

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 17
2023

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." John 1:26-27

You may have noticed a few things that are different about today's Mass. We're halfway through Advent and things have changed. The priest and the deacon are wearing different color vestments. They are rose-colored instead of the violet that is usually worn during Advent. The Advent candle lit today is also rose-colored, unlike the violet ones lit during the previous two weeks. And the readings, as well, seem to have changed. The first two weeks of Advent seem to have the theme of "The Lord is coming" and the final judgement. This week the readings have changed to a theme of "The Lord is near," signifying that Christmas is near.

Indeed, Christmas is near. We're already halfway through Advent. Today we are called to focus on the joy of the nearness of the Nativity. It is *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for "rejoice."

We use this word "rejoice" because everything about this Sunday is joyful. While the season of Advent remains, overall, a season of penance, today is joyful. The word "Gaudete" is used because of its place in the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice."

Everything about this Sunday is joyful. The priest and the deacon may wear rose-colored vestments (one of only two times in the year that rose vestments are worn). The decorations in the Church may include roses or other flowers, a rose-colored altar cloth, rose-colored drapery on the ambo, rose-colored hangings, and other decorations. The Advent candle lit today is rose-colored, again signifying joy.

Even the readings take a turn towards the joyful. Isaiah says he was sent to "bring glad tidings" and that God is "the joy of my soul." The Responsorial Psalm is the Magnificat in which Mary proclaims that "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior." The reading from Paul begins with "Brothers and sisters, rejoice always." The focus of everything in today's Mass is joy.

And we should be joyful. The celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior, is near. It's only a few weeks away. Everything around us seems to be joyful. Many houses are shining with Christmas lights, yards are decorated, and you can see a Christmas tree through just about every window. But most of these, while expressing joy, are based on joy for the wrong reasons. Our joy is for the coming of Jesus. While Santa and reindeer and elves may make us feel happy, Jesus is the true reason for our joy. Please keep this in mind as Christmas day approaches. Always keep Christ in your vision, and Christmas and all the other decorations will make sense as a real reason to celebrate. It won't be just another holiday like all the others in the year.

Also, let us remember those among us who feel no joy or who experience sadness during this season, for whatever reasons. May the Lord bless them and bring them the joy of his presence through the gifts of family and friends. May they feel the Lord's love even in times of grief and sorrow.

Deacon John Kobrenski



METHUEN COLLABORATIVE
ST. MONICA & ST. LUCY PARISHES

*Advent &
Christmas Seasons*

December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Lessons & Carols

December 17 | 4pm | St. Monica
followed by Christmas Party

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

PLEASE NOTE

Because Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, we will still follow our regular weekend mass schedule for both parishes. Additional masses will be held on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

St. Monica Parish

Saturday, December 23	9am	
	4pm	
Sunday, December 24	9am	
	12pm	
	4pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Monday, December 25	9am	Christmas Day Mass

St. Lucy Parish

Saturday, December 23	4pm	
Sunday, December 24	10:30am	
	4pm	Christmas Eve Mass
	10pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Monday, December 25	10:30am	Christmas Day Mass



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 17 at 4pm
St. Monica Church

Come and celebrate the season with Advent Lessons and Carols at St Monica's!

A professional quartet of singers will lead a volunteer choir in singing anthems and hymns to tell the story of Jesus and Christmas.

There is a special Children's Pageant section during the Lessons and Carols.

Take a break from shopping, wrapping and stress and enjoy beautiful music and meaningful readings from the Gospel. All are Welcome!

Holiday Office Hours

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

Wednesday, December 20th...CLOSED
Monday, December 25th....CLOSED
Tuesday, December 26th....CLOSED
Monday, January 1st....CLOSED

**UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION
Christmas Collection: Clergy Trust
December 25th**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE PARISH

Next week, at all our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support 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

Christmas Tree Pick-up for Methuen Residents Only

Again this year, St. Monica School can pick up your Christmas Trees for a \$10 donation! Mr. Marc Krzywicki will be taking appointments to pick up your tree for the weekends of:

- December 30 & 31
- January 6 & 7
- January 13 & 14

If you would like your tree picked up, please contact him at 978-500-7880 to make your appointment!

We would like to thank Mr. Krzywicki for his generosity in doing this for us every year!

On Sunday, December 10th the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality held their Christmas celebration by collecting hundreds of new and gently used winter clothing, coats, and shoes for the homeless served by The Movement Family community outreach program. More than 20 large construction bags were filled with the generous donations of our members.



Our members were pleased to have Father Harvey join us for our luncheon followed by a Christmas Carol Bingo competition! Those attending were presented with Angel of Hope pins from the National Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette, along with a few other surprises.

The Sodality welcomes all women who wish to join our organization! Our next meeting is January 14th following the 10:30 Sunday Mass at St. Lucy Church.

**Saint Monica School
WINTER CALENDAR RAFFLE
February 2024**

(If your name is picked on the day, you win that amount)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1. \$150	2. \$50	3. \$50	4. \$100
5. \$100	6. \$50	7. \$50	8. \$50	9. \$50	10. \$50	11. \$100
12. \$100	13. \$50	14. \$50	15. \$50	16. \$50	17. \$50	18. \$100
19. \$100	20. \$50	21. \$50	22. \$50	23. \$50	24. \$50	25. \$100
26. \$100	27. \$50	28. \$50	29. \$150			

We must sell 200 tickets. If we do not sell 200 tickets, we will have a 50/50 raffle and one winner will be drawn and the winner will receive 50% of the monies collected and the school will receive the other 50%.

(This raffle has always sold enough tickets to be held!)

All payments will be sent to winner/winners mid-March.

Please return this portion of the ticket with payment to the School Office.

**St. Monica School Calendar Raffle
\$10 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$50**

Checks made out to St. Monica School by 1/26/24

Name _____ Phone (REQUIRED) _____

Address (REQUIRED) _____

St. Monica Student who sold ticket: _____ (if purchased through a school child)

Names of St. Monica School children who sell winning tickets will be put in a raffle for a prize. If there is only one winner due to 50/50, that child will win a prize (if a St. Monica Child sold ticket).

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS

Please join us for refreshments

Sunday, December 17th

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

Everyone is welcome!

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Karl at the office, extension 35 or email faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE

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

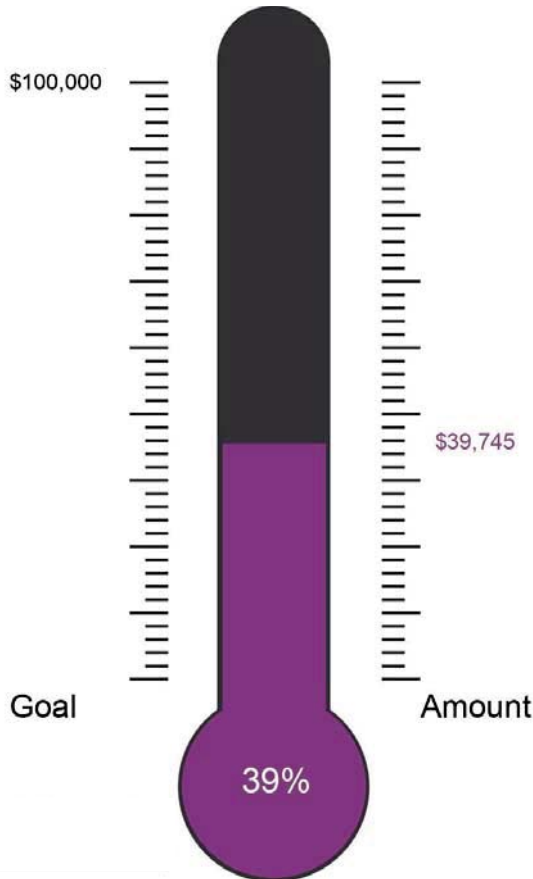
Wednesday mornings 9:30-11am (ZOOM)
Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & book discussion.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

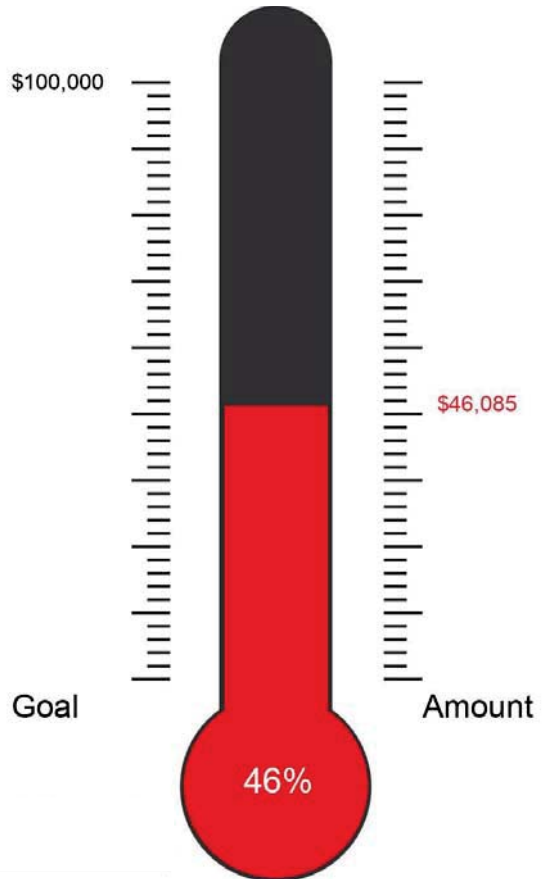
Thursday evenings 6-6:30pm (ZOOM)
Rosary for world peace & individual intentions

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

St. Monica Grand Annual



St. Lucy Grand Annual



GIVE NOW

OFFERTORY DECEMBER 2 & 3

St. Monica - \$8,696.⁰⁰

St. Lucy - \$4,920.⁰⁰

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
Open 7 days/week from morning rush hour until 7pm

**CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE**
Open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm , Sat & Sun 9am-5pm

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

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: M - F 9am - 2pm



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
978.686.9573

PASTORAL STAFF

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	



ST. MONICA SCHOOL
212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844
(978) 686 -1801
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Phil 4: 4-5*

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

ENTRANCE 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 - GLORIA*Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Is 61: 1-2A, 10-11*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Lk 1: 46-48, 49-50, 53-54*

R. My soul re - joic - es in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

SECOND READING*1 Thes 5: 16-24*

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL*Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28*

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

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

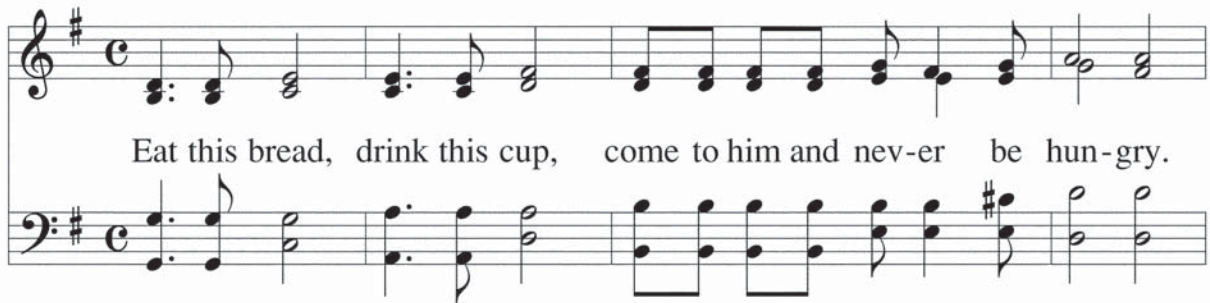
PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

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.

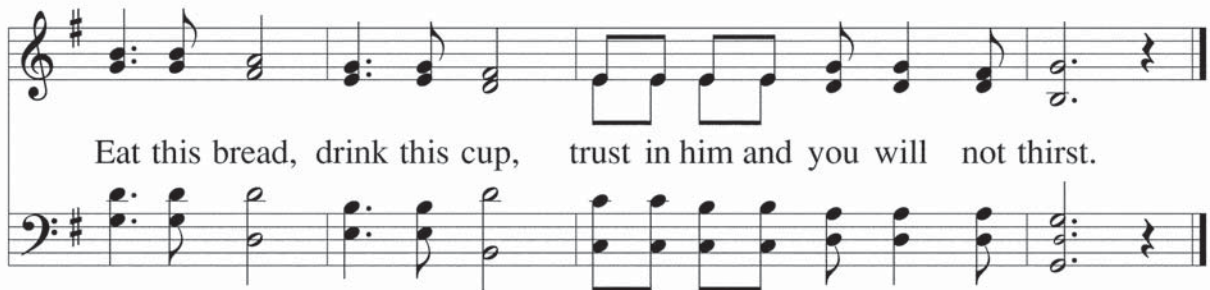


COMMUNION HYMN*Eat This Bread*

Refrain



Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

POSTLUDE AT ST. MONICA*Mr. Bush*RECESSIONAL HYMN*The Advent of Our King*


1. The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em -
2. The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to
3. Daugh - ter of Zi - on, rise To meet thy low - ly



1. ploy, And we must hymns of wel - come sing In
2. be; Him - self a serv - ant's form puts on To
3. King, Nor let thy faith - less heart de - spise The



1. strains of ho - ly joy.
2. set his serv - ants free.
3. peace he comes to bring.

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 16

9:00am Joseph Lavigne
Yvette Moran
Mike Milnes
4:00pm Jamie & Jacob McDaniel

Sunday, December 17

9:00am Amy Waterworth
Robert Putnam
Mike Quintana
Robert Ouelette, Sr.
Robert Ouelette, Jr.
12:00pm Richard McCarron

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 DAY

9:00am Christmas Day Holy Mass

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 16

4:00pm Perry, Clara, Steven & Beverly Autiello

Sunday, December 17

10:30am For the Parishioners of
St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes

Monday, December 18

9:00am Marion Bench

Tuesday, December 19

9:00am Manny Gianni
Christine Gianni Eldridge

Thursday, December 21

9:00am Deceased Members of the Indoccio,
Royer & Zampelli Families

Friday, December 22

9:00am Trudy Mulligan

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 Masses

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

Monday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30am Christmas Day Holy Mass

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/17/23	Bishop Kennedy (1966 ordained)	Isaac Velazquez
Mon	12/18/23	Fr. William Williams	Liam Warner
Tues	12/19/23	Fr. Francis Conroy	Luca Azzani
Wed	12/20/23	Fr. Christopher Lowe	Christopher Barton
Thurs	12/21/23	Fr. Raymond Van De Moortell	Alden Bronson
Fri	12/22/23	Fr. Francisco Anzoategui	Alexander deTirado
Sat	12/23/23	Fr. John Farrell	Joseph Jasinski

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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PRAYER CORNER

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

Please pray for Donald Olsen & Rejeanne M. Keeley whose funeral we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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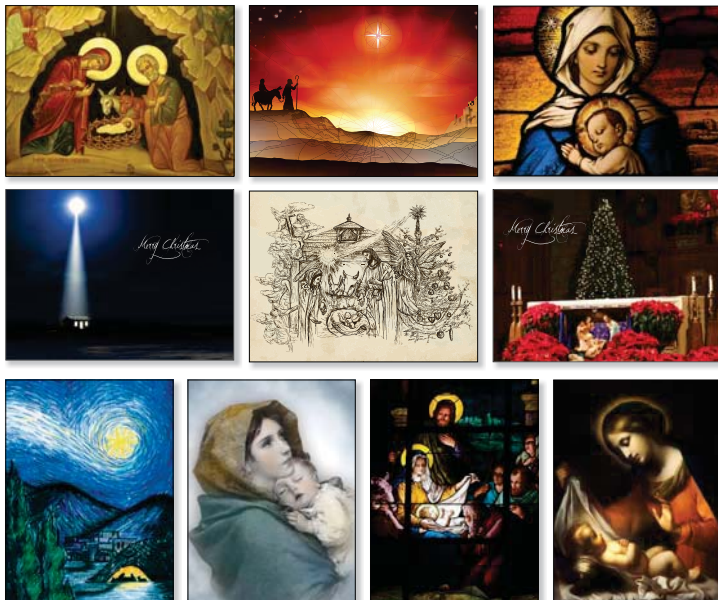
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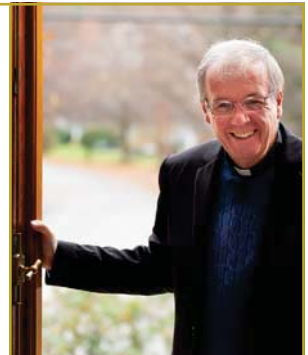


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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

donate at clergytrust.org — OR —



"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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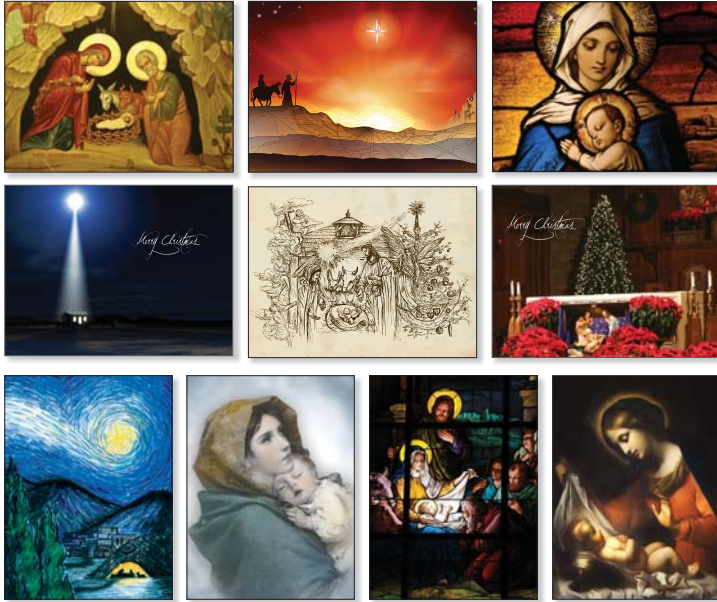
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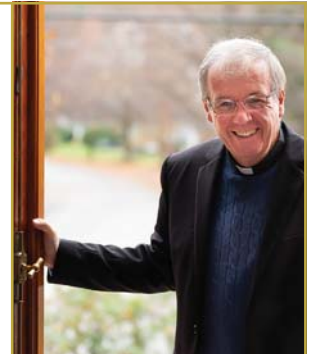
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