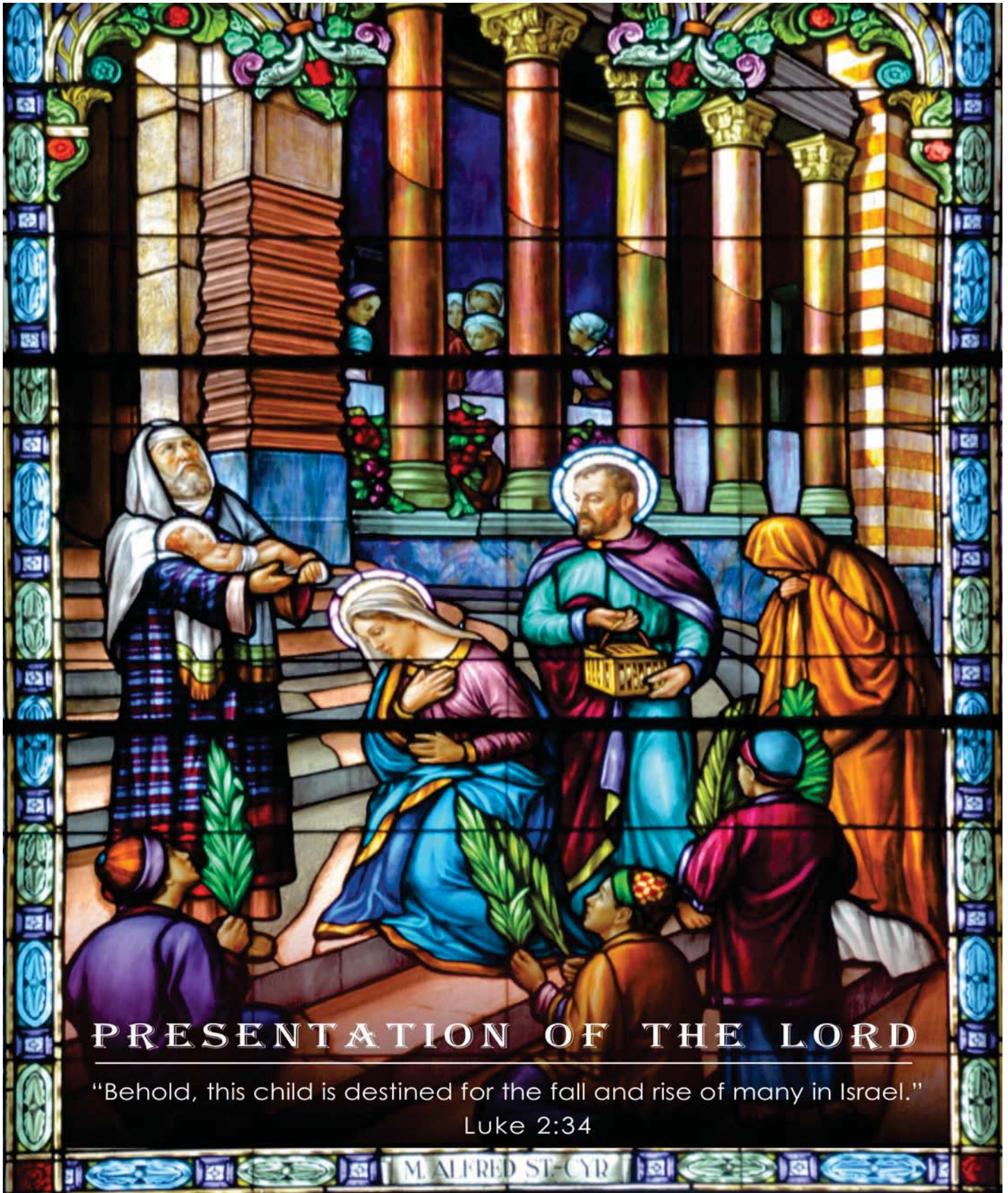


# METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

FEB 2  
2025



## PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel."

Luke 2:34

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.



Today is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. People in Peru, Puerto Rico, France & Belgium celebrate today as the last day of the Christmas season. The rest of us celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord as the end of our grand Christmas season.

On this day, Jesus' foster father, St. Joseph and Mother Mary brought Jesus to the temple to fulfill the law of God. God said to Moses, "Consecrate to me all the first-born; whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and beast is mine." This consecration to God was to help the Israelites remember how in His deep love, God had delivered them from captivity.

However, once the tribe of Levi was held responsible for divine worship, those first born of the other eleven tribes were exempt from their service of God. They were still deemed to be God's special property. Therefore, a special rite of redemption was performed. Jesus was of the tribe of Judah and thus His parents in their poverty offered two small turtledoves as a ransom. More affluent people would offer cattle or crops.

Another reason for the Presentation was that Leviticus declared a woman who gave birth to be unclean. Even though she did not have to, the good Jewish woman Mary followed the law. Mary was not unclean in this Jewish sense because she is full of Grace – the Immaculate Conception. Thus, she would not suffer the effects of original sin (one of which is the effects of childbirth). Yet she, Joseph and Jesus followed the law.

This feast is reminiscent of our Christian baptism. As we were "presented" in the Church, maybe our parents offered a small (or large) donation. We were dressed in a white gown to symbolize the purity attained at baptism as original sin is washed away and we become adopted children of God, dedicated to His service no matter what walk of life He calls us to.

Our parents are to teach us to be the gifts that are presented at the offertory – wheat that is ground and made into bread, and grapes that are pressed into wine. Put at the service of God to be His gift. To be Christ-like, battered and broken. "Refined like gold or silver." Willing to sacrifice my safety, my security, my comfort, my life, for others.

I don't think anybody will proclaim us to be a child "destined for the fall and rise of many." However, we are called to shine brightly as we are presented with a candle lit from the Paschal Candle. Like Christ, we are commissioned to dispel the darkness and light "up the pathways of this earth with faith and love."

As early as the 5<sup>th</sup> century the Church celebrated this feast with lighted candles, symbolizing Simeon's prophecy, "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

Enjoy this feast and maybe like all religious and ordained, pray the above prayer so that as St. Teresa Benedict of the Cross counsels: "When night comes, and you look back over the day and see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that has gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed: just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it with Him. Then you will be able to rest in Him – really rest – and start the next day as a new life."

**HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS**

Please join us for refreshments

**Sunday, February 9th**

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

**Sunday, February 16th**

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



**CHOIR NEWS**

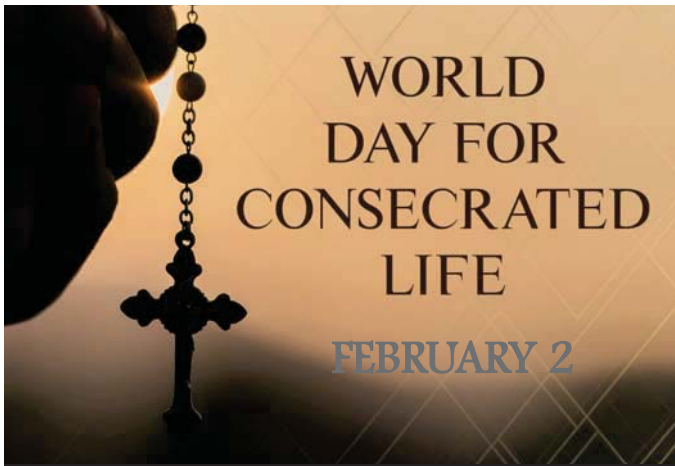
Our new Music Director Joe Lundin is looking for singers to join our choirs!

St. Monica's Choir will sing at the 9:00am Mass on Sundays.

St. Lucy's Choir will sing at the 10:30am Mass Sundays.

We will hold joint practices on Tuesday evenings.

To join up or find out more information, please reach out to Joe at [JosephLundin@gmail.com](mailto:JosephLundin@gmail.com)



**WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**

**FEBRUARY 2**

God of all goodness, you have called people to follow you faithfully. Humans have heard that call and many choose to follow your call in varied and faith-filled lives. Some follow your call in private, silent lives as hermits; some choose to follow you with lives lived as virgins and widows; while others choose public lives of vowed men and women as religious brothers and sisters. Abundantly give to these men and women the courage to follow their call as witnesses to your gifts and faith and service to the world.

We ask this in faith through the name of Jesus our Savior.  
Amen.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**St Patrick's Dinner  
Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>  
5:30-9:00pm**

**St Lucy's Lower Church Hall**

K of C will be selling tickets after all masses at St. Monica & St. Lucy on Feb 23/24 and Mar 2/3

Tickets are \$35 ea. Tables of 10 can be reserved. Please contact Kevin Quinn at 978-618-3499 with questions.



**PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**



*Jesus* is longing for your presence.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday Evenings  
6-7pm  
St. Lucy Church

Saturdays  
9:30am-2:30pm  
Gethsemane Chapel  
at St. Monica Church



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

**GENTLY USED SECOND HAND ITEMS**

A parishioner has volunteered to collect gently used second hand items and sell them at his flea market with all proceeds going to our parishes. This gentleman has a history of success in this area and has done this type of ongoing fundraiser for other organizations and churches in the past. If you are interested in getting rid of some old furniture or other items, please consider reaching out to Jim to arrange for pick up. Call 978-360-8796. Please no broken or damaged items. Thank you to all who have already donated!

**DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE**

Tuesday evenings 6-6:30pm  
Rosary Prayer Group for Priests | Gethsemane Chapel  
all are welcome to attend

Wednesday mornings 9:30-11am (ZOOM)  
Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & book discussion. Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

Thursday evenings 6-7pm (ZOOM)  
Rosary for world peace & individual intentions followed by Evening Prayer.  
Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
Saturdays 9:30am-2:30pm Gethsemane Chapel

**Word Search**

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| PEOPLE    | PIGEONS | PRESENT   |
| SALVATION | SERVANT | SIMEON    |

**Jubilee Year Rome Pilgrimage**  
Spiritual Directors:  
**Bishop Robert Hennessey**  
& Deacon John Hunt  
April 7 – 14, 2025





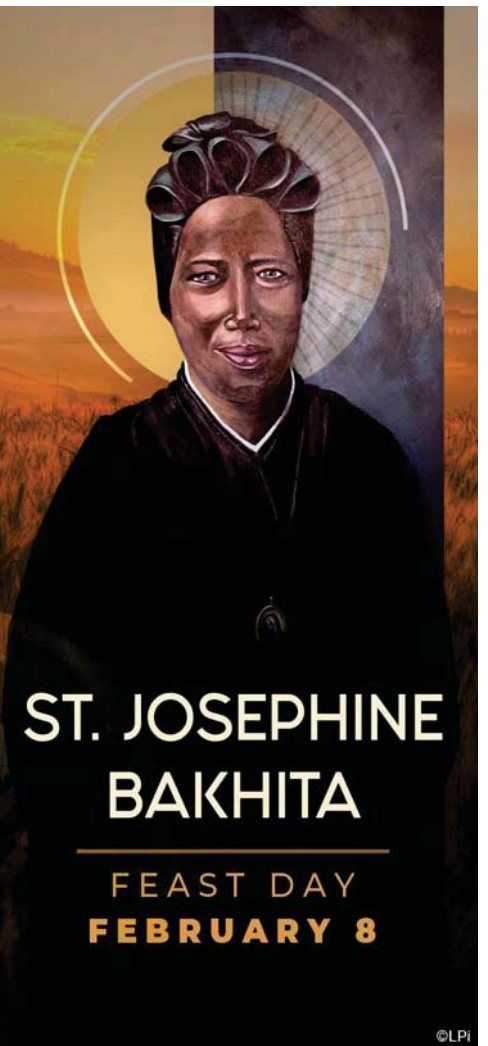
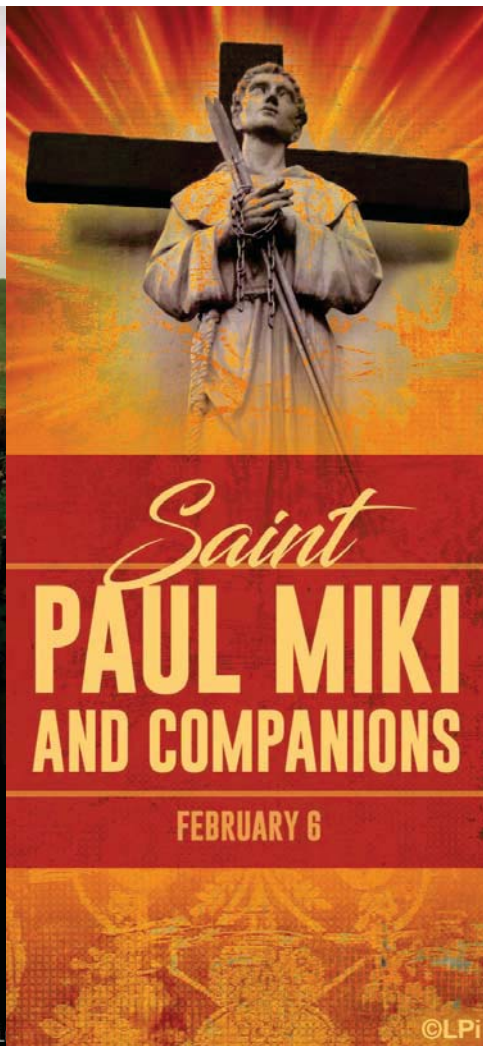
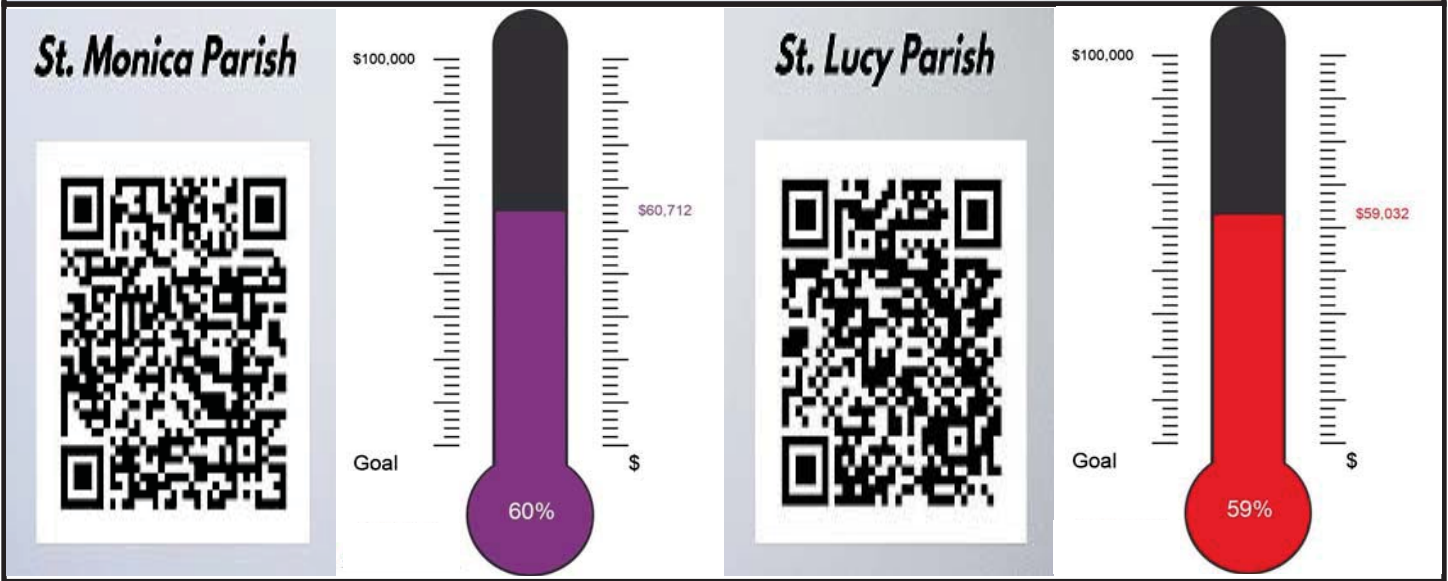


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# Grand Annual



JANUARY 18 & 19

**St. Monica - \$7,516.00      St. Lucy - \$4,511.00**

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 Hamburger Helper, Canned Carrots, Canned Chicken, Canned Fruit & Canned Baked Beans. 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Monica's | 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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**PARISH OFFICES**

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844  
 978.683.1193

www.methuencatholic.org

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



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 978.686.9573

**PASTORAL STAFF**

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



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**SCHOOL STAFF**

Donna Henderson	Principal
Ann Marie Collins	Administrative Assistant
<b>smsoffice@methuencatholic.org</b>	



ENTRANCE ANTIPHONPsalm 48:10-11

Within your temple we ponder your mercy; throughout the world your name resounds.  
Throughout the world let your praise be heard: your right hand is full of justice.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! #553

Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIARefer to pew cardFIRST READINGMalachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord GOD: Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek, and the messenger of the covenant whom you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who will endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire, or like the fuller's lye. He will sit refining and purifying silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold or like silver that they may offer due sacrifice to the LORD. Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem will please the LORD, as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMPsalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10**R. Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!**

Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals,  
that the king of glory may come in! R.

Who is this king of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle. R.

Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals,  
that the king of glory may come in! R.

Who is this king of glory? The LORD of hosts; he is the king of glory. R.

SECOND READINGHebrews 2:14-18

Since the children share in blood and flesh, Jesus likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the Devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life. Surely he did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham; therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONCf. Luke 2:12**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**A light of revelation to the Gentiles,  
and glory for your people Israel.**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**GOSPELLuke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted -and you yourself a sword will pierce- so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

CREEDRefer to pew cardOFFERTORY HYMNHow Great Thou Art #578

Oh Lord, my God  
When I, in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEIRefer to pew cardCOMMUNION ANTIPHONLuke 2:30-31

With my own eyes I see the salvation you prepared for all peoples.



COMMUNION HYMN

I am the Bread of life.  
You who come to me shall not hunger;  
and who believe in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me  
unless the Father beckons.

The bread that I will give  
is my flesh for the life of the world,  
and if you eat of this bread,  
you shall live for ever,  
you shall live for ever.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

My life flows on in endless song  
Above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real though far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
While to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?

I Am The Bread Of Life #950

**And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day.**

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood,  
you shall not have life within you.

I am the Resurrection, I am the life.  
If you believe in me, even though you die,  
you shall live for ever.

How Can I Keep From Singing? #684

Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing;  
It sounds and echoes in my soul;  
How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
While to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?

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.



ST. MONICA PARISH

**Saturday, February 1**

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY  
4:00pm Ron Barg

**Sunday, February 2**

9:00am Ann Murray  
Charlie & Rose Hanafin  
Alice Indoccio  
Gloria Royer  
Angela Ciocca  
12:00pm For the Parishioners of  
St. Lucy & St. Monica

**Saturday, February 8**

9:00am Helene Roderick  
4:00pm Kathy Sarkarati

**Sunday, February 9**

9:00am Jean Guy Dulac  
John K Foster, Jr  
William E Donahue  
12:00pm Chanel McGreevy



ST. LUCY PARISH

**Saturday, February 1**

4:00pm Richard P. Giles

**Sunday, February 2**

10:30am Diane L. Farelli  
Alfio Fichera  
Franca & Salvatore Calvagno  
Francis R. Covey, Sr.

**Monday, February 3**

9:00am Mark Nichols

**Tuesday, February 4**

9:00am Antonio & Evelina Mollica

**Wednesday, February 5**

9:00am The Feast of St Marie Rivier

**Thursday, February 6**

9:00am Aline Duncan  
Valorie Duncan  
Mr & Mrs Hurley Duncan  
Mr & Mrs Mecleor Raza

**Friday, February 7**

9:00am John Mustafa  
Stephen Crompton

**Saturday, February 8**

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

**Sunday, February 9**

10:30am Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality  
Giuseppe Sangiorgio  
Linda Buonanno

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	02/02/25	Msgr. Thomas Daly	Giris Azize PJ23 Boston
Mon	02/03/25	Fr. Albert Capone	Stephen Baruffi PJ23 Boston
Tues	02/04/25	Fr. James Riley	Thomas Rashid PJ23 Boston
Wed	02/05/25	Fr. Thomas Mahoney	Dan Waldron PJ23 Boston
Thurs	02/06/25	Fr. Paul Miceli	Max Muenke PJ23 Boston
Fri	02/07/25	Fr. Kenneth Overbeck	John Lynch PJ23 Boston
Sat	02/08/25	Fr. Brian Manning	David Cataline SJS Rochester



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Jeff H., Brian V., Mike B., Louie C., Sarah W., Eileen F., Robert L., Madelyn, Buddy B., Maria P., Phyllis T. & Patrice K.

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





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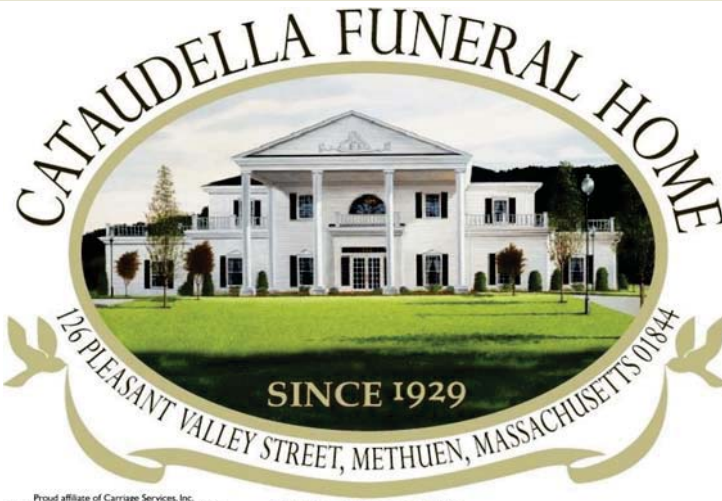
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