

# METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 22  
2024



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“ ‘Behold, I come to do your will, O God.’ ”

Hebrews 10:7

## Merry Christmas

Dear Parishioners,

On November 27, 2024, Time Square went dark for a moment and the song *Silent Night* began. Along with this Carol, a beautiful video about the nativity of Jesus began playing with the invitation to spread His light. When I discovered this video, I was in the middle of preparing this Christmas message about the light that has shone, so, I said to myself: "This is definitely the message I have to send".

After the four weeks of Advent in which we have prepared to celebrate Christmas, the liturgy tells us: "*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone*" (Is 9:1). This is Christmas, the joy of the light of Christ that has broken into the darkness of this world; the mystery of the Incarnation, the mystery that God himself has become man and is here in the *now* of our history.

How beautiful it is to celebrate Christmas! How many memories come to our minds of the things we did when we were children and now, we pass them on to the next generation: family gatherings, delicious dinners, traditional dishes, carols, and gifts. Our houses are illuminated with the bright and cheerful colors of Christmas lights, and even though the darkness of the night comes soon because the days are shorter than they are during the summertime, our houses are full of light. I hope we all have the opportunity to share a beautiful time with our families and people we love, and I encourage you to make time to be with those you love. Christmas is a special night and full of light.

Now, what does it mean that Jesus is light? In his first Christmas mass, Pope Benedict XVI commented on the passage of the prophet Isaiah by saying: "*Light means knowledge; it means truth, as contrasted with the darkness of falsehood and ignorance. Light gives us life; it shows us the way. But light, as a source of heat, also means love. Where there is love, light shines forth in the world; where there is hatred, the world remains in darkness*" (homily 12/24/2005).

Light is knowledge because Jesus has revealed to us who God is, who the human being is, and what is the way to walk towards God. We are no longer ignorant about the most important mysteries of our life even if we cannot totally comprehend them.

Light is love because Jesus has forgiven our sins with his death on the Cross and has told us that God "*did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him*" (Jn 3:17). In Him we know that we are not condemned, that no matter how far we have drifted from God, there is always hope and forgiveness.

The faithful who have received this Good News, who celebrates Christmas, must remember that they have also become light as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:14-15). Many people walk in the darkness of ignorance about God and about what is best for the human being. Many people walk in darkness because they don't have anyone who loves them with the love of Christ. But we are light.

May the light of Christ dispel all darkness from our lives and turn us into flaming torches radiating the light of Christ. Merry Christmas to all.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Marcos Peña  
Administrator

METHUEN COLLABORATIVE  
ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

# Advent & Christmas Seasons

## December 24-25, January 1 Christmas Season Masses

### St. Lucy Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm & 6pm

Christmas Day | 10:30am

New Years Day | 9:00am

### St. Monica Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm

Christmas Day | 9am

New Years Day | 12:00pm

### UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION Christmas Collection: Clergy Trust December 25th

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE PARISH**

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit [www.clergytrust.org](http://www.clergytrust.org)



**Holiday Office Hours**

**The Parish Office will be closed:**  
**Tuesday, December 24th**  
**Wednesday, December 25th**  
**Wednesday, January 1st**



### Christmas Tree Pick up for Methuen residents only

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

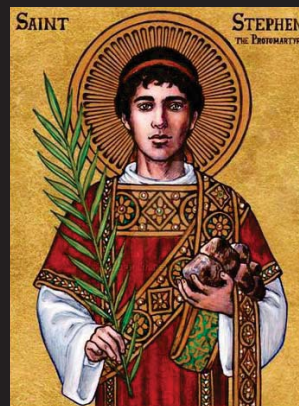
Mr. Marc Krzywicki will be taking appointments for Methuen Residents Only to pick up your tree for the weekends of:

**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!



Merry Christmas wishes to you from all of us at the Parish Office.



**FEAST OF**  
*St. Stephen,*  
**FIRST MARTYR**

~ December 26 ~

**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!

**ST. MONICA SCHOOL HAPPENINGS**

The Advent season is a time of joyful anticipation, reflection, and preparation for the birth of Christ, and St. Monica School has fully embraced this sacred time. The season began with a moving Adoration service, where students and staff gathered to focus their hearts on Christ's coming. Weekly Advent prayer services have continued to guide our journey, with themes of peace, love, and hope inspiring the school community to pray for each other and the world. A special visit from St. Nicholas was enjoyed by all, recalling the sacrifices of one to better the lives of many. These moments of shared faith remind us of the deeper meaning of the season and the call to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas.



This Advent, our students also lived their faith through acts of love and service in our intergenerational programming. Kindergarteners brought warmth and smiles to the residents of Berkeley Retirement Home, while fifth graders deepened relationships with Methuen Village residents during their monthly visits. Our Happy Hearts Community Chorus, featuring over 35 students from grades 1-8, has shared the joy of music with the broader community, spreading cheer and building connections. These experiences allow students to embody the spirit of giving and fellowship that Advent calls us to cultivate. The Christmas season becomes even more meaningful when seen through the eyes of children. Their wonder and excitement illuminate the beauty of this holy time and inspire the entire community. As we celebrate Christmas - the lessons of Advent—peace, love, hope, and joy—continue to resonate in our school, shaping hearts and drawing us closer to the true light of the season: the birth of Jesus Christ.



Mrs. Donna Henderson

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.  
978-686-1801 212 Lawrence Street Methuen, MA 01844  
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org



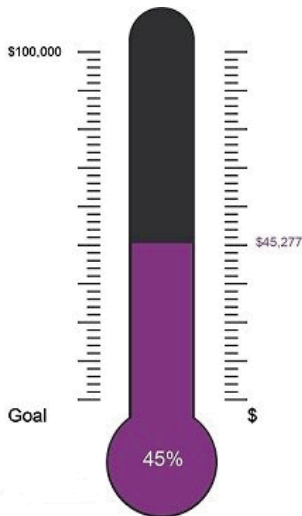
I look to the future with hope, and I invite you to do the same...we have an incredible opportunity to build the Kingdom of God by responding to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit for the good of our parish, our community, and ourselves. To become even more vibrant and active in spreading the Gospel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

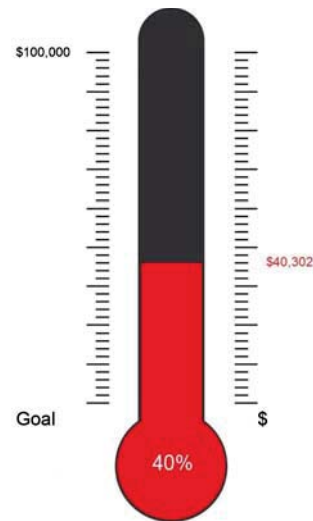
As I repeat at the end of every Mass, thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasures; and in a special way, thank you for your support of our Grand Annual appeal.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Marcos*



**St. Monica Parish**



**St. Lucy Parish**



**DECEMBER 7 & 8**

St. Monica - \$7,318      St. Lucy - \$4,425

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 Pasta Sauce, Canned Pasta, Jelly, Baked Beans & 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

**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. 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>	
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>	

**INTROIT***Isaiah 45:8*

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Em - ma - nu - el, And  
2. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In

1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
2. one the hearts of all man - kind; Bid thou our sad di -

1. ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re -  
2. vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our King of Peace.

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

Is - ra - el.

**PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA***Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Micah 5:1-4a*

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM***Psalm 80: 2-3, 15-16. 18-19*

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from  
your throne upon the cherubim,  
shine forth. Rouse your power, and  
come to save us.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look  
down from heaven, and see; take  
care of this vine, and protect what  
your right hand has planted the son  
of man whom you yourself made  
strong.

May your help be with the man of  
your right hand, with the son of man  
whom you yourself made strong.  
Then we will no more withdraw  
from you; give us new life, and we  
will call upon your name.

**SECOND READING***Hebrews 10: 5-10*

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this 'will', we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**ALLELUIA***Luke 1:38*

∇ Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

**GOSPEL***Luke 1:39-45*

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

**PROFESSION OF FAITH***Refer to Pew Card***SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI***Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Isaiah 7:14*

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**COMMUNION HYMN***See How The Virgin Waits*

1. See how the Vir - gin waits for him; Ma - ry in won - der  
 2. Gent - ly she hears the dis - tant breeze sway - ing the sil - ver  
 3. Now a new pat - tern on the loom; now a new pres - ence

1. waits for him. Shake off your slum - ber: come all full of  
 2. ol - ive trees. What is she think - ing as the sun is  
 3. in the room. Wak - ing or sleep - ing, all her love she's

1. won - der. Je - sus is com - ing as the Prince of Peace.  
 2. sink - ing, wait - ing the birth - day of her first - born Son?  
 3. keep - ing, wait - ing the com - ing of the Son of God.



**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.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN***O come, Divine Messiah*

1. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The  
 2. O you, whom na - tions sigh for, Whom

1. world in si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its  
 2. priest and proph-et long fore - told, Will break the cap - tive

1. tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way. Dear Sav - ior, haste!  
 2. fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.

Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the night and show your  
 face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, Di - vine Mes  
 si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day When  
 hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

ST. MONICA PARISH

**Saturday, December 21**

9:00am Deceased Members of the Zampelli,  
Royer, Serpa & Indoccio Families  
4:00pm Jacob & Jamie McDaniel

**Sunday, December 22**

9:00am For the Parishioners of  
St. Lucy & St. Monica  
12:00pm Dick McCarron  
Robert Ouellette, Sr.  
Robert Ouellette, Jr.

**Tuesday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:00pm CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

**Wednesday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS**

9:00am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

**Saturday, December 28**

9:00am William & Margaret Collins  
Jack Moore  
4:00pm Robert Putnam

**Sunday, December 29**

9:00am Lorraine Malignaggi  
Connie Mercier  
Marilee Ralph  
12:00pm For the Parishioners of  
St. Lucy & St. Monica

ST. LUCY PARISH

**Saturday, December 21**

4:00pm Maria & Salvatore Campailla  
Silvana Campailla  
Michelangelo Iuvara

**Sunday, December 22**

10:30am Antonio & Evelina Mollica  
Adella DiZazzo  
John & Mary DiZazzo  
Donna Scanlon  
Angelo & Laura Chester  
Jorge Quintana  
Charles DeFrancesco

**Monday, December 23**

9:00am Manny Gianni  
Christine Gianni Eldridge

**Tuesday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**

9:00am Catherine Petralia  
4:00pm CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS  
6:00pm CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

**Wednesday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS**

10:30am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

**Thursday, December 26**

9:00am John Thomas

**Friday, December 27**

9:00am Bertrand LeBlanc  
Real Taschereau  
Gerard Taschereau

**Saturday, December 28**

4:00pm Douglas Hamel

**Sunday, December 29**

10:30am Antoinetta Petteruti  
John McDermott  
Maria Carelli  
Deceased Members of the  
Carelli & Rea Families  
Giuseppe Sangiorgio & Deceased  
Members of the Sangiorgio Family  
Charles Rimas

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/22/24	Bishop Barbosa (ordained 2007)	Thien Ngo SJS Hanoi
Mon	12/23/24	Fr. John Arens	Lich Nguyen SJS Hanoi
Tues	12/24/24	Fr. James Butler	<b>Pope Francis</b>
Wed	12/25/24	All Priests in the World	<b>Merry Christmas</b>
Thurs	12/26/24	Fr. Stephen Zukas	Jose Leonardo Rojas Gonzalez OFM, Cap
Fri	12/27/24	Fr. John Murray	Connor Roukey SJS Boston
Sat	12/28/24	Fr. James Kelly	Zachary Smith, OMFV

PRAYER CORNER

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

Please pray for Marilee Ralph whose funeral we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

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