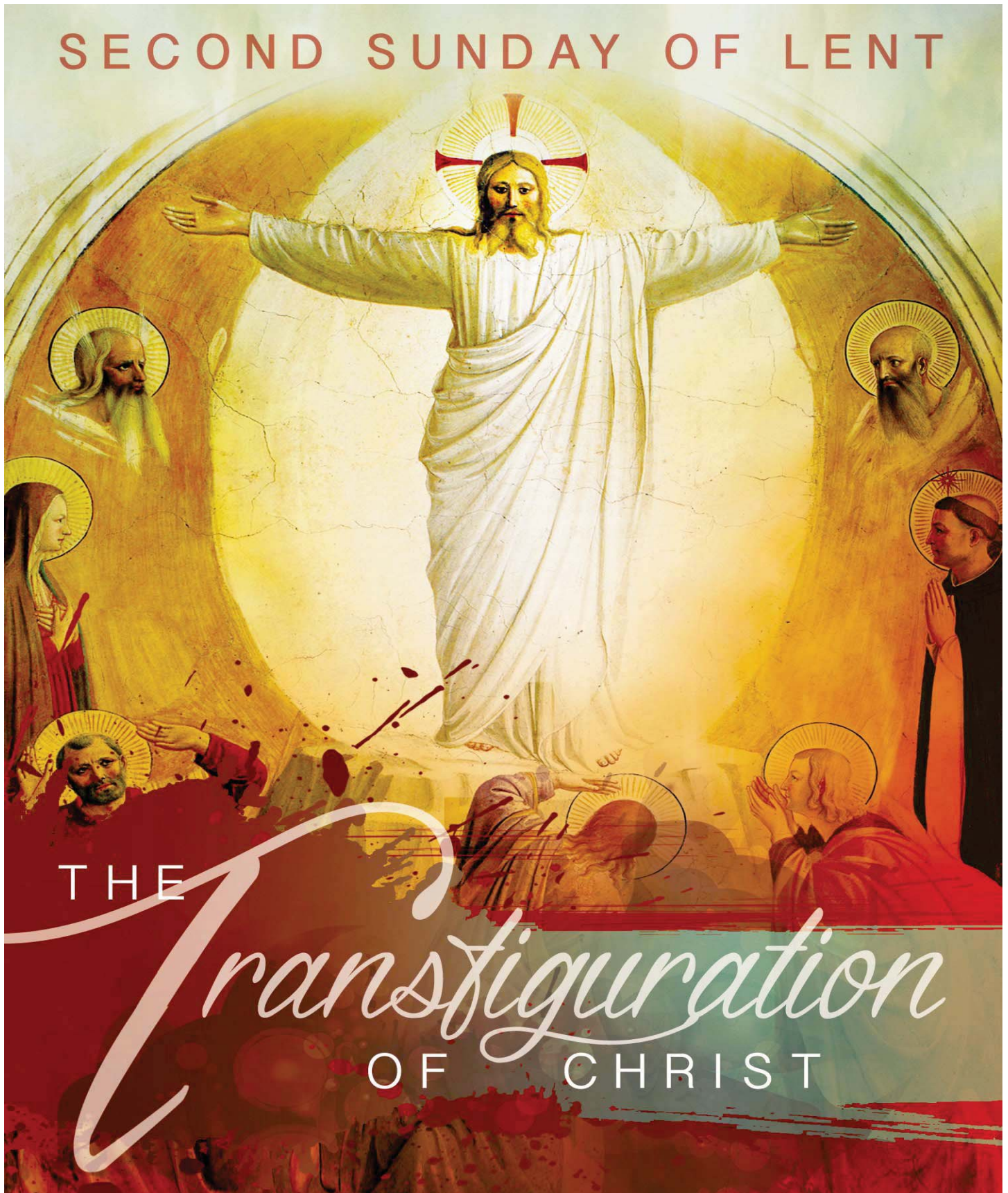


METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

MAR 16
2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



THE

Transfiguration

OF CHRIST

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

Making disciples is the mission of the Church (Mt 28:18-20), but what is a disciple? Among the Jewish people at the time of Christ, a devout and usually gifted young man would seek out an expert in the Law, a Rabbi (teacher), and ask to become his *talmid*, the word we translate as disciple. After a period of testing and observation, the Rabbi would decide whether to accept the young man as a disciple by telling him either: "Follow me" or "Go and learn the trade of your father." If the young man was accepted as a disciple, he would leave his family, and live with the Rabbi in order to learn everything the Rabbi knew about the Torah and imitate the way the Rabbi himself lived it. **The goal of the disciple was to become like his Rabbi**, and eventually make his own disciples. The Apostles would have been very familiar with this tradition when Jesus told them before his ascension, "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). They would have understood this was the next step—however unprepared or unworthy they would have felt—in their own call to follow Jesus. Thus a disciple becomes a disciple maker, teaching what Jesus taught and living the way Jesus lived. Thus, making disciples is not restricted to any one category of Christian like priests or foreign missionaries. Nor is it reserved for church employees. Making disciples is the mission of every member of the Church down to the littlest member of the littlest parish. Sadly, many parish communities have forgotten this missionary mandate and fallen out of the practice of making disciples, settling for something else altogether. Consequently, parishes must be transformed in order to fulfill this missionary mandate (no. 28). As Pope Francis exhorts, "[L]et us be 'permanently in a state of mission'." (no. 25, Joy of the Gospel), that is in a state of making disciples.

This task is even more urgent for us in the United States, especially among young people. Only 14% of American Catholics are under the age of 30 (between 18 and 29 years of age), and 9 out of 10 Catholic youth will leave the church, and most by age twenty-three. While these trends are alarming, a recent survey of Catholic adults hints at a way to change these disturbing trends. This survey revealed that practicing Catholic adults had, on average, *five meaningful relationships with adult witnesses during adolescence*. In other words, a community of disciples witnessing to youth—together with the gift of God's grace—made them disciples.



One-on-One Ministry

This is our path forward. This is how St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes plan to effectively evangelize: by prioritizing the formation of meaningful relationships between disciples in our parishes and those who are not yet disciples. I invite each of us to prayerfully discern how we can make this **a priority in practice**. Ask yourself a few questions: if you had to make one disciple, one saint for Christ, how would you do it? What steps would you take? How would you begin? What resources and support would you need or want from your parish and its leaders? Finally, ask yourself who is one person in your sphere of influence at home, at work, at school that you could invite to follow Jesus as his disciple? These are the questions we in ministry have been asking ourselves and which we invite you to join us in asking. Not just as a theoretical exercise but in order to take concrete steps toward making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Future Steps

The parish is currently training a handful of disciples to make disciples of adults and young people, but it is just a beginning. Many more—all of us—will eventually be called to play our part. In the meantime, we ask you to (1) pray for our parishes to fulfill our missionary mandate in Methuen. (2) Prayerfully reflect on how you can do your part. We do not know God's plan for every individual, and the Lord has given each of us special graces to accomplish the work of his kingdom. What has God put on your heart and how can you contribute to the mission of our parishes? And (3) start the practice of inviting people to join you for mass, adoration, confessions or any other opportunities. Together we will win disciples for Christ!

In the Gospel this weekend, the Father's voice is heard from Heaven - "This is my chosen Son; listen to Him." Much like what the Blessed Mother said at the wedding feast in Cana - "Do whatever He tells you." When Jesus was presumed lost but after 3 days was found in the Temple talking with the priests, it is said that "all who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers."

St. Joseph also would have listened very intently to Jesus, and perhaps would have counseled His peers to "listen to Him." The mystics, those who were gifted to view the life of St. Joseph report that when Jesus referred to Joseph as father, he would go into ecstasy having the privilege to be called His earthly father.

The feast, "St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed virgin Mary" is this Wednesday, March 19th. It is truly "right and Just" to honor St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church, of fathers, husbands, workers, the dying, and Guardian of the Holy Family.

On March 18th we celebrate the optional memorial of St. Cyril of Jerusalem. He was a devoted pastor, teacher and bishop who endured exile 3 times and throughout his life (d. 386) maintained a devotion to the liturgy and the sacraments.

And not to ruin the surprise, but Mar17th is the Feast of St. Patrick. Because St. Patrick is the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Boston, it too is a high feast day like St. Joseph's feast. Thus all are dispensed from the regular Lenten disciplines.

Someone will have to enjoy Fr. Patrick Armano's corned beef and cabbage as he will be on a pilgrimage to Sicily/Italy. We will keep the pilgrims in our prayers and maybe we could pray to St. Joseph who traveled quite a bit with Our Lady and Jesus. The mystics also point out how St. Joseph and Our Lady would not only make pilgrimages to the holy temple but also to the sites of the Annunciation and the Nativity. Let's ask St. Joseph and Our Lady to help us discern a possible mini-pilgrimage to Holy Rosary Shrine, an official Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Site.

"Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so prompt, so strong, before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

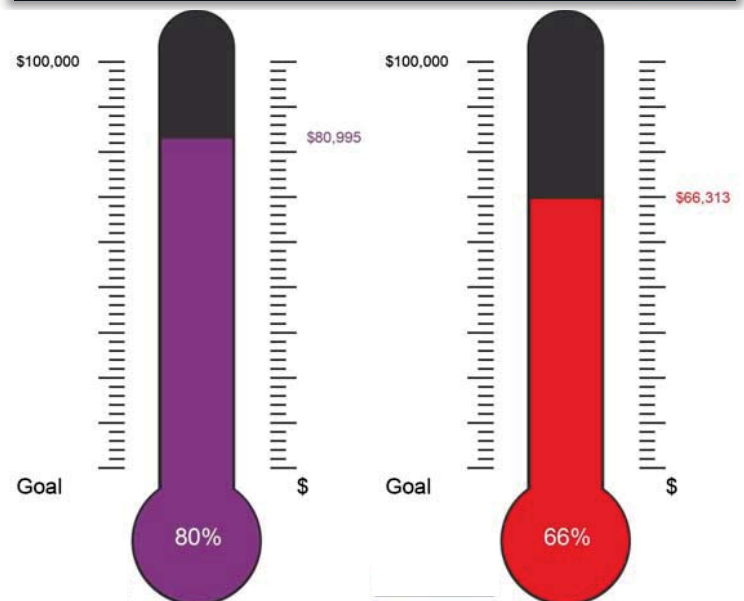
- Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.
- Chaste Guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.
- Foster-Father of the Son of God, pray for us.
- Model of Workmen, pray for us.
- Terror of Demons, pray for us.
- Patron of the Dying, pray for us.
- Protector of the Holy Church, pray for us.

**WE DID IT AGAIN, ST. MONICA'S!!
THANK YOU! HOWEVER...**

...ANOTHER generous donor has stepped forward with a \$5,000 matching gift to the Grand Annual at St. Monica's. **Give now and Double your impact until March 18. For every \$1 you give, we receive \$2.**

**LET'S DO IT AGAIN!!
THANK-YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!**

GRAND ANNUAL
St. Monica Parish



**ST. LUCY
GRAND
ANNUAL**

St. Lucy Parish

HAPPY
St. Patrick's
Day

Last Sunday we celebrated the *Rite of Sending a Catechumen* and the *Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion* at the 10:30 a. m. Mass at St. Lucy Church. Our candidates Joseph, Christina and Kathleen are fulfilling a life of conversion centered in Christ and will receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

After Mass our catechumen John travelled to Holy Cross Cathedral with his sons, Ryan and Eli, Fr. Marcos, Dcn. John Pierce and Dcn. John Kobrenski, who will be John's godfather, to celebrate the *Rite of Election of Catechumens* with Bishop Mark O'Connell and 482 other catechumens in the Archdiocese of Boston who will enter into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

At the celebration of the "Election" the catechumenate itself comes to an end. The Elect are those who have been chosen by the Bishop to go forward to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. The Elect participate in a time of intense spiritual preparation during Lent, called the period of purification and enlightenment, before receiving the sacraments of initiation. It is called "Election" because the admission made by the Church is founded on election by God, in whose name the Church acts. The elect are encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity.

Please keep John, Joesph, Christina and Kathleen in your prayers.



DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE

Tuesday evenings 6-6:30pm

Rosary Prayer Group for Priests | Gethsemane Chapel
all are welcome to attend

Wednesday mornings 9:30-11am (ZOOM)

Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & book discussion.
Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

Thursday evenings 6-7pm (ZOOM)

Rosary for world peace & individual intentions
followed by Evening Prayer.

Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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



SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

March 19

YOUTH MINISTRY

This past weekend, a group of confirmation students and youth volunteered at Debbie's Treasure Chest in Lawrence. They helped by organizing donations, moving MANY boxes of donations and organizing them, and with organizing paperwork. It was a great day!



ADORE



Adoration
Confession
Guest Speaker
Live worship music by
Mike McDuffee

St. Lucy Church
254 Merrimack St
Methuen, MA

Wednesday, March 19th
6:00-8:00 PM



Mike McDuffee has been leading worship in the Catholic Church since he was 12 years old. He currently lives in Lynnfield with his wife and four children and serves as the campus minister of St. Mary's School in Lynn, MA.

Free Will Offerings Accepted

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, March 16th & 30th

St. Monica School Hall
following the 9:00am Mass

Sunday, March 16th

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

MORNING OF REFLECTION FOR WOMEN

The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality is sponsoring our annual **Morning of Reflection** on Saturday, March 22nd from 8:30-11:30am. Our guest speaker is Father Bob McCoy from Sacred Heart Parish. This special day will begin with mass at 8:30, followed by light refreshments and our guest speaker.

This women's event is open to ALL parishioners.

To help defray our cost, attendees are asked to donate \$10.

LENTEN CALENDAR

MONDAYS | Pilgrimage of Hope: Reflections on the Jubilee Year 6-7pm | St. Monica Church | Fr. Michael Harvey

TUESDAYS | Rosary & Meditation 6-7pm | Gethsemane Chapel | Deacons

WEDNESDAYS | Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions 6-7pm | St. Lucy Church | Fr. Marcos Pena

THURSDAYS | Evangelization & the Church Class 7-8pm | St. Lucy Schoolhouse | Fr. Marcos Pena

FRIDAYS | Stations of the Cross & Lenten Meal 6-7pm | St. Lucy Church

SATURDAYS | Eucharistic Adoration 9:30am-2:30pm | Gethsemane Chapel

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.

MARCH 1 & 2

St. Monica - \$7,943.00 St. Lucy - \$4,089.00

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 Canned Tuna, Mashed Potatoes, Canned Fruit, Pancake Mix & Pancake Syrup. 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 27:8-9

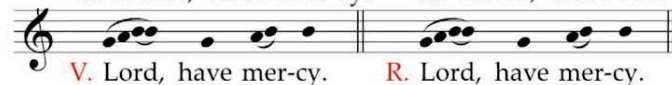
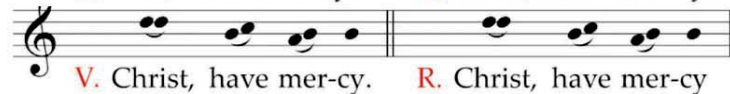
I long to see you face to face; Lord, do not look away from me.

ENTRANCE HYMN'Tis' Good Lord, To Be Here

1. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night; Your
 2. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Your beau - ty to be - hold, Where
 3. Ful - fill - er of the past! Prom - ise of things to be! We



1. face and gar - ments, like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 2. Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, Your mes - sen - gers of old.
 3. hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied, And our re - demp - tion see.

Penitential RiteFIRST READINGGenesis 15:5-12, 17-18

The Lord God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. He then said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." "O Lord GOD," he asked, "how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him. When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces. It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMPsalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14.**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?
 The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? **R.**

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me.
 Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks. **R.**

Your presence, O LORD, I seek. Hide not your face from me; do not in anger repel your servant.
 You are my helper: cast me not off. **R.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD in the land of the living.
 Wait for the LORD with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **R.**

SECOND READINGPhilippians 3:17—4:1

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their "shame." Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONMatthew 17:5**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory**

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, hear him.

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless GloryGOSPELLuke 9:28b-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

OFFERTORY HYMNHosea

1. Come back to me _____ with all your heart. _____

_____ & Trees do bend, _____ though straight and tall; _____

2. The wil - der - ness _____ will lead _____ you _____

_____ In - teg - ri - ty _____ and jus - tice _____ with



1. Don't let fear _____ keep us a - part. _____

_____ so must we _____ to oth - ers' call. _____

2. to your heart _____ where I will speak. _____

_____ ten - der - ness _____ & you shall know. _____



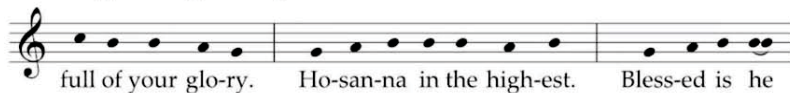
Long have I wait - ed for your com - ing home to me and



liv - ing deep - ly our new life. _____

Holy

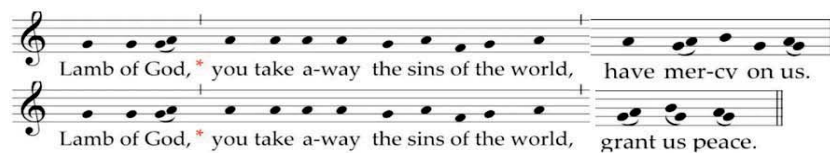
Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are



full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he



who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Memorial AcclamationLamb Of GodCOMMUNION HYMN

Verses

1. Mir - a - cle of grace, mys - ter - y of faith,
2. Un - wor - thy though we are, you feed the hun - gry heart
3. Your faith - ful - ness re - vealed in this cov - e - nant you've sealed

1. call - ing us to ven - ture to the deep.
2. with bread come down from heav - en a - bove. And
3. with your ver - y bod - y and your blood. Come,

1. Though our sens - es fail, your grac - es still pre - vail, and
2. like a grain of wheat, we fall down at your feet,
3. claim your bride a - gain with love that can - not end, for

1. we be - come the love that we re - ceive.
2. dy - ing here with you. Oh, let us rise!
3. what God joins no one can di - vide.

Bread of life, bread of life. Those who eat this bread shall live
and nev - er die. Bread of life, bread of life.
Your true pres - ence in this ho - ly sac - ri - fice.

1, 2 to Verse 2, 3
Bread of life.

Miracle of GraceRECESSIONAL HYMN

1. Trans - form us as you, trans - fig - ured,
2. Trans - form us as you, trans - fig - ured,
3. Trans - form us as you, trans - fig - ured,

Stood a - part on Ta - bor's height.
Once spoke with those ho - ly ones.
Would not stay with - in a shrine.

Lift us from where we have fall - en,
Live in this world as your Bod - y,
Lead us down those dai - ly path - ways

Full of ques - tions, filled with fright.
Cho - sen daugh - ters, cho - sen sons.
Where our love is not con - fined.

Transform Us**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, March 15

9:00am To St. Anthony for favors received
4:00pm Gloria Marcoux

Sunday, March 16

9:00am Monica Ofedu (living)
Deceased Members of the Cutulli Family
Marilee Ralph
12:00pm Maurice Larivierre, Sr.
Maurice Larivierre, Jr.
Delio Areias
Donald M. Cronin
Robert LaPiana
Fred J. & Jenny Bonaccorsi
Joseph F. Bonaccorsi

Saturday, March 22

9:00am Afam Ofedu
4:00pm Francis T. Roberge

Sunday, March 23

9:00am Jose Antonio Aguiar
Jose Aguiar
Joao Costa
12:00pm Vincent Minicucci
Gerard & Mattia D'Andrea
Ellen Mailloux



ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, March 15

4:00pm For the Parishioners of
St. Lucy & St. Monica

Sunday, March 16

10:30am Busty & Tina Consoli
Lucille Guimond
William York and the Deceased Members
of the York Family
Jim Gablosky

Monday, March 17

9:00am Manny Gianni
Christine Gianni Eldridge

Tuesday, March 18

9:00am Alexander & Rosemary D'Urso

Wednesday, March 19

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

Thursday, March 20

9:00am Joseph Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Mike Milnes

Friday, March 21

9:00am John & Louise Salmi

Saturday, March 22

4:00pm Michael M. Mansour
Arleen Marsan

Sunday, March 16

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



PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	03/16/25	Fr. Jeremy St. Martin	Zachary Smith, OMV
Mon	03/17/25	Fr. Patrick Armano	Xavier Stooks, OMV
Tues	03/18/25	Fr. J. Bryan Hehir	Matthew Thoni RMS Boston
Wed	03/19/25	Fr. Joseph Driscoll	Giovanni Trimboli RMS Boston
Thurs	03/20/25	Fr. Robert Cordery	Hieu Trung Chu SJS Hanoi
Fri	03/21/25	Fr. Michael Ferraro	John-Vincent Barcinas SJS Boston
Sat	03/22/25	Fr. William Carroll	Patrick Barr SJS Providence

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Carolyn, Adrienne M., Terry, Chris C., Joy M., William T., Chris B., Kathy P., Jeff H., Brian V., Mike B., Louie C., Phyllis T. & Patrice K.

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



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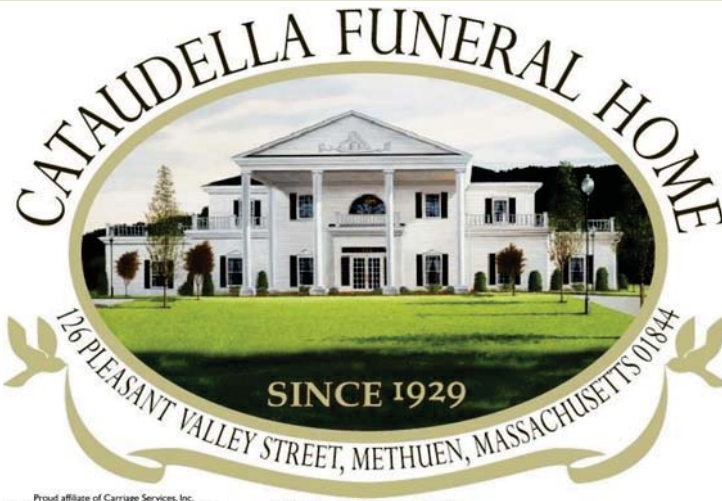
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Artist's rendering

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