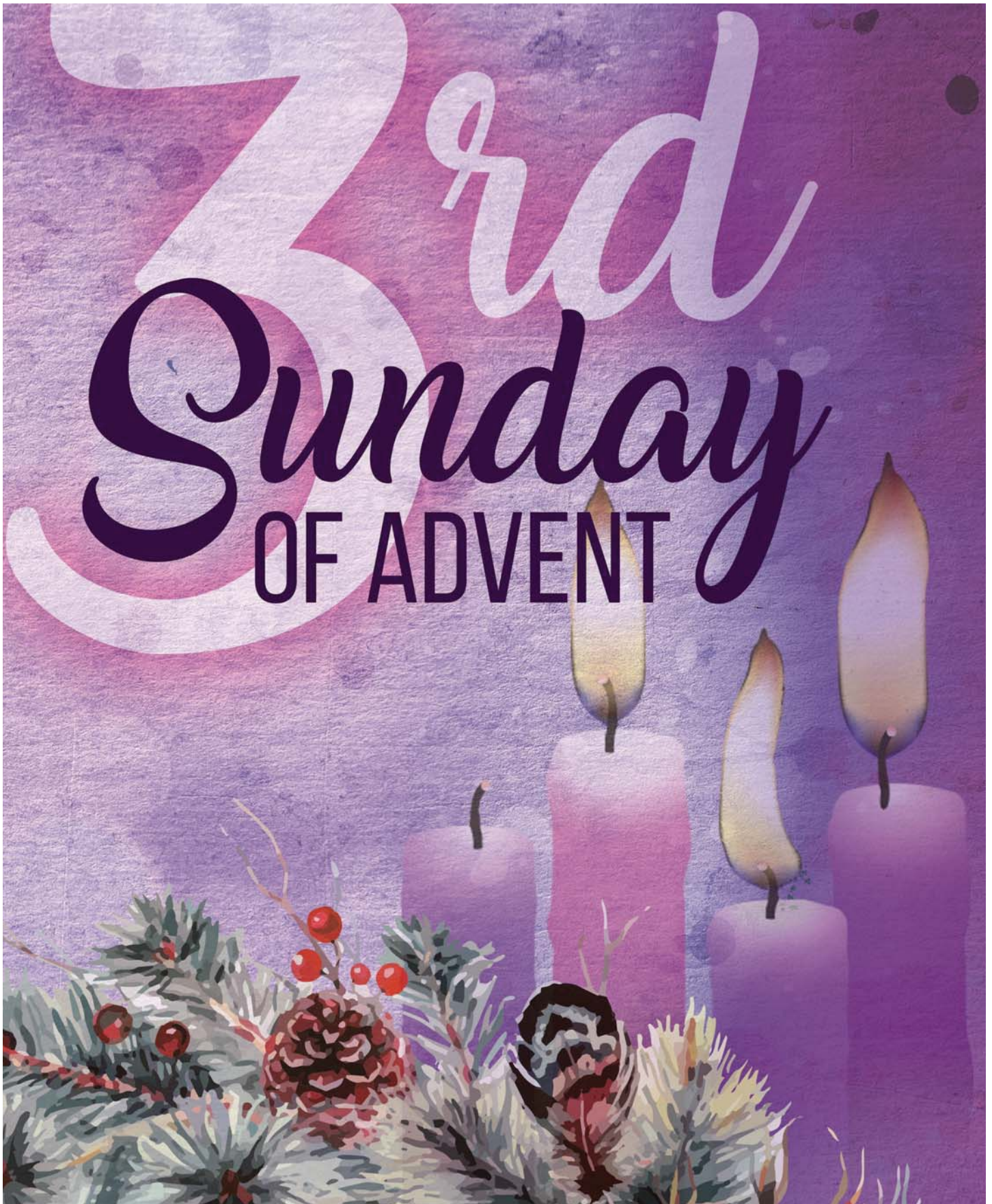


METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

Dec 12

2021



ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

ADVENT AND THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Happy New Year! Church year, that is! Just as the change of seasons give a certain rhythm to our daily life so also the changes in the Liturgical Season give a certain rhythm to our spiritual life. While the culture around us seems to celebrate Christmas with all kinds of worldly things that have little to do with Our Lord's First Coming as man and even less to do with His Second Coming in glory, we Catholics celebrate Advent, the first season of the Liturgical Year. It is a time of hope, of waiting, of expectation. It is also a Penitential Season, similar to Lent. In this holy season, the Church invites us to live in a penitential way in order to prepare the way of the Lord when He comes. We renew our efforts in this regard each day so don't give up if you haven't started or have slipped. As in Lent, just renew your efforts from now on as the past is done and the future is not yet.

At this time in the Liturgical Year, we remember Christ's First Coming as an innocent, extremely approachable little baby even as we prepare and anticipate His glorious Second Coming in Power. In fact, we anticipate this event with a Holy Awe otherwise known as the Holy Fear of the Lord, one of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our awe causes us to prepare ourselves spiritually to receive Our Lord when He comes. Of course while we remember His First Coming and anticipate his Second Coming, Jesus continues to come to us always in the Most Blessed Eucharist at Holy Mass as well as the other sacraments, especially Holy Confession. Through the sacraments, we maintain our vigilant watch like servants who await their Master's return from a wedding [Luke 12:35-48].

Advent, then, reminds us of God's intimate, ongoing involvement in Creation. When we are lost and cannot find our way to God, He loves us even more. In the fullness of time, God sent His only begotten Son, the Second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity, to be our Savior and Redeemer. Jesus was born for one purpose: to die so that we who are lost in sin and brokenness can be restored to Divine friendship and made whole. When we commit sin, we put obstacles between ourselves and God. Some sins--grave sin called mortal sin--can even separate us off from the life God gives us through baptism, from Divine friendship. Sins of this kind must be confessed to a priest in the Sacrament of Holy Confession. When we have recourse to God's mercy through Holy Confession, we can be assured of God's forgiveness and healing. Then the eternal punishment due to sin is forgiven, we are restored to Divine life, and we receive the grace to cooperate in our salvation by actively seeking through prayer, the sacraments, and penance to be further separated from sin--purified of our attachment to sin--and united more and more closely to God the Father in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I remember as a child being asked what I might like to receive for Christmas. I would receive some things and not receive others and also receive a bunch of other things that Mom and Dad knew I needed. God, as our all-knowing Divine Papa, knows the gifts we need without asking. The Gift that God wishes most to give the world is the Gift of living in the Divine Will, even now, before we fall asleep for the last time. It is the Gift for which He taught us to ask when we pray the Our Father, the prayer that Christ himself taught us. In the second and third petitions of the Our Father, we ask for this Gift: "Thy Kingdom come, and Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Pray it, don't just say it! Ask It! Don't mask it! God wants to give this Gift to the whole world and we can ask for It every time we pray for It! It's the one Gift the world really needs and God so wills to give It to the whole world! In His Will, we can have God's peace in our hearts that leads to peace with our neighbor (every one of them). And if the whole world receives this Gift, it means God's peace in the whole world! Those who ask for It will receive It; those who seek It will find It; and to those who knock, It will be opened. Continued blessings on our Advent adventure in these times!

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 2021, 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!

PROJECT BETHLEHEM

Again, this year in support of Lazarus House in Lawrence we will be collecting gift cards for families in need. They are requesting gift cards from:

MARKET BASKET
WALMART
TARGET
STOP/SHOP



The denominations they are requesting are

\$25.00 or under (multiple donations made be in small amounts)

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 27th through December 13th.

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

The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality

is holding their monthly meeting Sunday December 12th at 8:30 AM downstairs in the lower church with mass at 10 to follow. All women are welcome to join. The Sodality is dedicated to the Blessed Mother in service to our parishes and our community through charitable works in her name and to assist St. Lucy and St. Monica Community spiritually, social and financially.



Calling all KNITTING & CROCHETING crafters. The Sodality is in need of your talent to help in their new **Baby & Baptism Blankets Ministry** in our parishes. Knit or crochet blankets in a group or at home and we will give them to our newly baptized boys and girls. Please call Ellen for more information 978-682-8459.

**SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 4PM
ST. MONICA CHURCH**

LESSONS & CAROLS

INCLUDES READINGS AND CAROLS TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO CELEBRATE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD.

**INCLUDES CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.
REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW**

**IF YOUR CHILD IS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CAST OF THE PAGEANT, PLEASE CONTACT CARA AT CARA.BONANNO@GMAIL.COM
PRACTICE BEGINS TODAY (12/5) AT 12:30PM
AT ST. MONICA'S CHURCH**

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

- Sodality 8:30am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Faith Formation 2nd-8th 12:45pm St. Lucy's Church
- Baptisms 1:00pm St. Monica Church
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 2:45pm St. Lucy Church
- AA 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 Feast of St. Lucy

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary
- St. Lucy Feast Day Mass 5:30pm followed by refreshments St. Lucy Church & Lower Church Hall
- Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00-8:30pm St. Lucy Schoolhouse

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

- Prayer and Study 10am - 12 pm (Zoom)
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:30pm St. Monica Church
- Eucharistic Adoration 5:30pm St. Lucy Church
- Collaborative Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm St. Lucy Schoolhouse

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary
- Study on the Creed 6:00-7:00pm (Zoom)
- AA 6:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- SVdP Meeting 6:30pm St. Lucy Schoolhouse

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary
- Eucharistic Adoration 2:00-5:00pm Gethsemane Chapel
- Confessions 4:00-5:00pm Gethsemane Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

- Faith to Fitt 8 am St Lucy Schoolhouse
- SVdP Christmas Gift Distribution 9am St. Monica Parking Lot
- Bettor's Anonymous 2pm St. Monica SVDP Hut
- Confessions 3-3:45pm Gethsemane Chapel and St. Lucy Church

St. Monica School is hosting a Texas Roadhouse Gift Card fundraiser! If you would like to purchase gift cards for Christmas or other gifts, please follow this link! <https://bit.ly/Stmonica>

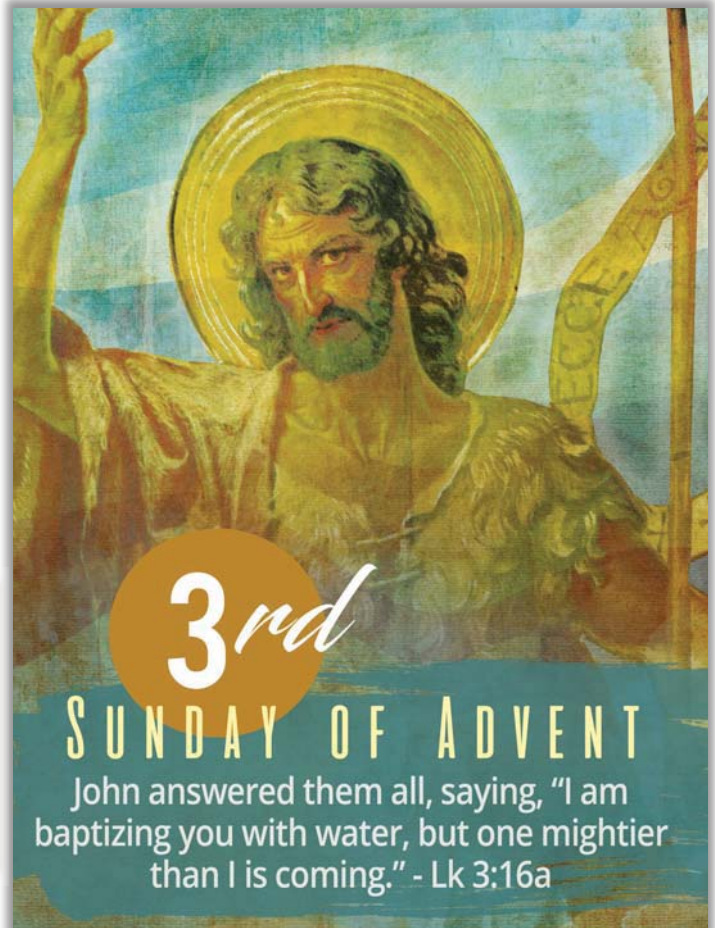
THANK-YOU!

St. Monica School would like to thank all of the parishioners who attended our Christmas Fair in November. We are truly grateful for all your support, and we look forward to your attendance and participation in future events!



RAFFLE PLAY STATION 5

Have you been searching for a Sony PS5 for a gift for your child or grandchild? St. Monica School has one to raffle off! Please fill out the enclosed raffle tickets (opposite page) and send, with your payment, to St. Monica School, Attn: Sharon Tully, 212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844, or drop it at the school office. **Please do not put it in the church collection basket or give it to the parish office.** Thank you!



St. Monica School PlayStation 5 Raffle



(Best Buy Purchase Cost: \$499)

Drawing will be held Friday, December 17th.

Raffle Ticket Cost:
\$10 - 1 Ticket
\$20 - 3 Tickets



<p>St. Monica School - PS5 Raffle Name: _____ Phone: _____ Drawing will be held on: <i>Friday, December 17th</i></p>	<p>St. Monica School - PS5 Raffle Name: _____ Phone: _____ Drawing will be held on: <i>Friday, December 17th</i></p>
<p>St. Monica School - PS5 Raffle Name: _____ Phone: _____ Drawing will be held on: <i>Friday, December 17th</i></p>	<p>St. Monica School - PS5 Raffle Name: _____ Phone: _____ Drawing will be held on: <i>Friday, December 17th</i></p>
<p>St. Monica School - PS5 Raffle Name: _____ Phone: _____ Drawing will be held on: <i>Friday, December 17th</i></p>	<p>St. Monica School - PS5 Raffle Name: _____ Phone: _____ Drawing will be held on: <i>Friday, December 17th</i></p>

OFFERTORY | NOV 27 & 28

St. Monica - \$8,677.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$4,622.⁰⁰

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 Instant Cereal, Hamburg Helper, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, and Canned Fruits. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the entrances to St. Lucy and the side door of Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS

Until further notice, our parish office hours are:

Monday-Thursday | 11:30am-4:30pm

Fridays | 9:00am-2:00pm

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 9:00 am St. Lucy

FIRST SATURDAY 9 am St. Monica

CONFESSIONS

3 - 3:45 pm both parishes Sat

4 - 5pm Gethsemane Chapel

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

2 - 5 pm Friday Gethsemane Chapel

5:30 - 6:30 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

Temporary Hours Mon-Thurs, 11:30am-4:30pm

Friday 9:00am-2:00pm

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

Eric Berthiaume Music Director

Sharon Waning Music Ministry (St. Lucy)

Kevin Fitzgerald Facilities (St. Lucy) / RCIA



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www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson Principal

Sharon Tully Administrative Assistant

smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

INTROIT*Philippians 4:4-5*

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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***Zephaniah 3:14-18a*

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6*

R. Cry out with joy and glad - ness: for a - mong you

is the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

1. God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

2. Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

3. Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

ALLELUIA

Isaiah 61:1



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

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Refer to Pew Card

SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI

Refer to Pew Card

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Isaiah 35:4

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

COMMUNION HYMN

There Is A Longing



Verses



1. For jus - tice,
2. For wis - dom,
3. For heal - ing,
4. Lord save us,



1. for free - dom, for mer - cy: hear our prayer. In
2. for cour - age, for com - fort: hear our prayer. In
3. for whole - ness, for new life: hear our prayer. In
4. take pit - y, light in our dark - ness. We



to Refrain

1. sor - row, in grief: }
2. weak - ness, in fear: }
3. sick - ness, in death: }
4. call you, we wait: }

be near, hear our prayer, O 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

On Jordan's Bank



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry soul from sin; Make
3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our
4. All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee Whose



1. nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
2. straight the way of God with - in, Pre - pare we in our
3. ref - uge and our sure re - ward; Shine forth, and let thy
4. ad - vent set thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



1. for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2. hearts a home, Where such a might - y guest may come.
3. light re - store Our souls to heav'n - ly grace once more.
4. we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 11

4:00pm Maria Laird

Sunday, December 12

9:00am Eveline & Jose Freitas
Manuel & Fernanda Cordeiro
Theresa & William Leach
Peter Francis Coryea
Armando Bezeready

11:00 AM Deceased Members of Hannagan Family

Saturday, December 18

4:00pm Marion Bench

Sunday, December 19

9:00am Ann Gallant
Don Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Nancy Tardif
William F. Hutton
Richard Fairbanks

11:00 AM Deceased Members of Charles Booth Family, James McCarthy Family, and Howard Hart Family

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 11

4:00pm Joseph Coco

Sunday, December 12

10:00am Alan Tisbert
Gloria and Alexander Vellette
Susan McGee
Bruce Beverley
John Fitzpatrick
John & Jennie Blatti
Joseph Caruso
Antoinette & Nemetallah Khalife

Monday, December 13

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

Tuesday, December 14

9:00am Don & Margaret Torrisi

Thursday, December 16

9:00am Christine Ferguson

Friday, December 17

9:00am Amy Waterworth

Saturday, December 18

4:00pm Dominick (Rex) Campone & Campone Family

Sunday, December 19

10:00am Jeffrey Waters
Anthony Waters
Lucille Arsenault
Gerard Lebel
Charles J. Piro
Concetta D. Bella
Elaine Parrino

ROSES FOR LIFE FOR THIS WEEK

Theresa A. Rickley

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINAR.
Sunday	12/12/21	Fr. Leonardo Moreira	Hien Vu
Mon	12/13/21	Pope Francis (Ordained 1969)	Barry Mongeon
Tues	12/14/21	Fr. John Schatzel	Stephen Baruffi
Wed	12/15/21	Fr. Joseph Kim	John Tanyi
Thurs	12/16/21	Fr. James Achadinha	Deacon Patrick O'Connor
Friday	12/17/21	Bishop Kennedy (Ordained 1966)	Deacon Francis Trewin
Sat	12/18/21	Fr. James Ronan	Deacon Nathaniel Sanders

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **James Wilson, Roger Gallant, Joan Morana, Francis Lyons, Jamie Legere, Bernard Rastello, Florence Raidy, and Robert Wolske** whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated at our parishes. May their souls and the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace.

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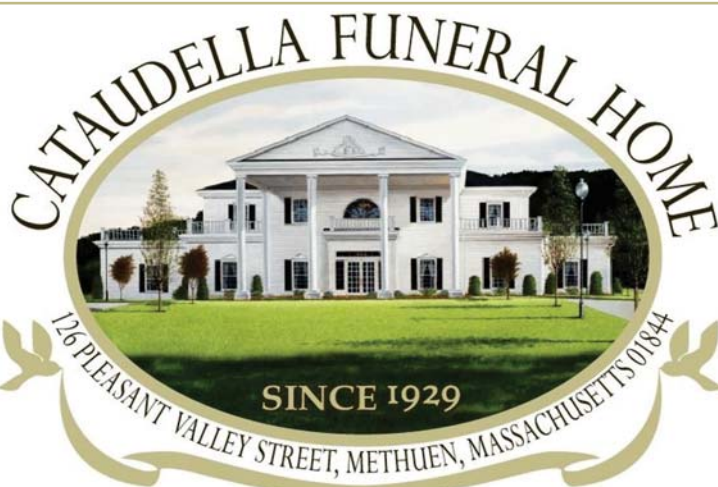
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