

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 11

2022



Rejoice
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead
of you; he will prepare your way before you.
~Matthew 11:10

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3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, halfway through the season of Advent. It is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for rejoice. It is taken from the entrance antiphon of today's Mass:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

The reason for this great joy is the nearness of the Solemnity of Christmas. On this day, the Season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the focus is, "The Lord is near." Gaudete Sunday also offers a brief respite from the penitential tone of the Advent season to focus on the joy of the nearness of the Nativity.

Everything about this Sunday is joyful. While Advent remains a season of penance, when violet is the liturgical color, today's color is rose, a color of joy. The priest and deacon may wear rose vestments (one of only two times in the liturgical year that the rose color is worn). The decorations in the Church may include roses or other flowers, a rose-colored altar cloth, rose colored drapery on the pulpit or ambo, rose colored hangings, and other decorations. The candle on the Advent wreath that is lit today is rose colored, instead of violet, like the other three.

Even the readings and prayers are joyful. Isaiah says that he was sent "to bring glad tidings" and that "my God is the joy of my soul." The Responsorial Psalm is the Magnificat of Mary who says, "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Paul states that we should "rejoice always." The focus of everything is joy.

At this time of year, everything seems joyful to most of us. Many houses are shining with Christmas lights, yards are decorated, and you can see a Christmas tree through just about every window. But something is missing. While driving with my wife a few days ago, I began to be very aware that none of the decorations had anything to do with the real reason for Christmas. There were reindeer, and elves, and Santa, and snowmen, and many other figures, but no traces of Jesus anywhere that I could find. We didn't go everywhere, but covered several miles of roads in the area, and I did not see any indications that anyone was celebrating the birth of Jesus. Let us remember the reason we are joyful at this time of year. We are joyful because Jesus is coming. Santa Claus may be coming too, but Jesus should be the main reason for our joy. He is what Christmas is all about, and he will be here soon.

P.S. Let us remember those among us who feel no joy during this season for whatever reason. May God bless them and bring them the joy of his presence through the gift of friends and family.

METHUEN COLLABORATIVE
ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

Advent & Christmas Seasons

December 11-13

Advent Triduum

Collaborative Penance Service

December 11 | 4pm | St. Lucy Church

Advent Mission with Fr. Chris Hickey

December 12 | 7pm | St. Lucy Church

Patronal Feast of St. Lucy Mass

December 13 | 7pm | St. Lucy Church

December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

Lessons & Carols

December 18 | 4pm | St. Monica

December 24-25, 31-January 1

Christmas Season Masses

St. Lucy Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm & 10pm

Christmas Day | 10am

New Years Eve | 4pm

New Years Day | 10:30am

St. Monica Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm & 7pm

Christmas Day | 9am

New Years Eve | 4pm

New Years Day | 9am & 12pm

The BVM Sodality would like to thank the following community & business donors for their participation in the Craft Fair: Al's Family Diner; Avedisian Farm & Greenhouse; Colizzi Memorials, Inc.; Cash N Gold; Cataudella Funeral Home; Methuen Cooperative Bank; Delucca Fence Company, Inc.; Dewhirst and Boles Funeral Home; Hyatt Chiropractic Health Center; Kenneth H. Pollard Funeral Home; Lawrence Ladies Lodge #2026; Letourneau's Auto Detailing; Mann Orchards; Marianne Rafferty; Merrimack Valley Golf Club; Methuen House of Pizza; Methuen Karate Assoc - Giordano Family; Moore Chiropractic Office; NESCFederal Credit Union; Perreault Chiropractic Offices, Inc.; Peter Carrozza, Attorney at Law; Pleasant Valley Gardens; Rite Way Travel; Salem Co-Operative Bank; Scot E. Gabriel, Esquire; Sons of Italy Lodge #902; Studio 13 Hair & Beauty Consultants; Top Knot & Tabbies Pet Grooming; Whirlaway Golf Center; Zachary Michael's Salon; Zanni and Pesce Law Office.



ADVENT TRIDUUM

Dec 11, 4-5pm Penance Service
 Dec 12, 7pm Fr. Chris Hickey
 Dec 13, 7pm Patronal Feast Day Mass

Saint Monica School
 WINTER CALENDAR RAFFLE

February 2023

(If your name is picked on the day, you win that amount)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1. \$150	2. \$50	3. \$50	4. \$100
5. \$100	6. \$50	7. \$50	8. \$50	9. \$50	10. \$50	11. \$100
12. \$100	13. \$50	14. \$50	15. \$50	16. \$50	17. \$50	18. \$100
19. \$100	20. \$50	21. \$50	22. \$50	23. \$50	24. \$50	25. \$100
26. \$100	27. \$50	28. \$150				

We must sell 200 tickets. If we do not sell 200 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!)

All payments will be sent to winner/winners mid-March.

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

St. Monica School Calendar Raffle

\$10 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$50

Checks made out to St. Monica School by 1/31/23

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).



Week 3 - The JOY Candle

Also known as the Shepherds' Candle, this third candle of Advent signifies the joy of our coming Savior.

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Luke 1: 46-47

SPECIAL ADVENT MASSES

November 30, December 7, 14 & 21

6:45am

St. Monica Church



JOIN THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Anyone interested in singing Christmas carols for Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve are encouraged to join our Christmas Choir.

All ages are welcome!

We will be rehearsing at St. Monica's on Wednesday, December 14th at 7pm.

Musical Blessings....Brink Bush, Director of Music
Please RSVP by Dec. 13th to brinkbush@gmail.com



Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will hold its regular hours of 9am-2pm with the following exceptions:

Monday, December 5th....11am-2pm

Monday, December 12th....11am-2pm

Monday, December 19th....11am-2pm

Friday, December 23rd.....CLOSED

Monday, December 26th....CLOSED

Friday, December 30th....CLOSED

Monday, January 2nd....CLOSED

The BVM Sodality extends their appreciation to all parishioners who contributed to the Sock and Glove Drive to benefit Methuen Veterans and the homeless at the Daybreak Shelter. Your generosity provided 225 pairs of socks to be delivered to the Daybreak Shelter and 202 socks, gloves and hats to the Methuen Veterans through the International Veterans Care Services at 90 Broadway in Methuen.



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 18 at 4pm

St. Monica Church

Come and celebrate the season with Advent Lessons and Carols at St Monica's!

A professional quartet of singers will lead a volunteer choir in singing anthems and hymns to tell the story of Jesus and Christmas.

There is a special Children's Pageant section during the Lessons and Carols.

Please get in touch with Karl Jackson if your child would like to participate.

Take a break from shopping, wrapping and stress and enjoy beautiful music and meaningful readings from the Gospel. All are Welcome!

PROJECT BETHLEHEM

This year in support of St. Vincent de Paul Society in Methuen we will be collecting gift cards for families in need. They are requesting gift cards from:

- MARKET BASKET
- WALMART
- TARGET

The denominations they are requesting are **\$25.00 or under.**

A box will be located in the front foyer of St. Lucy's Church at morning mass from 8:30-9:30am and at weekend Masses from November 21st through December 15th. 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
508-783-1544

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Once again this year, 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 2022, 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:

**St. Vincent de Paul Nativity Program
254 Merrimack Street
Methuen, MA 01844.**

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!

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

- RCIA Meeting 8:30-10am St. Lucy School House
- Sodality Meeting 11:30am-12:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Faith Formation Mass & Meeting 12:45-2:45pm St. Lucy Church, Lower Church Hall & School House
- Pageant Practice 2:45-3:15pm St. Monica Church
- St. Lucy Triduum 4-5pm St. Lucy Church
- AA 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- St. Lucy Triduum 7-8pm St. Lucy Church followed by refreshments

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- MRA Meeting 9:30-11:30am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Bereavement Support Group 6-7:30pm St. Monica House
- ALPHA Course 6-8pm St. Lucy School House
- Patronal Feast Day Mass 7-8pm St. Lucy Church followed by refreshments

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- Mass 6:45am St. Monica Church
- Alanon 10-11:15am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St. Lucy Church
- CPC Council Meeting (alternating) 7-8:30pm St. Lucy School House
- Lessons & Carols Choir Practice 7-8pm St. Monica Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

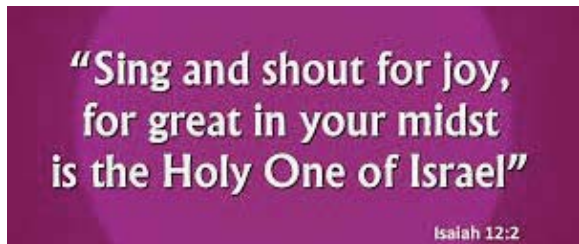
- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- School Mass 1pm St. Monica Church
- Rosary 6pm (Zoom)
- Catechism for Adults 6:30 (Zoom)
- SVDP Meeting 6:30-8pm St. Monica House
- AA 6:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- School Mass 1pm St. Monica Church
- Eucharistic Adoration 2-5pm Gethsemane Chapel
- Confessions 4-5pm Gethsemane Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

- Faith2Fitt 8-9am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- SVDP Gift Distribution 8am-12pm St. Monica House
- Mass 9am St. Monica Church
- Confessions 3-3:45pm Gethsemane Chapel



OFFERTORY | NOVEMBER 19 & 20

St. Monica - \$7,634.⁰⁰ St. Lucy - \$4,722.⁰⁰

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 soups, spaghetti sauce, cereal, canned fruit, canned tuna, baked beans, canned carrots, canned peas, rice, rice sides, pancake mix, pancake syrup, peanut butter, jelly, canned beans, mashed potatoes. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the entrances to St. Lucy and the side door of Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica

BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

GETHSEMANE CHAPEL at ST. MONICA CHURCH

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CHAPEL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE

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BAPTISMS 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:00pm St. Monica's | 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:30am at St. Lucy's

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 & 11 am St. Monica | 10 am St. Lucy

MON/TUES/THURS/FRI 9 am St. Lucy

SATURDAY 9 am St. Monica

CONFESSIONS

3 - 3:45 pm both parishes | Sat

4 - 5pm Gethsemane Chapel | Fri

6 - 7pm St. Lucy Church | Wed

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

2 - 5 pm Friday Gethsemane Chapel

6 - 7 pm Wednesday St. Lucy Church

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844

(978) 683 - 1193 or (978) 686 - 3311

www.methuencatholic.org

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am - 2pm

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Darin Colarusso Pastor

Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio Parochial Vicar

Deacon John Pierce Permanent Deacon

Deacon John Kobrenski Permanent Deacon

Kera Mansour Business Manager

methuencatholic@gmail.com

Karl Jackson Director of Parish Life

faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Brink Bush Music Director

Sharon Waning Music Ministry (St. Lucy)

Kevin Fitzgerald Facilities (St. Lucy) / RCIA

Christine Ryan Administrative Assistant

parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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ST. MONICA SCHOOL

212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844

(978) 686 - 1801

www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson Principal

Sharon Tully Administrative Assistant

smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Phil 4: 4-5*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice, Indeed, the Lord is near.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**SSM23 #241*

1. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
2. O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who

1. o-pen wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
2. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times once

1. leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
2. gave the law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall
come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

PENITENTIAL ACT*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Is 35: 1-6a*

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 146*

R. Lord, come and save us.

The LORD God keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets captives free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.
The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts.
The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations!

SECOND READING*Rom 15: 4-9*

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

GOSPEL*Mt 11: 2-11*

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Is 35: 4*

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come and he will save us.

PRAYER FOR PASTORAL PLANNING

Almighty Father, give us grace to follow where your Son leads.
Make our priests holy and effective ministers of the Gospel,
our staff and parishioners dedicated and enthusiastic disciples,
and all of us docile to the Holy Spirit and obedient to your will.
Help us make our parishes a light for those seeking you
and a safe harbor for those who hope in you.

COMMUNION HYMN*Eat This Bread*

Refrain

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*The Advent of Our King*

SSM23 #322

1. The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em -
2. The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to
3. Daugh - ter of Zi - on, rise To meet thy low - ly

1. ploy, And we must hymns of wel - come sing In
2. be; Him - self a serv - ant's form puts on To
3. King, Nor let thy faith - less heart de - spise The

1. strains of ho - ly joy.
2. set his serv - ants free.
3. peace he comes to bring.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 10

9:00am Connie & Albert Zampelli
Joseph & Alice Indoccio
Arthur & Gloria Royer

4:00pm For the Parishioners of
St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes

Sunday, December 11

9:00am Manuel & Fernanda Cordeiro
Evelyn & Jose Freitas
Theresa & William Leach
Mark S. Bouchard, Jr.
Fred Grosse

11:00 am Richard McCarron

Saturday, December 17

9:00am Paul Dionne

4:00pm William F. Hutton

Sunday, December 18

9:00am Marion Bench
Amy Waterworth
Robert Putnam
Nancy Tardif
Robert Ouellette, Sr.
Richard Fairbanks

11:00 am Joseph Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Michael Milnes

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 10

4:00pm Vincenza Pelliccione, Rev. Charles J.
Sgueglia, Antonia & Philomena Sgueglia,
Domenic & Mary Rotonelli, Guiseppi &
Francesca Bevilacqua, Angelo, Jack &
Jennie Maimone

Sunday, December 11

10:00am Deceased Members of the Rickley Family
Maria & Fred Laird
Colette Lebel
Angelo & Laura Chester
Helen Fredette
Charles DeFrancesco
Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality

Monday, December 12

9:00am William & Margaret Collins
Joseph Collins & Winifred Mulcrone

Tuesday, December 13

9:00am Stella M. Ramey

Thursday, December 15

9:00am Colette Lebel

Friday, December 16

9:00am Antonio & Evelina Mollica

Saturday, December 17

4:00pm Charles J. Piro

Sunday, December 18

10:00am Thomas Wholley
Dominick "Rex" Campone
Tomas & Adrianna Campone & Family
Anne-Louise Glynn
Catherine Petralia
Elaine Parrino

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/11/22	Fr. Joseph Mazzone	Gustavo Neitzke
Mon	12/12/22	Fr. Scott Euvrard	Thuy Nguyễn
Tues	12/13/22	Pope Francis (1969 ordained)	Javier Padilla
Wed	12/14/22	Fr. John R. Carroll	Dong Pham
Thurs	12/15/22	Fr. Joseph Gaudet	Edward Rodriguez
Fri	12/16/22	Fr. J. Thomas Gignac	Jonathan Saniuk
Sat	12/17/22	Bishop Kennedy (1966 ordained)	Aaron Sanz

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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Please pray for Bill, & Barbara D.

Please pray for Elizabeth Bolduc, Dorothy Calderone & Frank McKinney whose funerals we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



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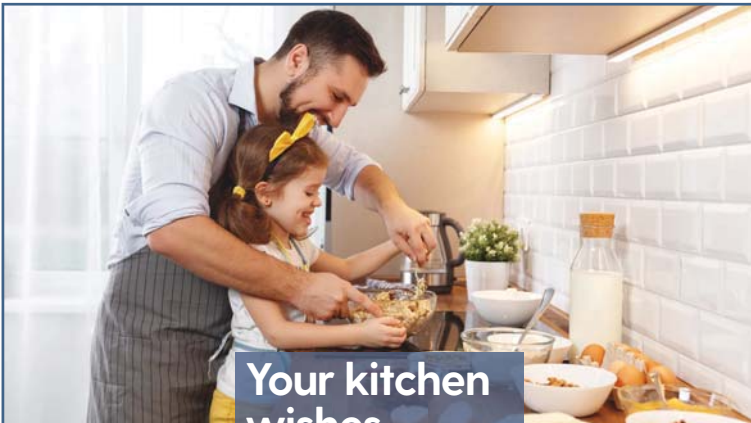
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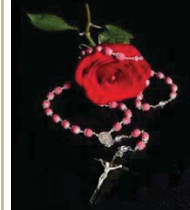


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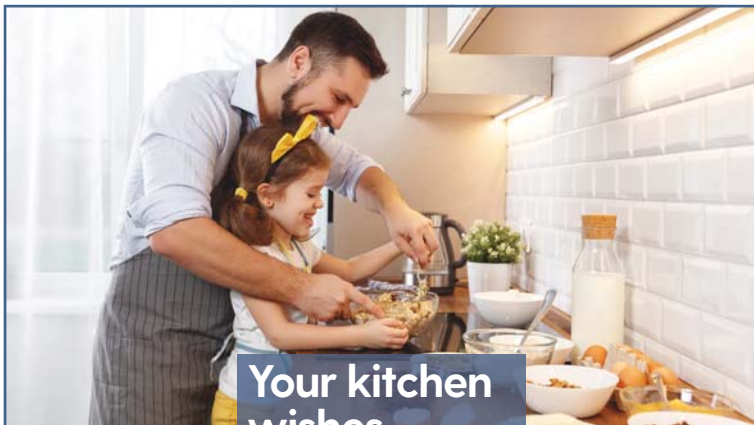
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