



CHRISTMAS

A Savior Is Born

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



Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of

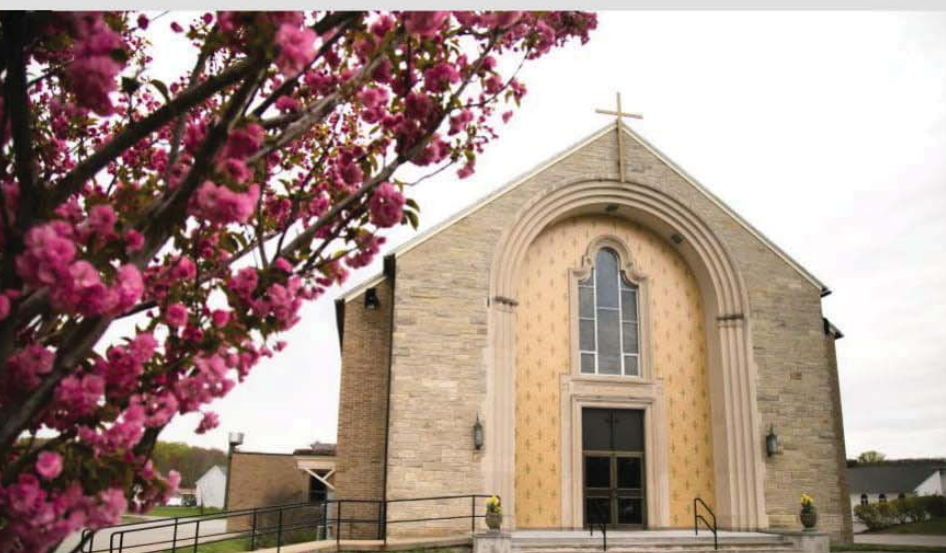
St. Monica and St. Lucy. Thank you for joining us to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Please join us again for *Holy Mass*.

We would love the opportunity to accompany you and your family in faith. Please feel free to connect with us by calling our office (978) 683-1193 or emailing us at methuencatholic@gmail.com

May the Lord bless you and may the

Christ child be with you and yours throughout Christmas and the New Year.



Encounter Jesus in Prayer

Gethsemane Chapel
Eucharistic Adoration
Prayer Groups (online)
Novenas to our Lady
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Padre Pio Prayer Group (online)
Alpha Prayer Team (on hold)
Cursillo & Ultreya (on hold)
Prayer and Study under
Our Lady's Mantle (on hold)

Encounter Jesus in Service

St. Vincent de Paul
Knights of Columbus
Blessed Virgin Mary's Sodality
Commission to Assist our
Brothers and Sisters in Need
Homebound Visitation (on hold)
Green Thumb Committee (on hold)
Alcoholics Anonymous (on hold)
Al-Anon (on hold)
Altar Servers and Choir (on hold)
Lectors and Greeters (on hold)

Encounter Jesus in Faith and the Community of Believers

Family Faith Formation
Adult Faith Formation
Bible Study (online)
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
Confirmation Preparation
First Communion Preparation
Baptism Preparation (online)
Marriage Preparation
Connect Group (on hold)
St. Joseph's Men's Guild (on hold)
Tea and Treasure (on hold)
Faith and Fitness (on hold)



Though we cannot but help feel the constraints on our Holy Day celebrations this year, it may be helpful to remember that the first several Christmases weren't all that celebratory, either. We all have seen depictions of the trials of the Holy Family leading up to the Nativity and the "simplicity" of the circumstance in which the Word became flesh among us. Recall, as well, that the Holy Family had to flee the murderous Herod for the very safety of the life of the Christ Child. Additionally, we don't know the circumstances of living in Egypt the first several years of Our Lord's life, but it probably didn't include many birthday gatherings with extended friends and family. St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother were probably anxious to return to Israel because they left that foreign land once Herod

departed this earth, though they had to settle in the small and remote village of Nazareth to avoid the king's heir in Judea.

Nonetheless, it was in these difficult circumstances that the proclamation of Christmas Joy is delivered to *us* by the angelic pronouncement made to the shepherds living their own uncomfortable exposure in fields: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy..." This followed by a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, saying: "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."

Certainly, if we are reading this, we desire God's favor to rest on us. So then we should strive to receive it with peace and joy no matter our circumstance, too! In all things--perhaps even more so in trying times --we know that the Lord is communicating His love and grace. It was in difficult

circumstances for the Holy Family that the Savior came among us, so in an earthly sense joy and peace were not so visible. However, in a heavenly sense it was the source of great rejoicing.

This year our celebrations of Christmas are necessarily simple and humbled: one more way that our feeling of being stir crazy is exacerbated when we should, rather, feel our spirits lifted. Nonetheless, God is still communicating the grace that provides the peace and joy of the season. Let us pray that *because* of the humility and simplicity of our celebrations, what is lacking in an earthly sense can help us to better see the heavenly significance of the Coming of the Savior into our world and into our lives. May God bless you and your loved ones in these Holy Days.



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 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

HOLY DAY

Mass Schedule:
Thursday, December 31: 4pm - St. Monica
Friday, January 1: 9am - St. Lucy



HAVE A VERY
20  20
MERRY
CHRISTMAS



and
A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



with love
St. Monica School
Faculty, Staff
& Students



ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 26
4:00pm Robert Putnam & Marie Bisson

Sunday, December 27
9:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Nancy Tardif
Chouinard Family
Manuel & Fernanda Cordeiro
John Rosatone
11:00am Charles & Mary Lamarche

Saturday, January 2 (First Saturday)
9:00am First Saturday Mass

Beginning December 28th all Daily Masses will be offered at St. Lucy's Church. First Saturday Masses will continue to be celebrated at 9:00am at St. Monica's.

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 26
4:00pm Thomas Wholley

Sunday, December 27
10:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Richard Yamin
Dana DeLorey
Real & Gerard Taschereau

Monday, December 28
9:00am Antoinette & Nemetallah Khalife

Tuesday, December 29
9:00am Domenick & Margaret Torrisi

Thursday, December 31
9:00am Joseph & Mary Walsh
4:00pm Feast of Mary the Mother of God (Vigil) (St. Monica's)

Friday, January 1
9:00am Feast of Mary the Mother of God

We will have our regular schedule for Adoration and Confessions on New Year's Day, January 1st in Gethsemane Chapel.



Join us this coming **Saturday, January 2nd** at 9:00 am at St. Monica's for our **First Saturday Mass.**

A Way to Increase Your Prayer Life

The Bible Timeline
This is a continuing Bible study that can be joined at any time. Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com or 978-270-3366 for the Zoom link and more information.



PARISH SCHEDULE

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. LUCY CHURCH

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

Yes I Can Program

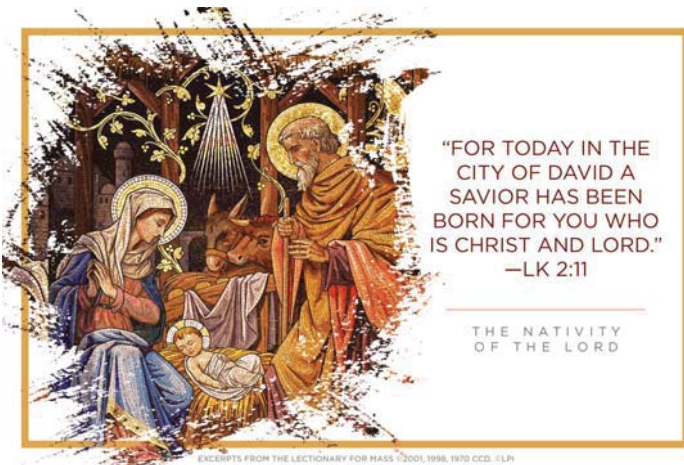
We are in need of canned spaghetti, canned carrots, canned baked beans, pancake syrup and soups.

We will have food collection baskets available in both churches in the usual locations. You may also drop off food at the side door of Gethsemane Chapel during the week, but food donations are not to be left at the main door or entranceway of the chapel. Thank you for your generosity!

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PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **Sarah Wilkens** and **Paula D.**

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!

Day	Date	Priest	Seminarian	Pray for Vocations
Sun.	12/27	Fr. John Prusaitis	Rodrigo Martinez	priests, religious orders (men and women), lay secular or third order, consecrated women
Mon.	12/28	Fr. Kevin Toomey	Peter Schirripa	
Tues.	12/29	Fr. Thomas Kopp	Hien Vu	
Wed.	12/30	Fr. Jacques McGuffie	Jeremy Wagner	
Thurs.	12/31	Fr. Joseph Scorzello	Maxwell Chukwudiebere	
Friday	01/01	Pope Francis	Vincenzo Caruso	
Sat.	01/02	Fr. James Darcy	Jose Ignacio Montero	

IN LOVING MEMORY

Roses for Life for this week

Theresa A. Rickley and **Maria Laird**



Parish Offices: 254 Merrimack Street, Methuen
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
St. Monica School: 212 Lawrence St., Methuen

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St. Monica School: (978) 686-1801
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School: smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

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Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio

Deacon John Pierce

Deacon John Kobrenski

Kera Mansour

Isabela Peixoto

Donna Henderson

Sharon Tully

Karl Jackson

Eric Berthiaume

Sharon Waning

Dan Bolster

Kevin Fitzgerald

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Permanent Deacon

Permanent Deacon

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Communications Associate

St. Monica School Principal

St. Monica School Administrative Assistant

Director of Mission and Formation

Music Director - St. Monica

Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy

Weekend Organist - St. Lucy

Facilities Manager (St. Lucy)/RCIA Coordinator

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.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Mondays @ 10 am. Please email all bulletin notices to methuencatholicnews@gmail.com

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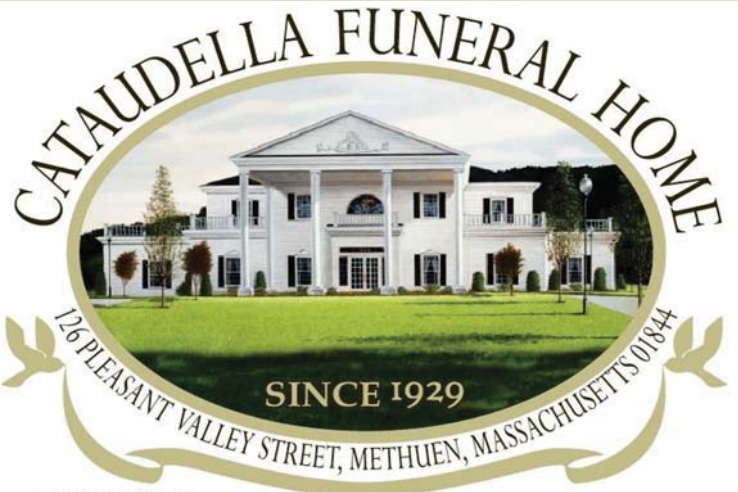
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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8



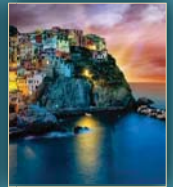
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