



## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

Matthew 13:23



Earlier this year, the archive department received an inquiry about a famous statue of George Washington that once stood on the land that is now home to St. Monica School in Methuen. Since the statue was removed from Methuen 65 years ago this July, we thought it a good time to tell a brief history of the colossal monument that once loomed large in the Merrimack Valley.

In 1883, in his studio in Florence, Italy, the Charlestown-born sculptor Thomas Ball began work on a new statue of George Washington. His resume was already impressive; he had created bronze statues of such dignitaries as Daniel Webster (1868) and Charles Sumner (1878). His "Equestrian Statue of George Washington" (1864) on Boston Common was among the city's most prized artistic treasures. Yet, this new statue would be his most ambitious and complex work to date.

The work would take Ball 10 years to complete. When it was finished, the monument consisted of a 15-foot bronze statue of the first president, four seated figures, four portrait busts, and four eagles flanked by flags, all displayed on a tiered marble base. Though not universally acclaimed by critics (The Nation called it "a mediocrity, or worse"), it was accepted for display at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, becoming the

centerpiece of the International Rotunda in the Fine Arts Building.

After the World's Fair, the statue returned to the man who had bought it: the interior and architectural designer Edward Francis Searles, an eccentric multimillionaire living in Methuen. During a trip to Italy, Searles had seen the partially completed statue in Thomas Ball's studio, and offered to purchase it upon completion. He envisioned the statue as the centerpiece of the park he had installed across the street from his estate on Lawrence Street in Methuen. After the completion of the statue's pedestal in 1900, The Boston Globe reported, "the gates of the little park . . . Were thrown open on Washington's birthday, unannounced, and the public was admitted to view this beautiful art work."

For 20 years, the statue sat behind a granite wall and a high iron fence, open to the public only occasionally, depending on the whims of its wealthy owner. When Edward Searles died in 1920, the park passed to one of his relatives, Benjamin Allen Rowland, who held the property for decades. Over the years, art collectors, institutions, and even governments were interested in purchasing the statue from Rowland, but both the price tag (in 1925, the statue was valued at \$250,000) and the logistics of moving the monument proved too daunting.

It was not until the 1950s that the statue would be transferred to new owners. In 1955, Benjamin Rowland, who had moved from Methuen to Washington, D.C., to serve as special assistant to the secretary of the department of commerce, offered the Washington Park property as a gift to the city of Methuen, with the stipulation that the site be used for a school. The city rejected the offer, considering the lot too limited in size for a public school.

When Father Thomas F. Ferris, the pastor of St. Monica Church, heard about the city's rejection of the land, he immediately penned a letter to Benjamin Rowland. St. Monica's was located adjacent to Washington Park, and the parish was then searching for an appropriate parcel on which to build a parochial school. Since Father Ferris's proposal to build a school on the land was at least partially in accordance with Rowland's wishes, in April of 1956, Rowland agreed to sell the land to the archdiocese for \$16,000.

It has often been written that Thomas Ball's Washington statue was removed from Methuen to make way for St. Monica School, but historic records reveal a different story.

St. Monica's wanted very much to keep the Washington statue. Father Ferris, in particular, appreciated the importance of the statue to the city and made every effort to keep it. In August of 1956, Father Ferris telephoned the chancery and left a message with the chancellor's secretary that reads, in part, "This is a very famous statue and Father is of the opinion that the sentiment of the Town would be against selling. It really is a town landmark . . . Father does not think he should sell it but feels that the statue should be kept and that the school can be built around it."

In September, Father Ferris contacted the chancellor, Msgr. Robert J. Sennott, again. This time, it came in the form of a letter.

"I have given much thought to the sale. I have sounded out the sentiment of members of my parish. . . It is my opinion that this valuable monument would add greatly to the church school. I do not believe we should give it up," Father Ferris wrote.

Msgr. Sennott replied on Oct. 10 that "His Excellency (Archbishop Richard Cushing) has decided to follow your judgment in the matter."

The statue would remain.

Ground was broken for St. Monica School in October 1957 and construction began immediately. Workers built around the Washington monument, and great care was taken not to damage the statue or its base. The statue was to be the centerpiece of the school, standing just out front in a central court.

Unfortunately, during construction, when the statue was examined by the school's engineers, they found that decades of New England weather had so deteriorated the marble base of the monument that the integrity of the statue itself was at risk. Repairs would be extremely costly, as would the ongoing care required to ensure that structural problems would not persist

Reluctantly, the archdiocese reached out to those who had expressed interest in purchasing the statue, including Forest Lawn Cemetery in Hollywood Hills, California. Although the statue would no longer be in Methuen, it would, at least, remain on public display. And, of course, the California weather would be kinder to it than the Massachusetts winters. On July 3, 1958, Forest Lawn purchased the statue for \$10,000, removing it to its new home within the month. Thomas Ball's statue remains on display there to this day, overlooking the graves of such celebrities as Bette Davis, Lucille Ball, and Liberace.

VIOLET HURST IS AN ARCHIVIST FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Reminder: Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions will **NOT** be held on Wednesdays & Fridays for the month of July.

Information on restart dates will be forthcoming.

## STUBENVILLE EAST CONFERENCE

Students & Chaperones  
will be collecting donations after  
all masses  
**this weekend, July 15 & 16**, to  
support their participation in the  
Steubenville East Conference in  
Springfield, MA.

Please support our youth and  
thank you in advance for your  
generosity!

## 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





## REGISTRATION FOR FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENT PREPARATION HAS BEGUN.

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

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### Need to Declutter - Here's Your Chance

Holy Rosary Shrine Center  
34 Common Street  
Lawrence, MA  
**Monday's Only** from 6-8pm  
Starting July 17th thru August 21st



Holy Rosary Shrine Annual Fair is accepting donations for our white elephant table, crafts, Christmas, jewelry, handbags, unopened perfume, toys, games, books, religious articles, and **new items** you might not have any use for.

We **don't accept** suitcases, computers, TVs, Christmas trees, furniture, electronics, typewriters, clothing or encyclopedias.

### HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

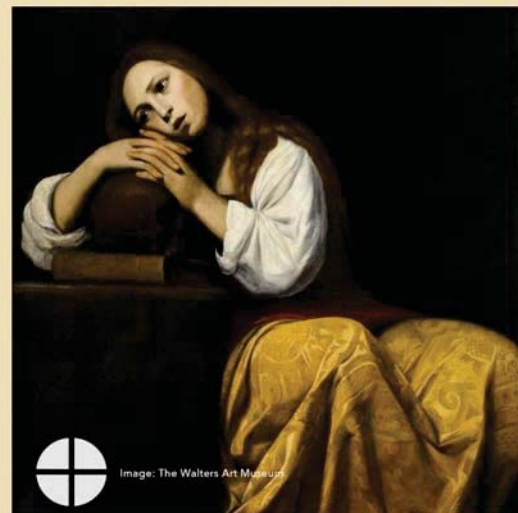
**St. Lucy's**  
**Sunday, July 16**  
**11:30am-12:30pm**  
**Lower Church Hall**

**St. Monica's**  
**Sunday, July 23**  
**10-11am**  
**St. Monica School Cafeteria**

## Saint Mary Magdalene

1ST CENTURY  
FEAST DAY: JULY 22

**M**ary, from Magdala in Galilee, was a disciple of Jesus who used her resources, or wealth, to help support him and his followers. The Gospel of Luke identifies Mary as the woman from whom Jesus cast out seven demons. The Gospels record that she was present at his crucifixion and burial. In all four Gospels, Mary was the first witness to the Resurrection and carried that news to the others. Because of this, St. Augustine called her "apostola apostolorum," the apostle to the apostles. On June 3, 2016, Pope Francis raised her liturgical observance from a memorial to a feast—the same rank as the observances accorded to the apostles.



Catholic  
Current

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Image: Saint Mary Magdalene, Giovanni Antonio Galli, The Walters Art Museum. Used with permission.



Image: The Walters Art Museum

 **PUZZLE**

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

farmer	rocky	birds
soil	thorns	choked
root	path	seed

frarme     f a r m e r

sede     \_\_\_\_\_

ptah     \_\_\_\_\_

brisd     \_\_\_\_\_

rkyoc     \_\_\_\_\_

tohrsn     \_\_\_\_\_

rtoo     \_\_\_\_\_

cohekd     \_\_\_\_\_

silo     \_\_\_\_\_

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

SUNDAY, JULY 16

- Hospitality Hour 11:30am-12:30pm  
St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- AA 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

MONDAY, JULY 17

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church

TUESDAY, JULY 18

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Rosary Prayer Group for Priests 6pm  
Gethsemane Chapel

THURSDAY, JULY 20

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Baptism Preparation Class 6-7:30pm  
St. Lucy School House
- SVdP Meeting 6:30-8:00pm St. Monica House
- AA 6:30-8:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

FRIDAY, JULY 21

- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church

SATURDAY, JULY 22

- Mass 9am St. Monica Church
- Bettors Anonymous 2pm St. Monica SVDP Hut
- Confessions 3-3:45pm  
Gethsemane Chapel & St. Lucy Church

**PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE FROM BOSTON**

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Round trip airfare from Boston to Dubrovnik via Dublin with Aer Lingus
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- 9 nights in Wojtyla Hotel close to St. James' Church with breakfast & evening meal
- Marian Pilgrimages spiritual program
- English speaking Catholic guide
- Visit with visionaries (if available)
- All taxes and surcharges
- Tips for hotels, drivers & guides

**Price does not include:**

- Single supplement: \$335 (limited availability)
- Travel Insurance, if required please request a brochure.
- Optional Excursions are to be paid locally

**It is strongly suggested that all pilgrims be covered by Travel Insurance**  
A \$500 deposit is required per person at the time of booking

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO GUARANTEE THIS PRICE IS JULY 15<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
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Maureen Slattery (Group Leader): 978-683-0589  
twigs5mcs@gmail.com


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**OFFERTORY JULY 1 & 2**

St. Monica - \$7,294.<sup>00</sup>

St. Lucy - \$3,930.<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 tuna, cereal, canned pasta, canned vegetables, pasta, and boxed spaghetti. 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/week from morning rush hour until 7pm

**CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE**  
Open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm , Sat & Sun 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

**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: 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 Silvera	Administrative Assistant
<b>smsoffice@methuencatholic.org</b>	



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Ps 17 (16): 15*

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

ENTRANCE HYMN*For the Beauty of the Earth*

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,  
2. For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
3. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
1. For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:  
2. Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon, and stars of light:  
3. Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
1-5. Lord of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card*FIRST READING*Is 55: 10-11*

Thus says the LORD: Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Ps 65 (64): 10, 11, 12-13, 144*

**R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruit - ful har - vest.**

You have visited the land and watered it; greatly have you enriched it.  
God's watercourses are filled; you have prepared the grain.

Thus have you prepared the land: drenching its furrows, breaking up its clods,  
Softening it with showers, blessing its yield.

You have crowned the year with your bounty, and your paths overflow with a rich harvest;  
The untilled meadows overflow with it, and rejoicing clothes the hills.

The fields are garmented with flocks and the valleys blanketed with grain.  
They shout and sing for joy.

**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.

SECOND READING*Rom 8: 18-23*

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

☩. The seed is the word of God, Christ is *the sower*. \*  
All who come to him will have *life forever*.

GOSPEL*Mt 13: 1-23*

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

The disciples approached him and said, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He said to them in reply, “Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand*. Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: *You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them.*”

“But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

“Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

CREED*Refer to Pew Card*COMMUNION ANTIPHON*Ps 84 (83): 4-5*

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



COMMUNION HYMN*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*


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*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*


1. I sing the might - y pow'r of God That made the  
 2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord That filled the  
 3. There's not a plant or flow'r be - low, But makes thy

1. moun-tains rise, That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, And  
 2. earth with food; He formed the crea-tures with his word, And  
 3. glo - ries known; And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow By

1. built the loft - y skies. I sing the wis - dom  
 2. then pro-nounced them good. Lord, how thy won - ders  
 3. or - der from thy throne; While all that bor - rows

1. that or - dained The sun to rule the day; The moon shines  
 2. are dis - played Wher - e'er I turn my eye; If I sur -  
 3. life from thee Is ev - er in thy care, And ev - 'ry -

1. full at his com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.  
 2. vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up - on the sky!  
 3. where that I can be, Thou, God, are pres - ent there.

## ST. MONICA PARISH

### Saturday, July 15

9:00am Carmela Pantaleo  
4:00pm Charles Coco

### Sunday, July 16

9:00am Nicholas & Lorraine DiBenedetto  
Robert Gagne  
Girard Gagne  
Irene Richard  
Theresa Lajoie  
Claire Nawrocki  
  
12:00pm Michael & Helen Silva  
Anthony, Anna & Stephen Campagnone  
Dolores & Robert Demars  
Albert & David Burokas

### Saturday, July 22

9:00am Joseph Lavigne  
Yvette Moran  
Mike Milnes  
Pat Brennick  
  
4:00pm Mark Elia

### Sunday, July 23

9:00am Antoinette & Nemetallah Khalife  
Elicile Menos  
Chipite Jean-Baptiste  
Olivia Lamothe  
Patrick & Peter Joyce  
  
12:00pm Michael Nugent & Breeda Coughlin  
and the Deceased Members of their  
Families

## ST. LUCY PARISH

### Saturday, July 15

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

### Sunday, July 16

10:30am Edgar Lacroix  
Hazel Squegia  
Dale Cuniff  
James Gurka

### Monday, July 17

9:00am Holy Souls in Purgatory

### Tuesday, July 18 - LIVING INTENTIONS

9:00am To St. Anthony for prayers answered

### Thursday, July 20

9:00am Mark Nichols

### Friday, July 21

9:00am Andrew & Isabel Mulvaney

### Saturday, July 22

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

### Sunday, July 23

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

### BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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## PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	07/16/23	All Carmelites	Henry Seuffert
Mon	07/17/23	Fr. Leo Martel	Christopher Şilebi
Tues	07/18/23	Fr. Carlos Suarez	Chris Barton
Wed	07/19/23	Fr. Timothy Harrison	Alden Bronson
Thurs	07/20/23	Fr. Thomas Stanton	Joe Jaskinski
Fri	07/21/23	Fr. Laurence Tocci	Tim Walsh
Sat	07/22/23	Fr. Joseph Neville	Brian Daley



### PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Bill R., Alberto G., Cheryl G., Ellen W., P.K., Patrice K., Erin C. & Matt W.

Please pray for John Daveta, Russell Parolisi, James Maloney, Joan Blazeovich & Maureen Jordan whose funerals we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



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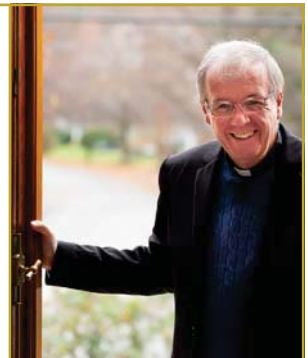
\*Requires purchase of annual plan. Special price is for first Lawn application only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction 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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