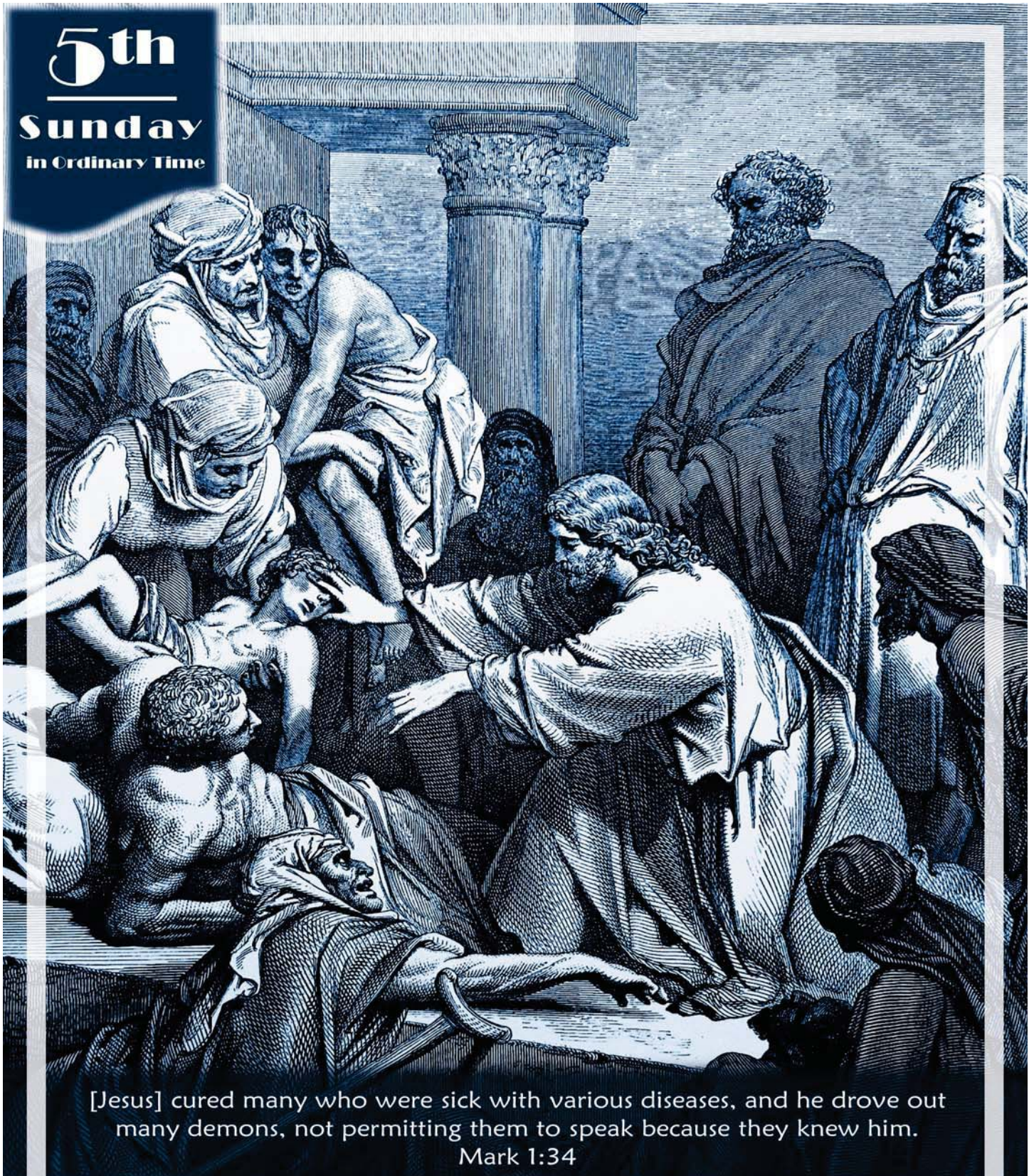


METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

FEB 04
2024

5th
Sunday
in Ordinary Time



[Jesus] cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Mark 1:34

DOING IT RIGHT

Great thanks go to Mark Ward and Larry Giordano for fixing the sound system at St. Lucy Parish!

The sound was in noticeable decline during Masses because of a couple problems with the equipment. A few months ago, loud popping was coming from the pulpit microphone (requiring a temporary, in-house work around to stop) and then a few weeks ago, the sound from the speakers facing the pews became muffled and full of static. Both issues, obviously, have to do with the age and maintenance of the equipment. Eventually, we isolated the bad sound to a failing amplifier.

The availability and cost of having a professional come in and fix the system seemed a bit much, particularly since fully replacing the older system really isn't a viable option given our deficit. Mark is familiar with sound systems and identified both a new and used replacement amp that could be ordered online. I elected to go with the used amp because it was a quarter of the cost and, more importantly, would match more closely the age of the rest of the system since replacement of the whole thing will eventually (and possibly with short notice) be needed. Larry acquired the unit at no cost to the parish and Mark installed it. Mark also straightened out the distortion on the pulpit end so that the overall sound during Mass is as good as new.

In addition to my gratitude to both Mark and Larry for their stepping up to the plate in a time of need, is the example they set for how we all need to participate and contribute to the parish. Volunteerism and offering of specific donations to the parish is necessary *on top* of an increased offertory. Hand-in-hand with that is the requirement for those donations to correctly meet the needs of the parish, rather than be one more thing that is nice to have, but leaves something required unmet.

As always, thank you all for your *many* gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the parish.



Sodality Sponsored Food Programs

During the winter months the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality sponsors several programs to support the homeless and those with food insecurity. In January homemade soup and 125 sandwiches were delivered to The Movement Family of Lawrence at their weekly dinner held in the Buckley Transportation Center. One hundred handmade crocheted winter hats were also donated by Debbie Carelli for clients of The Movement Family.

In February and March Sodality members will be supplying Lazarus House with 100 boxed lunches for their homeless clients. The Sodality also donated \$500 to our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Much appreciation to Annette Autiello, Marilyn Bryant and Sylvie Kelley for making the January soup and sandwiches.

As always, anyone interested in joining the BVM Sodality, may join us during our monthly meetings. Next meeting is scheduled on Sunday, February 18th at 11:30 in the parish hall.



Save the date...
 St Patrick's Dinner
 Saturday March 16th
 5:30-9:00
 St Lucy's Lower Church Hall
 More info to follow.

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS
 Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, February 11th
 St. Monica School Hall
 After the 9am mass

Sunday, February 25th
 St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
 After the 10:30am mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
followed by
MEN'S MINISTRY

Wednesday, February 7th
 6-8pm
 St. Lucy Church

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

As Lent is a time for spiritual enrichment, Fr. Colarusso would like to invite you all to attend Mariology Class, a follow-up to last year's Christology Class.

We will study the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of the Church.

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

Please call the school to reserve your tickets.
 978-686-1801

SHROVE TUESDAY
Pancake Dinner
FEBRUARY 13
6PM-7:30PM
 ST. MONICA SCHOOL
\$6 PER TICKET



LENT 2024

Ash Wednesday, February 14th

6:30am - Distribution of Ashes (St. Monica Church) Deacons

9:00am - Mass with Distribution of Ashes (St. Lucy Church)

12:00pm - Mass with Distribution of Ashes (St. Lucy Church)

1:00pm - Mass with Distribution of Ashes (St. Monica Church - School Mass) all welcome

7:00pm - Mass with Distribution of Ashes (St. Monica Church)

ALMSGIVING

The Call to Charity is inseparable from Christianity. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462).

FAST & ABSTINENCE

There are two types of fasting in the Christian Tradition. One is the total fast which customarily preceded all high holy days, and the second is abstinence from certain foods, such as meats or fats. Abstinence is an act of self-denial and a challenge to practice self-control. So we abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent and choose to abstain from other things throughout the 40 days, which we discern are efficacious. We still keep the "total fast" for one hour before the reception of Holy Communion. After we receive the Eucharist, we break the fast for now that for which we kept vigil has arrived. Lent is also a season for fasting. Fasting makes us hungry. We desire food and food keeps us alive. When Christians fast, we imitate Jesus, and we declare with Him, "Man does not live by bread alone" (Mt 4:4). Our lives do not depend on food alone. "It is the Spirit that gives life" (Jn 6:63). So fasting which arises from faith liberates us from a total dependence on food and the world. It leads us to discover our true spiritual nature. Furthermore, fasting acknowledges that the spiritual life is a battle between good and evil, one which we will sometimes lose but which we must continue fighting.

PRAYER

Prayer is our "vital and personal relationship with the living and true God" (2558). Christian Prayer "is communion with Christ (2565). It is also a grace-filled response to God's initiative, emanating from the human heart. It arises from the Spirit who prays with us and for us to the Father in His Son Jesus. While definitions of prayer are helpful, they remain insufficient for a huge difference lies between knowing about prayer and praying. "If a man wants to pray, let him go and pray" (The Rule of St. Benedict). The Church herself prays without ceasing through liturgy. Every liturgical celebration is an action of Christ the High Priest and his Mystical Body, the Church. It therefore requires the active participation of the People of God. Liturgy is neither entertainment nor a spectator event. It is the holy "work" of the Church and the participation of its members is at once internal and external, engaging the mind, heart, and body of all. (adapted from www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship)

LENTEN CALENDAR

MONDAYS (starting Feb 12th) | The Marriage Course 6-8pm | St. Lucy Schoolhouse

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

WEDNESDAYS | Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet 9:30-11am | Zoom Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com
Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm | St. Lucy Church

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

Rosary 6-6:30pm | Zoom Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

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

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

The Marriage Course

A course to help couples strengthen their relationship

Mondays 6:00-8:00pm

February 12 - March 25

St. Lucy Schoolhouse

Dinner provided \$125 Donation (suggested)

It's set up for all couples. It's a kind of date night, one evening a week for seven weeks. You sit in a room full of couples, but at a table for two and dine together. Afterwards, you listen to presentations, issues are raised, then you and your partner discuss and complete the exercises at your table. There's no group sharing.

<https://themarriagecourse.org/try/the-marriage-course>

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

ADORE

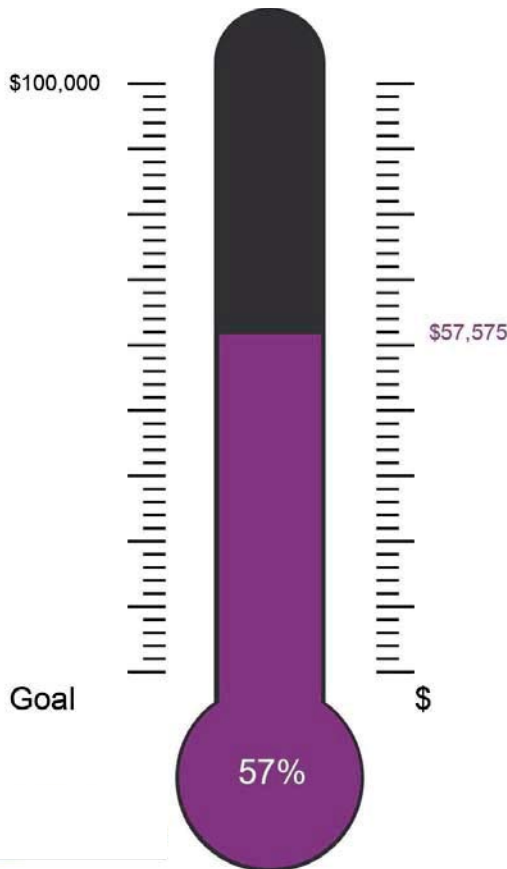
Join us for a spiritually uplifting evening of Adoration, & Confession, featuring a Guest Speaker and live worship music by Mike McDuffee.

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

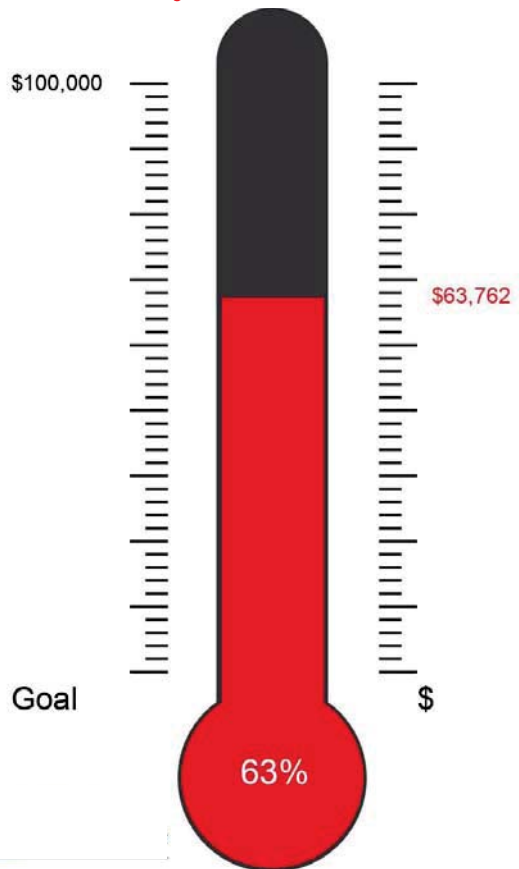
Free Will Offerings Accepted



St. Monica Grand Annual



St. Lucy Grand Annual



GIVE NOW

OFFERTORY JANUARY 20 & 21

St. Monica - \$6,668.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$4,075.⁰⁰

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, canned pasta, rice, canned carrots, canned peas, mashed potatoes, jelly, pasta sauce, canned fruit & 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



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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	



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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 95 (94): 6-7*

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

ENTRANCE HYMN*To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King*

1. To Je - sus Christ, our Sov - 'reign King, Who is the
2. Thy reign ex - tend, O King be - nign, To ev - 'ry
3. To thee and to thy Church, great King, We pledge our

1. world's sal - va - tion, All praise and hom - age do we bring And
2. land and na - tion; For in thy king - dom, Lord di - vine, A -
3. hearts' ob - la - tion Un - til be - fore thy throne we sing In

1. thanks and ad - o - ra - tion. } Christ Je - sus, vic - tor!
2. lone we find sal - va - tion. }
3. end - less ju - bi - la - tion. }

1-3. Christ Je - sus, rul - er! Christ Je - sus, Lord and re - deem - er!

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card*FIRST READING*Job 7: 1-4, 6-7*

Job spoke, saying:
Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings?
He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages.
So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me.
If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?" then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.
My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope.
Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 147: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6*

℣. Praise the Lord, who heals the bro - ken - heart - ed.

Praise the LORD, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious; it is fitting to praise him.
The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; the dispersed of Israel he gathers.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
He tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom there is no limit.
The LORD sustains the lowly; the wicked he casts to the ground.

SECOND READING*1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23*

Brothers and sisters: If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Mark 1: 15*

Christ took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.

GOSPEL*Mark 1: 29-39*

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Psalm 107 (106): 8-9*

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

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*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

1. When I sur - vey the won-drous cross On which the
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, The pain and
 4. Were ev - 'ry realm of na - ture mine, My gift would



1. Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 2. death of Christ, my Lord; The vain things that now
 3. love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such love and
 4. still be far too small: Love so a - maz - ing,



1. count but loss, And pour con-tempt on all my pride.
 2. tempt me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 3. sor - row meet, Or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?
 4. so di - vine, De-mands my soul, my life, my all.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

1. O God, our Help in a - ges past, Our Hope for years to come,
 2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 3. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
 4. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;
 5. O God, our Help in a - ges past, Our Hope for years to come,



1. Our Shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal Home.
 2. From ev - er - last - ing thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 3. Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 4. We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - p'ning day.
 5. Be thou our Guard while life shall last, And our e - ter - nal Home.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, February 3

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS

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

Sunday, February 4

9:00am Alice Indoccio
Gloria Royer
Michael McGreevy
Roger Avery

12:00pm Calvin R. Snell

Saturday, February 10

9:00am Pat Jackson

4:00pm Alan Roderick

Sunday, February 11

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

12:00pm Dick Doherty

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, February 3

4:00pm Joseph & Lucianna Sardella

Sunday, February 4

10:30am Mark Nichols
Francis R. Covey, Sr.
Antonio & Evelina Mollica

Monday, February 5

9:00am Deceased Priests of
the Archdiocese of Boston

Tuesday, February 6

9:00am Albert, Russell, Roland & Joan Raza
Kenneth & Dale Duncan

Thursday, February 8

9:00am Helene Roderick

Friday, February 9

9:00am Peter Salayko

Saturday, February 10

4:00pm Giuseppe Sangiorgio

Sunday, February 11

10:30am Ryan Matthew Thistle
William E. Donahue

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PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	02/04/24	Fr. James Flavin	Miguel Angel DeLoera
Mon	02/05/24	Fr. Thomas S. Foley	Kyle Ellis
Tues	02/06/24	Fr. Paul Born	Thiago Mesquita deSousa
Wed	02/07/24	Fr. David Gunter	Matthew Thoni
Thurs	02/08/24	Fr. George Hines	Giovanni Trimboli
Fri	02/09/24	Fr. Christopher Bae	Sean McKeowen
Sat	02/10/24	Fr. Roger Jacques	Jack Monbouquette



PRAYER CORNER

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

Please pray for those 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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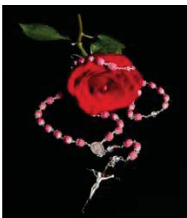
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"Important family decisions become far more difficult for family members left behind to make them."

Artist's rendering

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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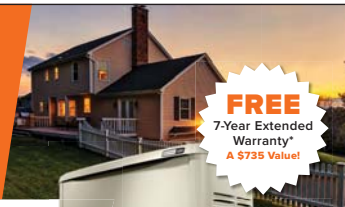
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