

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

AUG 25
2024

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” (Jn 6: 68-69)



Friends,

How blessed am I to have had the privilege to serve at St. Lucy & St. Monica parishes during the past 3 months. My life has been enhanced by the spirit and vibrancy that is so evident at both faith communities. There is a wonderful history in the Methuen/Lawrence neighborhoods and the Catholic Church plays a vital role. This is the first time I have served in the Merrimack Valley, and I now know the source of your pride throughout your cities and towns. There should be quite the celebration in 2026 when Methuen commemorates its 300th anniversary.

I want to thank Fr. Michael Harvey and Fr. Patrick Armano for welcoming me into their home. We each have our own ministries and responsibilities, but I am grateful for the chance to share meals and conversation. How fortunate you are to have Fr. Vin Gianni (native son) assisting each weekend, and the presence and ministry of both deacons, John Pierce and John Kobrenski.

The parish staff have been supportive in every way possible. It is not easy for them to adjust to so many different personalities and leadership styles but they do so with professionalism and respect. They are the face of the parish and enjoy bringing their gifts and talents to work each day.

You have heard me say that what will attract people to return to a parish week after week is uplifting music, good preaching and hospitality. I am grateful to our music director, Brink Bush, and organist, René Minalga-Rheault, for their presence and leadership.

The Sunday experience (Mass) is meant to be the source of our strength to live out our faith during the week. The Liturgical ministries (Sacristans, greeters, eucharistic ministers, lectors and altar servers) truly love what they do and assure that everyone who joins us for worship will have a faith-filled experience. You have a wonderful group of parishioners who celebrate the daily Mass at 9am. I love the atmosphere each morning and once again am grateful to all the volunteers who open up, set up and clean up. All I have to do is show up.

I thank each and every one of our parishioners. The Catholic Church is blessed with your presence and faith. Your generosity and financial commitment to our parishes will assure a bright future for our churches.

I have never been in a parish where the church (chapel) is open 7 days a week for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. What a tribute that is to this community and to your faith in God. The wonderful parish organizations, and the activities and programs they sponsor throughout the year are indicative of the desire to celebrate socially with our neighbors and friends. Their generosity to the Church and the greater community is truly appreciated.

St. Monica School is an inspiration. The principal, Donna Henderson, the faculty and staff are so welcoming. The need for Catholic education is a priority and Methuen is so blessed with the presence of so many young families from various backgrounds who seek out this safe, nurturing, faith-filled environment for their children. I have not witnessed the religious

education program at our parish but I know how grateful we are to the men & women who volunteer to teach and share their faith with the next generation.

The buildings and grounds at both parishes are a source of pride. We are thankful to our custodial staff & landscapers at the school and churches for the professional care they give to our property, both inside and out.

The local funeral directors are a gift to our city. What a privilege it is to work with them in supporting our families during very painful times.

Finally, I love preaching and sharing my thoughts in the bulletin. Honest conversations are so healthy for our humanity and our spirituality. It is so easy to become complacent in our beliefs and just assume that we get to the point in our lives when we can stop thinking, growing, evolving, and maturing because we know all there is to know about God, our Church and ourselves. But that takes the joy out of life. I choose not to make that mistake.

At this time, I'm not sure what my next opportunity will be, but I pray that God may continue to bless you and those you love with peace, happiness and good health - You deserve the best!

You are loved!

Enjoy life!

Fr. Ron Coyne

Our parishes will be hosting a joint fare well reception for Fr. Ron Coyne on Sunday, August 25th after the 10:30AM Mass at St. Lucy's Church. All are welcome!

MISSION VISIT/SECOND COLLECTION

Fr. Bernard Makadani Zulu from The Society for the Propagation of the Faith will be preaching at all our masses **this weekend**. We will be taking up a **second collection** for the needs of the people of the Diocese of Chipata.

The Diocese of Chipata is appealing for financial support to provide food relief and water to affected communities after the severe drought that Zambia experienced in the 2023/2024 rainy season. This was the driest agricultural season in over 40 years, resulting in significant crop losses, increased live-stock deaths, shortage of water, and worsening poverty for many families.

The rainy season was characterized by late onset, prolonged dry spells, and high temperatures. The erratic rainfall affected crop and animal production; many families depend heavily on rain fed farming. These dry conditions resulted in massive reduction in crop production, with maize (corn) production, which is a staple food, declining drastically.

Shortage of food due to depleting stocks, and increasing commodity prices will increase the risk of mal-nutrition among the affected communities. The food shortages and rising prices for the staple food will hinder vulnerable peoples' access to food, especially in rural areas where the poverty levels remain high.

We ask for your support to mitigate the impact of the severe drought and build resilience within our communities to emerge stronger. Your sacrifice and immeasurable generosity will serve and protect the lives of many people in Chipata Diocese.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith, for all you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27)



40 HOUR DEVOTION - THANK YOU!!

“You were created by God for adoration.”

Our 40 hours of adoration was a great success. Many thanks to Maureen for organizing the entire event! Thanks to Caroline for always being ‘on call’ to help, Zofia for the beautiful flowers, Monica for managing the food/drinks, Lucille for helping to clean the chapel.

For all the adorers who honored their commitment and showed up. We averaged 10-20 people during the day and the adorers at night usually stayed for 2 hours.

Many blessings I’m sure went to Dorothy who did the full 40 hours...thank you for your presence & encouragement. It was great to see Confirmation students and teachers taking part and also thanks to Luke and Maura for being our altar servers.

We’ve already heard stories of how Our Lord has worked in people’s lives. Spending time with Jesus in adoration always changes us.

Grateful to Fr. Michael for the inspiration to work on this and for celebrating the two beautiful Masses for Our Lady.

And finally to all the parishioners who offered help and to get food...your generosity and caring didn’t go unnoticed. So nice to meet some new people in the parishes.

SAVE THE DATE

.....
ST. LUCY PARISH
FALL CRAFT FAIR
254 MERRIMACK STREET,
METHUEN MA
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26,
2024 | 9:00-3:00

AUGUST 27

FEAST OF
ST. MONICA

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays - to resume in September

Thursday evenings 6-6:30pm (ZOOM)

Rosary for world peace & individual intentions. Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saturdays 9am-12pm Gethsemane Chapel

St. Monica School
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HIRING
 GRADE 4
 TEACHER

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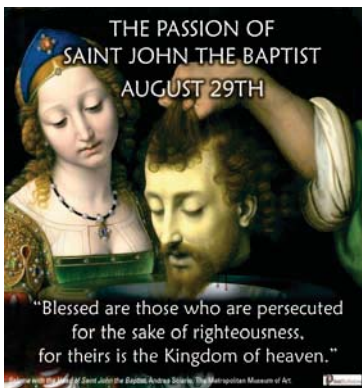
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Please contact the office at smsoffice@methuencatholic.org or call 978-686-1801




THE PASSION OF
 SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
 AUGUST 29TH



"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."

METHUEN CATHOLIC
 THE PARISHES OF ST. LUCY & ST. MONICA

**FAITH FORMATION
 SACRAMENT PREPARATION**






REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Visit methuencatholic.org to register
 Classes for Kindergarten through High School meet Sunday mornings
 Interested in volunteering or want more information, contact Karl
 978-683-1193 | faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Faith **2** FITT
 SATURDAYS 8AM

**Methuen
 Track & Field**

AUGUST 10 & 11

St. Monica - \$7,574.50

St. Lucy - \$4,824.00

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 Canned Spaghetti, Canned Tuna, Canned Beans, Canned Fruit, and Soups. 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 2nd Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Monica's | 3rd 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

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844
978.683.1193

www.methuencatholic.org

**Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 1pm
Closed Wed**



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
978.686.9573

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Ron Coyne	Administrator
Fr. Michael Harvey	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Pierce	Senior Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
methuencatholic@gmail.com	
Karl Jackson	Director of Parish Life
faithformation.stlm@gmail.com	
Brink Bush	Music Director
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com	



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
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Psalm 86 (85): 1-3*

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

ENTRANCE HYMN*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*


1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. Life - giv - ing Cre - a - tor, of both great and small;
4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

1. In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
2. Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, you rule day and night;
3. Of all life the mak - er, the true life of all;
4. Your an - gels a - dor - ing, all veil - ing their sight;

1. Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
2. Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
3. We blos - som, then with - er, as leaves on a tree,
4. We too, God in - vis - i - ble, of - fer our praise;

1. Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
2. Your clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
3. But you live for ev - er, who is and will be.
4. O light in - ac - ces - si - ble, An - cient of Days!

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b*

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers. When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

But the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD for the service of other gods. For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 32: 2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21*


R. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord.

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

The LORD has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry.
The LORD confronts the evildoers, to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.

When the just cry out, the LORD hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them.
The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.

Many are the troubles of the just one, but out of them all the LORD delivers him;
He watches over all his bones; not one of them shall be broken.

SECOND READING*Ephesians 5: 21-32*

Brothers and sisters: Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life,
you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL*John 6: 60-69*

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***John 6: 54*

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise him up on the last day.

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.



COMMUNION HYMN*Panis Angelicus*

1. Pa - nis an - gé - li - cus, fit — pa - nis hó - mi - num,
 2. Te, tri - na Dé - i - tas ú - na - que, pó - sci - mus,
 1. Ho - ly and liv - ing bread, won - drous food from heav - en sent,
 2. God, ho - ly Three - In - One, through this off - 'ring of your Son



1. Dat pa - nis cáe - li - cus fi - gú - ris tér - mi - num.
 2. Sic nos tu ví - si - ta, sic - ut te có - li - mus;
 1. God's sac - ri - fice fore - told — now in our hands we hold.
 2. All now on earth can see what we are called to be:



1. O res mi - rá - bi - lis man - dú - cat Dó - mi - num,
 2. Per tu - as sé - mi - tas duc nos quo tén - di - mus,
 1. Sign and re - al - i - ty, chal - lenge for us to be
 2. Hope for a world in need, signs that love can suc - ceed



1. Pau - per, ser - vus, et hú - mi - lis.
 2. Ad lu - cem quam in - há - bi - tas.
 1. Hum - ble ser - vants to all the poor.
 2. Where true jus - tice and peace en - dure.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

1. O God, our Help in a - ges past, Our Hope for years to come,
 2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 3. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
 4. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;
 5. O God, our Help in a - ges past, Our Hope for years to come,



1. Our Shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal Home.
 2. From ev - er - last - ing thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 3. Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 4. We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - p'ning day.
 5. Be thou our Guard while life shall last, And our e - ter - nal Home.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, August 24

9:00am Paul & Josephine Amato
4:00pm Thelma McGreevy

Sunday, August 25

9:00am Rene & Yvonne Lacoste
Eileen Fullen
12:00pm Rose & Michael Arcidiacono
Josephine DiMauro Demers

Saturday, August 31

9:00am Angela Fazio
4:00pm For the Parishioners of
St. Monica & St. Lucy

Sunday, September 1

9:00am Jean Guy Dulac
Otilia Gonzalez
Luis Dubois
12:00pm Humberto & Elvia Noguera
Graciela Noguera
Anarosa Osorio
Peter & Joza Zelic and the
Deceased Members of their family



ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, August 24

4:00pm John McKenna

Sunday, August 25

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

Monday, August 26

9:00am Paulina Azucena

Tuesday, August 27

9:00am Alice Beverley

Thursday, August 29

9:00am Alan M. Roderick

Friday, August 30

9:00am Clara Autiello
Margaret Torrisi

Saturday, August 31

4:00pm Maureen Milne
Rosalie Crowley (Milne)

Sunday, September 1

10:30am Joseph & Lillian Rapazzp
Dominick Delgavio

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	08/25/24	Fr. Louis Palmieri	Rafael Milla
Mon	08/26/24	Fr. Steven Clemence	Thomas Rashid
Tues	08/27/24	Fr. John Grimes	Johnathan Saniuk
Wed	08/28/24	All Augustinians	Deacon Brian Daley
Thurs	08/29/24	Cardinal Seán (ordained 1970)	Deacon Brian Delaney
Fri	08/30/24	Msgr. Michael Foster	Deacon Thuy Nguyễn
Sat	08/31/24	Fr. Patrick O'Connor	Deacon Dong Huy Pham



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Leo M., Janet C., Taylor, Dirk D., Claire M., & Patrice K.

Please pray for those whose funerals we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.



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