

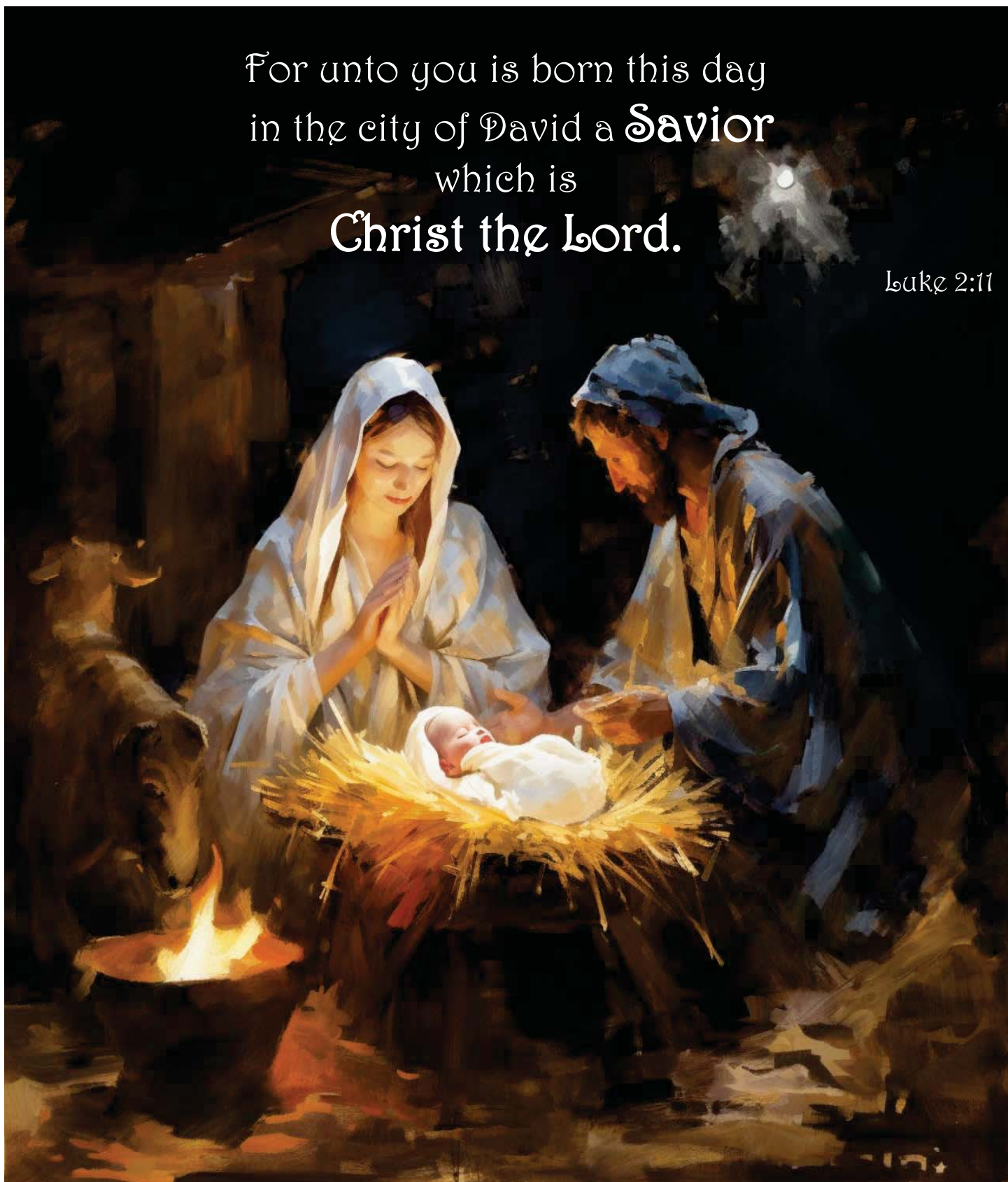
METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 25
2023

For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a **Savior**
which is
Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11



ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

The Christmas Narrative of Our Lord's Birth includes within it many journeys on behalf of the Word of God. For example, immediately following the Angel Gabriel's Annunciation to Mary that she would bear the Christ Child, Our Blessed Mother journeyed in haste to the hill country west of Jerusalem to visit her cousin Elizabeth, herself miraculously pregnant with St. John the Baptist. At the time of the Nativity, Mary and Joseph journeyed under difficult circumstances to Bethlehem. The Wise Men journeyed from a distant land in the east to see the newborn King. The Holy Family even journeyed to Egypt for the safety of Our Lord in his childhood.

This pattern of journeys continued with Our Lord's own preaching of the Gospel throughout the Holy Land. Once commissioned by Him, the Apostles travel all throughout the ancient world, all but one of them martyred, to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Finally, throughout history, missionaries went to unknown lands to bring the name of Jesus Christ to people who had yet to hear it. Some of the most famous and sacrificing of these were Jesuits, Franciscans, and lesser known religious orders who went to every continent, even when unwelcomed, to repeat the same message that the angels spoke to the shepherd's in the fields on that first Christmas: "Today for you is born a Savior."

The question is: Why? Why such zeal, dedication, and sacrifice—even martyrdom—to spread the Good News? The answer is simple: because all of the great missionaries from Apostolic times to modern times were convinced that one had to know Jesus Christ to be saved. Regardless of how God judges the souls of those who've never heard the Gospel, these individuals all burned with the conviction that knowledge of the Gospel isn't just nice to have for a better life, or even the best option among several to answer the myriad questions of life, but that He is **necessary** for personal salvation. As we come to Mass to honor the birth of the Savior, that's a question to ask ourselves: In my labor and my leisure, in my closest relationships, in my mind and in my heart, and in my journey of life to stand before God, is Christ necessary? The answer to that question determines whether He is merely for me a Savior in name only or, rather, in fact, the Savior of my life.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES!

METHUEN COLLABORATIVE
ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

*Advent &
Christmas Seasons*

December 24-25, January 1

Christmas Season Masses

St. Lucy Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm & 10pm

Christmas Day | 10:30am

New Years Day | 9:00am

St. Monica Church

Christmas Eve | 4pm

Christmas Day | 9am

New Years Day | 12:00pm



Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will hold its regular hours of 9am-2pm with the following exceptions:

Monday, December 25th....CLOSED
Tuesday, December 26th....CLOSED
Monday, January 1st....CLOSED

SPECIAL COLLECTION
Christmas Collection: Clergy Trust
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE PARISH

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org



**Merry Christmas wishes
to you from all of us
at the Parish Office.**

MERRY Christmas

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO JOINED US IN OUR ADVENT PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST

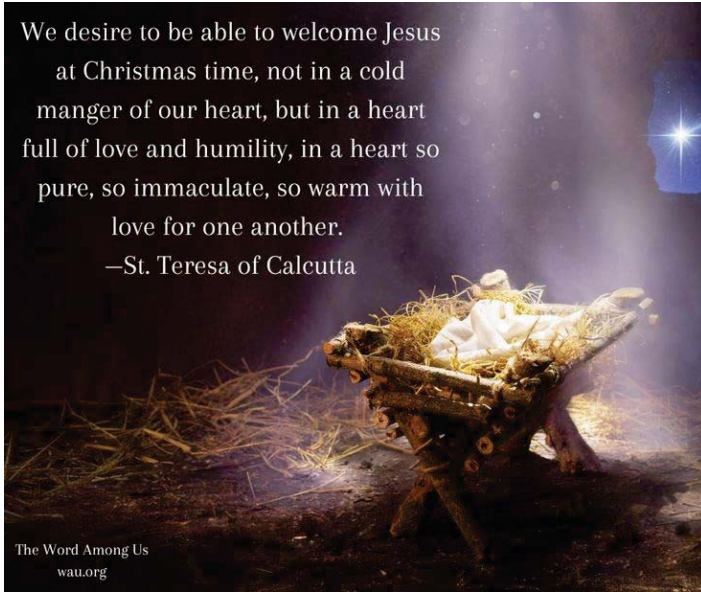


LESSONS AND CAROLS



Solemnity of Mary
 THE MOTHER OF GOD
 JANUARY 1ST
 HOLY DAY MASSES
 9AM - ST. LUCY CHURCH
 12PM - ST. MONICA CHURCH

We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another.
 —St. Teresa of Calcutta



The Word Among Us
 wau.org

DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE

Tuesday evenings 6-6:30pm
 Rosary Prayer Group for Priests
 Gethsemane Chapel

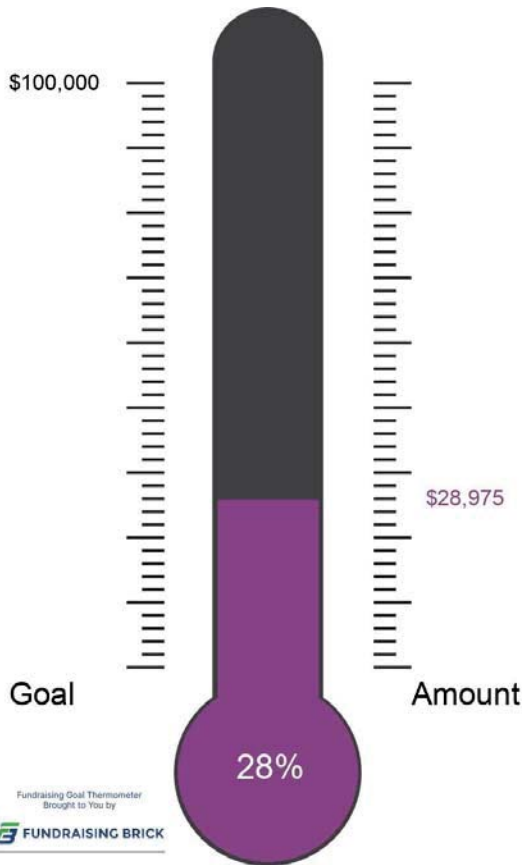
Wednesday mornings 9:30-11am (ZOOM)
 Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & book discussion.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
 Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

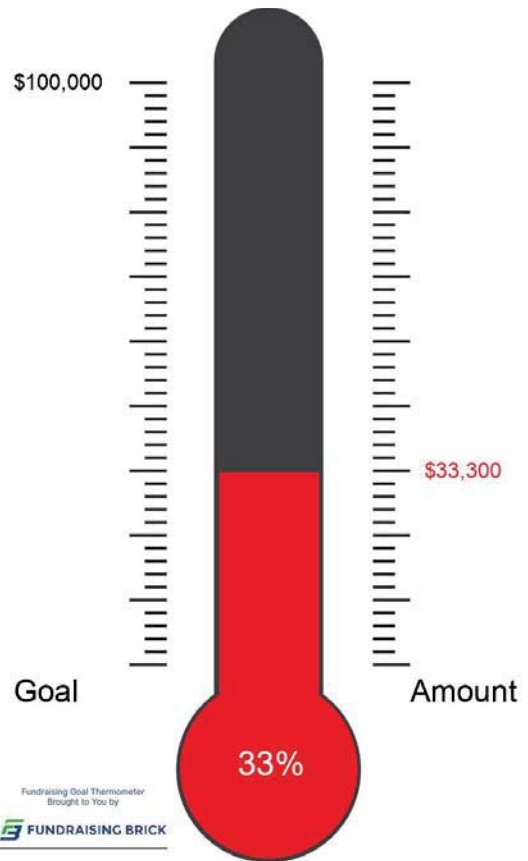
Thursday evenings 6-6:30pm (ZOOM)
 Rosary for world peace & individual intentions

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
 Saturdays 9:30am-2:30pm Gethsemane Chapel

St. Monica Grand Annual



St. Lucy Grand Annual



GIVE NOW

OFFERTORY DECEMBER 9 & 10

St. Monica - \$8,662.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$5,755.⁰⁰

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 cereal, canned pasta, canned corn, canned carrots, canned peas, mashed potatoes & 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
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**CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
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BAPTISMS 2nd Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Monica's | 3rd 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

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THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844
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www.methuencatholic.org
Hours: M - F 9am - 2pm



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978.686.9573

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Fr. Darin Colarusso	Pastor
Fr. Michael Harvey	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Pierce	Senior Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
methuencatholic@gmail.com	
Karl Jackson	Director of Parish Life
faithformation.stlm@gmail.com	
Brink Bush	Music Director
Sharon Waning	Music Ministry (St. Lucy)
Kevin Fitzgerald	Facilities (St. Lucy) / RCIA
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com	



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(978) 686 -1801
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson	Principal
Pam Silveira	Administrative Assistant
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Isaiah 9: 6*

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world.
Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

ENTRANCE HYMN*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye
To Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
Of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee
be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;

O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Adeste fideles,
Laeti triumphantes,
Venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte
Regem angelorum

Venite, adoremus,
Venite, adoremus,
Venite, adoremus,
Dominum.

PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Isaiah 9: 1-6*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13*

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.



SECOND READING*Hebrews 1: 1-6*

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe,

who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being,
and who sustains all things by his mighty word.

When he had accomplished purification from sins,
he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
as far superior to the angels
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my son; this day I have begotten you?

Or again:

I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me?

And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says:

Let all the angels of God worship him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Luke 2: 10-11*

¶ I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Saviour is born for us, Christ the Lord.

GOSPEL*Luke 2: 1-14*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them. "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. and this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

PROFESSION OF FAITH*Refer to Pew Card***OFFERTORY HYMN***O Holy Night*

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend!

Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

SANCTUS - MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - AGNUS DEI*Refer to Pew Card*COMMUNION HYMN*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight!

For Christ is born of Mary,
 And gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wond'ring love.
 O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing to God the King,
 And peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming,
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive him,
 Still the dear Christ enters in.

COMMUNION HYMN*Away In A Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
 Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
 Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
 And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

COMMUNION HYMN*Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night,
 All is clam, all is bright
 Round yon virgin mother and Child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
 Shepherds quake at the sight;
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
 Christ the Savior is born,
 Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night,
 Son of God, loves pure light;
 Radiant beams from thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart
 prepare him room,
 And heav'n and nature sing,
 And heav'n and nature sing,
 And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
 Let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods,
 rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of
 his righteousness,
 And wonders of his love,
 And wonders of his love,
 And wonders, wonders of his love

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 23

9:00am Jorge Quintana
4:00pm Deceased Members of the Rea Family

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00am John Thomas
Ida Thomas
Joseph & Lucianna Sardella
Jean Eiden
12:00pm Leo and Margaret Jewett

Christmas Eve Mass

4:00pm Christmas Eve Holy Mass

Monday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS

9:00am Christmas Day Holy Mass

Saturday, December 30

9:00am Jorge Quintana
4:00pm For the Parishioners of
St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes

Sunday, December 31

9:00am Fred J. Rapisardi
George William LaFland
Charles & Helen Dobeck
Richy Gallagher
Alan Tisbert
Gloria & Alexander Vellette
12:00pm Martin McGowan

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 23

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

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

10:30am Carole and Cecile Locke

Christmas Eve Mass

4:00pm Christmas Eve Holy Mass
10:00pm Christmas Eve Holy Mass

Monday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS

9:00am Christmas Day Holy Mass

Tuesday, December 26

9:00am Frank Collins

Thursday, December 28

9:00am Real Taschereau
Gerard Taschereau
Bertrand LeBlanc

Friday, December 29

9:00am Colette Lebel

Saturday, December 30

4:00pm Deceased Members of the Pisano,
Lehane, Spampinato, DiLavore
& Saitta Families
Joseph Sholik
Isadore Trovato

Sunday, December 31

10:30am Catherine Petralia
Pasquale & Carmela DiLorenzo
Bart Perillo
Carmine & Carmela Santantonio
Lina Santantonio
Daniel Connors
Richard Loehnes

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/24/23	Fr. John Capuci	Diego Mendoza
Mon	12/25/23	All Priests in the World	Merry Christmas
Tues	12/26/23	Fr. Mark Noonan	Henry Seuffert
Wed	12/27/23	Fr. John Reardon	Tim Walsh
Thurs	12/28/23	Fr. John Prusaitis	Fritz Anacreon
Fri	12/29/23	Fr. Thomas Kopp	Aaron Arbizo
Sat	12/30/23	Fr. Kevin Toomey	Giris Azize

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Michelle O., Nora N., Brian J., Bill R., Patrice K., Jason & Matt W.

Please pray for Mark J. Izzi & Guy Berube whose funerals we recently celebrated.
May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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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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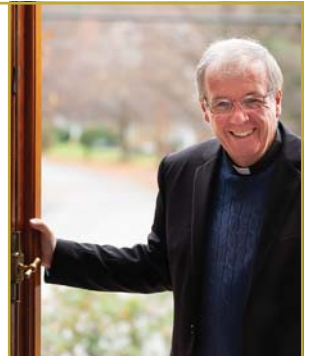
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