

## 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



### THE CONDITIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP

“For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory,  
And then he will repay all according to his conduct.” Matthew 16:27

### Opportunities and Challenges in the New Season

Just as fair warning up front, you will see this bulletin entry next week. The reason being fairly obvious for those of you here on Labor Day Weekend: we are not sure how many people will worship today, but hopefully more will come next week with the start of school and the beginning of religious education just around the corner. Also, over the course of two weekends, pretty much everybody that attends Church will do so.

That's the good news. We have very consistent Mass attendance numbers throughout the seasons of the year. We didn't really have a big summer drop-off for two years running. However, the challenge is that we don't have a big fall return either. You who come to Church are dedicated to the Lord, as He asks us to be. The challenging news is the opposite side of the coin. Many people have not returned to the active practice of the Faith. Basically, our Mass attendance numbers are **HALF** of what they were from before the pandemic.

By the way, that's not just here, but across the region. In 2018 the weekly Mass attendance across the Archdiocese of Boston was essentially 220,000, approximately 12% of the 1.85 million baptized Catholics in Boston. In October of 2022 (the most recent annual count) it was down to only 105,000 (6%). Perhaps more folks will spontaneously return with the new school year, but the trend has been the same for decades: in 2012 the weekly average was 260,000 (14%) and in 2005 it was 320,000 (17%). Of course, many of us remember when the numbers were closer to 75% Mass attendance rate!

In the letters sent out in October 2022 for our Financial Review and Grand Annual Appeal I wrote: "I will give you the good news up front: we are actually *more financially and facilities sound than we were in Spring of 2019....[etc.]* Now the not so good news. Between now and June 2023, we project that St Monica / St Lucy Parish will have an operating loss of \$110,000 / \$60,000" [respectively].

You may remember the reasons for those deficit projections being the lower Mass attendance, rising inflation, and increased costs given that the parishes were fully open. In the Grand Annual Appeal homily I said that since we are in good shape in many ways, we could live the following year in hope to enliven parish life and to diversify our revenue streams. In other words, I didn't want to come back last spring and promote an increased giving campaign on you who have always supported the parishes at the highest rate. So I suggested that we donate our time to the parish events: "Just show up," and make our community an attractive place for others to rejoin.

We did a pretty good job in that regard. Everything we did had a good turn out, though financially the results were as predicted: offertory and grand annual that didn't meet budget, events that still need to be turned into major fundraisers, and new initiatives such as the Legacy Foundation, which promotes estate gifts, without much response. So at the end of Fiscal Year, June 2023, both parishes had those large deficits. Large enough to announce that we only have two or three years worth of savings if we don't turn the trend around.

So we enter the new season determined to reverse the trends in "Time, Talent, and Treasure." In short, everyone will be invited to pitch in more, reach out more, and to give more. Some of these areas very much overlap. For example, excellence and beauty in the liturgy and worship is a compelling attraction to the soul, whether we realize it in the moment or not. Sometimes specific Sunday Masses should enliven our parish community by having a family focus during religious education classes and offering hospitality whenever possible. At other times and seasons, the Masses could similarly focus on reverence for the Lord and his Eucharistic Sacrifice.

Here's a test case that seeks to combine several of the elements of a flourishing parish: the return of welcomers at the door and the passing of the collection basket. Obviously, anyone who is new or returning will have a positive first impression by a simple hello. But just as important is the willingness of individuals to pitch in their time to serve and to be a person of outreach to the stranger. Now personally (and this should come as no surprise), I like the donation basket at the church entrance for a number of reasons, but taking up a collection in the pews does provide a few advantages.

Liturgically it is meant to represent the gifts we give to the Lord. Financially it is a reminder to all that we are obligated to support the parish and that it is in great need of revenue (often people just don't see the basket at the door, particularly if they are visiting). The addition of an active ministry, provided it is respectful and reverent, will immediately depict the necessity that we all must participate in some way in the life of our parish. Lastly, by finalizing the move away from a "single point of entry" mentality, the whole church will just feel more open and inviting. Of course, again, that requires welcomers to hand out bulletins and those entering to agree to act as money collectors at the time of the offertory.

All these elements are meant to blend together in an upward trend of parish flourishing. Please be attentive to the many needs of the parishes as we enter the new season and please be responsive in some way to the invitations "time, talent, treasure" as they apply to you.

*Jesus* is longing for your presence.  
**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

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

Wednesdays  
 6-7pm  
 St. Lucy Church

**GOT QUESTIONS**

TRY ALPHA 

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life and questions of faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No judgment. No pressure. No charge. Join us Tuesday Evenings.

First Meeting is Tuesday, September 19 | 6pm  
 St. Lucy Schoolhouse | 254 Merrimack St.

To register call the office at 978-683-1193 or  
 Email [alphacourse.stlm@gmail.com](mailto:alphacourse.stlm@gmail.com)

**REGISTRATION FOR FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENT PREPARATION**

**DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 29TH.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER.  
**METHUENCATHOLIC.ORG**

CLASSES START AS EARLY AS **KINDERGARTEN.**  
 FIRST COMMUNION STARTS IN **SECOND GRADE.**  
 CONFIRMATION PREP LASTS TWO YEARS AND BEGINS IN THE **NINTH GRADE** (FRESHMAN YEAR).

**QUESTIONS, CONTACT KARL AT**  
 (978) 683 - 1193 ext. 35



**BAPTISM MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our Baptism Ministry Team accompanies families seeking baptism for their children.

We are excited to invite members of our parishes to learn more about this rewarding and essential ministry by contacting Andrea at 978-257-3472 or [atkbradstreet@aol.com](mailto:atkbradstreet@aol.com)



Are you an **ADULT** with a desire to receive the sacraments (*Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist*) or learn more about your faith?

**CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10th**

**QUESTIONS, CONTACT KARL AT**  
 (978) 683 - 1193 ext. 35  
[faithformation.stlm@gmail.com](mailto:faithformation.stlm@gmail.com)

## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Patroness of the Americas  
Star of the First and the New Evangelizations  
Patroness of the Unborn

**Nine Tuesdays from  
September 12 - November 7  
Saint Monica Church  
7pm**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Praying the Rosary  
The Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Reading and Meditation/Reflection  
The Novena Prayers  
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

*"Let not your heart be disturbed. Am I not here? Are you not under my protection? So not grieve or be disturbed by anything."*

Helping Minds Grow Beyond The Bell



### **Are you looking for a part time job? Retired teachers, high school students, college students—Look no further!**

St. Monica School is looking for caring individuals to work with our students in our afterschool program. Responsibilities include playing games, arts and crafts and general supervision of school-aged children.

Our afterschool program runs Monday thru Friday  
2pm – 6pm. Hours and days are flexible.

If interested and would like to learn more about this position, please call the school office at 978-686-1801 or email me at [principal@methuencatholic.org](mailto:principal@methuencatholic.org)



### **A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER**

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

The images and news reports coming out of the Island of Maui are heartbreaking. Recognizing the immediate and growing need for assistance, Cardinal Sean has asked that a special collection be taken in all parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston to support Church relief efforts in the Diocese of Honolulu.

This weekend - **September 2 & 3** - our parishes will hold a **SPECIAL COLLECTION** to support the **Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation (HCCF)** relief efforts for local community members affected by the Maui wildfires.

Please address your checks to either St. Monica Parish or St. Lucy Parish, with "Maui Relief" in the memo.



THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- AA 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 - LABOR DAY

- PARISH OFFICES CLOSED
- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- First Day of School - Grades 1-8
- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Rosary Prayer Group for Priests 6pm Gethsemane Chapel

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- First Day of School - PK/K
- Alanon 10am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Eucharistic Adoration followed by Men's Ministry 6pm St. Lucy Church & Lower Church Hall

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- School Mass 1pm St. Monica Church
- Baptism Prep Class 6pm St. Lucy School House
- Rosary (Zoom) 6pm
- AA 6:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- SVDP Meeting 6:30pm St. Monica House

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- School Mass 1pm St. Monica Church

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- Faith2Fitt 8am Methuen Track & Field
- Mass 9am St. Monica Church
- Eucharistic Adoration 9:30am-2:30pm Gethsemane Chapel
- Bettors Anonymous 2pm St. Monica SVDP Hut
- Confessions 3-3:45pm Gethsemane Chapel & St. Lucy Church

**Morning of Reflection**

St. Lucy Parish Hall  
September 10, 2023  
10:00-1:00



*The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality is honored to host a Morning of Reflection to examine the history and impact of Our Lady of Knock on today's women. Father Richard O'Brien will lead participants through spiritual discussion, reflective thinking, song, and humor throughout the morning.*

On a rainy evening of Aug. 21, 1879, 15 persons saw a two-hour vision on the gable of St. John the Baptist church in the humble village of Knock, County Mayo, Ireland. Fifteen people witnessed an apparition of the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, and Saint John the Evangelist. The witnesses described Mary as looking beautiful in a white cloak and standing a few feet above the ground, deep in prayer with her eyes raised to heaven. Saint Joseph and John stood on Mary's right and left, dressed in long robes.

Witnesses stood in the rain for two hours reciting the Rosary while the ground around Mary, Joseph, and John remained completely dry.

Although not a word was spoken by Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John during the silent apparition at Knock, the vision spoke louder than words with an eloquent message. Come join our Sodality on September 10<sup>th</sup> to explore their message.

*This event is open to all women. Breakfast Refreshments and a Remembrance of this event provided to all participants. \$10 donation at the door.*

***Do you love St. Francis?  
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For more information: contact: Francine Gikow, OFS  
978-886-9511 or [ffgofs@gmail.com](mailto:ffgofs@gmail.com)

**Peace and all good!**

**OFFERTORY AUGUST 12 & 13**

St. Monica - \$7,415.<sup>00</sup>

St. Lucy - \$3,448.<sup>00</sup>

**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 cereal, rice, rice sides, mashed potatoes, peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta, canned beans, tuna, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit & pancake syrup. 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.

<p><b>GETHSEMANE CHAPEL AT ST. MONICA CHURCH</b> Open 7 days/week from morning rush hour until 7pm</p>	<p><b>CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE</b> Open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm , Sat &amp; Sun 9am-5pm</p>
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**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

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

<p><b>MASS SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>SAT 4 pm (VIGIL) both parishes SUN 9 am &amp; 12 pm St. Monica 10:30 am St. Lucy MON/TUES/THURS/FRI 9 am St. Lucy SATURDAY 9 am St. Monica</p>	<p><b>CONFESSIONS</b></p> <p>SAT 3-3:45pm at both parishes</p>
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**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: M - F 9am - 2pm**



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**  
978.686.9573

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Fr. Darin Colarusso	Pastor
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>	
Brink Bush	Music Director
Sharon Waning	Music Ministry (St. Lucy)
Kevin Fitzgerald	Facilities (St. Lucy) / RCIA
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
<b>parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com</b>	



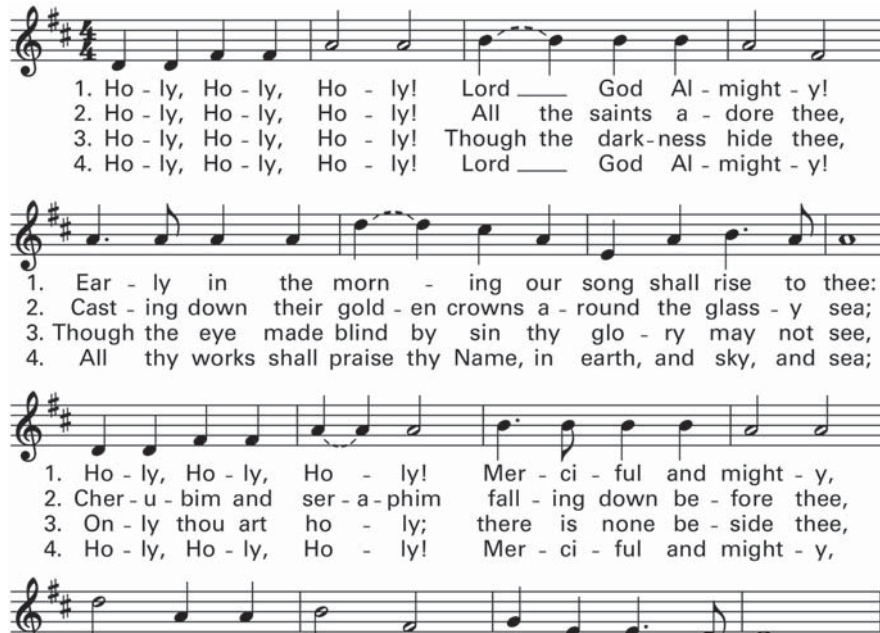
**ST. MONICA SCHOOL**  
212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844  
(978) 686-1801  
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

**SCHOOL STAFF**

Donna Henderson	Principal
Pam Silveira	Administrative Assistant
<b>smsoffice@methuencatholic.org</b>	

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON***Ps 86 (85): 3, 5*

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.  
O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

**ENTRANCE HYMN***Holy, Holy, Holy*


1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!  
2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee,  
4. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!

1. Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee:  
2. Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
3. Though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,  
4. All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,  
2. Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
3. On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
4. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,

1. God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.  
2. Which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
3. Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.  
4. God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

**PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA***Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Jer 20: 7-9*

You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me.

Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day.

I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM***Ps 138 (137): 1-2, 2-3, 6, 8*


**R.** My soul is thirst - ing for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory,  
For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.

Thus I will bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.  
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.  
My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.

SECOND READING*Rom 12: 1-2*

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

✠. May the Father of our Lord *Jesus Christ*  
enlighten the eyes of *our hearts*,  
that we may know what is *the hope* \*  
that belongs to *our call*.

GOSPEL*Mt 16: 21-27*

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.” He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct.”

CREED*Refer to Pew Card*COMMUNION ANTIPHON*Ps 31 (30): 20*

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

**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*The King of Love*

1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose  
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow With  
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish I have strayed, But

1. good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 2. gen - tle care he leads me, And where the ver - dant  
 3. yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul - der

1. I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.  
 2. pas - tures grow, With heav'n - ly food he feeds me.  
 3. gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.

POSTLUDE AT ST. MONICA*Mr. Bush*RECESSIONAL HYMN*At the Name of Jesus*

At the name of Je - sus, ev - 'ry knee shall bow, ev - 'ry tongue con -

fess him: King of glo - ry now. Je - sus is Lord, King of glo - ry now!

Verses

1. He \_\_\_ emp - tied him - self, as a slave, yet free,  
 2. He \_\_\_ hum - bled him - self, and o - beyed God's will.  
 3. God ex - alt - ed him, raised him up on high  
 4. Christ \_\_\_ Je - sus will come at the end of time,

1. came in hu - man like - ness \_\_\_ for you and for me; in  
 2. On a cross he died \_\_\_ on Cal - va - ry's hill; for  
 3. so a - bove all oth - ers \_\_\_ his name will not die; that  
 4. come with ju - bi - la - tion \_\_\_ to call \_\_\_ us home. Un -

to Refrain

1. hu - man like - ness \_\_\_ for you and for me.  
 2. you and me he o - beyed \_\_\_ God's will.  
 3. name we hon - or \_\_\_ and glo - ri - fy.  
 4. til that day you and I will pro - claim:

ST. MONICA PARISH

**Saturday, September 2**

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS  
No Intentions

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

**Sunday, September 3**

9:00am Joseph O'Neil  
Robert Roche  
Tim Jackson  
Laurie Jackson

12:00pm Otilia Gonzalez

**Saturday, September 9**

9:00am Yvonne & Roland Soucy

4:00pm Julie Ahles

**Sunday, September 10**

9:00am For the Parishioners of  
St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes

12:00pm Mary & Richard Viano

ST. LUCY PARISH

**Saturday, September 2**

4:00pm Deceased Members of the  
Marcello, Conte & Mugavero Families

**Sunday, September 3**

10:30am Deceased Members of the  
Belizaire & Fidelus Families  
Jim Gablosky  
Fiorenza Alla  
John Pehl  
John E. D'Angelo

**Monday, September 4**

9:00am Mary Early

**Tuesday, September 5**

9:00am Luisa & Pia Rea

**Thursday, September 7**

9:00am George, Christine & Richard Ferguson

**Friday, September 8**

9:00am Robert Ofoedu

**Saturday, September 9**

4:00pm Michael Kenny, Jr.

**Sunday, September 10**

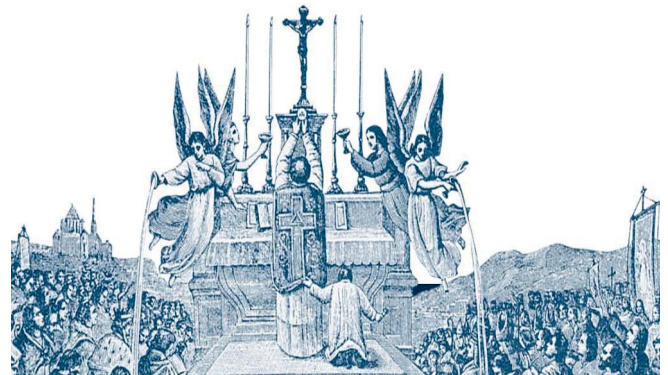
10:30am Antonio DiFruscia  
Carlos Hayon  
Robert Higgins  
Victor Andreoli

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	09/03/23	Fr. Joseph Driscoll	Luca Azzani
Mon	09/04/23	Fr. Brian Flatley	Alexander De Tirado
Tues	09/05/23	Fr. Eugene Tully	Diego Mendoza
Wed	09/06/23	Fr. William Kennedy	Henry Seuffert
Thurs	09/07/23	Fr. Wayne Belschner	Christopher Šilebi
Fri	09/08/23	Pope Francis	Chris Barton
Sat	09/09/23	Fr. Peter Stamm	Alden Bronson



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Marlene, Kay, Jim, Carlos S., Paul C., Meg C., Jesus L., Kevin W., Bill R., Patrice K., Jason, & Matt W.

Please pray for Austin Michael Willette whose funeral we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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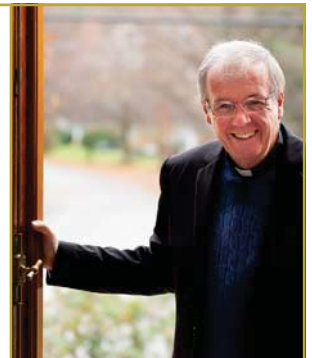
\*Requires purchase of annual plan. Special price is for first Lawn application only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. †Purchase of annual lawn plan required for TruGreen Lawn Assessment, which is performed at the first visit. \*Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2023 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.

“Be a Servant” Matthew 20:26

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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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