

December 31, 2017

*Wishing you a*  
**New Year**  
*full of blessings*



**ST. MONICA PARISH**

**ST. LUCY PARISH**

**RENEW, REBUILD, AND REACH OUT: DISCIPLES IN HEARTFELT COMMUNION WITH JESUS CHRIST**

**St. Monica Parish:** 212 Lawrence Street  
**St. Lucy Parish:** 254 Merrimack Street  
Methuen, MA

## PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack St • Methuen, MA 01844  
Telephone (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311  
methuencatholic@gmail.com  
www.methuencatholic.org

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

## PASTORAL STAFF

Father William P. Lohan ext. 992  
**Pastor**  
frlohan68@gmail.com

Father Joseph C. Marwa, SMA ext. 993  
**Temporary Parochial Vicar (Full time)**

Father Joseph Thomas, BSO (978) 319-7873  
**Weekend Assistant** irenaiosbso2002@cs.com

Father Herb Jones, O. Carm ext. 111  
**In Residence**

Deacon John Pierce ext. 39  
**Permanent Deacon**  
dnjbpierce@gmail.com

Deacon John Kobrenski jpk500@verizon.net  
**Permanent Deacon**

Kera Mansour ext. 26 methuencatholic@gmail.com  
**Business Manager**

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Isabela Peixoto ext. 29  
**Communications Associate**  
methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

Karl Jackson ext. 35  
**Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry**  
faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Sharon Waning sharon.waning@yahoo.com  
**Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy**

Kevin Fitzgerald  
**Facilities Manager (St. Lucy's) & RCIA Coordinator**



**Follow us on Facebook at**  
[www.facebook.com/methuencatholic/](http://www.facebook.com/methuencatholic/)

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Mondays at 10 a.m. Please email all bulletin notices to methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

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

## ST. MONICA SCHOOL

212 Lawrence St • Methuen, MA 01844  
Telephone (978) 686-1801  
saintmonicaoffice@verizon.net  
www.methuencatholic.org/school

## SCHOOL STAFF

Sister Suzanne Fondini, mfc

**School Principal**  
safondini@gmail.com

Sharon Tully  
**Administrative Assistant**

## PARISH SERVICES

St. Vincent de Paul (978) 686 - 9573

## St. Lucy Parish

### Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday through Wednesday 8:00 am

### Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00pm (for Sunday)

Sunday: 8:00am/9:30am/11:30am

### Holy Days of Obligation:

8:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 7:00 pm

## St. Monica Parish

### Daily Mass Schedule:

Thursday and Friday 7:00 am, Saturday 8:00 am

### Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00 pm (for Sunday)

Sunday: 7:30am/9:30am/11:30am/5:30pm

### Holy Days of Obligation:

4:00pm (prior eve)/7:00 am and 10:00 am

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

### St. Monica Parish

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

### St. Lucy Parish

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

and any time by appointment

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays: 1:30 - 4:30 pm St. Lucy Church

Fridays: 7:30 am - 7:30 pm St. Monica Chapel

For more information on Adoration at St. Monica's, please contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com or (978) 270 - 3366  
For St. Lucy's, please contact Ellen Wholley at (978) 682 - 8459. If school is cancelled due to weather, Adoration is also cancelled.

## BAPTISMS.

Please call the parish office.

St. Monica's Parish: 1<sup>st</sup> full weekend of the month

Saturday 12:30 pm/Sunday 1:00pm

St. Lucy Parish: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month 12:30pm



# Welcome

*We're Glad You're Here!*

**WELCOME!** We're glad you could join us this weekend. **New to our community?** We're so happy you joined us this weekend and we'd love to have you worship with us regularly. Come discover the peace that comes from following our Lord Jesus. Contact us at the parish offices so we can get to know each other better. (978) 683-1193 or (978) 686-3311.



December 31, 2017  
The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph

**JAN. 1<sup>ST</sup>, SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

MASS SCHEDULE

**7:00AM**

St. Monica Parish

**8:00AM**

St. Lucy Parish



**OUR 60th ANNIVERSARY YEAR  
HAS BEGUN**

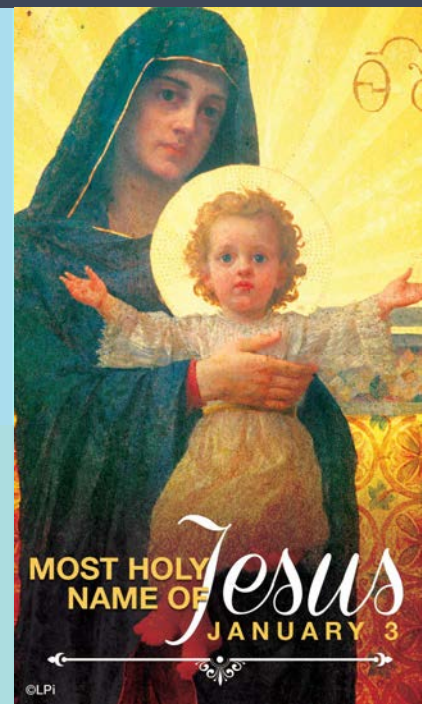
*(The Solemnity of Mary is not a Holy Day of Obligation  
this year, but all are encouraged to attend.)*



On Gaudete Sunday, St. Lucy Church was nearly filled to capacity with parishioners and friends eager for an afternoon of prayer and song. Our thanks to Gregory Norbet for providing us with a prayerful and peaceful musical experience of such high quality..

We are grateful to the Advent Concert Committee for all the hard work involved in planning and advertising, and to Fr. Lohan for his support. Thanks also to all who helped us financially as well as by their prayers.

Please watch the parish bulletin in the months ahead for more activities as we continue to celebrate 60 years as a faith community.



## COLLABORATIVE NEWS & EVENTS

Bless, Lord Jesus, the newly baptized;

**Millie McDermott DeCola**  
**Wesley Anthony Ward**



Immerse them in the waters of your life and love.  
Seal them with the oil of gladness and strength.  
Illuminate their path with the light of your hope.  
Clothe them with goodness, kindness, and  
compassion. May their celebration be just the  
beginning of a long and fruitful journey with you.  
Amen.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY "YES I CAN" PROGRAM

WE CAN USE... canned spaghetti, tomato sauce, and soups. **Donations can be dropped off anytime in the baskets located at the entrances to both churches.**



Please pray for **Patricia Fleming, Joseph Coco, and Stephen Bower** whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at our parishes. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

## LOOKING TO SERVE?

### Join our Hospitality Team!

Our team will assist with the planning, logistics and execution of ongoing events such as Alpha as well as special events for new parishioners.

As a member of the team, you will help develop a strategic plan for hospitality, as well as menus and decorating.



If interested, please call or email Karl Jackson at (978) 683 - 1193 ext. 35 or [faithformation.stlm@gmail.com](mailto:faithformation.stlm@gmail.com).

Thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas collection for our priests. If you did not have the opportunity to give but you'd like to make a gift, please visit [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org) or pick up an envelope in the back of the Church. You can also make a gift of \$25 by texting the word PRIEST25 to 20222 (msg. & data rates may apply.) To learn more about the Trust and stay up to date on what's going on with our priests, find us on Facebook @ClergyTrust. Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

### Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

**Snow Removal** - Methuen Area

Call Alex (Parishioner) - (978) 557 - 1029

Got questions about life?

### Join us for Alpha.



Alpha isn't a lecture, and it isn't a class. Alpha is a chance to talk about life, God and everything in between. You could be a life-long Catholic or know absolutely nothing about Christianity. Alpha is for everyone! Come see if it's for you. No commitment. No charge. No judgement. Bring a friend and join the conversation.

**Starting January 17 at 6:00 pm**  
**St. Lucy Church Hall**

**Let us know you're coming.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place in the Alpha R.S.V.P boxes located in the churches by **January 12.**

For more information, please contact  
**Karl Jackson at [faithformation.stlm@gmail.com](mailto:faithformation.stlm@gmail.com)**  
or (978) 683 - 1193 ext. 35



## COLLABORATIVE NEWS & EVENTS

### Readings for the Week of Dec. 31, 2017

**Sunday:** Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**Monday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42

**Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

**Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to be.  
What came to be through him was life,  
and this life was the light of the human race.

- Jn 1:2-4

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**Access Code  
for our parishes:**

9772VM

**Formed.org recommendations for the upcoming week:**

If you have any questions, contact: Bonnie Doherty,  
978-270-3366 or bonnieocds@gmail.com.

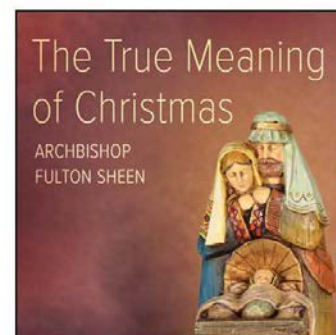
## The True Meaning of Christmas

*By Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*

### Experience the Wonder of Christmas

For decades, Archbishop Fulton Sheen has captivated Americans with his wit, insight, and deep faith. Beautifully remastered and mixed with beautiful seasonal music, reflect in this talk with Archbishop Sheen on the true meaning of the Incarnation of Jesus.

[Listen on formed.org](https://www.formed.org)



*"This is an absolute MUST for every year! Archbishop Sheen has a beautiful way of explaining the miracle of Christmas!"*

—Phyllis, Bangor, ME



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## ROSES FOR LIFE

Roses for Life have been donated  
In loving memory of

Michael and Linda Giarrusso  
Cecile and Peter Checovich  
Eugene Cusack



If you would like to honor a loved one and support our activities, for a donation of \$10, we'll purchase a rose and place it in the vase before the statue of the Blessed Mother for a week. Please contact the parish office at (978) 683-1193.

## OFFERTORY

**December 17, 2017:**

Regular Sunday Offering: \$11,924.00

Grand Annual: \$50,129.00 (total to date)

Because of the parish offices being closed on Christmas day, we will publish last weekend's collection totals in the next bulletin.

There is only one collection this weekend and next weekend, our regular Sunday offering. The collection on January 1<sup>st</sup> is for the Solemnity of Mary. Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.

### Join us for Tea and Treasure

Thursday, January 11 at 11:30 am in the St. Monica House. For questions, please call Millie Stumpo at (978) 686 - 0339



This Sunday, December 31, the Catholic Lending Library will be available for free lending of books/DVDs in the back of the church at the 9:30 Mass. Borrowed books/DVDs may be returned at that time or in the return box also located in the back of the church.



**Saturday, December 30**

**8:00 am** (*multiple intentions*)

Hamel Family

**4:00 pm**

Thomas and Velma Fortune

**Sunday, December 31**

**7:30 am**

Parishioners of St. Monica and St. Lucy Parishes

**9:30 am**

Robert Putnam

Nancy Tardif

John Hartnett

Richard Fairbanks

Angelina Lyon

Lillian Dion

Robert and Jeannette Sirois

Warren and Dorothy McGovern

Sr. Suzanne Fondini, mfc (**Living**)

Jules Deschamps

**11:30 am**

Joseph LaTorre

**5:30 pm**

Sr. Claire Torla, FSSJ

**Monday, January 1**

**7:00 am**

**Thursday, January 4**

**7:00 am**

Jesse Murray

**Friday, January 5**

**8:15 am**

Robert Zucchi

**Saturday, January 6**

**8:00 am** (*multiple intentions*)

Carol Maggio

**4:00 pm**

Kate Bachand

**Sunday, January 7**

**7:30 am**

Andrew Szablowsky

**9:30 am**

Doreen M. Malek

Charlie Hanafin

Rose Hanafin

(**Living**)

Irene, Blanche, & Eustache Sirois

Violet Sayer

Yvonne Soucy

**11:30 am**

In thanksgiving to St. Jude

**5:30 pm**



# **Mass** INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 30**

**4:00 pm** Sarah and Sam Privitera

**Sunday, December 31**

**8:00 am** Parishioners of St. Lucy and  
St. Monica Parishes

**9:30 am** Elaine Parrino

**11:30 am** Rev. Charles J. Sguelia  
Antonio and Philomena Sguelia  
Antonio and Milly Ferraro  
Tony Waters, Mary Rita Costa,  
Tony Somma, and James Waters  
Carmen Thomas Reitano  
Anthony Mercuri  
Timothy Gerard McCarthy  
Craig McKenzie

**Monday, January 1**

**8:00 am** For the parishioners of St. Lucy  
and St. Monica Parishes

**Tuesday, January 2**

**8:00 am** Peter Maciariello

**Wednesday, January 3**

**8:00 am** Francine Costa Pickles

**Saturday, January 6**

**4:00 pm** Perry, Clara, Steven, and  
Beverly Autiello

**Sunday, January 7**

**8:00 am** Parishioners of St. Lucy and  
St. Monica Parishes

**9:30 am** John Leclerc and Fred Simone

**11:30 am** Evelyn Mallica  
John Piazza  
Paul Burke  
Helen Fredette (Living)  
Al Duval  
Joseph and Virginia Hajjar

## **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY**

**Are you considering joining our Sodality?**

Please come to  
our **January 21<sup>st</sup>**  
meeting after the  
9:30 mass and the  
praying of the  
Rosary. Our plans  
for 2018 will be  
planned.

You are always  
welcome!



**We are a Sodality dedicated to the  
Blessed Mother in service to our parish  
and our community.**

## **OFFERTORY**

**December 17, 2017:**

Regular Sunday Offering: \$8,484.00

Grand Annual: \$42,089.00 (total to date)

Because of the parish offices being closed on  
Christmas day, we will publish last weekend's  
collection totals in the next bulletin.

There is only one collection this weekend and next  
weekend, our regular Sunday offering. The  
collection on January 1<sup>st</sup> is for the Solemnity of  
Mary. Thank you for your generous contribution  
to the mission of our parish.



## Sharing the Gospel

Mary and Joseph went to the temple and presented the baby Jesus to God. Two older people recognized that Jesus was the Messiah. They gave him special blessings. They thanked God for this child. Just like Mary and Joseph, your parents gave thanks to God when you were born. They were very happy God gave you to them. They had you baptized in church, and presented you as a gift to God, too.

## Prayer

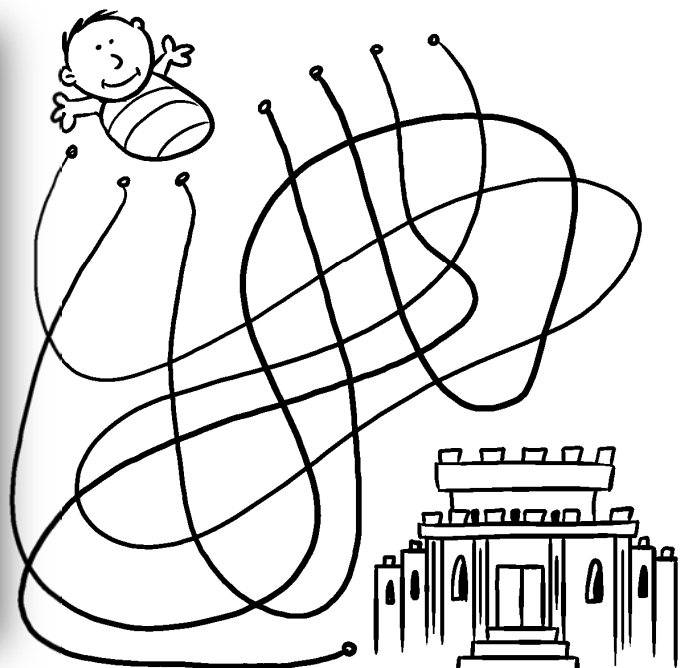
Lord, thank you for bringing  
the baby Jesus into my life.

## Mission for the Week

I will offer everything I do for you, Lord, Jesus Christ.



Find the path to bring Jesus to the temple.





Therefore, if anyone is in  
Christ, he is a new  
creation. The old has  
passed away; behold, the  
new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)



May God's peace be upon  
you and remain with you  
throughout the year.

©LPI

We are accepting applications for the 2018/2019 school year.

St. Monica School welcomes students from Preschool (3 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>) through Grade 8.

Application forms are online at [www.methuencatholic.org](http://www.methuencatholic.org) under the school link.

Preschool applications are under the Preschool tab and Grades K-8 applications are under the Admissions tab. You may call Sharon Tully at 978-686-1801 at any time for information or to book a tour with our Student Ambassadors.

You may also attend our Open House on January 30 from 9-11AM and 6-8PM. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Mission Statement** - Saint Monica School is a distinctively Catholic School, a faith community of the Catholic Church. Our mission is that of the Church; to spread the Gospel and prepare students for their state in life. In our striving for academic excellence, we keep in focus that this is a Catholic School where religious and moral formation are the first in the hierarchy of values. In fostering leadership in our students, we prepare them to take their place in the Church and Society as leaders who will be prepared to serve all with respect, dignity, and justice.







## Meet Father Cusack — *Embracing his vocation, embracing God's people*

Father Anthony Cusack grappled with his vocation as a young man. After hearing God's call to the priesthood, he embraced a life of service to every person placed before him in ministry.

Recognizing the growing needs of ethnic communities, Father Anthony broadened his pastoral skills by learning to celebrate Mass in both Spanish and Vietnamese. This enabled him to accept his first assignment at St. Ambrose and St. Mark Parishes in 2015.

Today, Father Anthony ministers in the heart of Dorchester. He engages the community in three very different languages. When summarizing his responsibilities, he describes personifying Christ: "The duty of the priest is, I think, to be Jesus to every single person he meets."

To help ensure priests like Father Anthony receive essential care as they live out their vocation, please support the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust through the special collection this Christmas.



**Clergy Health and Retirement Trust**  
*Caring for the Well-being of our Priests*

**To submit your special intentions for our senior priests at Regina Cleri to remember during Holy Mass each week, please visit [clergytrust.org/intentions](http://clergytrust.org/intentions).**

— **WAYS TO GIVE** —  
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Artist's rendering

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