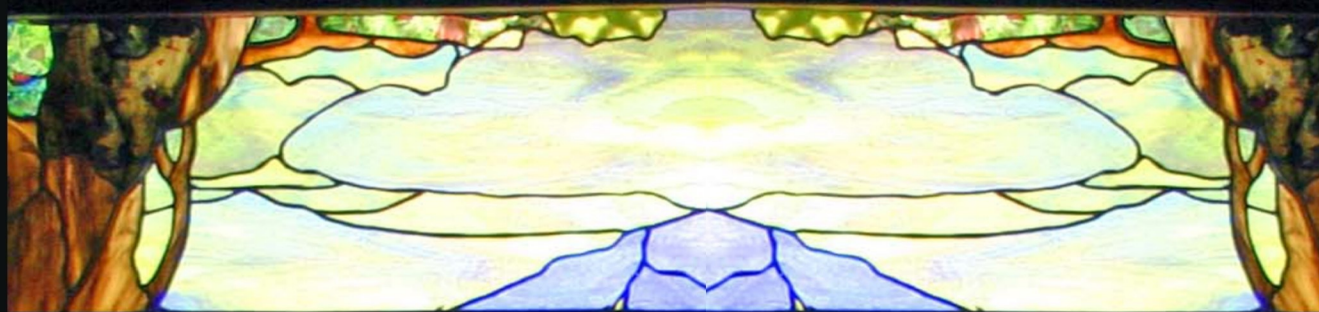


METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

FEB 16
2025



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

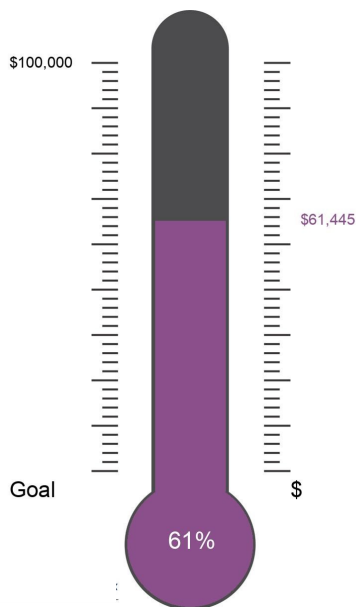
"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours."

Luke 6:20

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like thank you for hearing the call and answering it! An anonymous benefactor from St. Monica's has stepped forward with a matching donation challenge of \$5,000 for St. Monica's Grand Annual. I invite parishioners from St. Monica's and St. Lucy's who are able, to consider adding their own matching challenge donation of \$5,000. Please reach out to me at the office or at frmarcosmethuen@gmail.com. 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.

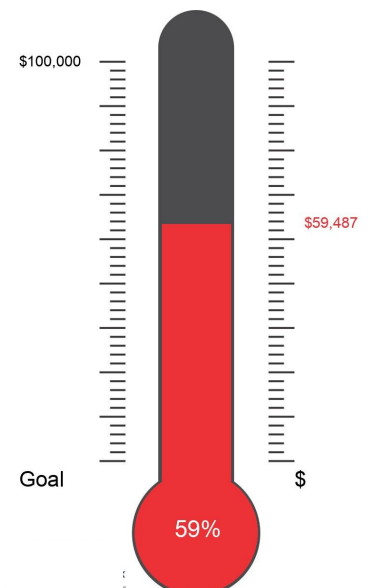
Yours in Christ,
Fr. Marcos T. Pena Portillo



YOUR DONATION IS DOUBLED

A generous donor has offered to match every gift made to the Grand Annual at St. Monica's, up to \$5,000 from today until March 9th, 2025. If you have been considering making a gift or making another gift, now is the time. For every \$1 you give, we receive \$2. **Give now and Double your impact.**

GRAND ANNUAL
St. Monica Parish



The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults



In the spring of 1997 a note appeared in the St. Monica Parish bulletin that Msgr. Richard Little, our pastor of blessed memory, was going to form a catechetical team to begin welcoming new members into the Catholic Church through a process of education, faith sharing, and rituals known as *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)*. The *RCIA* process would follow the ancient practice of the Church; it had been restored by the Second Vatican Council as the normal way adults prepare for baptism. *RCIA* also began at St. Lucy Parish.

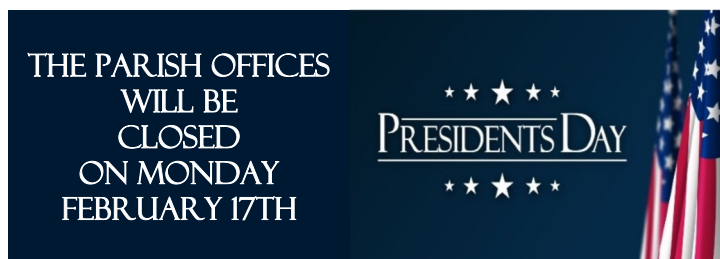
For nearly thirty years in our parishes *catechumens*, those who are not baptized, and *candidates*, Catholic adults who have been baptized but uncatechized, or those baptized in a Protestant Christian church community have entered into the *RCIA* process. This liturgical year our parishes have one catechumen and six candidates.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults has gone through a revision process and with the beginning of the new liturgical year in Advent is now *The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)*. The Latin text from which the English is translated has always been titled *Ordo initiationis christianæ adultorum*. In the new translation, using the English word *order* more strictly adheres to the Latin. It is more properly an order as it is not a single rite, but a series of rites based on the principle that the process of conversion proceeds gradually, in stages. The rites have also been faithfully translated from the beautiful Latin text into beautiful English.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults consists of four periods of formation which are marked by rituals that celebrate what has been completed and that call a person into the next phase.

On the First Sunday of Advent we celebrated the *Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate and of Welcoming the Candidates*. With the coming of the 40 days of Lent our catechumen and candidates begin a period of intense prayer and spiritual preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation. On the First Sunday of Lent we will celebrate the *Rite of Sending the Catechumens*. Our catechumen will then travel to Holy Cross Cathedral to celebrate the *Rite of Election of Catechumens* with Archbishop Richard Henning and the other catechumens in the Archdiocese of Boston who will enter into the Church at the Easter Vigil. In addition, we will celebrate the *Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion* in our parishes.

Since *The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* process takes place within a parish community, the prayers from our community are essential for the journey. In addition, the prayers of the universal Church are with each candidate, providing spiritual support for the journey and connection to the Church community. Please keep our catechumen and our candidates in your prayers.



UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD FEBRUARY 23

Next week's second collection will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe and three important national Catholic missions: The Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions.

Your generosity will help fund the spiritual, educational, and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world, for more information about each of these organizations go to their websites:

1. CRS: www.usccb.org/catholic-relief;
2. Church in Africa: www.usccb.org/africa
3. Church in Central and Eastern Europe: www.usccb.org/ceee
4. Military Archdiocese: www.milarch.org
5. Catholic Home Missions: www.usccb.org/home-missions
6. Black and Indian Missions:
<https://blackandindianmission.org>

SECOND COLLECTION FOR WILDFIRE RELIEF 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.

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, February 16th

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

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AT ST. MONICA SCHOOL
Highlights included Snowtubing, Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Storyteller and a Mystery Teacher!





SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Dinner

MARCH 4TH

5:30 PM-7:30PM

ST. MONICA SCHOOL

\$7 PER TICKET

Parishioners name: _____

Number of tickets _____ X\$7 _____

Send form to the school for tickets or call
978-686-1801 to reserve your tickets.



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

FEBRUARY 1 & 2

St. Monica - \$6,631.00 St. Lucy - \$3,888.00

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 ANTIPHONPsalms 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 PSALMPsalms 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.

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.

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?

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.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

ST. MONICA PARISH

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

Saturday, February 22

9:00am Joseph Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Mike Milnes
4:00pm Arleen Marsan

Sunday, February 23

9:00am For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica
12:00pm Jeanne Brown
Gratien Michaud
Michael E. Basile, Jr.



ST. LUCY PARISH

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

Monday, February 17

9:00am Manny Gianni
Christine Gianni Eldridge

Tuesday, February 18

9:00am Andrew Radar
Lee Lucas
Joseph Reitano
Steve Lori
John Smerdon

Wednesday, February 19

9:00am Paula Nichols

Thursday, February 20

9:00am Antonio & Evelina Mollica

Friday, February 21

9:00am Joseph S. Augeri

Saturday, February 22

4:00pm William & Margaret Collins
Julie Morley

Sunday, February 23

10:30am Lino Brosco
Douglas H. Knapp
Lucille & Joseph Pappalardo

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	02/16/25	Fr. Wayne Belschner	Alden Bronson SJS Boston
Mon	02/17/25	Fr. Joseph Rossi	Alexander DeTirado RMS Boston
Tues	02/18/25	Fr. Charles Hughes	Joseph Jasinski SJS Boston
Wed	02/19/25	Fr. Bruce Flannagan	Nicholas Jones SJS Providence
Thurs	02/20/25	Fr. Brian Flynn	Diego Mendoza RMS Boston
Fri	02/21/25	Fr. Peter Stamm	Thiago Mesquita de Sousa SJS Boston
Sat	02/22/25	Pope Francis	Henry Sueffert RMS Boston



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 Lorraine Laverriere & Cheryl Ann Kopec whose funerals we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.