



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "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 and that of the gospel will save it." - Mk 8:34-35

This weekend I am once again serving in the National Guard. It's been a busy year and a half, though I look forward to retiring sometime soon when I'm less needed as a military chaplain, which will allow me to be more attentive to our parishes and school.

You may have heard about military retirees more than usual in the news recently with regard to the Afghanistan withdrawal. Many have volunteered and organized ways on their own to get out those left behind, both Americans and Afghans. One retired friend...call him Fred...had recently worked two straight weeks with only three hours of sleep a night to get out Afghan interpreters and agents that he worked with while over there years ago.

In a recent phone call, he tells me: "Father, I don't know how this got so screwed up. It's like the (Unnamed) Department had no plan. I'm particularly worried about one of our allies who is from the same tribe as the Taliban. They're already looking for him by name. If you're from their tribe, but you helped us, they view you as a personal traitor." Later, I got another phone call from a mutual friend of both of us.

Friend: "Are you watching what's going on in Afghanistan?"

Me: "No."

Him: "Well, you know it's really messed up, right?"

Me: "Yes, that's why I don't need to constantly watch it."

Him: "Did you talk to Fred?"

Me: "Yes, I've talked to Fred."

Him: "Well, we were talking and I'm thinking it could've been worse."

Me: "I disagree. It was made worse than it needed to be, but talking about it doesn't change anything,"

My main job this weekend at the base will be to process the requests of those service members who are seeking an exemption from having to take a COVID vaccine due to a moral or religious objection. One fellow Catholic servicemember who has reservations about the vaccine said to me recently: "You know, Father, based on what they're telling us, it would be easier for me to get a waiver if I were a Scientologist rather than a Catholic. That's messed up." Scientologists have a moral problem with vaccinations in general, so it's easier to get an exemption in that regard.

As I've written before, I'm personally vaccinated because of my potential close proximity to the sick *and* then possible close proximity to other vulnerable people. Also, as I've written before, certain types of the vaccine have a very remote relationship to the questionable ways that other vaccines are derived, so the Church has told us that it's not a sin to receive them. However, that doesn't mean one still can't have in good conscience a moral reservation and desire not to be vaccinated. The two are not mutually exclusive. Most people have a hard time wrapping their mind around this dynamic, but if one refers to last week's bulletin entry, which was a statement by the Colorado Catholic Bishops, further insight on this topic can be gained.

However, what I do find pretty close to mutually exclusive is that when on duty, we have to be vaccinated *and* wear a mask. An "abundance of caution," as the overused corporate slogan goes.. So 95% of us are vaccinated, in good health, and younger than me, but safety of the members is paramount. Which brings me to the second big thing I'm doing this weekend: the 20th Anniversary Memorial of 9/11. I wonder if we will be wearing masks while standing in formation?

Going into this weekend, there is a lot to ponder and perhaps discuss: the 20th Anniversary of 9/11, a difficult withdrawal from Afghanistan, ongoing COVID precautions, the ripple effects in our society of those long term precautions, and mandates to do even more with dire repercussions for those who want to avoid them. I *do* talk about these things in private conversation, probably more than is prudent for a pastor, though I genuinely *don't* habitually follow the news for the sake of my mental and spiritual well-being. That's not to say we aren't obliged to be engaged in all these issues that swirl around us. We should be informed, have an opinion, and act on that opinion where our actions matter. It's just that we have to realize which of our actions has the most impact.

There are lots of opinions we could develop: "What do you think about what's going on in Afghanistan? What do you think about the 20th Anniversary of 9/11? What do you think about all the COVID stuff? What do you think about our National and International politics? What do you think about this or that in the Church?" All are important topics, but few that can be shaped by our opinion of them.

The Lord asks us the real paramount question: "Who do you say that I Am?" One's answer to that question truly does matter. And the actions and prayers we make by "picking up our cross and following" Him truly have an impact in our life, the life of one another, and the life of the world.

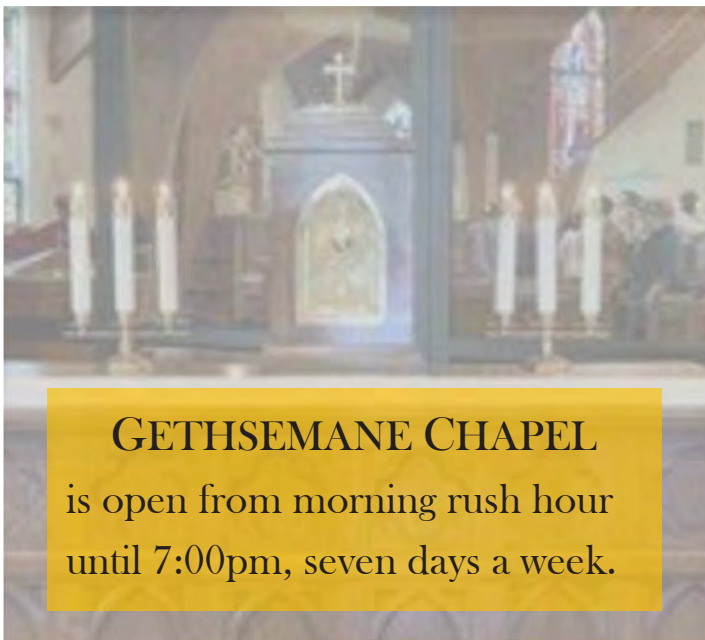
FAITH FORMATION | FIRST COMMUNION | CONFIRMATION

Registration for the 2021-2022 Faith Formation Year has begun. Please spread the word.

To register, please go to our homepage (methuencatholic.org), click on the "SIGN UP" link, and follow the instructions OR

call the office for more information: (978) 683 -1193 or (978) 686 -3311 OR reach out to Karl Jackson at faithformation.stlm@gmail.com.

Due to Covid-19, both parish programs (both St. Monica's and St. Lucy's) will meet at St. Lucy's Campus on Sunday afternoons. Meetings are scheduled to begin at the end of September/beginning of October.



GETHSEMANE CHAPEL
is open from morning rush hour
until 7:00pm, seven days a week.

THE CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE

Our chapel & shrine is open weekday mornings as well as weekends during Mass times.



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Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Pierce	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Karl Jackson	Director of Parish Life
faithformation.stlm@gmail.com	
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
methuencatholic@gmail.com	
Eric Berthiaume	Music Director
Sharon Waning	Music Ministry (St. Lucy)
Kevin Fitzgerald	Facilities (St. Lucy) / RCIA
Chrissy Cerretani	Administrative Assistant
parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com	



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(978) 686 -1801
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson	Principal
Sharon Tully	Administrative Assistant
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org	

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY



The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality have returned to their regular monthly meetings after the 10AM mass. The first meeting is Sunday, September 12th. **All women of St. Lucy's and St. Monica's are welcome!** The Sodality strives to lead its members to Jesus through Mary by perpetuating devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through prayer and charitable works in her name and to assist the Community spirituality, socially, and financially.

To support our charitable giving, the Sodality has planned a **Welcome Back Raffle**. The drawing will take place at our October 10th meeting. We will sell raffle tickets after all masses at both churches on the weekends of **9/25** and **10/3** You can also contact a Sodality member for tickets. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe
September 14, 2021 - November 9, 2021

Place: St. Monica Church
Time: 7 p.m.
Nine consecutive Tuesdays

Novena to *Our Lady of Guadalupe*: Patroness of the Americas, Queen of the first and the new evangelization, and Patroness of the unborn.

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Praying the Rosary
- The Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Readings from scripture and other sources concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Meditation/reflection
- The Novena prayers
- Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Social Distancing Update

The taped off sections of the left back pews in both parishes are **ONLY** for those who would prefer an extra margin of social distancing while attending Mass. Parishioners must wear masks and be 6 feet apart in these designated pews. As always, you are welcome to wear a mask anywhere in the Church while attending Mass.

Men's Guild!!
Sunday, September 26th, 2021

Members are invited to gather in the church hall immediately following the 10:00 AM Mass. **All men of our Parish are welcome** and invited to learn more about the Men's Guild mission, including new and exciting projects to support our parish, and information about our November Veteran's Event. Bring a friend and join us to offer any new ideas for the coming year. Refreshments will be served. Any Questions -call 978-360-9256

If you are an adult interested in learning more about receiving the sacraments or becoming a Catholic please contact Kevin @ 978-683-1193 or Bonnie at 978-609-7307





GOT QUESTIONS?

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to ask life's big questions, explore faith, and share their story. Unfortunately, just when life's big questions become most pressing, we have nowhere to discuss them. We offer the Alpha Course to provide space for people to come, share a meal, and discuss life's big questions. Bring a friend and join us on Tuesday evenings. No judgment. No obligation. Come and see for yourself.

WHO: Anyone eighteen years or older

WHAT: Dinner, Friendly Conversation, Video Presentation

WHERE: St. Lucy Parish | Lower Church Hall | 254 Merrimack St. WHEN: Tuesday Evenings | 6:00-8:00pm
September 28 - December 7

CONTACT: Karl Jackson (978) 683-1193 or faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

ATTENTION ALL GROUPS!

In-person meetings have resumed. If you would like to resume your meetings, please contact Karl to secure your space for the year and to set-up a starting date/time. You can reach Karl at faithformation.stlm@gmail.com or **978-683-1193**.

To Honor the Gravesites of our Unborn Brothers and Sisters



On September 18, Pro-Life Americans throughout the country will gather at the gravesites of aborted babies & other memorial sites dedicated in their honor for the 8th annual National Day of Remembrance of Aborted Children. Solemn vigils will be held at these sites to commemorate the more than 60 million children who have lost their lives to legal abortion since 1973, and to remind our society of the humanity of the unborn child.

WHEN: **Saturday, September 18, 2021 @ 10:00 to 10:30a.m.** (Followed by recitation of the Rosary)

WHERE: **Knights of Columbus Memorial for the Unborn**
St. Mary's Cemetery
29 Barker Street
Lawrence, MA

Knights of Columbus councils throughout the Order pay tribute to the millions of children killed by abortion by erecting memorials in Catholic cemeteries, council hall grounds, and on parish grounds throughout the United States.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- Bettor's Anonymous 2pm
- Confessions 3-3:45pm Gethsemane Chapel and St. Lucy Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- Our Lady's Sodality Meeting following 10:00am Mass St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Baptisms 1:00pm St. Monica Church
- AA 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary
- Rosary Prayer Group 6 pm Gethsemane Chapel
- Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe 7:00pm St. Monica Church

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- Al-Anon 10 am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Prayer and Study 10am - 12 pm St. Monica Ranch House

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary
- SVdP Meeting 6:30pm St. Lucy Schoolhouse
- AA 6:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- Mass 9 am St. Lucy Church followed by Rosary
- AA 10am St. Lucy Lower Church Hall
- Eucharistic Adoration 2 - 5 pm Gethsem. Chapel
- Confessions 4 - 5 pm Gethsemane Chapel

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- Confessions 3-3:45pm Gethsemane Chapel and St. Lucy Church

ST. MONICA SCHOOL has **part-time openings** for:


- Special Education Teacher
- STEM Teacher
- Technology Teacher
- Afterschool Program Staff

Please contact Donna Henderson at 978-686 - 1801 or principal@methuencatholic.org for more information.




THE STATE CONTINUES TO ADVISE UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS TO WEAR MASKS IN INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES

YES, I CAN PROGRAM
WE CAN USE... Canned Tuna, Beans and Carrots, Grape and Strawberry Jelly, and Mashed Potatoes.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FIRST COMMUNION, FAITH FORMATION (CCD), BAPTISM, OR OTHER SACRAMENTS?
 contact Karl Jackson at (978) 683 - 1193 ext. 35 | faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

ROSES FOR LIFE FOR THIS WEEK
Theresa A. Rickley

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

ALTAR BREAD FOR SEPTEMBER
St. Monica Parish - Rita Conroy

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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 4 - 5pm Gethsemane Chapel EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 2 - 5 pm Gethsemane Chapel
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BAPTISMS 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:00pm St. Monica's | 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:00pm 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.

INTROIT*Sir 36:18*

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets may be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN*Take Up Your Cross*

1. "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said, "If
2. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, Nor
3. Take up your cross then, in his strength, And
4. Take up your cross and fol - low Christ, Nor



1. you would my dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
2. let your fool - ish pride re - bel; Your Lord for you en -
3. calm - ly sin's wild del - uge brave; It guides you to a
4. think till death to lay it down; For on - ly those who



1. will - ing heart, And hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
2. dured the cross, To save your soul from death and hell.
3. bet - ter home, And leads to glo - ry o'er the grave.
4. bear the cross May hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

CONFITEOR - KYRIE - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Isaiah 50:5-9A*

The Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He is near who upholds my right; if anyone wishes to oppose me, let us appear together. Who disputes my right? Let that man confront me. See, the Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong?

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 146: 6-7, 8-9, 9-10*

R. I will walk be - fore the Lord, in the land of the liv - ing.

1. I love the LORD because he has heard my voice in supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me the day I called.

2. The cords of death encompassed me; the snares of the netherworld seized upon me; I fell into distress and sorrow, and I called upon the name of the LORD, "O LORD, save my life!"

3. Gracious is the LORD and just; yes, our God is merciful. The LORD keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and he saved me.

4. For he has freed my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I shall walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

SECOND READING*James 2:14-18*

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone might say, "You have faith and I have works." Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

ALLELUIA*Gal 6:14*

✠ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord
through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

GOSPEL*Mark 8:27-35*

Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ." Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "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 and that of the gospel will save it."

PROFESSION OF FAITH*Refer to Pew Card***SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI***Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Mt 16:24*

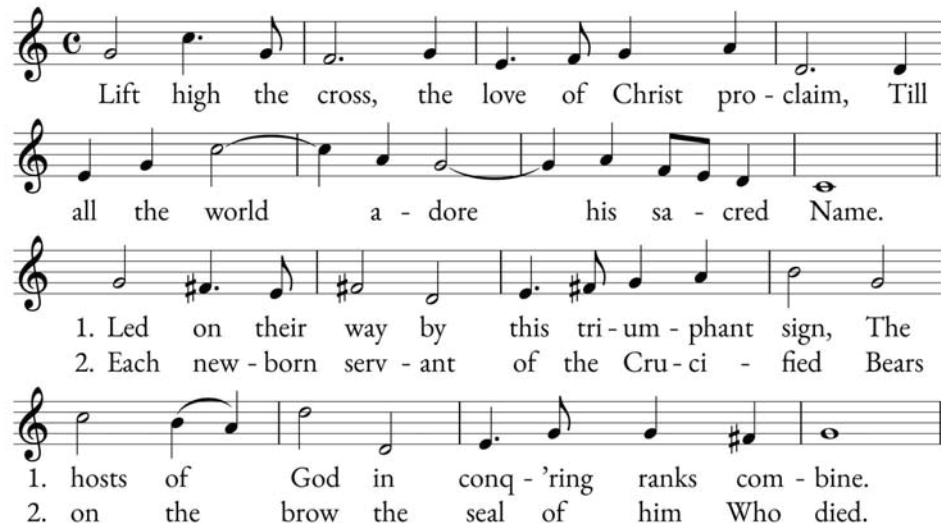
Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

COMMUNION HYMN*O Salutaris Hostia*

1. O sa - lu - tá - ris Hós - ti - a, Quae cae - li
2. U - ni tri - nó - que Dó - mi - no Sit sem - pi -

1. pan - dis ós - ti - um: Bel - la pre - munt hos - tí - li -
2. tér - na gló - ri - a, Qui vi - tam si - ne tér - mi -

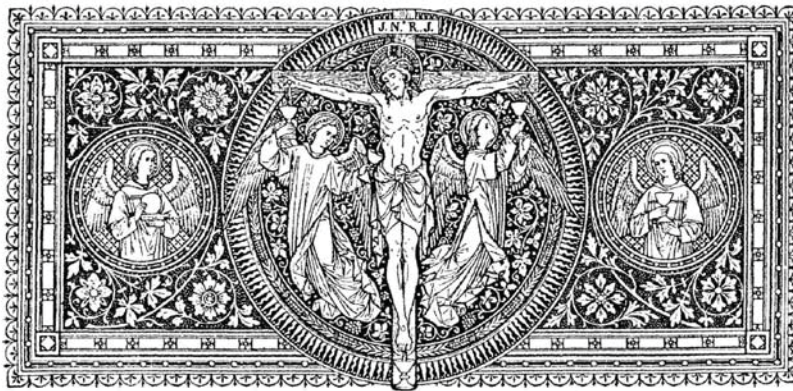
1. a, Da ro - bur, fer au - xí - li - um.
2. no No - bis do - net in pá - tri - a. A - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*Lift High The Cross*


Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim, Till
all the world a-dore his sa-cred Name.

1. Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign, The
2. Each new-born serv-ant of the Cru-ci-fied Bears

1. hosts of God in conq-'ring ranks com-bine.
2. on the brow the seal of him Who died.



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PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

Saint 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

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ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, September 11

4:00pm Mary Ann Andrews

Sunday, September 12

9:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Evelina & Jose Freitas
Ryan Cochran
Jean McAndrew
Deceased Members of the
Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality

11:00am Dalmazia Mesiti
Antoinetta DeCicco

Saturday, September 18

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

Sunday, September 19

9:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Don Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Connie & Albert Zampelli
Betty Pierce
Jose & Eulalia Aguiar

11:00am Roberta Palmisano

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

Rev Joseph K. Fagan, 80, a longtime beloved Catholic Priest in the Archdiocese of Boston and former St Lucy Parochial Vicar, died Sunday, August 29, 2021, at the Regina Cleri Residence in Boston

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINAR.
Sunday	09/12/2021	All Marists	Brian Delaney
Monday	09/13/2021	Fr. John Galvin	Vincenzo Caruso
Tuesday	09/14/2021	Fr. John Kiley	Jose Ignacio Montero
Wednesday	09/15/2021	Fr. Paul Phinn	Rafael Milla
Thursday	09/16/2021	Fr. Michael Hobson	Gerson Garcia
Friday	09/17/2021	Fr. Robert LeBlanc	Giovanni Arrote
Saturday	09/18/2021	Fr. Peter Quinn	Gabriel Hanley

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, September 11

4:00pm Joseph Moreau

Sunday, September 12

10:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Deceased Members of Despres &
Paris Families
Antonio DiFruscia
Michael Kenny, Jr.
Kelly Martin
Jeanette Luciano
Dominick (Rex) Campone
William DeSantis

Monday, September 13

9:00am Dick Doherty

Tuesday, September 14

9:00am Vincenza Minicucci
Gerardo & Mattia D'Andrea

Thursday, September 16

9:00am Frank & Dorothy Verdolotti

Friday, September 17

9:00am Frank Doherty

Saturday, September 18

4:00pm James M. Mahoney

Sunday, September 19

10:00am *Multiple Intentions*
Margaret J. Covey
Mark Nichols
Anna Lavoie



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **Matt W., Grace P., Elizabeth P., Daniel V., and Daniel R.**

Please pray for **Francisca Rivadeneira, James F. Jordan, Jr., and Ernest Naylor, Jr.,** 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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Pictured: Msgr. Frank Kelley and Lyndia Downey, President, Pine Street Inn



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