

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

JAN 07
2024

Epiphany of the Lord



"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Matthew 2: 2

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.



The gifts brought by the Magi to the Holy Family have always been understood to have symbolic meaning due to the wise men's knowledge of prophecy and the Lord's identity: gold for a king, frankincense in worship of God, and myrrh for use in burial. How the gifts were used, though, is only the speculation of legend. One pious tale suggests that the gold was used to rent the stable, the frankincense to give it a pleasant fragrance, and the myrrh as a balm for the infant Jesus. That legend would go along with the fact that St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother considered themselves still too poor to offer a lamb rather than a "pair of turtledoves" at his Presentation in the Temple. Or maybe they saved it knowing it was to be used with the intention of its symbolic meaning. We can't know these things.

One thing we do know is that it wasn't put into a trust to grow with interest and create an endowment to sustain a future project, like the Church. We in the Archdiocese of Boston never got to the point of building endowments either, at least not for most parishes. Certainly not ours. I know the archdiocese has trusts for clergy retirement (lucky for me and more lucky for those priests who started young), for seminary education, and to give scholarships for Catholic education for low-income families. However, the reality is that these trusts are underfunded and, in fact, the diocese may *owe them money if it has borrowed from them at some point for other costs*.

I say this because somebody gave me an observation after we launched our Grand Annual Appeal and consistent giving campaign. To paraphrase: "It may be true that those few people who still come to church consistently are already the dedicated people who have always supported the parish. But I bet if you asked them, 80% probably think that the Archdiocese supports the parish or has a big fund of money to bail you out if necessary." I was skeptical of this claim until I literally heard it from someone who fit the bill of a faithful Catholic who inquired as to why the diocese doesn't just give us more money if we are in deficit spending. The question did not surprise me, so much as now informs the content of this pastor entry.

So, for the record, there is no fund of money at the Archdiocese, no pot of gold, if you will, that we can draw from or ask for a gift. I'm not even sure if we could get a loan given that we are in deficit spending. The reality is that what you see as our savings listed in the end of year financial statement sent with the Grand Annual Appeal letter is all that we have for a cushion in these times of deficit. Please be attentive to the need for all of us to give consistently to the parish at a level truly proportional to our income and generously to the Grand Annual to make up the remaining deficit projected for this Fiscal Year.

Thank you.

DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE

Tuesday evenings 6-6:30pm
Rosary Prayer Group for Priests
Gethsemane Chapel

Wednesday mornings 9:30-11am (ZOOM)
Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & book discussion.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

Thursday evenings 6-6:30pm (ZOOM)
Rosary for world peace & individual intentions

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

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
followed by
WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

Wednesday, January 10th
6-8pm
St. Lucy Church

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

We hold our monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of the month after the 9am mass at St. Lucy Church. Our next meeting is January 10th. All men and women are invited especially those who are associates or have made the Rivier Retreat.

This year our topic is
7 Secrets of Divine Mercy by Vinny Flynn.

Please contact Maureen Slattery for more information or to reserve a book (\$15) and a spot.
twigs5mcs@gmail.com

Christmas Tree Pick-up for Methuen Residents Only

Again this year, St. Monica School can pick up your Christmas Trees for a \$10 donation! Mr. Marc Krzywicki will be taking appointments to pick up your tree for the weekends of:

December 30 & 31
January 6 & 7
January 13 & 14

If you would like your tree picked up, please contact him at 978-500-7880 to make your appointment!
We would like to thank Mr. Krzywicki for his generosity in doing this for us every year!

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, January 7th
St. Monica School Hall
After the 9:00am mass

Sunday, January 21st
St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
After the 10:30am mass
Everyone is welcome!

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Karl at the office, extension 35 or email faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS SHARING


Many thanks to all who participated in the Christmas sharing program this year. We are so grateful for your generosity and your support this Christmas season.

This year many families in the METHUEN area will be helped through the St. Vincent DePaul Society because of your tremendous support.

St. Lucy Parish collected gift cards totaling \$4,300. St. Monica Parish collected gift cards totaling \$5,950.

Realizing times are difficult for many, we are so proud of our parishioners for their outstanding support of this Christmas Sharing Program.

Wishing you all a Blessed Holiday Season.
Mary Jo Farelli & Annette Autiello



Join us at St. Lucy's
Lower Church Hall

 **PUZZLE**

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|
| WISE MEN | MESSIAH | GIFTS |
| STAR | WORSHIP | WARNED |
| HEROD | EXCITED | DREAM |

U W A R N E D E K O E
 J I N E G A J W I N G
 A S U T O F I O S A I
 N E X C I T E D U D F
 O M I Y U B A U W E T
 H E R O D E N Y O G S
 W N A H R T Y H R S F
 S O Y I E O M A S T U
 T I B V A H U D H Y M
 A S U L M E S S I A H
 R E W A Y I L E P O Y



Long Term Substitute – Middle School Language Arts Teacher Needed

St. Monica School is seeking an exceptional full-time, Long-Term Substitute-Middle School Language Arts Teacher for January to June 2024.

Candidates should be passionate about teaching our children using Best Practices and providing them with the best possible academic opportunities. Candidates should be willing to collaborate with specialists and manage individual education plans and accommodations as needed.

The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to teach students in a diverse, faith based, nurturing environment where everyone is recognized as a unique child of God. If interested, please call **Donna Henderson, Principal at 978-686-1801.**

Saint Monica School
WINTER CALENDAR RAFFLE

February 2024

(If your name is picked on the day, you win that amount)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1. \$150	2. \$50	3. \$50	4. \$100
5. \$100	6. \$50	7. \$50	8. \$50	9. \$50	10. \$50	11. \$100
12. \$100	13. \$50	14. \$50	15. \$50	16. \$50	17. \$50	18. \$100
19. \$100	20. \$50	21. \$50	22. \$50	23. \$50	24. \$50	25. \$100
26. \$100	27. \$50	28. \$50	29. \$150			

We must sell 200 tickets. If we do not sell 200 tickets, we will have a 50/50 raffle and one winner will be drawn and the winner will receive 50% of the monies collected and the school will receive the other 50%.

(This raffle has always sold enough tickets to be held!)

All payments will be sent to winner/winners mid-March.

Please return this portion of the ticket with payment to the School Office.

St. Monica School Calendar Raffle

\$10 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$50

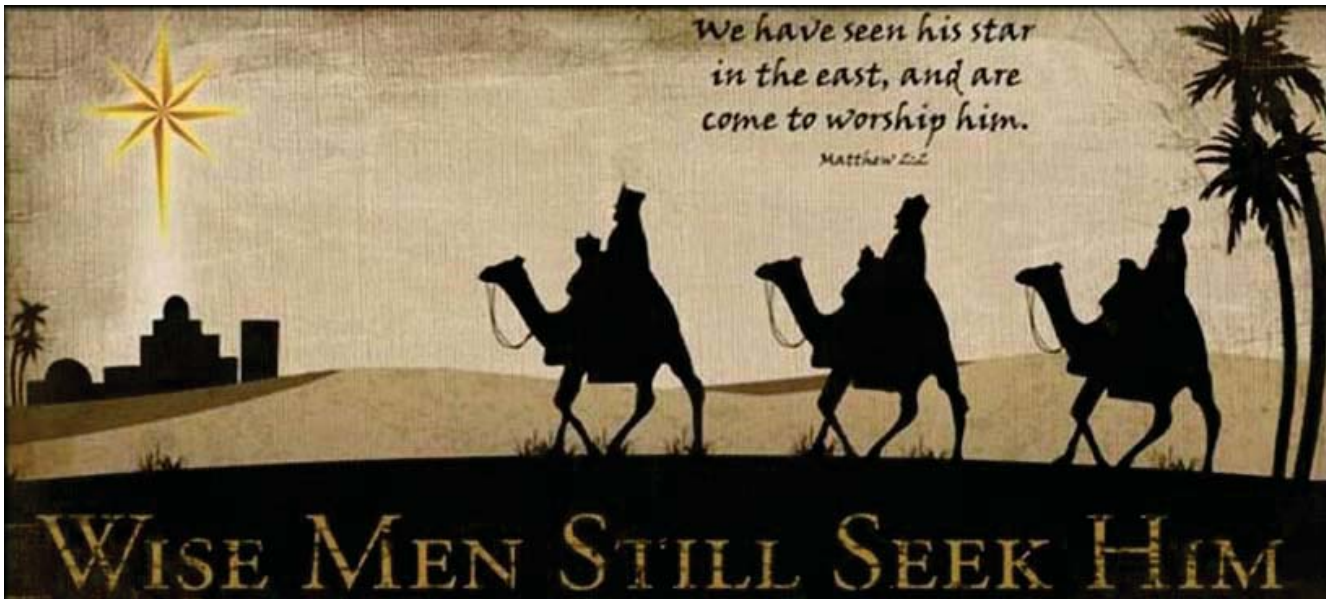
Checks made out to St. Monica School by 1/26/24

Name _____ Phone (REQUIRED) _____

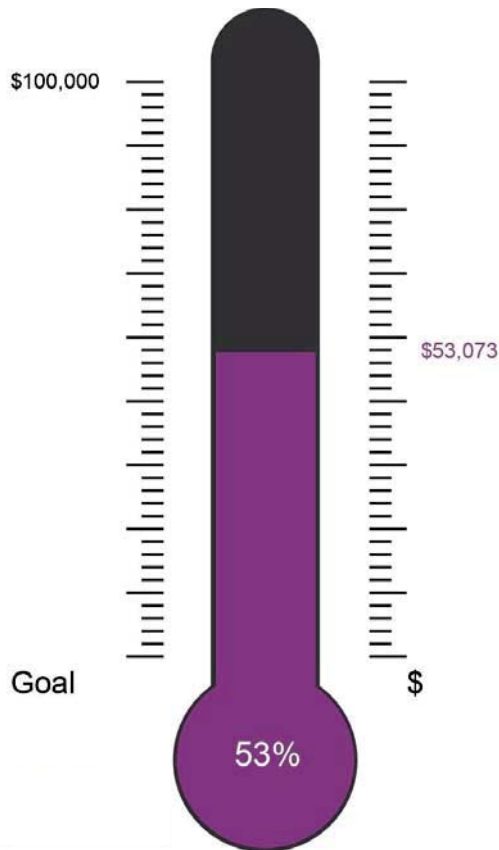
Address (REQUIRED) _____

St. Monica Student who sold ticket: _____ (if purchased through a school child)

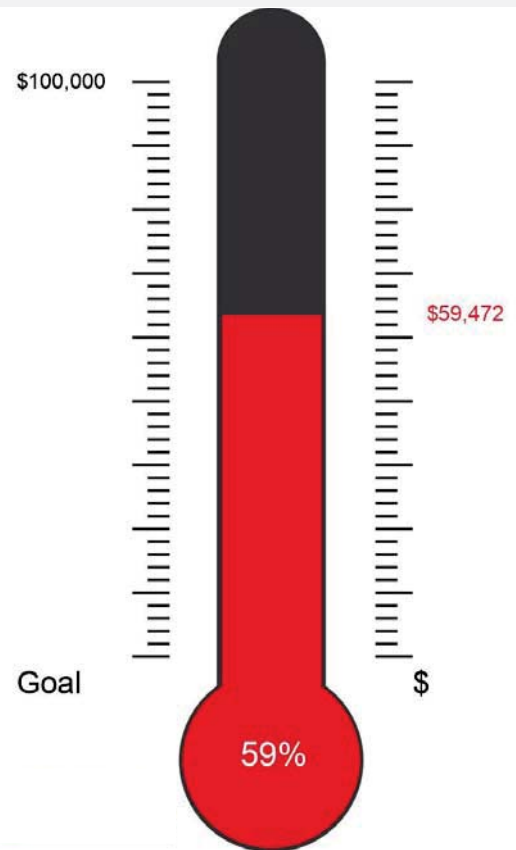
Names of St. Monica School children who sell winning tickets will be put in a raffle for a prize. If there is only one winner due to 50/50, that child will win a prize (if a St. Monica Child sold ticket).



St. Monica Grand Annual



St. Lucy Grand Annual



GIVE NOW

OFFERTORY DECEMBER 23 & 24

St. Monica - \$8,809.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$5,254.⁰⁰

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, canned corn, canned carrots, canned peas, mashed potatoes & 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



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
978.686.9573

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
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*cf. Malachi 3: 1; 1 Chronicles 29: 12*

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
And kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

ENTRANCE HYMN*We Three Kings*

Verses



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and

1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,
4. gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing,
5. Sac - ri - fice; "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!"

Refrain

1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
2. O - ver us all to reign.
3. Wor - ship him, God on high.
4. Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5. Sounds through the earth and skies.

star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward
lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card*FIRST READING*Isaiah 60: 1-6*

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-*


R. Lord, ev - 'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you.

O God, with your judgement endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son;
he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgement.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

SECOND READING*Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6*

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Matthew 2: 2*

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

GOSPEL*Matthew 2: 1-12*

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.


CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Matthew 2; 2*

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.


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*What Star Is This*


1. What star is this, with beams so bright, More love - ly
 2. 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob
 3. O Je - sus, while the star of grace Im - pels us
 4. To God the Fa - ther, heav'n - ly Light, To Christ, re -



1. than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to an - nounce a
 2. shall a star pro - ceed"; And lo! the — east - ern
 3. on to seek thy face, Let not our — sloth - ful
 4. vealed in earth - ly night, To God the — Ho - ly



1. new - born king, Glad tid - ings of our God to bring.
 2. sag - es stand To read in heav'n the Lord's com - mand.
 3. hearts re - fuse The guid - ance of thy light to use.
 4. Spir - it raise An end - less song of thank - ful praise!

RECESSIONAL HYMN*As with Gladness Men of Old*


1. As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
 2. As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly
 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger
 4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the
 5. In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre -



1. star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
 2. man - ger - bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
 3. rude and bare; So may we with ho - ly joy,
 4. nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past,
 5. at - ed light; Thou, its light, its joy, its crown,



1. Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
 2. Him whom heav'n and earth a - dore; So may we with
 3. Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
 4. Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no
 5. Thou its sun which goes not down; There for ev - er



1. Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led to thee.
 2. will - ing feet Ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
 3. trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heav'n - ly King.
 4. star to guide, Where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 5. may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, January 6

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS
 4:00pm Aline Duncan
 Valorie Duncan
 Mr. & Mrs. Mecleor Raza

Sunday, January 7

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

Saturday, January 13

9:00am Paul Ballotta, Jr.
 4:00pm Dorothy Foley

Sunday, January 14

9:00am Jose & Eulailia Aguiar
 Deceased Members of the Bergeron &
 Roberge Families
 Connie Corcoran
 Kathleen A. Kam
 12:00pm For the Parishioners of
 St. Monica & St. Lucy

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Jen Hamilton & Matt Bower, Keller Williams
 138 River Rd, Suite 107a - Andover, MA 01810
 508-954-7941 | jenhamilton.kw.com

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	01/07/24	Fr. Jason Worthley	Johnathan Saniuk
Mon	01/08/24	Fr. Richard Cannon	Brian Daley
Tues	01/09/24	Fr. William English	Brian Delaney
Wed	01/10/24	Fr. Christopher Gomes	Thuy Nguyễn
Thurs	01/11/24	Fr. Michael Drea	Dong Huy Pham
Fri	01/12/24	Fr. Robert Soucy	Luis Alberto Piceno
Sat	01/13/24	Fr. Robert Cullen	Edward Rodriguez

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, January 6

4:00pm Kathy Messina

Sunday, January 7

10:30am Berta Figueredo
 Isabel Figueredo
 Deceased Members of the Piazza Family
 Deceased Members of the Bellia Family
 Manuel Leal

Monday, January 8

9:00am Gary Marciello

Tuesday, January 9

9:00am Ed & Ada Murray

Thursday, January 11

9:00am Christine Kattar

Friday, January 12

9:00am Dorothy Foley

Saturday, January 13

4:00pm Richard P. Giles

Sunday, January 14

10:30am Lorraine Malignaggi
 Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality
 Frank & Mary Cefalu
 Edward J. Connolly



PRAYER CORNER

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

Please pray for Philomena Baddour, Gemma Podbielski & Gary Marciello whose funerals we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

STAND UP TO YOUR SCIATIC PAIN!

Are you seeking relief from crippling BACK PAIN or SCIATIC PAIN?

Sciatica is used to describe nerve pain that originates in the lower back, radiates deep into the buttock, and travels down the leg. Better known as, a literal 'PAIN IN THE BUTT' All jokes aside, we understand how painful and debilitating sciatic pain can be.

- The burning sensation is unbearable.
- The shooting pain makes staying active almost impossible.
- Long car rides are out of the question and standing for extended periods of time, forget it.
- You spend your entire day trying to get comfortable only to find that it's nearly impossible.

You've tried the stretches. You've tried ice and heat. You've even tried dietary changes with little to no relief!

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SUNRUN



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.

donate at clergytrust.org -OR-

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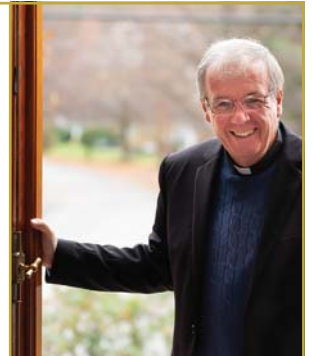
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