

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

*J*ohn the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." - Mk 1:4, 6-7a



Please join us to celebrate St. Lucy,  
patroness of St. Lucy Parish

**Monday, December 11**

Communal Penance Service  
7:00 pm - St. Lucy Church

**Tuesday, December 12**

Advent Parish Mission  
7:00 pm - St. Lucy Church

**Wednesday, December 13**

Feast Day of St. Lucy  
Mass at 7:00 PM - St. Lucy Church



**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. 24  
**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**

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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



## COLLABORATIVE NEWS & EVENTS

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

Watch two movies, Christmas in Rome, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 12/10 and Guadalupe on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 12/12 (in English and Spanish). Read an ebook, Fire of Love, on the Feast of St. John of the Cross 12/14. If you have any questions, contact: Bonnie Doherty, 978-270-3366 or bonnieocds@gmail.com.



### Our Pilgrimage to "THE HOLY LAND" with Fr. William Lohan as Spiritual Director

November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

13 days, 11 nights, 3 meals daily

To register or for more information, please contact  
Mr. Claude Langlois, Group Leader at (978) 682 - 6012.

The best gift for a loved one or yourself.

December 12 is the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Check out our Facebook page at [facebook.com/methuencatholic/](https://facebook.com/methuencatholic/) for a beautiful prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**We have returned to our  
regular office hours -**

Monday - Friday  
8:30am -  
4:30pm

Got questions about the faith? **Join us for Alpha!**  
Starting January 17 at 6:00 pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall  
For more information, please contact  
Karl Jackson  
[faithformation.stlm@gmail.com](mailto:faithformation.stlm@gmail.com)  
(978) 683 - 1193 ext. 35

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We recommend you start with

**Advent for  
Discipleship Groups**

The deadline for the December 24 bulletin is Thursday, December 14 at 10:00 am. Please email all submissions to [methuencatholicnews@gmail.com](mailto:methuencatholicnews@gmail.com). Thank you.





## Christmas at St. Monica and St. Lucy Parishes

Mass Schedule

### SAINT MONICA PARISH

**Sunday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve**

4:00pm - 3 Masses at the same time:

Church - School Hall - Music Hall

10:00pm - (in the church)

**Monday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day**

7:30am and 10:30am (in the church)

**Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, Solemnity of Mary,**

**The Holy Mother of God**

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

7:00am (in the church)

### SAINT LUCY PARISH

**Sunday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve**

4:00pm - 2 Masses at the same time:

Church and Church Hall

7:00pm (in the church)

**Monday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day**

9:00am (in the church)

**Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, Solemnity of Mary,**

**The Holy Mother of God**

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

8:00am (in the church)

**Bulletin Sponsor of the Week**  
Bill DeLuca Family of Dealerships  
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## COLLABORATIVE NEWS & EVENTS

Please pray for **Bernard Farley, Virginia Hajjar, Patrick McKallagat, Bernice Agnew, Josephine Germano, and Anthony Rennell** whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at our parishes. May their soul and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

Bless, Lord Jesus, the newly baptized;

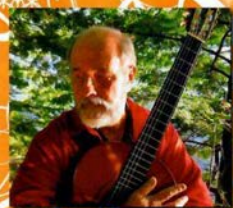
**Jeffrey Louis Avila**  
**Mia Isabella Aviles**  
**Reid Kenneth Bonanno**  
**Emmalyse Rose Diaz-Campbell**  
**Millie McDermott DeCola**  
**Claire Mae Del Duca**  
**Jessa Sophia Holland**  
**Paisley Rae Trombas**  
**Wesley Anthony Ward**



## ADVENT CONCERT

### Featuring Gregory Norbet

Respected spiritual leader, composer,  
singer and retreat director



**St. Lucy Church**  
**254 Merrimack Street**  
**Methuen, MA 01844**

**Sunday, December 17, 2017**  
**2:00 P.M.**

As a Benedictine of Weston Priory, Gregory composed many familiar songs such as Hosea (Come Back to Me), Wherever You Go, and All I Ask of You.

He continues to publish music with Oregon Catholic Press, and has released several prayer books and octavos with continued widespread acceptance at Liturgies worldwide.

Come join us as we begin a year of celebration for our 60th Anniversary as a Parish Faith Community!  
(1958 – 2018)

[A free-will offering will be taken and gratefully accepted.]



## ROSES FOR LIFE

Roses for Life have been donated  
In loving memory of



Michael and Linda Giarrusso  
Cecile and Peter Checovich  
Maureen Imielkowski  
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.

**Eucharistic Adoration this Friday will end at 5:30 pm.** There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays 12/22 and 12/29 due to Christmas and New Year weekends.

## OFFERTORY DECEMBER 3, 2017

Regular Sunday Offering: \$13,373.00  
Christmas Flowers: \$2,879.00  
Grand Annual: \$46,689.00 (total to date)

There is only one collection this weekend and next weekend, our regular Sunday offering. Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.

## ADVENT CHALLENGE

In the next few days,  
determine to spend some  
extra time with someone who  
needs you. It could be a son or  
daughter, a parent, a friend,  
or a co-worker.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 9

8:00 am (*multiple intentions*)

Arthur Hamel  
Ludwik Szablowski  
Stanley Lewandowski  
Anthony J. Vittorioso

4:00 pm

### Sunday, December 10

7:30 am John Scofield

9:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Manuel and Fernanda Cordeiro  
Veronica Murray  
Deceased members of the Deshaies Family  
Sr. Rachel Lessard  
Joseph Quilty  
Shaun Gurry  
Thomas Canney

11:30 am

5:30 pm

### Thursday, December 14

7:00 am Christine Ferguson

### Friday, December 15

7:00 am Jesse Murray

### Saturday, December 16

8:00 am (*multiple intentions*)

Amy Waterworth  
Joseph FitzMaurice  
Arthur Hamel  
William and Catherine Lee  
Joseph Indoccio and The Indoccio Family  
Connie and Albert Zampelli

4:00 pm

### Sunday, December 17

7:30 am Marion Bench

9:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Angelo, Antonette and Frank Ragonese  
Chanel, Claire, Judy, Diane & Paul Michaud  
Deceased members of the DiBartolo Family  
Robert Ouellette Sr.  
Theresa and William Leach  
Mark G. Hammond  
Harold Sullivan  
Sully LaTorre  
Parishioners of St. Monica and  
St. Lucy Parishes

11:30 am

5:30 pm

## ST. LUCY PARISH

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 9**

4:00 pm Thursday Girardi

**Sunday, December 10**

8:00 am Domenic Bertolone

9:30 am Salvatore and Lee Privitera

11:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Angelo, Jack and Jennie Maimone

Grace Riccio and Betty Parson

Joseph J. Gilmore Sr.

Walter Cheltowski

Domenic and Margaret Nicolosi

Deceased members of the Sodality

Domenic Bertolone

Evelyn Mallica

Ann Jannetti

Anthony J. Carelli

**Monday, December 11**

8:00 am Maria Grazia Marzullo

**Tuesday, December 12**

8:00 am Gerald and Carmela Rapa

**Wednesday, December 13** *St. Lucy Feast Day*

8:00 am William Hitchmoth

7:00 pm For the parishioners of  
St. Lucy and St. Monica Parishes

**Saturday, December 16**

4:00 pm Nina Coco Robie

**Sunday, December 17**

8:00 am Raymond St. Onge

9:30 am Parishioners of St. Lucy and  
St. Monica Parishes

11:30 am (*multiple intentions*)

Dominick "Rex", Tommy and  
Ann Campone

Tomas and Adrianna Campone

Marion Miller, John & Rose Monaco

Catherine Petralia

Eileen Havey

Vincenzo, Vincenzina,

Anthony and Paul Meli Sr.,

Vincenzo and Isabella Dadducci,

and Michael Bonanno

### BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY

The next Sodality Mass will be at 11:30 am this Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> followed by our Annual Christmas Party in the church hall.

### OFFERTORY DECEMBER 3, 2017

Regular Sunday Offering: \$8,196.00

Christmas Flowers: \$1,419.00

Grand Annual: \$39,464.00 (total to date)

There is only one collection this weekend and next weekend, our regular Sunday offering. Thank you for your generous contribution to the mission of our parish.



### SHARE THE NATIVITY...

This year during Advent and leading up to Christmas, we would like to place on display different nativity scenes. They can be of any size and pictures or banners are also welcome. All items will be returned after the holidays. The scenes will be displayed in the lower church hall and will be available for viewing from Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> through Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to have your nativity scene displayed here at St. Lucy, please drop it off at the office during the week or give it to one of the ushers before Mass. Please use the form below so that we have your contact info so each display can be returned. Let's truly celebrate together the "Reason for the Season" and begin a new tradition here at St. Lucy. Forms are also available in the magazine rack in the front of the church.

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

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



### Changes in Mass Schedule- A difficult reality but a necessary change

After consulting with the parish council I have decided to reduce the number of weekend obligatory masses in the collaborating parishes from nine to seven.

Presently at the parishes of St. Monica and St. Lucy nine Masses are offered each weekend for the Sunday obligation, which of course include the two 4:00 pm masses on Saturday. The mass counts recently taken this fall showed an average attendance of 650 a week at St Lucy and of those, 255 are attending on Saturday afternoon. This leaves 3 small Sunday Masses averaging only around 133 people. Even on weekends with religious formation for children, the church can easily accommodate the congregation with only two masses in the morning rather than three.

If more of us are together at fewer masses several important benefits are achieved. Firstly, people see more of each other and relationships are formed and deepened as people get to know each other better. Psychologically it is better not to experience the feeling of worshiping in a sparsely populated church. By having a larger crowd at Mass the congregational responses and the singing are greatly enhanced making for a healthier more powerful worship experience. We also can provide instrumental accompaniment at all the masses. The priest shortage is also a critical factor in reducing the number of weekend masses and as the shortage of priests in greater Boston grows more acute we must be certain the schedule is healthy for the priests. Remember that the priests are covering large numbers of funerals and also weddings and baptisms in addition to all of the other sacramental and administrative work they must do. It is important to remember the schedules we now have were implemented when there were more

priests serving in our parishes. At a time when we have so few, the importance of the well-being of the priests cannot be overstated.

The possibility of reducing the Sunday morning masses at St. Monica was also discussed at parish council. St. Monica has over 1,000 people coming most weekends and remains, as it has traditionally been, a much larger parish than St. Lucy, and with the size of its religious education program, and the relatively small parking lot, three morning Masses are still needed at St. Monica.

The 5:30 evening mass at St Monica during the recent mass counts averaged only 95 people, so we are going to discontinue that mass.

Next weekend at all Saint Lucy masses, the congregation will be polled as to whether they prefer a 9:00am and an 11:00am or an 8:00 and a 10:00. The council and I all agreed it would be better to have slight stagger in start times relative to St. Monica rather than exact overlap of start times we currently have for most masses. This way, if people of either parish miss their preferred mass on a given weekend they have an alternative start time only a short drive away right here in Methuen. After soliciting feedback we will discuss at the January parish council meeting which schedule we will adopt for Saint Lucy. I know that these changes will require many of the people at St Lucy, and some of those at St. Monica to change their current mass time. My hope is that it will be an opportunity to sacrifice a little bit of convenience for the greater good and health of the parishes and its priests and I am deeply appreciative of your openness to these changes.

The new schedule will be effective the first Sunday of Lent.

# ST. MONICA SCHOOL

St. Monica School is accepting applications for the 2018/2019 school year. St. Monica School welcomes students from Preschool (3 years old by September 1st) 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!

St. Monica School PTO, Proudly Supported by Salvatore's Restaurant in Andover, Presents :

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Carnival In the St. Monica School Hall

*Games    Food    Family Fun!*  
*Raffle Baskets    Raffle Grand Prize*



Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm

- \* Pasta Dinner from 5-6 pm (Tickets cost \$5 each, or \$20 for families of four or more people)
- \* Visit from Santa Claus at 4:30 and 5:30 pm
- \* Grand Prize Raffle Drawing at 6:15!  
(Dinner anywhere in the world for 2)

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 1 pm

- \* Santa Visit at 11 am



St. Monica Spirit Club had their Spirit Day on Friday, December 1st. The Spirit Club sponsors a family every year for Christmas and this year Mrs. Tully was able to help in finding a family from Northern Maine. We called Holy Family Parish in Greenville, ME near where Mrs. Tully's parents live and spoke with Fr. Aaron Damboise (who we came to find out was in the seminary with Fr. Lohan). Fr. Aaron was able to find a family for us to help. The students, in their spirit club houses (red, green or gold), participated in a gift-wrapping contest to see who could wrap the fastest and neatest. The gifts will then be sent off to Fr. Aaron so that this family will have a wonderful Christmas.

### Special Raffles - \$10 per ticket

The winner will be drawn at our Christmas Carnival on Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>

**Adults:** Fine Jewelry, 4K TV, Autographed NHL Puck, and Golf Lesson with a PGA Professional

**Kids:** 28" Jumbo Barbie Doll, Jumbo Squishies Basket (including 7 different ones), Instamax Instant Camera, RC Car with Virtual Reality, Handy Helpers Workbench, Table Top Game Package: Includes Mini Air Hockey, Basketball, Pool Table, and Football

Special Auction Item: Principal's School Spirit Basket! \*Sweatshirt, Gift Card to Uniform Store, Principal for a Day, and 2 Dress Down Passes



# ST. MONICA SCHOOL



## ***Dinner for 2 Anywhere in the World!?!***

Round Trip Airfare, Dinner for Two, and Overnight Accommodations

The winner will be drawn at our Pasta Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> in our school hall.

### **Where do I get my tickets??**

- **On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday this week from 7:30-8:15am** in the school cafeteria. Tickets are \$30.00 each. For St. Monica Families who have paid their \$125 Fundraising Fee, you will be able to purchase ONE ticket for \$5.00 (\$25.00 of the ticket cost is covered by your Fundraising Fee). Any other tickets must be purchased at the \$30.00 price. You must request and pay for your ticket. It will not be provided to you.
- After all weekend Masses, tickets will be sold in the back of the church. You may also call Kristen Snay at (978) 853 - 8128 or kristensnay@gmail.com for ticket sales. *You do NOT need to be present to win, but tickets MUST be bought in person. Cash or Checks accepted. Checks made payable to St. Monica School*

## **Saint Monica School Holiday Raffle *January 2018***

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	1. \$150	2. \$50	3. \$50	4. \$50	5. \$50	6. \$50
7. \$150	8. \$50	9. \$50	10. \$50	11. \$50	12. \$50	13. \$50
14. \$150	15. \$50	16. \$50	17. \$50	18. \$50	19. \$50	20. \$50
21. \$150	22. \$50	23. \$50	24. \$50	25. \$50	26. \$50	27. \$50
28. \$150	29. \$50	30. \$50	31. \$150			

Please return this portion of ticket with payment to Sharon Tully in the School Office.

**We must sell 215 tickets. If we do not sell 215 tickets, we will have a 50/50 raffle and one winner will be drawn and the winner will receive 50% of the monies collected and the school will receive the other 50%.  
(This raffle has always sold enough tickets to be held!)**

**St. Monica School Calendar Raffle \$10 per ticket – checks made out to St. Monica School by 12/21/17**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (REQUIRED) \_\_\_\_\_

St. Monica Student who sold ticket: \_\_\_\_\_ (if purchased through a school child.)

Names of St. Monica School children who sell winning tickets will be put in a raffle for a prize.  
If there is only one winner due to 50/50, that child will win a prize (if a St. Monica Child sold ticket).



## 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).**

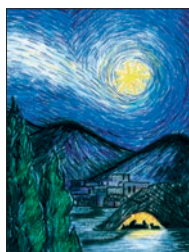
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