



## The Baptism of the Lord

*“You are my  
beloved Son;  
with you I am  
well pleased.”*

*Luke 3: 22*

### **The Saving Streams of Baptism**

Today, [Jesus] is baptized in the Jordan. What sort of baptism is this, when the one who is dipped is purer than the font, and where the water that soaks the one whom it has received is not dirtied but honored with blessings? What sort of baptism is this of the Savior, in which the streams are made pure more than they purify? For by a new kind of consecration the water does not so much wash Christ as submit to being washed. Since the Savior plunged into the waters, he sanctified the outpouring of every flood and the course of every stream by the mystery of his baptism, so that when someone wishes to be baptized in the name of the Lord it is not so much the waters of this world that cover him but the waters of Christ that purify him. Yet the Savior willed to be baptized for this reason—not that he might cleanse himself but that he might cleanse the waters for our sake....

We must, therefore, be baptized by the same stream as the Savior was. But in order to be dipped in the same water, we do not require the regions of the East nor the river in Jewish lands, for now Christ is everywhere and the Jordan is everywhere. The same consecration that blessed the rivers of the East sanctifies the waters of the West. Thus even if perchance a river should have some other name in this world, there is in it nonetheless the mystery of the Jordan.

What was accomplished then is accomplished now by the same sacraments.... For then we saw the Trinity with bodily eyes, but now we contemplate the same Trinity with the eyes of faith; then the human face scarcely gazed upon Christ, but now the human mind embraces him; then the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove poured over a man, but now by the same power of divinity he is poured within a man; then the Father came to us on account of his Son by a distant voice, but now he and his Son both come down upon us.

**Saint Maximus of Turin**

*Saint Maximus of Turin († 5th century) was the first bishop of Turin, Italy, and an outstanding biblical scholar and preacher.*

**DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE**

Tuesday evenings 6-6:30pm

Rosary Prayer Group for Priests | Gethsemane Chapel  
all are welcome to attend

Wednesday mornings 9:30-11am (ZOOM)

Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & book discussion.  
Contact Bonnie Doherty at [bonnieocds@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieocds@gmail.com)

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

Thursday evenings 6-7pm (ZOOM)

Rosary for world peace & individual intentions  
followed by Evening Prayer.  
Contact Bonnie Doherty at [bonnieocds@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieocds@gmail.com)

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Saturdays 9:30am-2:30pm Gethsemane Chapel

**HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS**

Please join us for refreshments

**Sunday, January 12th** in

St. Monica School Hall  
following the 9:00am Mass

**St. Lucy's** will resume Hospitality in February

**CHOIR NEWS**

Our new Music Director Joe Lundin  
is looking for singers to join our  
choirs!

St. Monica's Choir will sing at the  
9:00am Mass on Sundays.

St. Lucy's Choir will sing at the  
10:30am Mass Sundays.

We will hold joint practices on  
Tuesday evenings.

To join up or find out more  
information, please reach out to Joe at  
[JosephLundin@gmail.com](mailto:JosephLundin@gmail.com)



**Christmas Tree Pick up**  
for Methuen residents only

St. Monica School can pick up your Christmas trees  
for a \$15 donation.

Mr. Marc Krzywicki will be taking appointments for  
Methuen Residents Only to pick up your tree for the  
weekends of:  
**December 28 & 29**  
**January 4 & 5**  
**January 11 & 12**

If you would like your tree picked up, please contact him  
at 978-500-7880 to make your appointment!  
We would like to thank Mr. Krzywicki for his generosity  
in doing this for us every year!



*Jesus* is longing  
for your presence.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION  
& CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday Evenings  
6-7pm  
St. Lucy Church

Saturdays  
9:30am-2:30pm  
Gethsemane Chapel  
at St. Monica Church

**GENTLY USED SECOND HAND ITEMS**

A parishioner has volunteered to collect gently used second hand items and sell them at his flea market with all proceeds going to our parishes. This gentleman has a history of success in this area and has done this type of ongoing fundraiser for other organizations and churches in the past. If you are interested in getting rid of some old furniture or other items, please consider reaching out to Jim to arrange for pick up. Call 978-360-8796. Please no broken or damaged items. Thank you to all who have already donated!

In today's changing educational climate, Catholic schools offer an unparalleled opportunity to provide children with an education rooted in faith, academic excellence, and strong moral values. At St. Monica School, our students benefit from a nurturing environment where they are encouraged to grow spiritually, academically, and socially. With dedicated teachers, and a Christ-centered curriculum, we prepare students not only for academic success but also to lead lives of service and integrity. In a world where values and personal growth are often overlooked, Catholic education and St. Monica School in particular, stands as a beacon of hope, fostering resilience, compassion, and leadership. We invite you to experience the difference firsthand—visit our open house, explore our website, or stop by for a tour to see how Catholic education can transform the future for your children and grandchildren.

**ST. MONICA SCHOOL**

**OPEN HOUSE  
JANUARY 28TH  
6:00PM**

Currently accepting applications for Fall 2025



It is a wonderful place to begin your child's Catholic School education.

Please call to set up a tour and learn about our application process.  
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www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org      Methuen, MA 01844

**OUR LORD'S ANOINTING**

The Liturgy last week revealed the mystery of God's plan—that in Jesus all peoples, symbolized by the Magi, have been made "coheirs" to the blessings promised to Israel. This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance. Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new "exodus"—opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus today, words once reserved only for Israel and its king: that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God (see Genesis 22:2; Exodus 4:22; Psalm 2:7).

Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, "anointed . . . with the Holy Spirit and power."

The word messiah means "one anointed" with God's Spirit. King David was "the anointed of the God of Jacob" (see 2 Samuel 23:1-17; Psalm 18:51; 132:10, 17). The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest (see Isaiah 11:1-2; Daniel 9:25).

That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever (see Luke 1:32-33).

In the Baptism that He brings, the voice of God will hover over the waters as a fiery flame, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has sanctified the waters, made them a passageway to healing and freedom—a fountain of new birth and everlasting life.

<https://stpaulcenter.com/audio/sunday-bible-reflections/the-anointing-scott-hahn-reflects-on-the-feast-of-the-baptism-of-the-lord/>

**St. Lucy's  
Lower Church Hall**



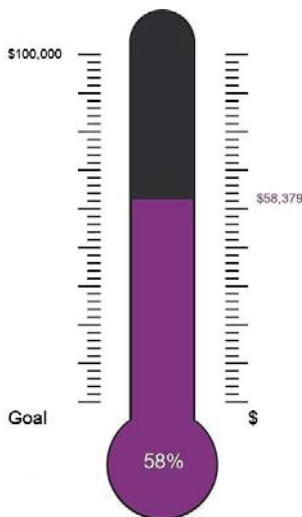
I look to the future with hope, and I invite you to do the same...we have an incredible opportunity to build the Kingdom of God by responding to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit for the good of our parish, our community, and ourselves. To become even more vibrant and active in spreading the Gospel and sharing the hope of Christ with others.”

...The Grand Annual Appeal represents a crucial step in achieving our goals. For this reason, I thank you for your generous support of the Appeal, and our weekly offertory/online giving. As Saint Paul write to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Cor 9: 6-8).

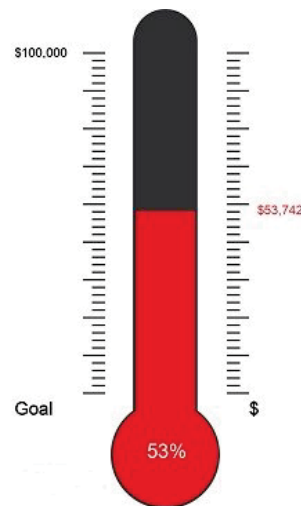
As I repeat at the end of every Mass, thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasures; and in a special way, thank you for your support of our Grand Annual appeal.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Marcos*



**St. Monica Parish**



**St. Lucy Parish**



DECEMBER 14 & 15

**St. Monica - \$7,759.00      St. Lucy - \$4,145.00**

Weekly Offertory needed to sustain parish operations: St. Monica - \$10,000 | St. Lucy - \$6,000  
*Thank you for your continued generous contribution to the mission of our parishes.*



**Yes, I CAN...** We are in need of Peanut Butter, Jelly, Rice & Rice Sides. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the entrances to St. Lucy Church and the side door of Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

Mondays @ 10 am. Please email all bulletin notices to parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com.

**GETHSEMANE CHAPEL AT ST. MONICA CHURCH**  
 Open 7 days per week from morning rush hour until 7pm

**CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
 ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE**  
 Open 7 days per week from 9am-5pm

**BAPTISMS** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Monica's | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Lucy's  
 Please call the Parish Offices at least 2 months in advance to schedule.

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

**MASS SCHEDULE** SAT 4 pm (VIGIL) both parishes  
 SUN 9 am & 12 pm St. Monica  
 10:30 am St. Lucy  
 MON/TUES/THURS/FRI 9 am St. Lucy  
 SATURDAY 9 am St. Monica

**CONFESSIONS**  
 SAT 3-3:45pm at both parishes

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**PASTORAL STAFF**

Fr. Marcos Peña	Administrator
<b>frmarcosmethuen@gmail.com</b>	
Fr. Michael Harvey	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Pierce	Senior Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
<b>methuencatholic@gmail.com</b>	
Karl Jackson	Director of Parish Life
<b>faithformation.stlm@gmail.com</b>	
Joseph Lundin	Music Director
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
<b>parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com</b>	



**ST. MONICA SCHOOL**  
 212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844  
 (978) 686 -1801  
 www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

**SCHOOL STAFF**

Donna Henderson	Principal
Ann Marie Collins	Administrative Assistant
<b>smsoffice@methuencatholic.org</b>	

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON***Cf. Mt 3: 16-17*

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, / and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, / and the voice of the Father thundered: / This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

**ENTRANCE HYMN***Worship Hymnal - 953****Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!***

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!  
His the scepter, his the throne.  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
Has redeemed us by his blood."

2. Alleluia! Not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us,  
Faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget his promise:  
"I am with you evermore"?

3. Alleluia! Bread of angels,  
Here on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! Here the sinful  
Flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
Earth's redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.

4. Alleluia! King eternal,  
You the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary,  
Earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.  
You within the veil have entered  
Robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
Here on earth both priest and victim  
In the eucharistic feast.

**PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA***Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7*

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM***Psalm 29: 1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10***(11b) The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise,  
give to the Lord the glory due his name; adore the Lord in holy attire. R

The voice of the Lord is over the waters, the Lord, over vast waters.  
The voice of the Lord is mighty; the voice of the Lord is majestic. R

The God of glory thunders, and in his temple all say, "Glory!"  
The Lord is enthroned above the flood; the Lord is enthroned as king forever. R

**SECOND READING***Acts 10: 34-38*

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***Matthew 2: 2***Alleluia, Alleluia**

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:  
This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

**Alleluia. Alleluia****GOSPEL***Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22*

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

**CREED***Refer to Pew Card***OFFERTORY HYMN***Worship Hymnal - 712****The King of Love My Shepherd Is***

1. The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness fails me never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine forever.

2. Where streams of living water flow,  
My ransomed soul he's leading,  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feeding.

3. Confused and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With you, dear Lord, beside me,  
Your rod and staff my comfort still,  
Your cross before to guide me.

5. You spread a table in my sight,  
Your saving grace bestowing;  
And, oh, what transport of delight  
From your pure chalice flowing!

6. And so, through all the length of days  
goodness fails me never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
Within your house forever.

**SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI***Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Jn 1: 32, 34*

Behold the One of whom John said: / I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



**COMMUNION HYMN***Worship Hymnal - 704****You are Mine***

1. I will come to you in the silence,  
I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice,  
I claim you as my choice,  
Be still and know I am here.

2. I am hope for all who are hopeless,  
I am eyes for all who long to see.  
In the shadows of the night,  
I will be your light,  
Come and rest in me.

Refrain. Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me,  
I will bring you home;  
I love you and you are mine.

3. I am strength for all the despairing,  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
All the blind will see,  
The lame will all run free,  
And all will know my name. Refrain.

4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom,  
I am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name,  
Embracing all your pain.  
Stand up, now walk, and live! Refrain.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN***Worship Hymnal - 627****O God beyond All Praising***

1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder at ever'y gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies without end.  
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word;  
We honor and adore you, our great and might Lord.
2. The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,  
Its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;  
But hidden from all nature the'eternal seed is sown,  
Though small in mortal stature to heaven's garden grown,  
For Christ, the man from heaven, from death has set us free,  
And we through him are given the final victory!
3. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still,  
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

**PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



ST. MONICA PARISH

**Saturday, January 11**

9:00am Michael M. Mansour  
4:00pm Claire McCarthy

**Sunday, January 12**

9:00am Ida & Teo Thomas  
Joseph & Lucy Sardella  
Wendy Guthrie  
Dorothy Foley (living)  
12:00pm Valorie Duncan  
Rhonda & Jack Calligandes (living)  
Mark Duncan (living)  
Richard Duncan (living)  
Michael LaCroix (living)

**Saturday, January 18**

9:00am Ellen Jackson (living)  
4:00pm For the Parishioners of  
St. Lucy & St. Monica

**Sunday, January 19**

9:00am Marie Fradette  
Claire Waterworth  
Robert Deziel  
Carmelo Corsaro  
12:00pm Laura Caprario (living)  
In Thanksgiving for all Saints  
Tim Jackson  
Joan Jackson

ST. LUCY PARISH

**Saturday, January 11**

4:00pm Robert Koralishn  
Lorraine Malignaggi  
Vincenza Pelliccione  
For the victims of human trafficking  
especially children  
Victims of hurricane Helene

**Sunday, January 12**

10:30am For the Parishioners of  
St. Lucy & St. Monica

**Monday, January 13**

9:00am Kristina Ofoedu (living)

**Tuesday, January 14**

9:00am Andrew Radar  
Lee Lucas  
Joseph Reitano  
Steve Lori  
John Smerdon

**Wednesday, January 15**

9:00am St. Lucy for favors received

**Thursday, January 16**

9:00am Ida Lazzara

**Friday, January 17**

9:00am Joseph Lavigne  
Yvette Moran  
Mike Milnes

**Saturday, January 18**

4:00pm Perry, Clara, Steven, and Beverly Autiello

**Sunday, January 19**

10:30am Mark J. Holden  
Deceased Members of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary Sodality  
Alfio Greco  
Deceased Members of the Ciofola and  
DiVincentis Families  
Joseph L. Giuffrida  
Robert Lynch (living)

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	01/05/25	All Bishops	Edward Fantuazzo SJS Rochester, NY
Mon	01/06/25	Fr. Thomas Stanton	Samuel Neumann SJS Boston
Tues	01/07/25	Fr. Joseph Neville	Duoc Ngo SJS Hanoi
Wed	01/08/25	Fr. Jiwon Yoon	Anthony Nicolosi SJS Rochester, NY
Thurs	01/09/25	Fr. Gabriel Hanley	Kennedy Ogojiuba SJS Boston
Fri	01/10/25	Msgr. Paul McInerny	Juan Ortega Bran SJS Boston
Sat	01/11/25	Fr. Allan Butler	Michael Castellon RMS Boston

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Louie C., Sarah W., Eileen F., Robert L., Madelyn, Buddy B., Maria P., Phyllis T. & Patrice K.

Please pray for Laurence Palmisano, Mary Ann Fleming & Joanne Merchant whose funerals we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.



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