

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT



## 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** 9 am St. Lucy **THURS/FRI** 9 am St. Monica  
**WEEKEND** **SAT** 4 pm (Vigil) both parishes **SUN** 9 and 11 am St. Monica, 10 am St. Lucy



## Adding Some Blue

As we all know, the Liturgical color for Advent is violet, same as during Lent. The two seasons even share the use of rose colored vestments for one Sunday to anticipate the great Solemnity for which we are preparing. Somewhere in the recent past, people started suggesting that the color for Advent should be blue, to distinguish its focus from the penitential one that shapes Lent. The Church never bought it: Advent is meant to have a penitential dimension, just maybe not as strong as Lent: one that is “watchful” and “prepares the way of the Lord.”

This is a good year to add a little bit of deliberate penance into Advent as a prayer to ask the Lord for justice, peace, and security for our nation and the world at his Coming. Maybe a little fasting and abstinence from meat on Friday or added prayer for then next month. If the run up to Christmas this year, as with everything in 2020, is more muted, then let’s consciously turn that into *anticipating* Christmas rather than the typical early social and work parties in years past.

But we definitely need to add some deep blue--like the color of the sky before sunrise --to this year’s Advent. We must mark this season for what it is, the Coming of Christ in a world greatly in need of His presence. Strive to do something with the family in the outside world that evokes Christ. There are some great Catholic destinations, such as LaSalette Shrine in

Attleboro, that will help focus one’s heart to the Lord. Listen to Christmas music on the radio. Even as crass as it may sound, where this year in particular the temptation to shop online will be greater than usual, go retail. The stores won’t be overly crowded and maybe some places will have a joyful atmosphere.

Two Liturgical events that we are going to try to pull off are the St. Lucy Patronal Mass on Sunday, Dec. 13th and, hopefully, Lessons and Carols the following week. We won’t be able to have a festive gathering afterward, but perhaps we can imbed in the event itself the joy we always hope to embrace at Christmas. Let’s be watchful and prayerful, more so this year, and not let Advent slip by without preparing a home for the Lord in our hearts.



No matter how slowly we always keep moving forward. Please note our new permanent sign for the Gethsemane Chapel. And soon, we will begin renovations on our candle shrine at St. Lucy’s!

## Propagation of the Faith

Thanks to our parishioners' generosity, we were able to make a substantial donation to the Missionary Cooperative Plan of 2020 and the Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda. Even in these difficult times the light of your good works continues to shine in the Archdiocese and the world. God bless.



## Project Bethlehem

This year because of COVID-19 we will be collecting gift cards

for the Lazarus House. These cards will be distributed to needy families throughout the Merrimack Valley.

The suggestions for these are as follows: Market Basket, Stop & Shop, Walmart, Target, Amazon, or Visa gift cards.

A box will be located inside the front door of St. Lucy Church (foyer area) where you can place your donation.

Please adhere to the following hours that the doors will be open.

Weekdays - 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Saturday - 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 9:00-11:00a.m.

The program will run from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Realizing these are difficult times for all of us, whatever you can do to brighten another family's holiday will be greatly appreciated.

Any questions, please call Annette Autiello at 508-783-1544.



## RCIA Program

Are you interested in taking steps to enter the Catholic Church or complete your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist)? If so, please contact Bonnie at 978-609-7307 for more information.



## The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

### Thanksgiving and Christmas Programs

Recognizing the challenges our parish community continues

to face in 2020, and the anticipated surge in the COVID virus, we have had to modify our 2020 Thanksgiving and Christmas programs to ensure the safety of our parishioners and the families we serve.

For Thanksgiving this year, your ongoing generosity has made it possible for us to provide each of our families with a grocery store gift card and bag of holiday related food items.

In place of an Advent Tree with tags and gift requests, we are going to offer Target or Wal-Mart gift cards to the children we serve in our ministry. If you would like to participate in our Nativity Program for 2020, we will have designated boxes as you enter the church each week where you can leave a gift card in any denomination you choose. You may also mail gift cards directly to the Parish Office, SVDP Nativity Program, 254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844.

We plan to provide our families with a supermarket gift card to help with their Christmas meal.

As always, thank you for your generosity and support of our programs. The families we serve truly appreciate the assistance your donations provide. God bless you.



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**ST. MONICA PARISH**

**Saturday, November 28**

4:00pm - Mark McComiskey, Jr. & Michael Cestrone

**Sunday, November 29**

9:00am - *Multiple Intentions*  
 Chouinard Family  
 Nancy Tardif  
 Anthony Longo  
 Longo and Rotondo Families  
 Fred J. Rapisardi  
 George LaFland  
 11:00am - Joseph Moreau

**Thursday, December 3**

9:00am - Christine Ferguson

**Friday, December 4**

9:00am - *Living Intentions:*  
 Members of Chouinard Family  
 Sarah Wilkens

**Saturday, December 5**

9:00am - First Saturday Mass of Reparation

**ST. LUCY PARISH**

**Saturday, November 28**

4:00pm - Patrick Grelle

**Sunday, November 29**

10:00am - *Multiple Intentions*  
 Maria L. DiFruscia  
 Anthony Longo  
 Sharon Forgetta  
 Joseph Lambert  
 Linda Ciambella  
 Amanda DaSilva

**Monday, November 30**

9:00am - Warren Finnis

**Tuesday, December 1**

9:00am - Lloyd Wajda

**CHRISTMAS AT ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY**

**ST. MONICA CHURCH**

*Thursday, December 24th*

4:00pm Mass  
 6:00pm Mass  
 8:00pm Mass

*Friday, December 25th*

10:00am Mass

**ST. LUCY CHURCH**

*Thursday, December 24th*

3:00pm Mass  
 5:00pm Mass  
 7:00pm Mass

*Friday, December 25th*

9:00am Mass



We request that parishioners and visitors register for Mass no later than December 15th. You can register two ways: (a) by going to our website [methuencatholic.org](http://methuencatholic.org) or (b) calling the office at (978) 683-1193.

**All Masses will be celebrated in the main churches of each parish.**



**SATURDAYS**

**CONFESSIONS** 3:00 - 3:45 PM  
 ST. MONICA CHURCH & ST. LUCY CHURCH  
**VIGIL MASS** 4:00 - 5:00 PM  
 ST. MONICA CHURCH & ST. LUCY CHURCH

**SUNDAYS**

**SUNDAY MASS**  
 9:00 & 11:00 AM ST. MONICA CHURCH  
 10:00 AM ST. LUCY CHURCH

**MONDAY/TUESDAY**

**DAILY MASS**  
 9:00 AM ST. LUCY CHURCH

**THURSDAY/FRIDAY**

**DAILY MASS**  
 9:00 AM ST. MONICA CHURCH

**FRIDAY**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
 12:00 - 3:00 PM GETHSEMANE CHAPEL  
**CONFESSIONS** 2:00 - 3:00 PM  
 GETHSEMANE CHAPEL



## Prayer Group

Every Wednesday at 10:00 am on Zoom. Contact Bonnie Doherty for the link to join.  
bonnieocds@gmail.com



**Online Giving** To sign up, please visit  
[methuencatholic.org/onlinegiving](http://methuencatholic.org/onlinegiving)

## Readings for this week

*Sunday:* Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37  
*Monday:* Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22  
*Tuesday:* Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24  
*Wednesday:* Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37  
*Thursday:* Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
*Friday:* Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31  
*Saturday:* Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8  
*Next Sunday:* Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

**BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**  
**St. Mary-Immaculate Conception Cemeteries and Chapel Mausoleum (978) 682 - 8181**

## PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **Julie M., Eric H., Pat, Dick Lynch, Joyce C., Joseph V. for healing of his eyes, Justice C., and Tom C.**

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!

Date	Priest	Seminarian
11/29/2020	Fr. Joseph Baggetta	Paolo Strudthoff
11/30/2020	Fr. Andrew Grelak	Giovanni Argote
12/01/2020	Fr. Daniel Finn	Gabriel Hanley
12/02/2020	Fr. Robert M. Blaney	Mateus Martin
12/03/2020	All Xavierians	Francis Trewin
12/04/2020	Fr. John Capuci	Diego Alejandro Pena
12/05/2020	Fr. Leroy Owens	Javier Padilla

## IN LOVING MEMORY

**Roses for Life for this week**

**Theresa A. Rickley**

## Observances for this week

*Sunday:* 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
*Monday:* St. Andrew, Apostle  
*Thursday:* St. Francis Xavier, Priest  
*Next Sunday:* 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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  
St. Vincent de Paul Society: (978) 686 - 9573

Parishes: [methuencatholic@gmail.com](mailto:methuencatholic@gmail.com)  
School: [smsoffice@methuencatholic.org](mailto:smsoffice@methuencatholic.org)

[methuencatholic.org](http://methuencatholic.org)

[stmonicalucymethuen](https://www.instagram.com/stmonicalucymethuen)

[facebook.com/methuencatholic/](https://www.facebook.com/methuencatholic/) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/)

## STAFF

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

**BAPTISMS** Please call the parish office. **St. Monica:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of the month @ 1pm | **St. Lucy:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** Mondays @ 10 am. Please email all bulletin notices to [methuencatholicnews@gmail.com](mailto:methuencatholicnews@gmail.com)

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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