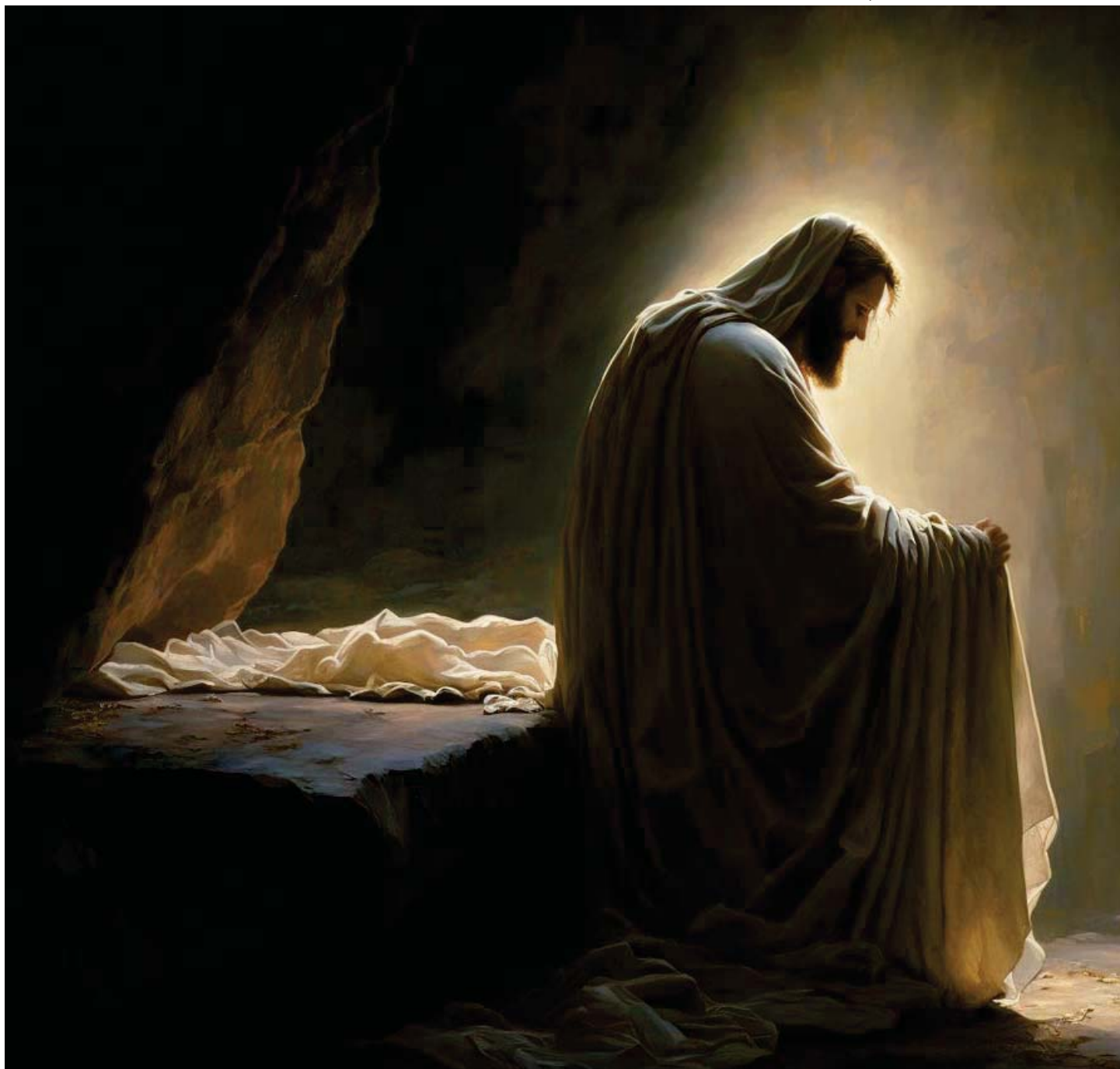


METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

MAR 31
2024



ALLELUIA!
HE IS RISEN!

NEW LIFE AT EASTER

Every great day of celebration throughout the year brings its own cultural expressions. Think of the various holidays that we anticipate and the pattern of preparation and recreation around the three day weekends that go with them. Easter, although it is the greatest celebration in the Church calendar, doesn't come with a secular holiday, probably because it is always celebrated on a Sunday, and now goes often unnoticed in our society. However, today does seem to still be the most identified by the kind of food people eat during this holy time. Yes, the November turkey is pretty universal, but I'm going to contend that when we think of Thanksgiving, many more thoughts enter our consciousness around the purpose of that long holiday than its associated food, which is consumed year-round.

The Easter basket, Easter Egg, and perhaps brunch *defines* Easter for most people today, with little thought of why it is marked. In many of our ethnic traditions, several foods come only with Easter. That's because historically the Great Fast of Lent meant abstaining from meat, dairy, eggs, and all kinds of dessert items that make their dramatic return in a cornucopia on the day of the Resurrection. The egg and the season of Spring mark new life and change, but they are merely happy symbols associated with the conquering of death and eternal transformation that Christ won for us by his Resurrection.

In a great and ancient Holy Saturday homily we hear Christ speaking to Adam as He descends to the dead to rescue humanity waiting for the opening of Heaven:

"Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. I did not create you to be a prisoner in hell. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise, but I will enthrone you in Heaven. I forbade you a tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself, am now one with you. The kingdom of Heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity." That's a lot to think about when you're eating an Easter Egg!

Spring brings a welcome change to the weather, though most people don't like change in their daily habits. My prayer is that the changes coming to our parishes and school this season bring new life and new members to our community of faith. We all pray on this holiest of Sundays that our families will grow in the transformation of Christ and the peace that He offers. Finally, regarding the food that marks our gatherings: maybe it can be an opportunity to remind a loved one who has forgotten the gift of new life offered by the Resurrected Christ, the purpose of the day we celebrate.

**A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER
TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES!**

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, April 7th

St. Monica School Hall
After the 9am mass

Sunday, April 21st

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

**THE PARISH OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED**

Easter Monday, April 1st.



We at the Parish Offices wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter!



MARRIAGE BANNNS

**Third and Final
Banns of Marriage**

Michael D'Urso & Militza Cartagena

First Banns of Marriage

Matthew Campbell & Jennie Perron

Jesus

is longing for your presence.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
&
CONFESSIONS**



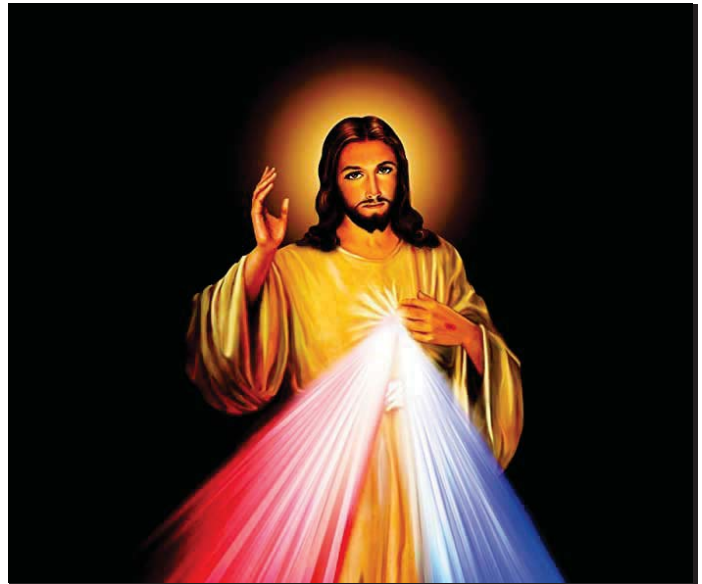
Wednesday Evenings
6-7pm
St. Lucy Church

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

EASTER COLLECTION

Clergy Trust

The Easter Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 7th

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

The Knights of Columbus Men's Group will be reviewing the book "What Makes Us Catholic" by Thomas H. Groome on Wednesdays, March 13, April 10 and on May 8, at 7 PM.

Men of the Parish are encouraged to join us!

Contact Bob Beaudry at "ERBeaudry@aol.com" if interested in participating and for more details."



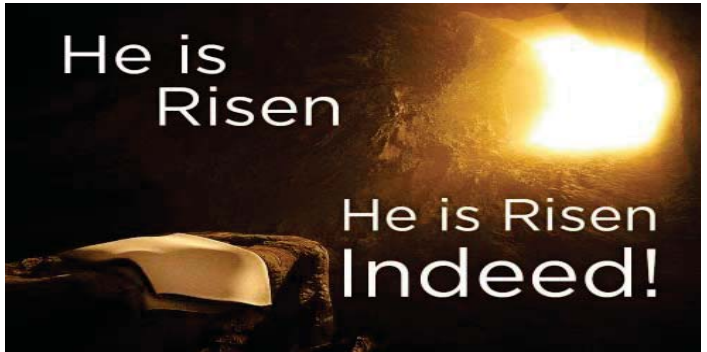
Faith 2 FITT
SATURDAYS 8AM

St. Lucy's Lower Church Hall
254 Merrimack St. Methuen



The Knights of Columbus will be leading a Monthly Rosary for St. Monica School Parents in the Chapel on Wednesdays, April 10, May 8 and June 5 or 12.

All parents of students are welcome to attend prior to picking up their children from school. The Rosary will begin at 1:15 PM, prior to school dismissal. Rosary prayer cards will be provided. Come by and pray for your own personal intentions!



The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality completed their Winter Feeding Program on Friday, March 22nd having compiled 120 bagged lunches and homemade soup for The Movement Family in January; 346 bagged lunches for Lazarus House Food Truck in February and March. Twenty-eight members participated in making these lunches and supplying homemade and donated cookies. Thank you to all who participated! Helping those with food insecurity during the cold winter months was a goal for our Sodality. It is our pleasure to serve and help those in need. As always, all women are welcomed to join us in this mission! Next meeting is April 14th at 11:30.



ST. MONICA SCHOOL PRESENTS:
FINDING NEMO JR.

Wednesday, April 10th
Thursday April 11th
at 7:00 P.M.

at Methuen Memorial Music Hall

Tickets are \$15 each 

Please contact the school office for ticket information.
978-686-1801
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org 

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Steubenville East TEEN CONFERENCE

Steubenville East is a 3-Day youth conference for high school students that is held every summer. This is a great opportunity for students to grow in their Catholic faith alongside thousands of other high school students.



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- Mass, Confession, Adoration
- Talks by guest speakers
- Engaging, upbeat music
- Small group discussions
- Connecting with other peers

When, Where, & Cost:

July 26-28
 Mass Mutual Center - Springfield, MA
 \$50 deposit DUE APRIL 8TH

Contact Information:

To sign up or for more information please contact
 Sandra Freitas
 sandrafreitas613@gmail.com
 978-376-7309



The **ST. PATRICK'S DINNER** was held on Saturday, March 16th at St. Lucy's in the lower church hall. Attendees were served a delicious corned beef & cabbage dinner by The Knights of Columbus.



The **St. Monica School Bunny Bazaar and Pancake Breakfast** was held on Saturday, March 23rd from 9am-2pm. The day was filled with raffles, games, crafts and cookie decorating. A fun time was had by all who attended!



OFFERTORY MARCH 16 & 17

St. Monica - \$7,816.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$3,757.⁰⁰

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 canned pasta, baked beans, mashed potatoes, jelly, pasta sauce, pancake 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.

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ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE**
Open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm , Sat & Sun 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: M - F 9am - 2pm



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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
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www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Ps 139 (138): 18, 5-6*

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

ENTRANCE HYMN*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to-day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!



1. Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Our sal - va - tion have pro-cured, Al - le - lu - ia!



1. Who did once up-on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!



1. Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Acts 10: 34a, 37-43*

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Ps 118*

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever."

"The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted.
I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD."

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD this has been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

SECOND READING*1 Cor 5: 6b-8*

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth

EASTER SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!
A Lamb the sheep redeems;
Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciles sinners to the Father.
Death and life have contended
In the combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.

Speak, Mary, declaring
What you saw, wayfaring.
“The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;
Bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;
To Galilee he goes before you.”

Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!
Amen. Alleluia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*1 Cor 5: 7b-8a*

☩. Christ, our paschal lamb, *has been* sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in *the* Lord.

GOSPEL*Jn 20: 1-9*

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES - PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI***Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***1 Cor 5: 7-8*

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

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*Worthy is The Lamb*

Wor-thy is the Lamb that was slain to re - ceive
 hon - or and glo - ry. Wor - thy are the ones who be - lieve
 to re - ceive the good - ness of God.

Worthy are you, O Paschal Lamb,
 Wisdom and strength belong now to you.
 You laid down your life and died upon the cross:
 We've become a people of hope.

Worthy are you, O Risen Christ.
 Wonders and signs, revealing your might.
 Your power and glory shine upon our lives:
 We've become the light of the world.

Worthy are you, O Bread of Life,
 Salvation and joy belong now to us.
 By conquering death and rising to new life,
 We've become a people of praise.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*

1. Christ, the Lord, is ris'n to - day,
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King;
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!

1. All on earth with an - gels say.
 2. Where, O death, is now thy sting?
 3. Fought the fight, the bat - tle won. Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 2. Once he died our souls to save,
 3. Death in vain for - bids him rise; Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Sing ye heav'ns and earth re - ply,
 2. Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
 3. Christ has o - pen'd par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, March 30 - HOLY SATURDAY

9:00am Morning Prayer & Rosary
 10:00am Confessions
 8:00pm For the Parishioners of St. Monica & St. Lucy

Sunday, March 31 - EASTER SUNDAY

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

Saturday, April 6

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS
 4:00pm Roland Beaudoin

Sunday, April 7 - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

9:00am Vincent Jablonski
 Yvonne & Harry costa
 Doris Mack
 Eleanor Coogan
 Jim Gablosky
 Norman Rainville, Jr.

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, March 30 - HOLY SATURDAY

10:00am Confessions

Sunday, March 31 - EASTER SUNDAY

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

Monday, April 1

9:00am Charles & Fran Lamarche

Tuesday, April 2

9:00am Ryan Matthew Thistle

Thursday, April 4

9:00am Kathy Huard

Friday, April 5

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

Saturday, April 6

4:00pm Diane L. Farelli

Sunday, April 7 - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

10:30am For the Parishioners of

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Sun	03/31/24	Pope Francis	"Christ is Risen!" "He is risen, indeed!"
Mon	04/01/24	Fr. Sean Maher	Deacon Giovanni Argote
Tues	04/02/24	Fr. John Nichols	Deacon Barry Mongeon
Wed	04/03/24	Fr. Paul Sullivan	Deacon David Pineda
Thurs	04/04/24	Fr. Marcos Enrique	Deacon John Tanyi
Fri	04/05/24	Fr. Vincent Mellone	Deacon Hung Tran
Sat	04/06/24	Fr. Paul Wargovich	Deacon Jeremy Wagner



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Richard D., Maureen S., Gary R. Eddie R., 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 Joan Kaper, Thomas Verzi & Laurence Gentile whose funerals we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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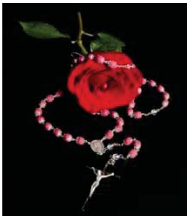
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"Feed My Sheep" John 21:17

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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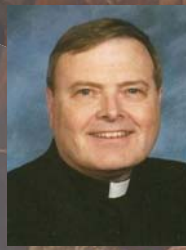
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