

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 7, 2021

## ST. MONICA PARISH

212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA

*Renew, Rebuild, and Reach Out: Disciples in Heartfelt Communion with Jesus Christ*

## ST. LUCY PARISH

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA

**DAILY MASS** **MON/TUE/THURS/FRI** 9 am St. Lucy **FIRST SATURDAY** 9 am St. Monica  
**WEEKEND** **SAT** 4 pm (Vigil) both parishes **SUN** 9 and 11 am St. Monica, 10 am St. Lucy

## Third Sunday of Lent

I received a book in the mail about a month ago. It came with a magazine I subscribe to and, though it looked interesting, I didn't have the time to read it until last week. It's called Finding Christ in the Crisis: What the Pandemic Can Teach Us, by Father Harrison Ayre and Michael R. Heinlein, and is published by Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, Indiana. It gives some great lessons about how we, as Catholic Christians, should view and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic we have been experiencing for over a year now. I cannot give a full synopsis of the book in this short space, but I'd like to go over a few points made in these pages which are pertinent to all of us.

The first is that we are called to perceive the way God works in the world by looking at his actions in Scripture, the living word of God. Christ is always present to us in the Scriptures.

Whenever Israel received any chastisement from the Lord, whether it be attack from enemies or exile in a foreign land, it was a call to conversion. And we can see our situation today as a call to change. The unenthusiastic faith of many Catholics, the clergy scandals or recent years, and the moral decline of our society all call us to repentance.

We also must remember a few of the lessons we have learned from the Church in history. Number one is that God is the primary actor in history, not us. We have the promise of Christ that he will remain with us always and that the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church. This should give us hope as we remain confident in the Church and its teachings and actions.

The second lesson is that the Church has the right to use caution in its response to the pandemic by regulating attendance at Masses. This does not mean an abandonment of what is most important in our faith. The Mass remains essential. Our faith is rooted in the sacraments, especially in Baptism and the Eucharist. When we are baptized, we become members of Christ's body. We are one with him. This oneness does not fade away or diminish over time but remains forever. We are still one with him, just as we were immediately after we received the sacrament. Because of this, wherever we are, Christ is present, as well. We carry Christ with us.

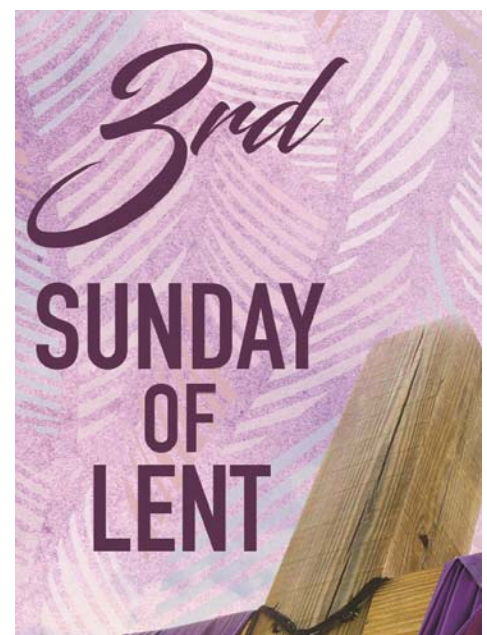
He also is always present to us in the Eucharist. Body, blood, soul, and divinity. We are called to worship him, present in all the tabernacles of the world. If we are unable to attend Mass and receive him, we can still make a Spiritual Communion. It is our union with Christ from our Baptism

that makes this Spiritual Communion possible.

One quote from the book that I'd like you all to remember is: "Living with and for Christ means we are able to worship the Father in imitation of and union with the Son, **always and everywhere.**" Pandemic or no pandemic, we always remain Catholic Christians. We carry Christ with us always because of our Baptism and because we receive him in the Eucharist, physically when able, and spiritually when necessary. But he is there with us always.

There are many more lessons in this book, but the greatest is that, even in this pandemic, we are called to be holy, to bring Christ to the world around us, and to realize how much we share as Catholic Christians which can never be lost, and which should guide our lives.

*Deacon John Kobrenski*



## Opportunities to give this Lent



During this month, we will launch the annual **Catholic Appeal** which provides us with a way to help the Archdiocesan ministries that support our parishes, school, and community.

Every gift makes a difference. Please consider making your gift

today by visiting [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org) or by scanning the QR code below on your phone.

Your gift has an immediate impact on our parishes, school, and the work of our Church. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**PRAY FAST GIVE**



In today's Gospel Jesus is asked "What sign can you show us?" Every day we can see signs of

how God has visited us in the blessings of our lives. Let us be a sign of God's love by being a blessing to others.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can be a sign of God's love to the suffering and poor.

(978) 686-9573



### Virtual Baby Bottle Campaign for the Pregnancy Care Center

The Pregnancy Care Center (PCC) offers, loving, confidential support to those facing an unplanned pregnancy. The goal of the PCC is to journey alongside women to let them know they are not alone. Additionally, they provide sexual integrity education, post abortion counseling and material assistance (baby items, food, etc.). The services are free, thanks to support from individuals and local churches. The PCC has locations in Haverhill, Lawrence and Lowell.

If you would like to participate, please scan the code to the right on your phone, visit [pccfriends.org](http://pccfriends.org), or mail a check to the Pregnancy Care Center at 158 Mammoth Road, Lowell, MA 01845. If sending a check, please write either St. Monica or St. Lucy in the memo line.



Thank you in advance for your support!



### Yes I Can Program

We are in need of **canned fruits and canned spaghetti.**

We have placed food collection baskets in both churches. You may also drop off food at the side door of Gethsemane Chapel during the week, but please do not leave food donations at the main door or entranceway of the chapel. Thank you for your generosity!



# LENT 2021

## Prayer Group

Mondays, 7-8 pm  
Email [faithformation.stlm@gmail.com](mailto:faithformation.stlm@gmail.com)  
for the Zoom link

## Confessions

Wednesdays, 7-8 pm (Gethsemane Chapel)  
Fridays 4-5 pm (Gethsemane Chapel)  
Saturdays 3-3:45 pm (both churches)

## Stations of the Cross

Fridays, 7 pm (St. Lucy's)

**More Lenten offerings &  
the Holy Week schedule  
to be announced soon**

**ST. MONICA SCHOOL**

MARCH 7, 2021



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In-person Preschool and Kindergarten Screenings  
Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00–11:30 AM  
Please call 978-686-1801 for an appointment.  
Complete your application on site.

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MASS INTENTIONS

**ST. MONICA PARISH**

**Saturday, March 6**

9:00am **First Saturday Mass**  
4:00pm Betty Jean Fralick

**Sunday, March 7**

9:00am *Multiple Intentions*  
Ann Gallant  
Vincenzo Lazzara  
Christine Ferguson  
Dick Doherty  
Patricia Perry  
Diane Goulet  
11:00am Yvonne Soucy

**Saturday, March 13**

4:00pm Cathy Blanchette

**Sunday, March 14**

9:00am *Multiple Intentions*  
Charlie & Rose Hanafin  
Matthew Brouder  
James Baker  
Deatrah Reilly  
11:00am Guy & Marie Labrie

**ST. LUCY PARISH**

**Saturday, March 6**

4:00pm Angelo Coco & Kenneth Hyslip, Sr.

**Sunday, March 7**

10:00am *Multiple Intentions*  
Michael Busby  
Anthony Calderone  
Gilbert Fontaine  
Karen Hovanasian

**Monday, March 8**

9:00am Thomas G. Impink

**Tuesday, March 9**

9:00am Perry, Clara, Steven, & Beverly Autiello

**Thursday, March 11**

9:00am Catherine Goff

**Friday, March 12**

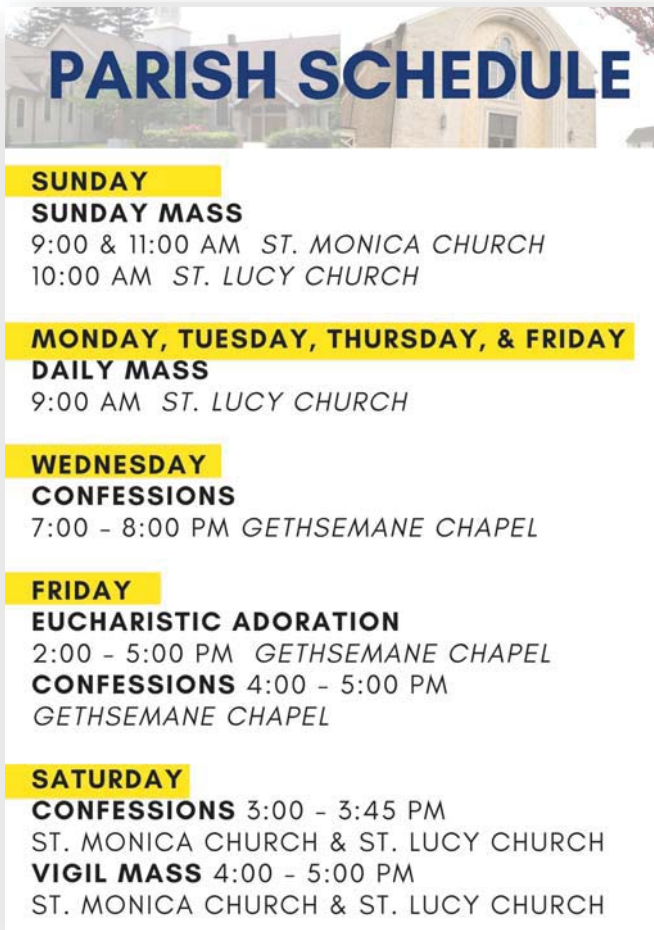
9:00am Sheila M. Cunningham

**Saturday, March 13**

4:00pm Lainao Brosco

**Sunday, March 14**

10:00am *Multiple Intentions*  
Linda Buonano  
William York  
Josie Amato



**PARISH SCHEDULE**

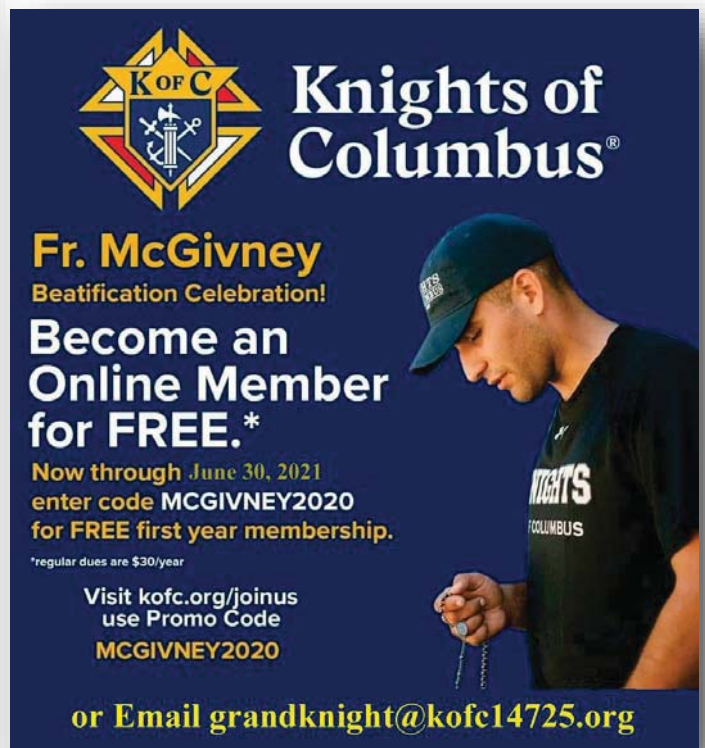
**SUNDAY**  
**SUNDAY MASS**  
9:00 & 11:00 AM ST. MONICA CHURCH  
10:00 AM ST. LUCY CHURCH

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, & FRIDAY**  
**DAILY MASS**  
9:00 AM ST. LUCY CHURCH

**WEDNESDAY**  
**CONFESSIONS**  
7:00 - 8:00 PM GETHSEMANE CHAPEL

**FRIDAY**  
**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
2:00 - 5:00 PM GETHSEMANE CHAPEL  
**CONFESSIONS** 4:00 - 5:00 PM  
GETHSEMANE CHAPEL

**SATURDAY**  
**CONFESSIONS** 3:00 - 3:45 PM  
ST. MONICA CHURCH & ST. LUCY CHURCH  
**VIGIL MASS** 4:00 - 5:00 PM  
ST. MONICA CHURCH & ST. LUCY CHURCH



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### The Bible in a Year

Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes.

Register at [media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/](http://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/)

## Readings for this week

**Sunday:** Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

**Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30

**Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35

**Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20]/Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23

**Friday:** Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14

**Next Sunday:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4- 5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b -4m 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13 -17, 34-38

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## PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for **Kate Boyko, John Wilkens, Sarah Wilkens, Gracie Theroux, and Ashley Ward.**

Please pray for our priests, seminarians, and vocations daily. Pick up a Pray for Our Priests calendar and a seminarian prayer card at the back of the church or use this list each day. Our priests and seminarians need our prayers!

| Day       | Priest                    | Seminarian           |
|-----------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Sunday    | Fr. Paul Sughrue          | Paolo Strudthoff     |
| Monday    | Fr. John Connelly         | Giovanni Argote      |
| Tuesday   | Fr. Corey Bassett-Tirrell | Gabriel Hanley       |
| Wednesday | Fr. Sinisa Ubiparipovic   | Mateus Martin        |
| Thursday  | Fr. Jason Makos           | Francis Trewin       |
| Friday    | Fr. John Sheridan         | Diego Alejandro Pena |
| Saturday  | Fr. Thomas Rossi          | Javier Padilla       |

## IN LOVING MEMORY

**Roses for Life for this week**  
Theresa A. Rickley



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*Office Hours:* Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm  
St. Monica School: 212 Lawrence St., Methuen

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Parishes: [methuencatholic@gmail.com](mailto:methuencatholic@gmail.com)  
School: [smsoffice@methuencatholic.org](mailto:smsoffice@methuencatholic.org)

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## STAFF

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Fr. Darin Colarusso</b>   | Pastor   |
| <b>Fr. Joseph D'Onofrio</b>  | Parochial Vicar                                |
| <b>Deacon John Pierce</b>    | Permanent Deacon                               |
| <b>Deacon John Kobrenski</b> | Permanent Deacon                               |
| <b>Kera Mansour</b>          | Business Manager                               |
| <b>Isabela Peixoto</b>       | Communications Associate                       |
| <b>Donna Henderson</b>       | St. Monica School Principal                    |
| <b>Sharon Tully</b>          | St. Monica School Administrative Assistant     |
| <b>Karl Jackson</b>          | Director of Mission and Formation              |
| <b>Eric Berthiaume</b>       | Music Director - St. Monica                    |
| <b>Sharon Waning</b>         | Choir Director/Lead Cantor - St. Lucy          |
| <b>Kevin Fitzgerald</b>      | Facilities Manager (St. Lucy)/RCIA Coordinator |

**BAPTISMS** Please call the parish office. **St. Monica:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of the month @ 1pm | **St. Lucy:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of the Month @ 1pm

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

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** Mondays @ 10 am. Please email all bulletin notices to [methuencatholicnews@gmail.com](mailto:methuencatholicnews@gmail.com)

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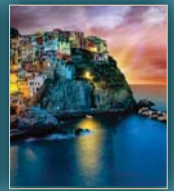
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