

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

FEB 18
2024



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. Mark 1:12-13

1ST

SUNDAY
OF LENT

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is our mother, as well. As Jesus died on the cross, he gave his mother to be our mother when he entrusted her to the care of St John the apostle. As all of our prayers ascend to the Father through Jesus, so it is said that all of our prayers go to Jesus through Mary. She is our mother and our intercessor. As a mother cares for her children, so she cares for us, each of us, individually.

It is hard to imagine how much a mother can suffer when her children are in distress. Most mothers would rather go through the agony themselves than see their child suffer. But Mary was forced to watch as her son was tortured and put to death by crucifixion, a most humiliating and painful way to die. In the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary, we meditate with Mary on the sufferings of her son, Jesus. She was with him in spirit during his agony in Gethsemane as he foresaw the sufferings and torture he was to undergo. His painful scourging, his humiliating crowning with thorns, the carrying of his cross to Calvary, and his painful and demeaning crucifixion were all accepted by him as the will of the Father, the only thing that mattered. But Mary also suffered that “sword through her heart” that Simeon had predicted when Christ was presented in the temple not long after his birth. I’m sure that she felt all his humiliation and pain as he was rejected by the bystanders and crucified as a criminal.

But Mary, like Jesus, accepted that suffering because she knew that it was the will of the Father. When the angel Gabriel announced to her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, she assented: “Let it be done unto me according to your word.” This included the acceptance of all of this suffering.

As we enter the season of Lent, let us remember that we, and our loved ones, are bound to suffer in our lives. It may be small compared to others or it may be great, but it will be ours. The saying “offer it up” has been overused and become somewhat trite in our age. It is often ignored by those to whom it is addressed because it has become so common and, seemingly, without meaning. But it has great significance!

To realize that you can offer all of your sufferings, small or great, to the Lord as a means of aligning yourself with his will can help us overcome despair and bring hope into distressing situations. To know that what we suffer is the will of God, to know that his will is only for good and that we can give all of our sufferings to the Father, just as Jesus and Mary did, can be not only consoling, but even a source of great joy and hope.

We have just entered the season of Lent, a season of penance. Penance is a virtue by which sinners are disposed to hatred of their sin as an offense against God and to a firm purpose of amendment and satisfaction. What better way to do penance for our sins than to unite ourselves with Mary who was conceived without sin. As we follow her example in always doing the Lord’s will, we will come to recognize and hate our sins. She is our mother, and she will guide and teach us as a mother guides and teaches her beloved child.

To deny ourselves of unnecessary things in order to learn self-discipline and to do good works to help others are things that a good mother trains her children to do by her example. Let us follow the example of Mary, always doing the Lord’s will and always loving her children, not just Jesus, but all of us. She will show us the way to imitate him and his love, the way to the Father and to life in the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, Pray for us sinners, Now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Mary, make our Lent holy and fruitful by helping us to follow your example in striving to do the Lord’s will in everything and at all times.

Mariology Class

Thursday evenings | February 15 - March 21 | 7-8pm | St. Monica Church

Lent is a time for spiritual enrichment. Please join us for a Mariology Class, a follow-up to last year’s Christology Class. We will study the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of the Church.

The Class will be taught by Fr. Colarusso

To register or if you have questions, contact Karl at faithformation.stlm@gmail.com or 978-683-1193 ext 35

**The Parish Offices
will be closed on Monday, Feb 19 in
honor of Presidents Day**

**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION
FEBRUARY 25th**

SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

Next week's second collection will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe and three important national Catholic missions: The Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your generosity will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the church around the world. For more information about each of these organizations go to their websites:

1. CRS: www.uscc.org/catholic-relief;
2. Church in Africa: www.usccb.org/africa
3. Church in Central and Eastern Europe: www.usccb.org/ccee
4. Military Archdiocese: www.milarch.org
5. Catholic Home Missions: www.usccb.org/home-missions
6. Black and Indian Missions: <https://blackandindianmission.org/>

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, February 25th

St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
After the 10:30am mass

Sunday, March 3rd

St. Monica School Hall
After the 9am mass



St. Monica School is looking for volunteers from our parish to read to a classroom for Community Reading Day at our school on Friday, March 1st from 9-9:30am. We need 10 volunteers! We have plenty of short stories to choose from or you could bring your personal favorite!!

Please call Mrs. Nancy Michaud at 978-794-9247 if you would like to volunteer!

Light refreshments will be provided.

LENTEN CALENDAR

TUESDAYS | Rosary 6-6:30pm | Gethsemane Chapel

WEDNESDAYS | Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet 9:30-11am | Zoom

Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm | St. Lucy Church

THURSDAYS | Mariology Class 7-8pm | St. Monica Church

Rosary 6-6:30pm | Zoom

FRIDAYS | Stations of the Cross followed by Pizza 6-7pm | St. Lucy Church

SATURDAYS | Eucharistic Adoration 9:30am-2:30pm | Gethsemane Chapel

to connect with our groups on Zoom

contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

ULTREYA

Tuesday, February 27th 7 - 8:30 PM | St. Lucy Church Hall | All Are Welcome!

Ultreya...this Spanish word means "Onward!" "Persevere!" "Hang in There!"...words of encouragement to each other as we travel on life's journey. Ultreya this month will begin with Prayer Service and singing and includes voluntary sharing in small intimate and confidential groups, fellowship and refreshments that signify Christian hospitality. Our guest speaker this month, David Sheehan, will offer a personal witness of what life was like before Cursillo and how it is now after the Cursillo experience. Come support our dear friend.

All parishioners are invited to come and share in this monthly evening of praise and worship. Please feel free to **invite a friend** to join you!

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith, for all you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27)



YOUR DONATION IS DOUBLED

A generous donor has offered to match every gift made to the Grand Annual at St. Monica's, up to \$5,000, from today until Easter Sunday (3/31/24). If you have been considering making a gift or making another gift, now is the time. For every \$1 you give, we receive \$2.

Double your impact.

GIVE NOW!



GRAND ANNUAL

St. Monica Parish

St Patrick's Dinner
Saturday March 16th
5:30-9:00
St Lucy's Lower Church Hall

K of C will be selling tickets after all masses at St. Monica & St. Lucy on Feb 24/25 and Mar 2/3
 Tickets are \$35 ea. Tables of 10 can be reserved.
 Please contact Kevin Quinn at 978-618-3499 with questions.

ADORE

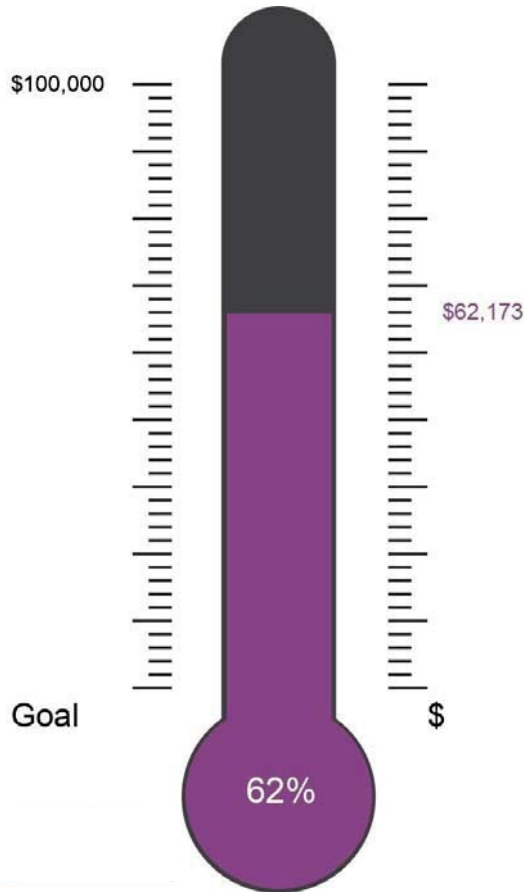
Join us for a spiritually uplifting evening of Adoration, & Confession, featuring a Guest Speaker and live worship music by Mike McDuffee.

St. Lucy Church
Wednesday, February 28th
6:00-8:00 PM

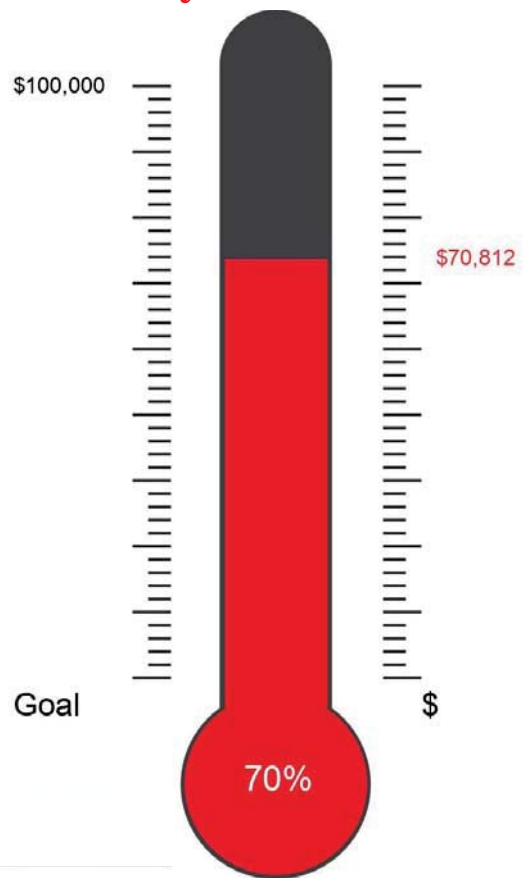
Free Will Offerings Accepted



St. Monica Grand Annual



St. Lucy Grand Annual



GIVE NOW

OFFERTORY FEBRUARY 3 & 4

St. Monica - \$8,790.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$5,439.⁰⁰

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 cereal, rice, mashed potatoes, jelly, pasta sauce, pancake mix, syrup, canned fruit, instant rice & soups. 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.

<p>GETHSEMANE CHAPEL AT ST. MONICA CHURCH Open 7 days/week from morning rush hour until 7pm</p>	<p>CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE Open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm , Sat & Sun 9am-5pm</p>
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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.

<p>MASS SCHEDULE</p> <p>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</p>	<p>CONFESSIONS</p> <p>SAT 3-3:45pm at both parishes</p>
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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: M - F 9am - 2pm



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
978.686.9573

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Darin Colarusso	Pastor
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	
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
(978) 686 -1801
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson	Principal
Pam Silveira	Administrative Assistant
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Psalm 91 (90): 15-16*

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

ENTRANCE HYMN*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing in the wild;
2. Shall not we your sor - row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4. So shall we have peace di - vine: Ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5. Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, Ev - er con - stant by your side;



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
2. Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Strong with you to suf - fer pain?
3. Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, Grant we may not faint nor fail!
4. Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, Such as served you faith - ful - ly.
5. That with you we may ap - pear At th'e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

FIRST READING*Genesis 9: 8-15*

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 25: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9*

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to



those who keep your cov - e - nant.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD, thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice, and he teaches the humble his way.

SECOND READING*1 Peter 3: 18-22*

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Matthew 4: 4b*

One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL*Mark 1: 12-15*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

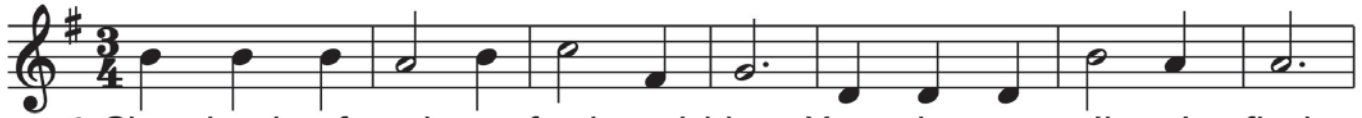
CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Matthew 4: 4*

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

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*Shepherd of Souls*

1. Shep-herd of souls, re-fresh and bless Your cho-sen pil-grim flock
2. We would not live by bread a-lone, But by your word of grace,
3. Be known to us in break-ing bread, But do not then de-part;
4. Lord, sup with us in love di-vine; Your bod-y and your blood,



1. With man-na in the wil-der-ness, With wa-ter from the rock.
2. In strength of which we trav-el on To our a-bid-ing place.
3. Sav-ior, a-bide with us, and spread Your ta-ble in our heart.
4. That liv-ing bread, that heav'n-ly wine, Be our im-mor-tal food.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

1. Lord, who through-out these for-ty days, For us did fast and
2. As you with Sa-tan did con-tend, And did the vic-t'ry
3. As you did hun-ger bear and thirst, So teach us, gra-cious
4. And through these days of pen-i-tence, And through your Pas-sion-
5. A-bide with us that when this life Of suf-fer-ing is



1. pray, Teach us with you to mourn our sins, And close by you to stay.
2. win, O give us strength in you to fight, In you to con-quer sin.
3. Lord, To die to self, and al-ways live By your most ho-ly word.
4. tide, For-ev-er-more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a-bide.
5. past, An Ea-ster of un-end-ing joy We may at-tain at last!

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, February 17

9:00am Joseph Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Mike Milnes
4:00pm Anthony Gerst

Sunday, February 18

9:00am Jose Rivadeneira
Hank Hillier
Peter Gumaskas
John K. Foster, Jr.
Leontina Picanso
Kirk Patrick Walsh
Peter Flagg
Jose and Eulalia Aguiar
12:00pm For the Parishioners of
St. Monica & St. Lucy

Saturday, February 24

9:00am Marilyn & Joyce Wilson
4:00pm Stephen Bellingreri

Sunday, February 25

9:00am Raymond Lacerte
Jeffrey Waters
Tony Waters
Carol Amabello
Kay Wilson
Mary Rita Costa
Noreen Duxbury
12:00pm Gratien Michaud

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, February 17

4:00pm Antonio & Evelina Mollica

Sunday, February 18

10:30am Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality
Bertrand LeBlanc
Real Taschereau
Gerard Taschereau
Bridget Sumner

Monday, February 19

9:00am Manny Gianni
Christine Gianni Eldridge

Tuesday, February 20

9:00am Paula Nichols

Thursday, February 22

9:00am Vincenzo Lazzara

Friday, February 23

9:00am Joseph Augeri

Saturday, February 24

4:00pm For the Parishioners of
St. Monica & St. Lucy

Sunday, February 25

10:30am Eddie Serrano

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	02/18/24	Fr. Robert Milling	Christopher Şilebi
Mon	02/19/24	Msgr. Peter Conley	Isaac Velazquez
Tues	02/20/24	Fr. William Palardy	Liam Warner
Wed	02/21/24	Fr. Peter Schirripa	Luca Azzani
Thurs	02/22/24	Pope Francis	Alden Bronson
Fri	02/23/24	Fr. Paul Sughrue	Alexander deTirado
Sat	02/25/24	Fr. John Healy	Joseph Jasinski



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Susana M., Joyce M., Donna V., Sharon P., Alan P., Joe V., Michelle O., Nora N., Brian J., Bill R., Patrice K., Jason & Matt W.

Please pray for Cindy Blanchard & Geraldine Shea whose funerals we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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"Be a Servant" Matthew 20:26



Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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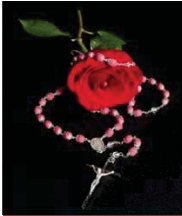


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—OR—



"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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