

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

Father John A. Cassani ext. 993

Parochial Vicar

Father Joseph Thomas, BSO (978) 319-7873

Weekend Assistant

Father Herb Jones, O. Carm ext. 111

In Residence

Deacon John Pierce ext. 39

Permanent Deacon dnjbpierce@gmail.com

Deacon John Kobrenski ext. 39

Permanent Deacon

Sr. Rina Brunetti, pm ext. 34

Pastoral Associate in the Care of the Sick

Kera Mansour ext. 26

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Carolyn Leocata ext. 28

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Sharon Waning

Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy

Kevin Fitzgerald

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



Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/methuencatholic/

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, mfic

School Principal

Sharon Tully

Administrative Assistant

PARISH SERVICES

Prayer Line (978) 683-1193 ext. 41

St. Vincent de Paul (978) 686-9573

at St. Monica's Parish

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

Civic Holiday Schedule:

Normal Schedule at both Parishes

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

BAPTISMS. Please call the parish office.

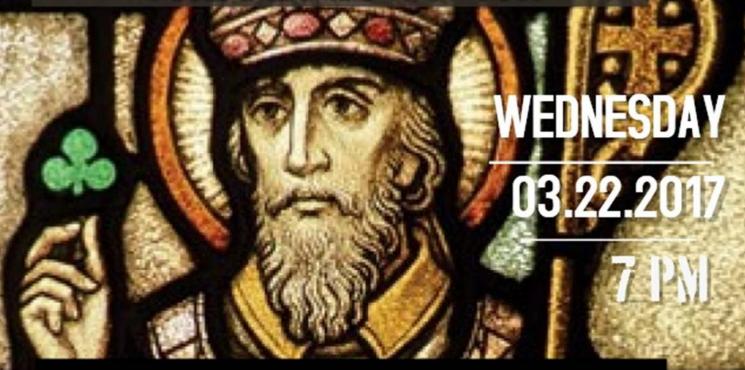
St. Monica's Parish: 1st full weekend of the month

Saturday 12:30 pm/Sunday 1:00pm

St. Lucy Parish: 3rd Saturday of the Month 12:30pm







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ST. LUCY AND ST. MONICA ADORATION



Eucharistic Adoration takes place at St. Lucy's Church and St. Monica's Chapel. Please contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com or 978-270-3366 for more information about adoration at St. Monica's and the parish

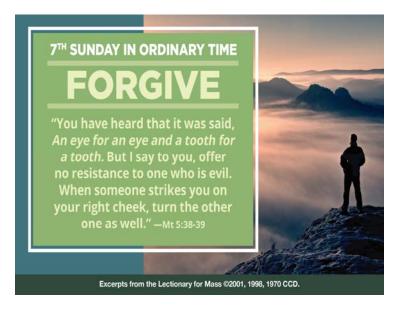
office for information about adoration at St. Lucy's.

Tuesdays (St. Lucy) 1:30-4:30pm *Fridays (St. Monica) 7:30am-7:30pm

*PLEASE NOTE! St. Monica - Late start at 9:30am on April 7, and May 5. REMEMBER: If school is cancelled due to weather, adoration is cancelled. There will not be Adoration or Confession on Good Friday, April 14.

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

<u>Snow Storms</u> - Please remember that on weekdays there is no Mass on days when school is cancelled or if there is a delay. On days when Mass and school are cancelled the Parish offices will also be closed. On days school is not scheduled, we will not have Mass if the forecast is for 3 or more inches of snow in the hours leading up to the Mass. Masses for Sunday are nearly always held and are cancelled only if there is a major state of emergency.





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.

The second collection this weekend supports the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe. These collections help the Church spread God's word and train Church leaders of tomorrow, help needy families materially and spiritually, rebuild churches that have fallen into disrepair, and support the sisters and brothers who have suffered for the faith. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/central-and-eastern-europe/collection/index.cfm

There is only one collection next weekend, our regular Sunday offering.

Attention Women of St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes - Save The Date!!!!!! Saturday, April 8, 2017

Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality Morning Of Reflection

A great way to begin Holy Week! Watch the bulletin! More details to follow!

St. Monica School And The Blessed Virgin Sodality What A Great Relationship!

Recently Angie Rizzo, Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality President at St. Lucy Parish, and Elaine Frangente, Blanket and Sock Drive Co- Chairman, visited St. Monica School to present \$50 to the classroom in each of three grade groupings that brought in the most blankets and socks. The money was to be used for something "fun" for the class. The winning class in each grouping is the following:

Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2....Grade 2
(teacher - Mrs. Michaud)
Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5....Grade 3
(teacher - Mrs. Law)
Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8....Grade 8
(teacher - Mrs. Bistany)
A \$50 gift was also presented to Mrs. Sylvia and the NEW Pre-K class.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS! A JOB WELL DONE BY ALL STUDENTS!

The Spiritual Trip of a Lifetime - **Medjugorje** September 5th to the 13th, 2017 9 days, 7 nights, 2 meals per day

- Stay at beautiful Wojtyla Hotel dedicated to Pope John Paul II and next to St. James Church in the heart of Medjugorje
- Visit St. Anthony's Shrine and Divine Mercy Shrine
- Answer Our Lady's call "Come to me in Medjugorje"

To register, please call group leader Claude Langlois (978) 682 - 6012. Total cost: \$2,210 per person

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK Auto Care

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Miscellaneous Information

RIVIER RETREAT - A Journey in Prayer
A directed prayer experience entitled RIVIER
RETREAT is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St.
Ignatius in the spirit of Blessed Ann Marie Rivier.
The 10-week retreat will begin on WEDNESDAY,
March 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Ste Claire
Residence on 209 Lawrence Street Methuen, MA.
To register, or for more information call Sister Nora
at (978) 685 - 2852, Janice Muise at (978) 738 9991 or Sharon Walsh at (603) 382 - 3413

The Grief Journey Presented by Beacon Hospice

Come and explore the feelings and issues connected with grief and loss of a loved one.

<u>Dates:</u> March 2, 2017 to April 6, 2017

Time: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Location: St. Augustine's Parish

43 Essex St., Andover, MA

Registration required. Please call Lu Bonanno at (978) 837 - 3333. Group is offered as a free service to the community

2017 Merrimack Valley Catholic Youth Conference

Saturday March 18, 2017 11:30am-7:00pm @ Central Catholic H.S., Lawrence, MA
The 2nd Annual MVCYC promises to be a dynamic encounter of Christ and His Church, shared with hundreds of young area Christians (grades 8-12). \$20 Per Teen/\$1 Adult. Keynote Presentation by Catholic recording artist Liz Cotrupi. Also Featuring: Live music, engaging workshops, Eucharistic Adoration, food, fun, & games, & 5:30pm Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Hennessey. To register... Check out the link on our Merrimack Valley Catholic Youth Conference Facebook Page: @Mvcyc



Saturday, February 18

8:00 am (multiple intentions)

Myrna G. Nolan

4:00 pm Thomas & Dorothy Bresnahan

Sunday, February 19

7:30 am Nellie & John Higgins

9:30 am (multiple intentions)

Yvette Moran & Don Lavigne

Claire Kammerdiener

Karen Sullivan

11:30 am Antoinette & Nemetallah Khalife

5:30 pm People of St. Monica & St. Lucy

Thursday, February 23

7:00 am Vincenzo Lazzara

Friday, February 24

7:00 am Stephen Bellingreri

Saturday, February 25

8:00 am (multiple intentions)

In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony

Robert Caulk

4:00 pm Armand J. Deshaies

Sunday, February 26

7:30 am Violet Sayer 9:30 am (multiple intentions)

Louise Anne Roy

Kirk Walsh Jeanne Brown

Rose Kay

11:30 am Donna St. Pierre

5:30 pm Donald M. Cronin

St. Vincent de Paul Society "YES I CAN" Program

WE CAN USE..... canned tuna, baked beans, tomato sauce, cereal, rice, pancake mix, pancake syrup, canned fruit, canned pasta, and strawberry jam.

Please pray for John Thomas Borrelli, Lawrence Viens, Joseph Cain, and John Jordan whose Funeral Masses where recently celebrated at our Parish. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

STEWARDSHIP

February 12, 2017

Offertory: \$7,643.00

Grand Annual: \$55,275.00 (total to date)

Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.



Roses for Life have been donated in loving memory of

MICHAEL & LINDA GIARRUSSO CECILE & PETER CHECOVICH

If you would like to honor a loved one and support our activities in support of life, 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.

Prayer for the Newly Baptized

Bless, Lord Jesus, the newly baptized;

Mila Marie Lagace

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

St. Monica 100th Anniversary Dinner Dance - at Lenzi's restaurant in Dracut on Saturday, October 28, 2017. For tickets please call Jane & Bill Shawcross at 978-794-8681 or 978-273-8830. Tickets are \$50.00 each



Saturday, February 18

4:00 pm Giuseppe Sangiorgio

Sunday, February 19

8:00 am Helen A. Piskadlo

9:30 am Deceased Members of the Sodality

11:30 am (multiple intentions)

Gerard Dubois Douglas Knapp

Monday, February 20

8:00 am Fr. William Lohan (Living)

Tuesday, February 21

8:00 am Therese Rousseau

Wednesday, February 22

8:00am William & Margaret Collins

Saturday, February 25

4:00 pm Dominick "Rex" Campone,

Tommy Campone, & George DiRuzza

Sunday, February 26

8:00 am Parishioners of St. Lucy &

St. Monica Parishes

9:30 am Rose Hadley
11:30 am (multiple intentions)

Shirley Murphy Roland Chretien Jr.

Luisa Victorino (Living)

STEWARDSHIP

February 12, 2017

Offertory: \$4,813.00

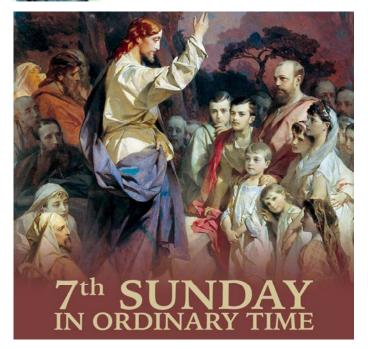
Grand Annual: \$45,335.00 (total to date)

Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.

Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality



The Valentine Jackpot Raffle will be drawn this weekend on Sunday in the St. Lucy's Hall at 11:00 AM. We will have our meeting after the drawing.



"Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow." At first glance, we might think this instruction refers only to money or possessions. Jesus would surely want us to be generous with our finances, and in the spirit of today's Gospel, to give without seeking to receive. However, the principle also applies to our time and our talents. Most likely, some of the people God has placed in our lives are "asking" for our time: children in need of care; elderly parents; neighbors or friends experiencing sickness, etcetera. Often, the needs of others do not coincide perfectly with our own plans. Rather, serving our families and communities frequently requires a change in our normal program of life. When such interruptions occur, do we share our time and attention freely, handing over our "cloak" as well without a grumble or a grudge?

And what about the use of our God-given talents? We have all been blessed in different ways with gifts that can strengthen our communities. When our abilities could be useful to others, are we willing to share them without seeking recompense? Gifts of organization or artistry, culinary or mechanical skills, musical or ministerial talents...what we have received can be a blessing to those in our parish, our workplace, our neighborhood, and our family. Rather than being stingy with the treasures God has given us, may we be willing to follow the Lord's command to go the extra mile.

It is so important for all of us to take care of ourselves in every way. As we care for our bodies, we need to strive for proper diet and exercise. Reading is just as essential if we are to nurture the intellect. Prayer is essential for the health of the soul, and for a person to truly enjoy good health, they must enjoy health of body, mind, and, most importantly, soul.

St. Francis de Sales tells us that the sort of prayer life we should have depends very much on our station in life. The one who needs to work multiple jobs in order to support their family would be remiss to pray for two or three hours a day. The college student who needs energy to study should never undertake a rigorous fast. By the same token, the monk who rushes through his prayers so he can do other things is not following God's will.

Everyone needs to pray. For some, it may only be for a few minutes a day, but those few minutes may be what allows someone to start hearing God's voice. Others need more. It is important that all of us set aside time each day to converse with God.

Priests like me cannot pray as though we were monks, but we also must never think that our work, or anything else can substitute for significant time in daily prayer. Cardinal O'Malley expects that his priests should pray for about two hours each day, including the celebration of Holy Mass. We also pray the Divine Office each day, which perhaps many of you pray in whole or in part (it is available these days through many phone apps). We also take time for devotions, such as praying the rosary, and adoring the Blessed Sacrament. All of this takes time, but makes it possible to do all that we

do. We are also required to make a yearly retreat, of at least five days. This is certainly a luxury that many are not able to partake of, but it is so necessary for us, if we wish to bring Christ to God's people. I have been on retreat for the past week, so I missed some of the snow! I assure you that I prayed for all of you during this past week.

God bless,

Fr. Cassani

Today Jesus continues the powerful teaching of his Sermon on the Mount. Typical of this famous sermon, here he urges us to see things in a new way, specifically regarding situations and people who bother us. First, he tells us not to seek revenge. Instead, we are to demonstrate incredible generosity. Then, he instructs us to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

These instructions don't come naturally to most of us. We are much more inclined to want to get even with those who cause us to suffer, and to wish ill for those who have hurt us. But Jesus proposes another way.

In truth, what good does it do to seek revenge or foster hate? It only continues the cycle of evil. Jesus encourages behavior that will stop the cycle short. He gives us a model that--although it may not change the heart of our "enemies"--will nonetheless change OUR hearts for the better. When pressed into service for one mile, if we voluntarily go two, then WE are the ones whose attitude and experience is certain to change. Instead of spending the length of that one mile cursing and complaining, we spend the length of two enjoying a surprising kind of freedom: "I chose to do this," instead of "I am being forced to do this."

When we practice the generosity of giving more than we are asked, and the charity of praying for those who persecute us, we will find ourselves in a position to transcend the trouble. It sets us free to not be mastered by the evil around us. Thus, we are able to help end the cycle of evil and begin a new cycle of love and peace.

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