

# METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

SEPT 08  
2024

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



Photo: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

Then Jesus looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, “Ephphatha!” — that is, “Be opened!” And immediately the man’s ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. Mark 7:34-35

As we embark on a new school year at St. Monica School, it's a perfect time to reflect on the invaluable role that Catholic education plays in the lives of our students and families. Catholic schools offer unique opportunities for growth, not only academically but spiritually, socially, and morally as well. The benefits of a Catholic education are both intrinsic and extrinsic, forming the foundation for lifelong success.

### **Intrinsic Benefits: Building Faith and Character**

At the core of Catholic education is the mission to nurture a deep and abiding faith in our students. We do more than teach the tenets of the Catholic faith; we live it daily. Through prayer, sacraments, and a Christ-centered curriculum, our students learn to develop a personal relationship with God. This spiritual formation is a guiding light that shapes their moral compass and inspires them to live out the Gospel values of love, compassion, and service.

Beyond faith, Catholic schools emphasize character education. Our students are encouraged to practice virtues such as honesty, integrity, and humility in all aspects of their lives. This emphasis on moral development prepares them to make ethical decisions and to be leaders who contribute positively to society.

### **Extrinsic Benefits: Academic Excellence and Community**

Catholic schools are known for their strong academic programs, which are designed to challenge students and foster critical thinking. Our commitment to a rigorous curriculum and opportunities for individualized instruction ensures that each child receives the attention they need to thrive.

Research consistently shows that students in Catholic schools perform well academically, often surpassing their peers in public and other private schools.

However, the benefits of Catholic education extend beyond the classroom. Our school is a community where students, families, and educators work together in partnership. This sense of belonging and shared purpose strengthens relationships and provides a supportive environment where students feel safe, valued, and loved. The emphasis on community service also encourages our students to look beyond themselves and become active participants in the larger world.

St. Monica School students invest in our local community by collaborating with Methuen Village, the Senior Center, and Nevins Library.

### **A Call to Partner with Us**

As we kick off this new school year, we invite you to continue to keep our school community in your prayers and consider partnering with us to be part of our students' educational journey. Whether it's through volunteering, attending school events, participating in fund raisers, or simply keeping St. Monica School in your daily intentions, your involvement is crucial to the success of our mission.

At St. Monica School, we provide an education that balances academic excellence with the development of faith and character. Together, we can ensure that our students are well-prepared to face the challenges of the future, rooted in their faith and ready to make a difference in the world.

Let's make this school year one of growth, discovery, and joy in learning! We look forward to walking this path with you, parishioners of St. Monica and St. Lucy.

## **WEDNESDAY MORNING MASS AT ST. LUCY CHURCH IS RETURNING**

**We are happy to announce that beginning September 18th, Wednesday morning Mass at 9am will be added back in to the weekday Mass schedule.**



**ANNUAL CORI FORMS**

Our CORI Coordinator, Elena Powell, will be available at the main entrance of our churches to help all of our volunteers complete their annual CORI forms. This form needs to be completed each year. Elena will be at St. Lucy's this weekend, September 7/8 and at St. Monica's the following weekend, September 14/15.

If you are a liturgical volunteer (lector, sacristan, eucharistic minister), a catechist (CCD teacher), a member of the Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul, or the Sodality or anyone who makes visits to the sick or works with youth in any capacity in our parishes, stop by her table to complete the CORI form for 2024-2025. All you need is your social security number and a valid photo ID.

Thanks for your cooperation!

**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION  
CLERGY TRUST - SEPTEMBER 15**

Next week's second collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit [www.clergytrust.org](http://www.clergytrust.org)

**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!

**MARRIAGE BANNS**



First Banns of Marriage

*Benjamin Murphy & Katelyn Hulme*



**SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Today, we remember all those who lost their lives in the 2001 attacks. We pray for the victims and their families.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION  
&  
CONFESSIONS**

Beginning September 7th, Saturday Adoration at St. Monica's Gethsemane Chapel will resume it's regular schedule of 9:30am-2:30pm.

Adoration resumed last Wednesday, September 4th at St. Lucy's Church from 6-7pm.

Confessions will resume September 18th.

**St. Monica Knights of Columbus  
Council 14725 Fundraiser**

Wednesday, September 18, 2023  
The Irish Cottage - 17 Branch St., Methuen  
4-10pm  
For both dine-in and take-out

Bring this flier and give to your server when cashing out and The Irish Cottage will donate 20% of your total bill (excluding alcohol) to St. Monica Knights of Columbus Council 14725. In addition, for those in attendance at the fundraiser, The Irish Cottage will donate an additional \$1 per guest for those in attendance for the fundraiser.

Come by and help support  
KofC Council 14725  
THANK YOU!!



**THE MARIE RIVIER ASSOCIATES (MRA)  
OF THE PRESENTATION OF MARY**

We will begin our monthly meetings on Friday, September 13th. After that, meetings will be the 2nd Thursday of the month. All meetings will take place at St. Lucy's after the 9am Mass. Any and all parishioners from St. Monica & St. Lucy are invited to attend.

Our book this year is  
*Mysteries of the Virgin Mary:  
Living our Lady's Graces*

Please contact Maureen Slattery at 978-683-0589 or by email at [twigs5mcs@gmail.com](mailto:twigs5mcs@gmail.com) to obtain a copy of the book.

**WELCOME BACK  
HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS**

Please join us for refreshments

**Sunday, September 15th**

St. Monica School Hall  
After the 9am mass  
and

St. Lucy Lower Church Hall  
After the 10:30am mass

Everyone is welcome!



The Knights of Columbus will be leading a Monthly Rosary for St. Monica School Parents in the Chapel on the second Wednesday of each month, beginning September 11th through June. All parents of students are welcome to attend. Just stop in before picking up your children from school. The Rosary will begin at 1:15pm. Rosaries and prayer cards will be provided. Come by and pray for your own personal intentions!

**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER  
FOR  
FAITH FORMATION &  
SACRAMENT PREPARATION**

**DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 13**

**DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE**

Tuesday evenings 6-6:30pm  
Rosary Prayer Group for Priests | Gethsemane Chapel  
all are welcome to attend

Wednesday mornings 9:30-11am (ZOOM)  
Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & book discussion. Contact  
Bonnie Doherty at [bonnieocds@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieocds@gmail.com)

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

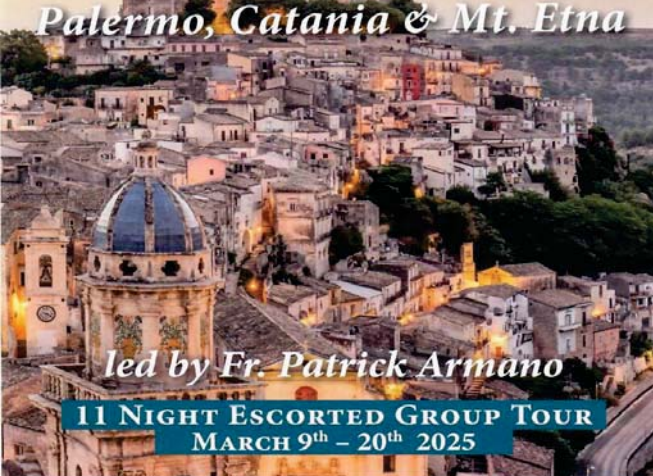
Thursday evenings 6-6:30pm (ZOOM)  
Rosary for world peace & individual intentions.  
Contact Bonnie Doherty at [bonnieocds@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieocds@gmail.com)

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
Saturdays 9:30am-2:30pm Gethsemane Chapel

**SAVE THE DATE**



.....  
**ST. LUCY PARISH  
FALL CRAFT FAIR**  
254 MERRIMACK STREET,  
METHUEN MA  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26,  
2024 | 9:00-3:00**

**TOUR OF  
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**NOVENA TO  
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**  
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Patroness of the Unborn

**Nine Tuesdays from  
September 10 - November 5  
Saint Monica Church  
7pm**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Praying the Rosary  
The Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Reading and Meditation/Reflection  
The Novena Prayers  
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

*“Let not your heart be disturbed. Am I not here? Are you not under my protection? So not grieve or be disturbed by anything.”*

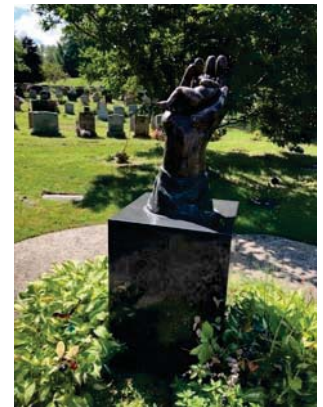


In Remembrance of our Unborn Brothers and Sisters

## National Day of Remembrance of Aborted Children

Merrimack Valley Memorial Service for Aborted Children  
**Saturday, September 14, 2024 | 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.**  
(Followed by recitation of the Rosary)

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



On September 14, Pro-Life Americans throughout the country will gather at the gravesites of aborted babies & other memorial sites dedicated in their honor for the annual National Day of Remembrance of Aborted Children. Solemn prayer 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. Event will be held rain or shine.

*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.*



**AUGUST 24 & 25**

St. Monica - \$7,906.00

St. Lucy - \$3,769.00

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 Canned Spaghetti, Canned Tuna, Canned Beans, Canned Fruit, and Soups. 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**



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**PASTORAL STAFF**

Fr. Marcos Peña	Administrator
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
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
<b>parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com</b>	



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212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844  
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www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

**SCHOOL STAFF**

Donna Henderson	Principal
Ann Marie Collins	Administrative Assistant
<b>smsoffice@methuencatholic.org</b>	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Psalm 119 (118): 137, 124*

You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

ENTRANCE HYMN*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

1. Songs of thank-ful-ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise,
2. Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
3. Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, Mir-rored in thy ho - ly Word;



1. Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sag - es from a - far;
2. And at Ca - na, wed-ding guest, In thy God-head man - i - fest;
3. May we im - i - tate thee now, And be pure, as pure art thou;



1. Branch of roy - al Da-vid's stem In thy birth at Beth-le-hem;
2. Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
3. That we like to thee may be At thy great E - pi - pha - ny;



1. Prais - es be to thee ad-dressed,
  2. Prais - es be to thee ad-dressed,
  3. And may praise thee, ev - er - blessed,
- } God in flesh made man-i - fest.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card*FIRST READING*Isaiah 35: 4-7a*

Thus says the LORD:

Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water.

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

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

The God of Jacob keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets captives free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.  
The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers.

The fatherless and the widow the LORD sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts.  
The LORD shall reign forever; O God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

**SECOND READING***James 2: 1-5*

My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here, please," while you say to the poor one, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom  
and cured every disease among the people.

**GOSPEL***Mark 7: 31-37*

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "*Ephphatha!*"— that is, "Be opened!" — And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

**CREED***Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***John 8: 12*

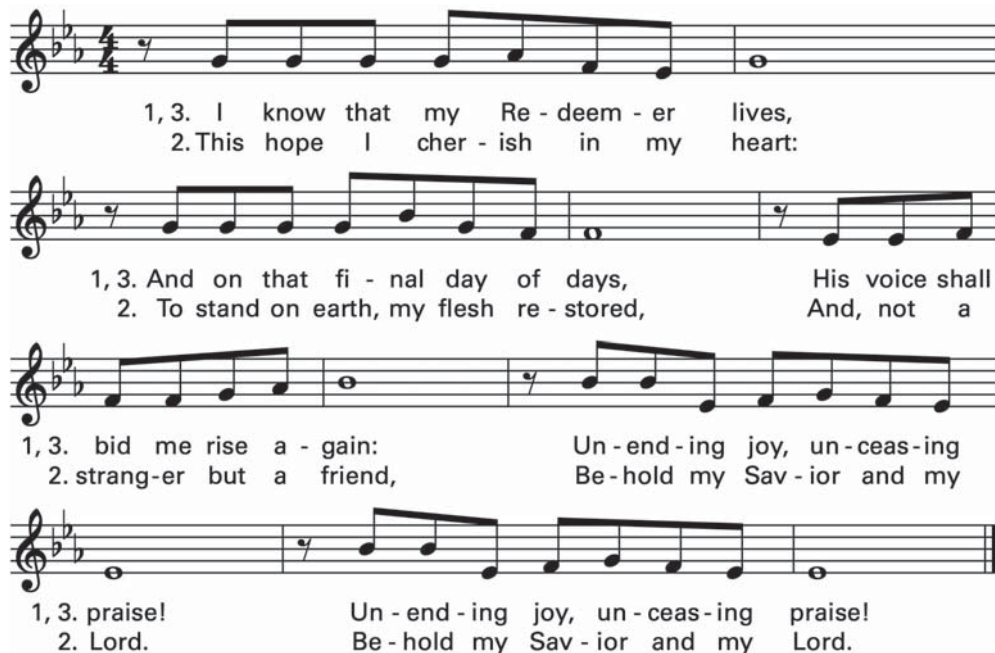
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

**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.





COMMUNION HYMN*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*


1, 3. I know that my Re - deem - er lives,  
2. This hope I cher - ish in my heart:

1, 3. And on that fi - nal day of days, His voice shall  
2. To stand on earth, my flesh re - stored, And, not a

1, 3. bid me rise a - gain: Un - end - ing joy, un - ceas - ing  
2. strang - er but a friend, Be - hold my Sav - ior and my

1, 3. praise! Un - end - ing joy, un - ceas - ing praise!  
2. Lord. Be - hold my Sav - ior and my Lord.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*


1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy Like the wide-ness  
2. For the love of God is broad - er Than the mea - sures  
3. Trou - bled souls, why will you scat - ter Like a crowd of

1. of the sea; There's a kind - ness in his jus - tice  
2. of our mind, And the heart of the E - ter - nal  
3. fright - ened sheep? Fool - ish hearts, why will you wan - der

1. Which is more than lib - er - ty. There is plen - ti - ful re -  
2. Is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more  
3. From a love so true and deep? There is wel - come for the

1. demp - tion In the blood that has been shed; There is  
2. sim - ple We should take him at his word, And our  
3. sin - ner And more grac - es for the good; There is

1. joy for all the mem - bers In the sor - rows of the Head.  
2. lives would be thanks - giv - ing For the good - ness of our Lord.  
3. mer - cy with the Sav - ior, There is heal - ing in his blood.

**ST. MONICA PARISH**

**Saturday, September 7**

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS  
 4:00pm Joseph Moreau  
 Marion and Harry Cunha  
 Deceased Members of the  
 Bonanno & Coughlin Families  
 Madeline Leazes  
 Leo & Margaret Beaudoin

**Sunday, September 8**

9:00am For the Parishioners of  
 St. Lucy & St. Monica  
 12:00pm Mary & Richard Viano

**Saturday, September 14**

9:00am Connie & Albert Zampelli  
 4:00pm Aline Duncan  
 Valorie Duncan  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mecleor Raza

**Sunday, September 15**

9:00am Dan Traficante  
 Donna Comerford  
 Jack Moore  
 James Champey  
 Paul Reardon  
 12:00pm For the Parishioners of  
 St. Lucy & St. Monica

**BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

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**PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS**

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	09/08/24	Pope Francis	Aaron Sanz
Mon	09/09/24	Fr. Leonard Tighe	Vincenzo Caruso
Tues	09/10/24	Fr. David White	Max Muenke
Wed	09/11/24	Fr. Eugene Sullivan	Luca Contini
Thurs	09/12/24	All Marists	Miguel Angel DeLoera
Fri	09/13/24	Fr. John Galvin	Kyle Ellis
Sat	09/14/24	Fr. Walter Woods	Thiago Mesquita deSousa

**ST. LUCY PARISH**

**Saturday, September 7**

4:00pm Charles Rimas

**Sunday, September 8**

10:30am Dominick (Rex) Campone  
 Deceased Members of the BVM Sodality  
 Concetta & Francesco Bellia  
 Berthier Dube

**Monday, September 9**

9:00am Luisa & Pia Rea

**Tuesday, September 10 - LIVING INTENTIONS**

9:00am Special Intention  
 Sheilagh Shiepe  
 Kathleen Arcidiacono  
 Virginia Arcidiacono

**Thursday, September 12**

9:00am John J. Whittaker

**Friday, September 13**

9:00am Susan McGee

**Saturday, September 14**

4:00pm Michael Kenny, Jr.  
 Jeannette Luciano

**Sunday, September 15**

10:30am Margaret J. Covey  
 Antonio DiFruscia  
 Orsola M. Savastano  
 Anna Lavoie



**PRAYER CORNER**

Please pray for Barbara S., Leo M., Janet C., Taylor, Dirk D., Claire M., & Patrice K.

Please pray for Elizabeth Ann Leonard whose funeral we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.



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