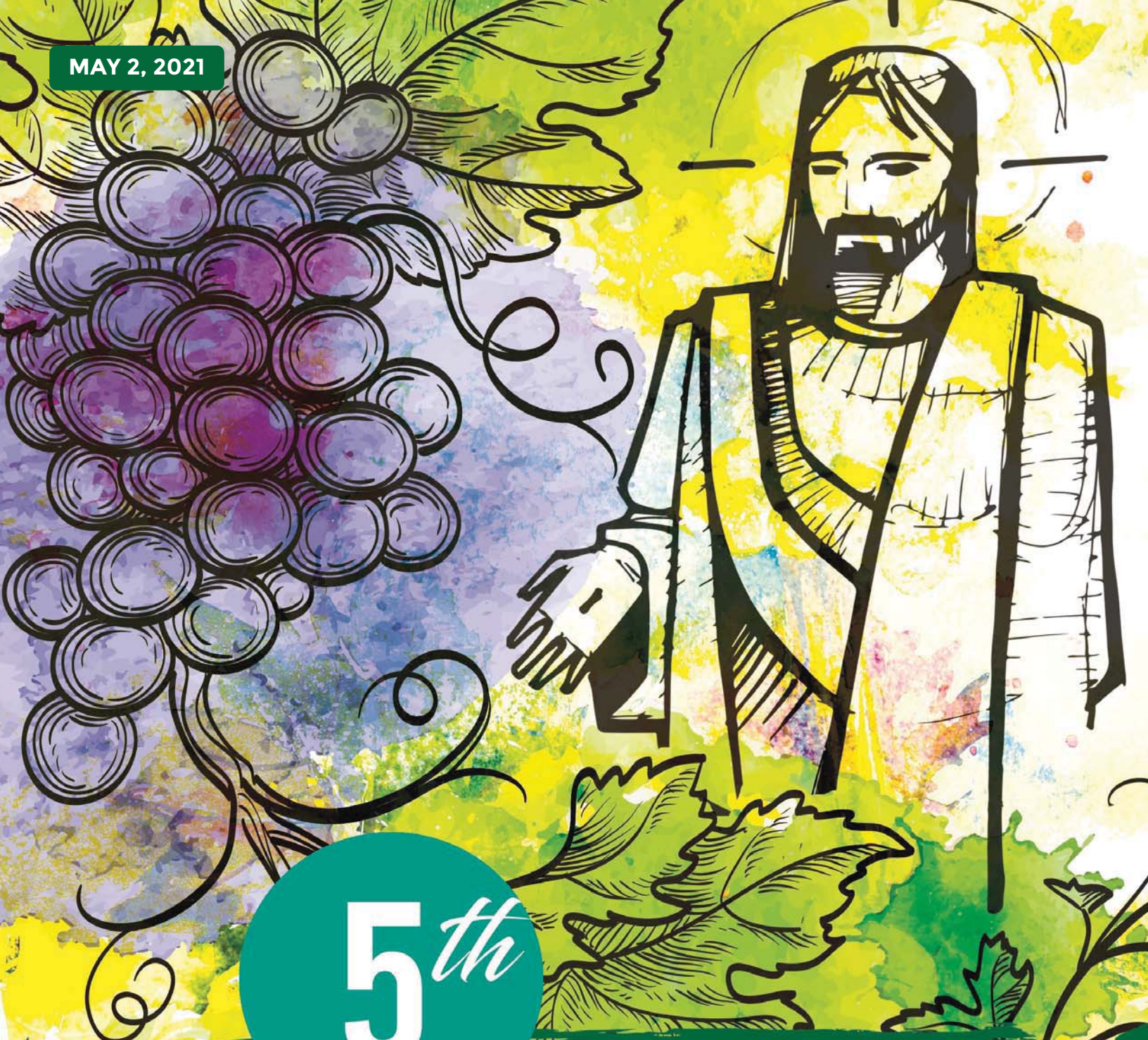


MAY 2, 2021



5th

SUNDAY OF EASTER

ST. MONICA PARISH

212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA

Renew, Rebuild, and Reach Out: Disciples in Heartfelt Communion with Jesus Christ

ST. LUCY PARISH

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA

DAILY MASS MON/TUE/THURS/FRI 9 am St. Lucy **FIRST SATURDAY** 9 am St. Monica
WEEKEND SAT 4 pm (Vigil) both parishes **SUN** 9 and 11 am St. Monica, 10 am St. Lucy



“I am the vine, and you are the branches.” In the gospel last week, we heard Jesus proclaim that he is the Good Shepherd who loves, guides, and protects his flock, even to the point of giving up his life to defend them. This week’s gospel tells us that Jesus is even closer to us than that. His is the blood that flows through us and feeds our bodies. We are only alive because he is nourishing us. He is what gives us life.

If a branch falls off or is cut off from the vine, it simply will die. It no longer has the ability to bear fruit or even to live. Looking at this as a metaphor for the Church, we find that if we are separated from Christ, our life blood (our faith) is lost. Our spiritual life dries up, withers, and dies.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul compares the Church to the body, an image similar to the that of the vine and the branches. The body is composed of many parts and cells, but it is still only one body. We are not separate organs or cells. We are part of one functioning body. Any part that is cut off from the body will die, just as the branch that is removed from the vine will die. Again, looking at this as a metaphor for the Church, we see that we are all parts of the one body, the Church, and Christ is our head. This is why the Church is called the Mystical Body of Christ.

As Christians, we are all part of that Body, the Mystical Body of Christ. We each have our own function (mission) and are each equally valued and loved by our head (Christ). And we are all equally dependent on our Head (Christ) to lead us and to nourish us as we perform our mission(s). If we are separated from the

Mystical Body of Christ (the Church), we are losing the graces that give life to our souls. When that happens, our faith life withers and dies, and we are lost.

So, we should unite ourselves to the Church as the branch is to the vine and as the body is to its head. What does this mean in a practical sense? In *The Word on Fire Bible* (2020 by Word on Fire Catholic Ministries), Bishop Robert Barron writes: “It means a steady immersion in the prayer of the Church. It means steady communion with God, speaking to him (prayer) on a regular basis. It means an immersion in the Scriptures, soaking in the truth of the Bible. It means engaging in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. And, of course, it means you must participate in the sacraments ---- especially Confession and the Eucharist. By the sacraments, we stay close to the Christ who forgives our sins and enlivens our spirits.”

As a member of the Secular Franciscan Order, I’ve read much on the life of St. Francis of Assisi. One of his favorite sayings, even toward the end of his life, was: “Let us begin, for until now we have done nothing.” There is always much more to do, no matter how much we have done in the past. Our work, as members of the Mystical Body of Christ, is never done. In these days of pandemic and social isolation, let us endeavor with more and more determination, to live in union with the Church and with Christ, our vine and the head of his Mystical Body. ‘Let us begin, for until now we have done nothing.’ Peace and all good things!

Deacon John Kobrenski



Pope Francis has declared this year as the "Year of St. Joseph".

The Knights of Columbus will be leading a **Consecration to St. Joseph** based on Father Calloway's book "*Consecration to St. Joseph - The*

Wonders of our Spiritual Father".

All St. Monica and St. Lucy Parishioners, family, and friends, are welcome to participate. Please contact Bob Beaudry at erbeaudry@aol.com, or call 978-685-4746, to get more details about the Consecration to St. Joseph.



**FAITH AND FITNESS CLASS
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Christ Is Risen! Truly Risen! Alleluia!

Beginning on Tuesday, May 4, Fr. Joe Thomas will begin an eight-week on-line series on the Dogmas of our Faith with a particular emphasis on WHY we believe WHAT we believe. What would be lost if we did not believe it OR if we did not believe what the CHURCH believes about it? For example, almost everyone knows that the Eucharist is really and truly the Body and Blood of Christ. But, except for the fact that Jesus Himself said at the Last Supper, "This is my Body... this is my Blood", do people know all that is at stake in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist?

I hope you can join Fr. Joe on his Facebook page for these 8 Tuesdays:

Tuesday, May 4, 11AM-12 PM – The Resurrection

Tuesday, May 11, 11AM-12 PM – The Virginal Conception and Birth of Our Lord

Tuesday, May 18, 11AM-12 PM – Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday, May 25, 11AM-12 PM – Mary, Our Intercessor Before Our Lord Jesus Christ

Tuesday, June 1, 11AM-12 PM – The Eucharist: Jesus Christ – Body, Blood, Soul, Divinity

Tuesday, June 8, 11AM-12 PM – The Eucharist: Healing Power of the Blood of Jesus

Tuesday, June 15, 11AM-12 PM – The Holy Trinity, One God

Tuesday, June 22, 11AM-12 PM – Icons and Statues: Necessary or Dispensable?

You can attend Fr. Joe's series by going to his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/joseph.thomas.372661



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit."
- Jn 15:1-2

"Spring-A-Palooza" Raffle

St. Monica School will be holding a **"Spring-A-Palooza" Raffle** to help defray the cost of painting the classrooms this summer. Our classrooms have pitched in to create wonderful baskets worth \$100 or more. We thank you for always supporting our school and hope you will consider purchasing tickets! The raffle will be pulled on May 20th.

Lucky winners will walk away with a fabulous basket, donated by one of our classrooms, valued at \$100 or more!

"Wine" Down Basket - PK3
Slice of Heaven Pizza Night - KA
Jimmy Buffet "Margaritaville" - 1A
Summer Beach Fun - 2
Let's Go On A Pub Crawl - 4
Pamper Your Pup - 6
May Your Spring Flowers Bloom with Luck - 8

S'mores Station - PK4
Taste of Methuen - KB
"Sip" Back and Relax - 1B
"Fairway" to Heaven" - 3
Mom's Night In - 5
Lobsters by the Beach - 7
...and more!!

Tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50. Tickets are below.

Spring-A-Palooza Raffle

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ADDRESS: _____

Spring-A-Palooza Raffle

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
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Spring-A-Palooza Raffle

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
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Spring-A-Palooza Raffle

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____

Spring-A-Palooza Raffle

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____

Tickets can be mailed with the payment or dropped off to Sharon Tully at the school office at 212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, May 1

9:00am **First Saturday Mass**
4:00pm **Bill & Maddy Rayno**

Sunday, May 2

9:00am *Multiple Intention*
Don Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Patricia Brennick
Charlie & Rose Hanafin
Deceased Members of the DiNoto Family
11:00am **Melvin A. Prim, Sr.**

Saturday, May 8

4:00pm **Karen Tucker**

Sunday, May 9

9:00am *Multiple Intention*
Elizabeth Chojnowska
Hazel Shaw
Alice Indoccio, Gloria Royer, & Constance Zampelli
Frank Wholley
11:00am **Yvonne & Harry Costa**

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, May 1

4:00pm **Stanley Piskadlo**

Sunday, May 2

10:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Francis R. Covey, Sr.

Monday, May 3

9:00am **Eugenio & Paulina Azucena**

Tuesday, May 4

9:00am **Yvonne Soucy**

Thursday, May 6

9:00am **Christine Ferguson**

Friday, May 7

9:00am **Yvonne Soucy**

Saturday, May 8

4:00pm **Bertrand LeBlanc & Real Taschereau**

Sunday, May 9

10:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Joseph Caruso
Julia & Domenic Mazzoco



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



GOSPEL

When you go into a strange place, you like to stay close to your parents. You trust them to keep you safe. Jesus wants you to stay close to him every day. Jesus is your vine. You are one of his branches. Learn his teachings and obey them. When you stay close to Jesus and follow his commandments, you can pray for whatever you want, and God the Father will answer your prayers.



PRAYER

Jesus, help me stay close to you and follow your commandments.

Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays 2 - 5 pm
Gethsemane Chapel



Confessions

Fridays 4 - 5 pm Gethsemane Chapel
Saturdays 3 - 3:45 pm St. Monica Church & St. Lucy Church

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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IN LOVING MEMORY

Roses for Life for this week

Theresa A. Rickley



YES I CAN PROGRAM

We are in need of **canned carrots, strawberry jelly, and ramen noodle soup.**

We have placed food collection baskets in both churches. You may also drop off food at the side door of Gethsemane Chapel during the week, but please do not leave food donations at the main door or entranceway of the chapel. Thank you for your generosity!

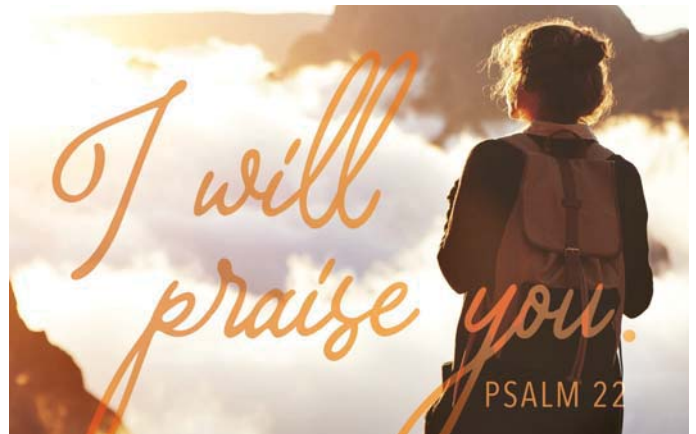
PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **Paige Anne Delmonte, Sarah Collins, Sarah Wilkens, Francis Medina, Ernie Ronaghan, Frannie N., and Joe R.**

Please pray for **Mark Elia, Grace Perrocchi, and Walter D. Andrews** whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at St. Monica's. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

Please pray for our priests, seminarians, and vocations daily. Pick up a Pray for Our Priests calendar and a seminarian prayer card at the back of the church or use this list each day. Our priests and seminarians need our prayers!

Day	Priest	Seminarian
Sunday	Fr. Michael Medas	Mateus Martin
Monday	Fr. Felipe Gonzalez	Francis Trewin
Tuesday	Fr. Ronald St. Pierre	Diego Alejandro Pena
Wednesday	Fr. Alonso Macias Zakoda	Javier Padilla
Thursday	Fr. John E. McLaughlin	Gustavo Neitzke
Friday	Fr. Linus Mendis	Michael Castellon
Saturday	Fr. Benito Moreno	Ulises Diaz



Parish Offices: 254 Merrimack Street, Methuen
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
St. Monica School: 212 Lawrence St., Methuen

Parish Offices: (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311
St. Monica School: (978) 686-1801
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Parishes: methuencatholic@gmail.com
School: smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

methuencatholic.org

stmonicalucymethuen

facebook.com/methuencatholic/ YouTube

STAFF

Fr. Darin Colarusso	Pastor
Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Pierce	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
Isabela Peixoto	Communications Associate
Donna Henderson	St. Monica School Principal
Sharon Tully	St. Monica School Administrative Assistant
Karl Jackson	Director of Mission and Formation
Eric Berthiaume	Music Director - St. Monica
Sharon Waning	Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy
Kevin Fitzgerald	Facilities Manager (St. Lucy)/RCIA Coordinator

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE Mondays @ 10 am. Please email all bulletin notices to methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

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