

MARCH 22, 2020

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35

ST. MONICA PARISH

212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA

ST. LUCY PARISH

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA

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

All Masses will be replaced with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Exposition in place of Sunday Masses will take place in the main churches.
The same is the case for daily Mass at St. Lucy. Daily Mass at St. Monica's
is replaced by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Gethsemane
Chapel. St. Lucy Church and Gethsemane Chapel are open all day.



As a people, community, and as a nation we are being forced into a stance of social distancing to ward off a potential health disaster. Even as we embrace a methodology of physical isolation, we must reject any stance of alienation and individualism. Our motivation cannot be fear and self-preservation, but a sense of solidarity and connectedness. What is being asked of us is for the common good, to protect the most defenseless among us.

In some ways the present, surrealistic atmosphere is similar to what we experienced after the attack of September 11. We were shaken from our complacency and confronted with the reality that changed our lives overnight. Likewise, today we see the real risk to countless numbers of elderly and infirm persons, to healthcare workers, indeed to our hospital system, and even the economic well-being of millions of people whose lives have been upended by the necessary closings and precautions.

Just as after 9/11 we need to come together as a people with a profound sense of solidarity and community, realizing that so many people are suffering and fearful. We need to take care of each other, especially by reaching out to the elderly and the most vulnerable.

Although we cannot celebrate public masses at this time because we wish to follow the directives of the government, I want to assure all of you that we, your priests, are offering mass each day for all of you. You are all spiritually united in these masses where we pray for the

living and the dead. Our priests in the parishes are there and can be contacted. We are trying to use social media and Internet streaming as a means of sharing communications. *[Note: the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been dispensed.]*

I am grateful to all of our priests and parish staffs and the 3000 Catholic school teachers and administrators who are all working diligently to be able to serve our people in these challenging circumstances. Please remember that your parish communities depend on the offertory collections and will need your support going forward to carry on their crucial work.

Let me share with you an account I read many years ago that made quite an impression on me. A group of rowdy university students on the train in France spotted an old man sitting alone praying his rosary. The students who prided themselves on their sophistication and scientific outlook began to mock the old man who seemed unperturbed by their hazing. Suddenly a passenger jumped to his feet and rebuked the students: "Stop bothering Dr. Pasteur!" The students were shocked and embarrassed. That old man praying the rosary was Louis Pasteur, a national hero, a rock star, whose research and inventions have saved millions of lives. Pasteur discovered the principles of vaccination and pasteurization. Arguably, he did more than any other person in the history of medicine by his remarkable breakthroughs in understanding the causes and prevention of diseases.

I share this story to preface my request to pray the rosary each day. Many of us remember growing up praying the rosary every evening as a family. In the history of our people, during the wars, famines, plagues, and persecution, the rosary has been the powerful prayer of the Catholic people as we see in the example of the eminent scientist Louis Pasteur. Even if we cannot go to mass, the rosary is always accessible to us. It is a prayer that puts us in touch with God as we reflect on the mysteries of the life of Christ and the Blessed Virgin. It is a prayer that can be prayed by the simplest present and the smartest scientist.

St. Ignatius of Loyola once said that we must work as if everything depended upon us, and pray as if everything depended upon God. It is indeed encouraging to see how many people are visiting our churches for personal prayer and adoration during this time of enforced social distancing. May this strange Lent that we are living, help us to overcome the physical distance by growing closer to God and by strengthening our sense of solidarity and community with each other.

With the assurance of my continued prayers,

Cardinal Seán



In this unprecedented time the doors of St. Monica and St. Lucy Parishes **remain open** for us to be in the Presence of our Eucharistic Lord! Though our regular public worship schedule is temporarily on hold, know that the priests still celebrate Mass in private for those intentions already received and for further intentions for all of us in the current time. Additionally, everybody involved in prayer ministry--priests, deacons, and apostolates of lay faithful-- is praying even more intently for this current crisis to pass safely and our lives to return to normal.

How are we responding to the suspension of publicly scheduled religious events? By serving the Lord and making Him accessible for private visits. First: our usual Mass schedule is replaced with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. On Sundays, the Eucharist will be consistently exposed in the main church at St. Lucy from 9:00am through 12:00pm and at St. Monica from 7:30am through 12:30pm. The same is the case during Daily Mass times: Monday-Wednesday, 8:00am, St. Lucy; Thursday-Friday, 8:15 / Saturday 8:00am, St. Monica. The only difference being that at St. Monica, the weekday Exposition will occur in Gethsemane Chapel. Please keep in mind that we will be in a spirit of quiet prayer and practicing what has been termed "social distancing." Similarly, the Lenten program, as you would expect, is suspended: Wednesday evening Light Is On confessions, Stations of the Cross, and the multiple Penance Services

are all cancelled. However, the typical weekly times for Confession and Adoration that we use throughout the year remain unchanged.

The announcement of the name "Gethsemane Chapel" brings us to a second point. We continue to work as a staff and parish community on ongoing projects. As you remember, we selected the name of the Adoration Chapel by a vote of the entire community a couple of weeks ago. The big rollout of the name and plans for the Chapel dedication have been put on hold, though that will eventually happen; but we are moving forward with calling it Gethsemane Chapel no differently as if we had a public ceremony. The same is true for using this time to improve many aspects of parish life: from outreach efforts, to faith formation, to just plain cleaning out the basements--we are not idle as your staff!

Which brings up one final point. What is essentially a ban on social interaction has financial effects on businesses, the community, and all of us as individuals. Those of you with a fixed or reduced income must do what you can the next few weeks to weather this hardship. Know of our prayers that you will be "free from every evil and safe from all distress!" Of course, this no less applies to the Church. Just one week of missed offertory creates an incredible hardship on our Parishes. If at all possible, please continue your

regular offertory donations. We will not be having a collection system setup in the churches, but you can bring or mail your weekly envelopes to the Parish Office at 254 Merrimack St. Methuen, MA, 01844. More importantly, I ask you to please consider enrolling in Online Giving at this time. You may register at www.methuencatholic.org/onlinegiving. Online Giving provides a convenient, secure, and confidential way to consistently donate to the parishes while also ensuring their financial stability. Please call the office at 978-683-1193 if you have any questions.

My hope and prayer is that when things return to "normal," we will, in fact, have become more faithful. As the Cardinal has said: "May our prayers in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament be a source of strength and peace for all Catholics and for anyone who wishes to join us. Let us call upon the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, as we confidently pray for the time when we will resume the celebration of the Eucharist throughout the Archdiocese of Boston."

Yours in Christ,
Fr. C.



GETHSEMANE CHAPEL

The new name of our Eucharistic Chapel located at St. Monica's is **Gethsemane Chapel**.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



Joseph of Nazareth

As Joseph is informed by God's messengers about trusting and following his plan, this film presents beautiful vignettes of these and other powerful scenes in the life of Christ and the Holy Family that are authentic and inspiring.

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We encourage you to extend an invitation to family and friends. **After you register, please email Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com.** If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie at (978) 270 - 3366 or at the email above.

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

Eucharistic Adoration

7:30 am - 12:30 pm St. Monica Church
9:00 - 12:00 pm St. Lucy Church

MONDAYS - WEDNESDAYS

Eucharistic Adoration 8 - 9 am St. Lucy Church

THURSDAYS

Eucharistic Adoration

8:15 - 9:15 am Gethsemane Chapel
Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, & Evening Prayer 6:30 - 7:30 pm St. Lucy Church

FRIDAYS

Eucharistic Adoration

8:15 am - 5:30 pm Gethsemane Chapel
Confessions 4:30 - 5:30 pm Gethsemane Chapel

SATURDAYS

Eucharistic Adoration

8:00 - 9:00 am Gethsemane Chapel
Confessions 3:00 - 3:45 pm
Gethsemane Chapel & St. Lucy Church
Eucharistic Adoration 4:00 - 5:00 pm
St. Monica Church and St. Lucy Church

The Light is On For You Confessions is suspended until further notice.

What is Laetare Sunday? The fourth Sunday of Lent

ALSO KNOWN AS:
Mothering Sunday,
Refreshment Sunday,
Mid-Lent Sunday,
Mi-Carême,
Mediana or
Rose Sunday

Laetare means to rejoice

The day takes its name from the opening words of today's Mass:
"Laetare, Jerusalem"
"Rejoice, O Jerusalem"
Entrance Antiphon: Isaiah 66:10-11



What's different?

- Priests may wear rose vestments at Mass
- Flowers may adorn the Altar
- The organ may be played

Why celebrate it?

Laetare Sunday provides us **encouragement** as we progress toward the end of Lent. Today is a small break from the penitential season that reminds us of the joy and hope ahead at Easter.

ST. MONICA PARISH

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

8:00 am Cheryl Laird
Joseph O'Neil

4:00 pm Michael and Laura Cote

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

7:30 am Ida and Andrew Piazza

9:30 am Deceased members of the
Chouinard Family

11:30 am Timothy Jackson

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

8:15 am Carol J. Coletta

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

8:15 am Sally and Leonard McCafferty

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

8:00 am Joseph O'Neil

4:00 pm People of St. Monica and St. Lucy Parishes

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

7:30 am

9:30 am Nancy Tardif
Deceased members of the
Chouinard Family
Leo Croteau

11:30 am Maurice, Helen, and Maurice Jr. Lariviere

ST. LUCY PARISH

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

4:00 pm Deceased members of the Cafiso, Grelle,
and Maggio Families

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:00 am People of St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes

11:00 am Gerardo and Mattia D'Andrea
Vincent Minicucci
Charles McRobbie Jr.
Annie Loughlin

MONDAY, MARCH 23

8:00 am Manny Gianni and Christine Gianni Eldridge

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

8:00 am Real Taschereau

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

8:00 am The Holy Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

4:00 pm Michelangelo Iuvara and
Salvatore, Maria and Silvana Campailla

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

9:00 am Angela Iannuccilli

11:00 am Walter Charles
Pasquale Petralia
Marie Hajjar
Salvatore, Rose, and Lucy Sapuppo
Jocelyne Scrofano
Catherine Byron

THESE INTENTIONS WILL BE OFFERED AT THE PRIVATE MASSES SAID BY OUR PRIESTS. THESE MASS TIMES ARE NOT AVAILABLE PUBLICLY.

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of March 22

- Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- Monday:** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53
- Next Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

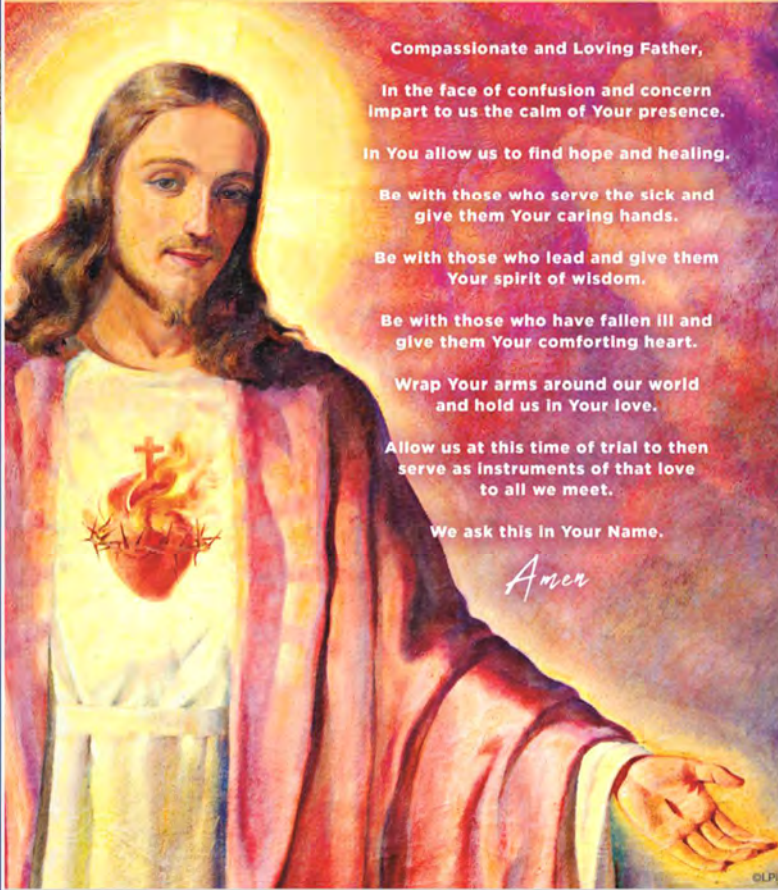
Observances for the week of March 22

- Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent
- Monday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
- Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord
- Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent

Magnificat is offering free digital subscriptions to all during this challenging time. Check out us.magnificat.net/free to sign up.

Remember in Your Prayers

ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



Compassionate and Loving Father,

In the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of Your presence.

In You allow us to find hope and healing.

Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands.

Be with those who lead and give them Your spirit of wisdom.

Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart.

Wrap Your arms around our world and hold us in Your love.

Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet.

We ask this In Your Name.

Amen

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IN LOVING MEMORY

Roses for Life for this week
Theresa A. Rickley

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **Louise Salmi, Patricia Perry, Ann Marie Gallant, Rocco Zambino, and Fr. George Berthold** whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at our parishes. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

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

Date	Priest	Seminarian
3/22/20	Fr. John Graham	Jose Ignacio Montero
3/23/20	Fr. Martin Connor	Diego Valdez
3/24/20	Fr. Thomas Keyes	Vincenzo Caruso
3/25/20	Pope Francis	Rev. Mr. Denis Nakkeeran
3/26/20	Fr. Stephen Rock	Rev. Mr. Fernando Vivas
3/27/20	Fr. William Salmon	Rev. Mr. Joseph Hubbard
3/28/20	Fr. John Rowan	Rev. Mr. Matthew Norwood

JESUS SAID, "DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED. YOU HAVE FAITH IN GOD; HAVE FAITH ALSO IN ME."
JOHN 14:1



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St. Monica School Administrative Assistant
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BAPTISMS Please call the parish office. St. Monica: 2nd Sun. of the month @ 1pm | St. Lucy: 3rd Sun. of the Month @ 1pm

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

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