmail.com	
Fr. Michael Harvey	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Pierce	Senior Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
methuencatholic@gmail.com	
Karl Jackson	Director of Parish Life
faithformation.stlm@gmail.com	
Joseph Lundin	Music Director
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com	



ST. MONICA SCHOOL
 212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844
 (978) 686 -1801
 www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson	Principal
Ann Marie Collins	Administrative Assistant
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

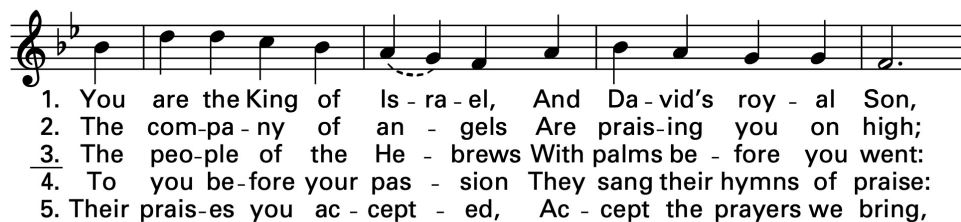
Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel.
Hosanna in the highest.

GOSPEL

Holy Week Book p. 38

ENTRANCE HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor

**FIRST READING - PSALM - SECOND READING**

Holy Week Book p. 41

PASSION READING

Holy Week Book p. 66

SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI

Refer to Pew Card

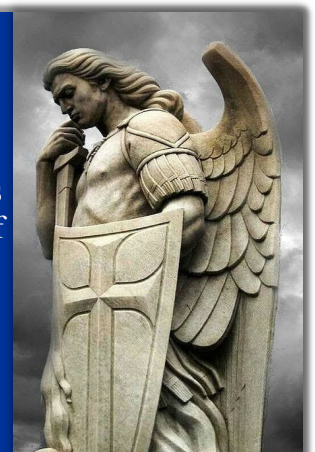
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 26: 42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



COMMUNION HYMN*O Sacred Head Surrounded*

- 1a. O Sa - cred Head, sur - round - ed By crown of pierc - ing thorn!
 2a. In this, your bit - ter pas - sion, Good Shep - herd, think of me
 3a. What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank you, dear - est friend,
 *1b. O Sa - cred Head, sur - round - ed By crown of pierc - ing thorn!
 2b. O Love, all love tran - scend - ing, O Wis - dom from on high!
 3b. O Je - sus, we a - dore thee, Up - on the cross our King!



- 1a. O bleed - ing Head, so wound - ed, Re - viled and put to scorn!
 2a. With your most kind com - pas - sion, Un - worth - y though I be:
 3a. For this, your dy - ing sor - row, Your mer - cy with - out end?
 1b. O bleed - ing Head, so wound - ed, Re - viled and put to scorn!
 2b. O Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, Sur - ren - dered up to die!
 3b. We hum - bly bow be - fore thee, And of thy vic - t'ry sing!



- 1a. The pow'r of death comes o'er you, The glow of life de - cays,
 2a. Be - neath your cross a - bid - ing, For - ev - er would I rest,
 3a. Lord, make me yours for - ev - er, A loy - al ser - vant true,
 1b. No come - li - ness or beau - ty Thy wound - ed face be - trays,
 2b. Was e'er a love so won - drous! That from his heav'n - ly throne
 3b. Thy cross is our sal - va - tion, Our hope from day to day,



- 1a. Yet an - gel hosts a - dore you, And trem - ble as they gaze.
 2a. In your dear love con - fid - ing, And with your pres - ence blest.
 3a. And let me nev - er, nev - er Out - live my love for you.
 1b. Yet an - gel hosts a - dore thee And trem - ble as they gaze.
 2b. God should de - scend a - mong us To suf - fer for his own.
 3b. Our peace and con - so - la - tion When life shall fade a - way.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*Lift High The Cross*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim, Till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred Name.



1. Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, The
 2. Each new - born serv - ant of the Cru - ci - fied Bears
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, As
 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise



1. hosts of God in conq - 'ring ranks com - bine.
 2. on the brow the seal of him who died.
 3. thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.
 4. to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

Through St. Faustina, the Merciful Savior has given the aching world new channels for the outpouring of His grace. These new channels include the *Image of The Divine Mercy*, the *Feast of Mercy* (Divine Mercy Sunday), the *Chaplet*, the *Novena to The Divine Mercy*, and prayer at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, *the Hour of Great Mercy*.

Although these means of receiving God's mercy are new in form, they all proclaim the timeless message of God's merciful love. They also draw us back to the great Sacrament of Mercy, the Holy Eucharist, where the living Lord, who suffered and died on the Cross and whose Heart was pierced with a lance, pours forth His mercy on all mankind, and grants pardon to all who draw near and honor Him. As Jesus told St. Faustina: **My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners...[I]t is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with**

IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY

In 1931, our Lord appeared to St. Faustina in a vision. She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of the Heart, from where two large rays came forth, one red and the other pale. She gazed intently at the Lord in silence, her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy. Jesus said to her:

Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory (Diary, 47, 48). I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You (327). I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world (47).

What do the rays in the image represent? **The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him (299). By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works (742).**

These words indicate that the Image represents the graces of Divine Mercy poured out upon the world, especially through Baptism and the Eucharist.



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

A novena is typically nine days of prayer. The Chaplet can be said anytime, but the Lord specifically asked that it be recited as a novena. He promised, **"By this Novena (of Chaplets), I will grant every possible grace to souls."**

The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday, March 29 and concludes on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7. Join us at 2:00pm in St. Monica Church for the Divine Mercy Devotions. Please help yourself to the pamphlets provided in the rear of the churches and chapel to assist with praying the Divine Mercy Novena. You can find more information here

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena>

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, April 12

9:00am Patricia Jennings
4:00pm Vincent Jablonski

Sunday, April 13 - PALM SUNDAY

9:00am Charlie & Rose Hanafin
Richard Curtis
Richard Ferguson
William E. Donahue
Marc Lyonnais
12:00pm For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica

Thursday, April 17 - HOLY THURSDAY

7:00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Saturday, April 19 - HOLY SATURDAY

9:00am Morning Prayer & Rosary

Sunday, April 20 - EASTER SUNDAY

9:00am For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica
12:00pm For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica



ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, April 12

4:00pm Michael Kenny, Jr.

Sunday, April 13 - PALM SUNDAY

10:30am John McDermott
Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality
Paula Melnick

Monday, April 14

9:00am Vincent Rea

Tuesday, April 15

9:00am For All Priests & Religious

Wednesday, April 16

9:00am Deceased Members of the Autiello Family

Thursday, April 17 - HOLY THURSDAY

9:00am Morning Prayer & Rosary

Friday, April 18 - GOOD FRIDAY

9:00am Morning Prayer & Rosary
3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 19 - HOLY SATURDAY

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 20 - EASTER SUNDAY

8:00am For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica
10:30am For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica



PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	04/13/25	Fr. Thomas Macdonald	Palm Sunday
Mon	04/14/25	Fr. Sean McCarthy	Deacon Brian Delaney PJ23 Boston
Tues	04/15/25	Fr. Walter Carreiro	Deacon Mateus Martin RMS Boston
Wed	04/16/25	Fr. Joseph Hennessey	Deacon Thuy Nguyễn SJS Boston
Thurs	04/17/25	Fr. Jean Pierre Aubin	Deacon Dong Pham SJS Boston
Fri	04/18/25	Fr. Andrew Grelak	Deacon Zach Sullivan SJS Worcester
Sat	04/19/25	Fr. Richard Santerre	Br. Andrew Olson, OMV

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Kristin M., John S., Michael B., Robert L., Victor T., Barbara S., Carolyn, Adrienne M., Terry, Chris C., Joy M., William T., Chris B., Kathy P., Jeff H., Phyllis T. & Patrice K.

Please pray for those whose funerals we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.