

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

FEB 9
2025

5TH

SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

"Do not be afraid;
from now on you
will be catching
men."

Luke 5:10



Grand Annual

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our parishes have been called to spread the Kingdom of God in Methuen. We exist to worship God and share the hope of Christ with others in our communities. And this city is where each of us has been called, you as parishioners and me as pastor.

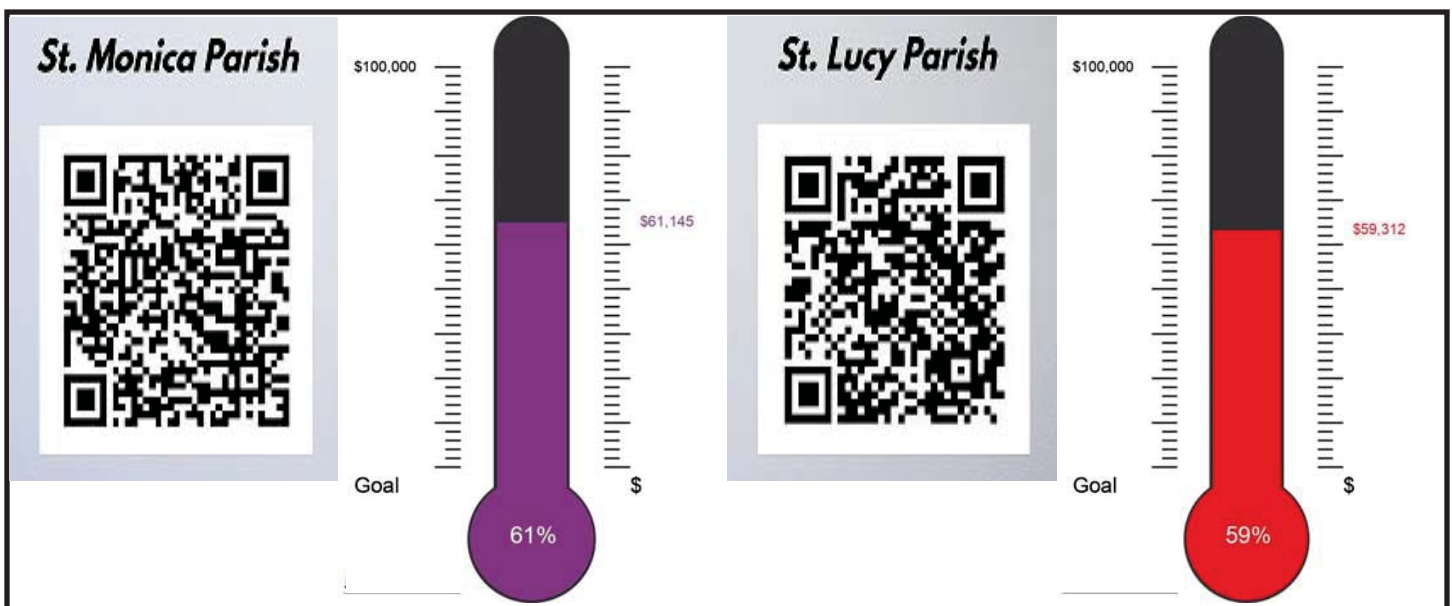
Because of your generous support of the Grand Annual Appeal, we have achieved 60% of our \$100,000 goal in each parish. That's just fantastic! I cannot thank you enough. With only a few months left, though, we have a little bit more to go. That's why I am asking those of you who have not yet given, to consider making a gift to the Grand Annual of your Parish. If you have already given, I thank you and ask you to prayerfully consider whether you might be able to give a bit more.

Even more than that, I would like to invite those families who are able, to consider a matching donation of \$5,000. As some of you might remember, we achieved even better than expected results with St. Monica's Grand Annual last year when a surprise benefactor donated a \$5,000 matching challenge in the final months of last year's Grand Annual. Not only did we match that \$5,000 but another generous member of our community came forward to offer an additional matching challenge donation. As a result, St. Monica's Parish raised an additional \$20,000 for its grand annual in less than a month. If there is someone (or several someones) in both parishes who feel called to make a similar matching gift this year, we would be incredibly grateful! Please reach out to me personally at the office or at fmarcosmethuen@gmail.com

Just as a reminder, we are working to upgrade our Sound System at each parish. Hitting our goal will help us to repair the sound systems in both St. Lucy's and St. Monica's keeping our finances in good shape. (What are the chances that both break down at the same time!) As all of you know, the continual decline of the sound system has been a source of great frustration for all of us, especially now as we formulate our plans to "put out into deep waters." No matter. We will not be held back by these obstacles, but continue to move forward in faith.

Once again, I want to thank you for your faith and generosity in the time, talent, and treasure you have poured into our parish family, and thank you for your support of our Grand Annual appeal.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Marcos T. Pena Portillo



In today's Gospel, Jesus is asking Peter to do many illogical things; illogical in Peter's eyes, that is. Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats and just got into one of them. He must have known Peter by this time, because there was no protest by Peter when Jesus just got into the boat. And he taught the people from the boat. I wonder how big the crowd was and how they heard him speaking. The wind was probably blowing as it usually does on the seashore. It's often hard to hear a speaker under those conditions. So how could they all hear? Was something special going on? When he was done, he told Peter to "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

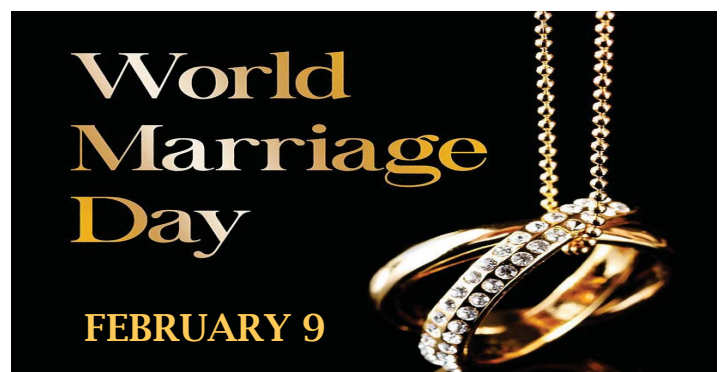
"What? We've been fishing all night (the proper time to fish) and haven't caught anything and you want us to go out during the day (the wrong time to fish) and try to make a catch? Plus, you want us to go out into the deep, the most dangerous part of the lake." But they did as he commanded and made a fantastic catch. They were completely baffled by what had happened.

In the first reading today, Isaiah is shown a vision of God seated on a throne. Angels cried out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." Isaiah realized that this was a vision of God and says, "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

Isaiah calls the vision "the Lord," just as Peter calls Jesus "Lord." "Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man." Because of the astonishing miracle that Jesus had accomplished, Peter (and those with him) recognized that Jesus was the Lord and that they were sinners, unworthy to be with him.

There is much symbolism in today's Gospel. The Gospel never says that Jesus got out of the boat before they obeyed his command to go out. We should remember that He is always with us on whatever mission he sends us on. If he is not with us, we will be like the disciples during the night before Jesus came, not catching anything until Jesus commands them to go out into the deep and try again. When that occurs, the impossible happens. The deep is the unknown and, again, he is always with us so that we need not be afraid. He guarantees our success when he is with us. The whole story tells us how Jesus will be with us as we evangelize the world ("Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."). The success is all his, not ours. Even in the deepest part of the sea (the world) Christ will be with his Church (the boat and the disciples). We cannot do it on our own. Only if Jesus is with us will our mission be successful.

Let us remember that we all are called to evangelize and catechize the whole world. We must all be fishers of men. Christ calls us directly. Let us respond to his call by becoming fishers of men and setting out into the deep to become disciples. Even if we don't expect success, for whatever reason, let us remember that it is Jesus doing the calling. He will be successful regardless of the obstacles. We are simply the instruments he will use to accomplish his purpose.



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!

We will have a Second Collection for WildFire Relief next weekend, February 16 & 17

The enormity of the tragedy that has unfolded in Southern California as a result of the wildfires is heartbreaking. The wildfires have killed 28 people with the expectation that number could increase. More than 15,400 structures have been destroyed. 40,000 acres have been impacted. There have been many injuries, homes and businesses destroyed, and entire neighborhoods wiped out. Recognizing the immediate and growing needs, Catholic Charities USA is seeking assistance for relief efforts in response to the wildfires. To process this collection, please address your checks to **St Monica** or **St Lucy Parish** with **“LA Wildfires Relief”** in the memo. We will then forward your contributions to the Archdiocese for processing and sending to Catholic Charities USA.

On behalf of the Archbishop, thank you for your attentiveness to this important collection and expression of our solidarity with those who are suffering.



The Knights of Columbus will be leading the monthly Rosary, this Wednesday, Feb 12th, for St. Monica School parents in the Chapel. All parents of students are welcome to attend. Just stop in before picking up children from school. The praying of the Rosary will begin at 1:15 PM. Rosaries and prayer cards will be provided. Come by and pray for your own personal intentions!

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

**THE MARIE RIVIER ASSOCIATES (MRA)
OF THE PRESENTATION OF MARY**

February 13th

9:30-11:30am

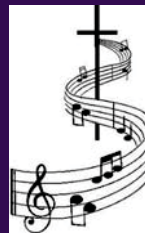
St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

Any and all parishioners from St. Monica & St. Lucy are invited to attend.

Our book this year is

*Mysteries of the Virgin Mary:
Living our Lady's Graces*

Please contact Maureen Slattery at 978-683-0589 or by email at twigs5mcs@gmail.com to obtain a copy of the book.



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

SAVE THE DATE

St Patrick's Dinner

Saturday March 15th

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.



STEUBENVILLE EAST



WHERE:
SPRINGFIELD, MA



WHEN:
JULY 25-27



THEME:
CONSUMED

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.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

ENGAGING, UPBEAT MUSIC

TALKS BY GUEST SPEAKERS

MASS, CONFESSION, ADORATION

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

CONNECTING WITH OTHER PEERS

\$50 deposit DUE
March 1st

To sign up or for more information
please contact Sandra Freitas

✉ sandrafreitas613@gmail.com

☎ 978-376-7309

JANUARY 25 & 26

St. Monica - \$8,348.00 St. Lucy - \$5,078.00

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 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 ANTIPHONPsalm 95:6-7

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

ENTRANCE HYMNThe Summons

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIARefer to pew cardFIRST READINGIsaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, with the train of his garment filling the temple. Seraphim were stationed above.

They cried one to the other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!" At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke.

Then I said, "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

He touched my mouth with it, and said, "See, now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!"

RESPONSORIAL PSALMPsalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple
and give thanks to your name. **R.**

Because of your kindness and your truth; for you have made great above all things
your name and your promise. When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me. **R.**

All the kings of the earth shall give thanks to you, O LORD, when they hear the words of your mouth;
and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD: "Great is the glory of the LORD." **R.**

Your right hand saves me. The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I am reminding you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, Christ appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God that is with me. Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONMatthew 4:19**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.GOSPELLuke 5:1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

CREEDRefer to pew cardOFFERTORY HYMNHere I Am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**I have heard you calling in the night.****I will go, Lord, if you lead me.****I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEIRefer to pew card

COMMUNION ANTIPHONMatthew 5:5-6

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be consoled.
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall have their fill.

COMMUNION HYMN

**You satisfy the hungry heart
 With gift of finest wheat;
 Come give to us, O saving Lord,
 The bread of life to eat.**

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
 They know and heed his voice;
 So when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
 We follow and rejoice.

With joyful lips we sing to you
 Our praise and gratitude,
 That you should count us worthy, Lord,
 To share this heav'nly food.

You Satisfy The Hungry Heart

Is not the cup we bless and share
 The blood of Christ outpoured?
 Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
 Our oneness in the Lord?

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
 No mortal tongue can tell:
 Whom all the world cannot contain
 Comes in our hearts to dwell.

You give yourself to us, O Lord;
 Then selfless let us be,
 To serve each other in your name
 In truth and charity.

RECESSIONAL HYMNLift High The Cross

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
 till all the world adore his sacred Name.**

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
 the hosts of God in conq'ring ranks combine.

Each new-born servant of the Crucified
 bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

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 8

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

Sunday, February 9

9:00am Jean Guy Dulac
John K Foster, Jr
William E Donahue
Marilee Ralph

12:00pm Chanel Mejia

Saturday, February 15

9:00am Henry Dale Hillier
4:00pm Kathleen & Masahisa Hijikata

Sunday, February 16

9:00am Eulalia Aguiar
Kirk Walsh
John & Mary Walsh
James & Paulette DeLeo

12:00pm Dick Doherty
Raymond McAlea
Susan Iacona



ST. LUCY PARISH

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
Carmine & Maria Santantonio
Pasquale & Carmela DiLorenzo

Monday, February 10

9:00am Bailey Kolapudi (living)

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

9:00am Janet Szostak

Thursday, February 13

9:00am Vincenzo Lazzara

Friday, February 14

9:00am Dorothy Berryman

Saturday, February 15

4:00pm Ryan Matthew Thistle
John & Dorothy Tridenti
Geraldine Shea

Sunday, February 16

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

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

| DAY | DATE | PRIEST | SEMINARIAN |
|-------|----------|----------------------|--|
| Sun | 02/09/25 | Fr. Richard Visbisky | Gerson Garcia RMS Boston |
| Mon | 02/10/25 | Fr. Richard Donahue | Br. Vladimir Guadalupe Huber OCD |
| Tues | 02/11/25 | Fr. Ixon Chateau | Rafael Milla RMS Boston |
| Wed | 02/12/25 | Fr. Paul Coughlin | Jonathan Saniuk SJS Boston |
| Thurs | 02/13/25 | Fr. Brian Flatley | Br. Joseph-Teresa Steger OCD |
| Fri | 02/14/25 | Fr. Eugene Tully | Jay Zizza SJS Providence |
| Sat | 02/15/25 | Fr. William Kennedy | David Bardales SJS Providence |



PRAYER CORNER

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

Please pray for Cheryl Edwards whose funeral we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.



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