

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

SEPT 14
2025

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

BY YOUR CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD

— GOSPEL ACCLAMATION —



ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, September 13

9:00am Antoinette & Nemetallah Khalife

4:00pm Arleen Larnard

Sunday, September 14

9:00am John McDermott

12:00pm Rhonda & Jack Calligandes,
Iris Castro
Mark Duncan
Richard Duncan
Valorie Duncan
Michael Lacroix

5:00pm Por los feligreses de Santa Mónica y
Santa Lucía

Monday, September 15

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

6:00pm Por los feligreses de Santa Mónica y
Santa Lucía

Saturday, September 20

9:00am Joseph Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Mike Milnes

4:00pm Eileen Pinard

Sunday, September 21

9:00am Thomas & Catherine Waterworth
Margaret Collins
Julie Morley
Morris Roy
Leonard Pedneult

12:00pm Robert & Elizabeth Pierce
John & Ida Manning
Richard Jaquish
Robert S. Pierce
Neil Perry
Constance Laudani

5:00pm Por los feligreses de Santa Mónica y
Santa Lucía

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, September 13

4:00pm Marion & Harry Cunha
Joseph Moreau
John McDermott
Susan McGee
Deceased Members of the Cortese & Rizzo
Families
Robert Koralishn,
Michael Kenny, Jr.

Sunday, September 14

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

Tuesday, September 16

9:00am Melissa & Miguel Queliz (living)

Wednesday, September 17

9:00am Antonio & Evelina Mollica

Thursday, September 18

9:00am Rev. Marcos Pena (living)

Friday, September 19

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

Saturday, September 20

4:00pm Richy Gallagher

Sunday, September 21

10:30am Deceased Members of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sodality
Margaret J. Covey
Antonio DiFruscia
Joseph DiCenzo
Joseph Mendes
Iracema Leal
Izilda Silva



Exaltation of the Holy Cross

St. Ambrose, a very reliable source since he was born in 340, gives most of our information about the finding of the Holy Cross. Remember, St. Ambrose, along with St. Monica, the mother who never gave up, was very instrumental with the conversion of St. Augustine. St. Ambrose informs us that it was Flavia Julia Helena, St. Helena who led the excavation of the Holy Cross as well as the sites of Our Lord's birth and Crucifixion. She subsequently built many churches in the Holy Land and through incredible works spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. St. Helena was born in 255 and eventually became a servant girl then concubine of the military commander Constantius Chlorus. Constantine was born from their union, but after 20 years Constantius left Helena to marry the emperor's daughter. Constantine resented this, so when he became the Holy Roman Emperor, he honored his mother by proclaiming her Empress of Rome.

Then in a dream an angel with a cross appeared to him predicting victory over his enemies with the words, "in hoc vince" – "through this sign victory." And with that sign he did conquer, and finally legalized Christianity. Helena also had a dream, which revealed to her the location of the true Cross. When she was about 80 years old she made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to find and preserve the holy sites and retrieve the instruments of Jesus' death.

By building a temple over the holy sites, the pagans sought to destroy Christianity, but they ended up preserving the holy sites until Constantine gave permission to begin excavating in 327. In the excavation, three crosses were found. To determine which cross was Christ's cross, Helena laid each cross on the corpse of a dead youth, who was revived by the touch of the third cross.

Helena returned to Rome with the sacred relics and used soil from the Holy Land as ballast for her ships. Many of those relics are found today in the "Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem," in Rome, Italy, formerly Helena's imperial palace.

These relics of Our Lord's Passion are important to us because they are instruments of Our Lord's great act of love – the source of our redemption.

Love for the Cross brings us closer to Jesus. While drawing closer to God, we find the burden to be lighter because Our Lord bears the burden. With Christ, trials seem brief and endurable. We may even find joy in them knowing that we are uniting our trials with the Master's. St. Josemaria said, "Is it not true that as soon as you cease to be afraid of the Cross, of what people call the Cross, when you set your will to accept the will of God, then you will find happiness, and all your worries, all your sufferings, physical or moral, pass away? Truly the Cross of Jesus is gentle and lovable. There, sorrows cease to count; there is only the joy of knowing that we are co-redeemers with Him." How appropriate it is that



we celebrate "Our Lady of Sorrows" immediately following "The Exaltation of the Holy Cross." Mary's seven sorrows are:

1. The presentation of Jesus
2. The flight into Egypt
3. Jesus being lost in Jerusalem
4. Jesus and Mary meeting on the way to Calvary
5. The crucifixion
6. Jesus taken down from the Cross
7. Jesus' burial

Mary accompanies us also in our pains, sorrows and trials. Our Lady, Help of Christians will help us, "Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim, Till all the world adore His sacred name."

FAITH FORMATION / EVANGELIZATION

MISA DE INSTALACIÓN

Los invitamos a acompañarnos en la celebración de la Misa de Instalación del Padre Marcos Peña Portillo como Párroco de las Parroquias de Santa Lucía y Santa Mónica.

*Sábado 11 de octubre de 2025
Misa de Instalación a las 4:00 pm
en la Iglesia de Santa Mónica*

Y

*Domingo 12 de octubre de 2025
Misa de Instalación a las 10:30 am
en la Iglesia de Santa Lucía*

*Celebrada por el Obispo Robert Hennessey
A continuación, habrá un refrigerio*

INSTALLATION MASS

You are invited to join us as we celebrate the Installation Masses of Fr. Marcos Peña Portillo as Pastor of St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes.

*Saturday October 11, 2025
4:00 pm Installation Mass
at St. Monica Church*

AND

*Sunday, October 12, 2025
10:30am Installation Mass
at St. Lucy Church*

*Celebrated by Bishop Robert Hennessey
Refreshments to follow*

ST. MONICA

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

- SATURDAYS - 4:00pm (Vigil)
- SUNDAYS - 9:00 am & 12:00pm
- SUNDAYS - 5:00 pm (Spanish)

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

- MONDAYS - 9:00 am
- MONDAYS - 6:00 pm (Spanish)
- SATURDAYS - 9:00 am

ADORATION

- MONDAYS - 6:30 pm (following Mass)
- SATURDAYS - 9:30 -2:30 pm

CONFESSIONS

- MONDAYS - 6:30 pm
- SATURDAYS - 9:30 -10:30 am
- SATURDAYS - 3:00 - 3:45 pm

BAPTISMS

- 2nd Sunday of the month | 2:00 pm
- 1st Sunday of the month in Spanish | 2:00 pm

ST. LUCY

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

- SATURDAYS - 4:00pm (Vigil)
- SUNDAYS - 10:30am

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

- TUESDAYS - 9:00 am
- WEDNESDAYS - 9:00 am
- THURSDAYS - 9:00 am
- FRIDAYS - 9:00 am

ADORATION

- WEDNESDAYS - 6:00-7:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

- WEDNESDAYS - 6:00-6:45 pm
- SATURDAYS - 3:00 - 3:45 pm

BAPTISMS

- 3rd Sunday of the month | 2:00 pm

(Please call the Parish Offices at least 2 months in advance to schedule Baptisms.)

MARRIAGES Please call the Parish Offices at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date and before booking a reception hall.

FAITH FORMATION / EVANGELIZATION

RISE: COMMUNITY

is an initiative for parishioners ages 3-99!
RISE is an ongoing faith enrichment program
that **strengthens faith & fosters friendships.**

Each RISE session includes:

A simple meal, a presentation and discussion
for adults, and classes for children.

Join Us!

There's three ways to register:

- The registration form below and submit to the parish office.
- Go to our website methuencatholic.org
- Contact Karl in the Office at 978-683-1193 or via email at faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Note: RISE Community is required for families with students in Sacrament Preparation.

RISE: COMUNIDAD

es una iniciativa para todos los feligreses para fortalecer la fe y fomentar amistades entre la parroquia.

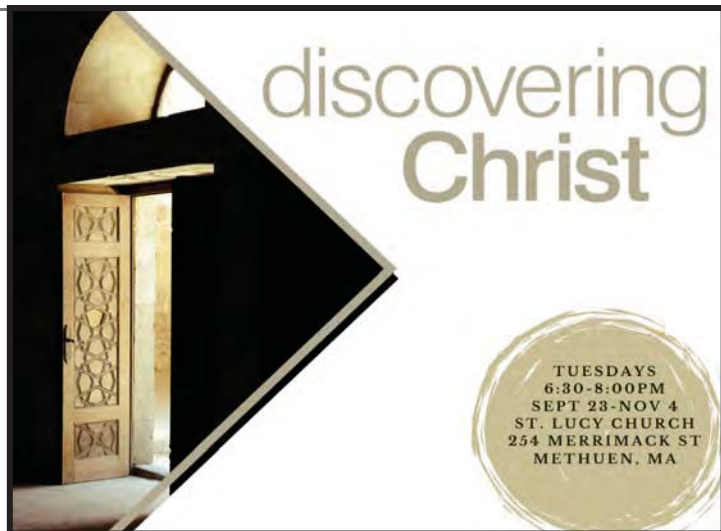
Las sesiones son los domingos de 6:00 -7:00 pm después de la misa en español.

Cada sesión de RISE incluye:

Una comida sencilla, una presentación y charla para adultos y clases para niños.

¿Quieres Unirte a esta iniciativa?

Contacta el P. Marcos Peña al 978-683-1193



CHRIST LIFE: DISCOVERING CHRIST

If you would like to learn more or register for Discovering Christ, please contact Karl in the Office at 978-683-1193 or via email at faithformation.stlm@gmail.com



Monthly Rosary for St. Monica School Parents

The Monthly Rosary for St. Monica School Parents will begin **Wednesday in the GETHSEMANE CHAPEL AT ST. MONICA CHURCH**

We will continue to pray each second Wednesday of the month from September through May and on the first Wednesday in June. **All parents, grandparents and friends of students are welcome** to attend prior to picking up their children from school.

The Rosary, led by the Knights of Columbus, will **begin at 1:15 PM**, prior to school dismissal. Rosaries and prayer cards will be provided. Come by and pray for your own personal intentions!

RISE
LET US BE ON OUR WAY
COMMUNITY

2025-2026 THE CREED

Whole Community Catechesis

in the Methuen Collaborative/

Catequesis para toda la Comunidad

Name/Nombre: _____

Phone/Tele: _____

Address/Dirección: _____

Cost/Costo: \$60/person \$100/2 people \$120/3+ people \$40/Seniors

Dates/Fechas: **Sept 13 & 14 | Oct 4 & 5 | Nov 8 & 9 | Dec 13 & 14**

Jan 10 & 11 | Feb 14 & 15 | Mar 14 & 15 | Apr 11 & 12

SESSIONS

Saturdays/Sabado 5:00-7:00pm (St. Lucy's)

Sundays/Domingo 10:00am-12:00pm (St. Monica's)

**ST. MONICA SCHOOL**

212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844
(978) 686 -1801
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson Principal
Ann Marie Collins Admin Assistant
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

Second collection: Clergy Trust

Next week's second collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org

**Knights of Columbus®**

Knights of Columbus
St. Monica Council 14725
Annual Family Pasta Supper
Saturday, September 27, 2025
5:00 - 7:00pm
St. Lucy Parish Hall
Compliments of K of C

SAVE THE DATE
ST. LUCY PARISH
FALL CRAFT FAIR

254 MERRIMACK STREET,
METHUEN MA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025
9:00-3:00

Come join us for a fun-filled Saturday filled with great shopping AND special new events! We are expanding to include FIFTY VENDORS and NEW RAFFLES!

Interested Vendors should contact Debbie McCall to reserve a table. More than 50% of tables are BOOKED!



Our annual novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe will begin in mid-October and end in December during the week of the memorial of St. Juan Diego and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Kathy O., Judy C., Cathy B., Gene B., MaryAnn M., Irina, C.M., Fred C., Luca S., Claude L., Rosario F., Kathy P., Russell R., Kristin M., John S., Michael B., Robert L., Victor T., Carolyn, Adrienne M., Terry, Chris C., Phyllis T. & Patrice K.

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

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sunday	09/14/2025	Pope Leo XIV (B-70yrs)	Rafael Milla RMS
Monday	09/15/2025	Fr. Sean Maher	Gustavo Neitzke RMS
Tuesday	09/16/2025	Fr. Robert Connors	Edward Rodriguez RMS
Wednesday	09/17/2025	Fr. Robert J. Blaney	Aaron Sanz RMS
Thursday	09/18/2025	Fr. John Nichols	Rev. Mr. David Cataline SJS Rochester
Friday	09/19/2025	Fr. Paul Sullivan	Br. Vladimir Guadalupe Huber OCD
Saturday	09/20/2025	Fr. Peter Pham	Rev. Mr. Javier Padilla RMS

Grand Prize Raffle

Tickets for our annual Grand Raffle will be sold following Mass at St Lucy and St. Monica Churches on Saturday September **13th & 14th** and September **20th & 21st.**

Thank You for supporting our Parish!

St. Lucy's Fall Fair Grand Raffle Sodality Craft Fair | Music | Games | Food

1st Prize: \$500 Visa Gift Card
2nd Prize: \$300 Visa Gift Card
3rd Prize: \$100 Market Basket Gift Card
Ticket Cost: 1 - \$2; 6 - \$5; 15 - \$10

Drawing Benefits St. Lucy's 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 a week from 7am-7pm

**CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE**
Open Mon-Sat from 9am-5pm

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844

978.683.1193

www.methuencatholic.org

**Hours: Mon | Tu | Th | Fri 9am - 1pm
Closed Wed**



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
978.686.9573

Yes, I CAN... We are in need of Soups, Pasta Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Instant Rice, Mashed Potatoes, and Cereal. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the entrances to St. Lucy Church and the side door of Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church.

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Marcos Peña	Pastor
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
Melissa Queliz	Administrative Assistant
parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com	

OFFERTORY | SEP 2

St. Monica - \$6,304.00 St. Lucy - \$4,201.00

Weekly Offertory needed to sustain parish operations: St. Monica - \$10,000 | St. Lucy - \$6,000

Thank you for continuing your generous contributions to the mission of our parishes.

Reading 1

Numbers 21:4b-9

With their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!"

In punishment the LORD sent among the people saraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died. Then the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us."

So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses, "Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and if any who have been bitten look at it, they will live." Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Responsorial Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Hearken, my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable,
I will utter mysteries from of old.

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

While he slew them they sought him
and inquired after God again,
Remembering that God was their rock
and the Most High God, their redeemer.
R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

But they flattered him with their mouths
and lied to him with their tongues,
Though their hearts were not steadfast toward him,
nor were they faithful to his covenant.
R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

But he, being merciful, forgave their sin

and destroyed them not;
Often he turned back his anger
and let none of his wrath be roused.
R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Reading 2

Philippians 2:6-11

Brothers and sisters:

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

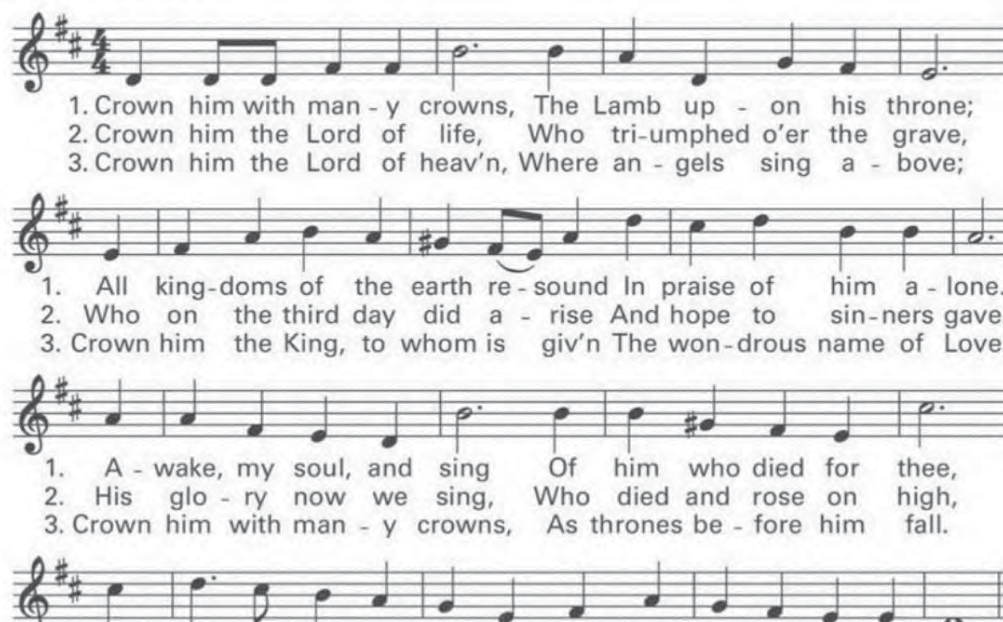
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world. R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him

PROCESSIONAL SONG


1. Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
 3. Crown him the Lord of heav'n, Where an - gels sing a - bove;

1. All king-doms of the earth re-sound In praise of him a - lone.
 2. Who on the third day did a - rise And hope to sin-ners gave.
 3. Crown him the King, to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.

1. A - wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
 2. His glo - ry now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
 3. Crown him with man - y crowns, As thrones be - fore him fall.

1. And hail him as thy ris - en King For all e - ter - ni - ty.
 2. Who came e - ter - nal life to bring, Who lives, no more to die.
 3. Through-out the earth his praise re-sounds For he is Lord of all.

OFFERTORY HYMN

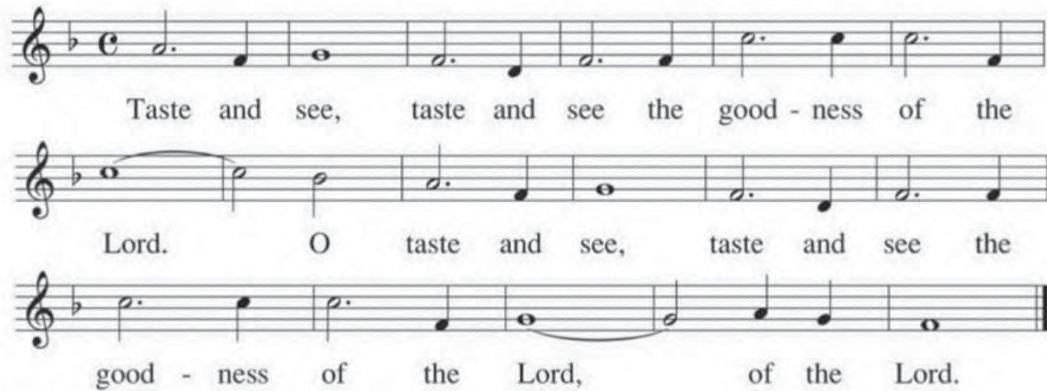

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

COMMUNION HYMN


Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the
 Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the
 good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

RECESSIONAL HYMN


verses
 1. Be-hold the wood that bears our name;
 2. We embrace the sac - ri - fice,
 1. be - hold the nails that hold our sin.
 2. and walk the path we can - not see.
 1. The tree from which sal - va - tion blooms;
 2. The bur - dens of this world made light;
 1. the death by which we're born a - gain.
 2. by blood and thorn we are re - deemed.
 Refrain
 We take up our cross and fol - low him; we
 lay down our lives that we might live. We
 car - ry the hope of Christ with-in; we take up our cross
 and fol - low him.

1, Final (Fine) to Verse 2 2 to Bridge 3

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.

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*Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. TruGreen will gladly visit your property as needed between scheduled visits to ensure your satisfaction. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.

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Parishioners

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



Artist's rendering

Because of the increased demand among area Catholics, making cemetery plans for their family on a **PRE-NEED** basis, we have completed construction on the new **Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel Mausoleum** addition.

ST. MARY-IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CEMETERIES AND CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM

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