

METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

MAR 30
2025



**“ THIS SON OF MINE WAS DEAD, AND HAS COME TO LIFE AGAIN;
HE WAS LOST, AND HAS BEEN FOUND. ”**

Luke 15:24

© PilotBulletins

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

Mary as the Model of Evangelization

For many years now we have been aware that we are missionary disciples. Still we find ourselves struggling with just how to go about our mission. What do we say and when? Even within our own families we have loved ones who have been sacramentalized, but who no longer receive the sacraments. There is such variety in personality and temperament; each person is on a journey and it is important that we respect their freedom. We can look to Our Blessed Mother for guidance.

Our Blessed Mother is the first to evangelize and the model of evangelization. In the Churches of the East, such as the Melkites and Maronites here in the Merrimack Valley, Mary is often referred to as the *Theotokos*, the "God bearer," because of the presence of the Word of God, Jesus, made flesh in her womb. She brings Christ into the world through vocation and mission.

Our Blessed Mother had the desire to be completely dedicated to God in perpetual virginity while at the same time holding an equal desire to be a mother. Could vocation and mission be in conflict? In the quiet of Nazareth, in the ordinary events of day-to-day life God was present to Mary and Mary was present to God. She was receptive and available. And then the angel Gabriel and the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit.

In his Gospel St. Luke tells us of the joyful mystery of the Annunciation. "And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her." We are also guided by our guardian angels and the inspirations of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

St. Luke then tells us of the Visitation. "In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

First, receptivity and availability; then mission, traveling through the hill country of the modern world. Fr. Billy Swan, a priest of Wexford Parish in Wexford, Ireland, writes, "By her visit to Elizabeth, Mary reminds us that mission begins not in actions and words, but by bearing Christ to others within ourselves as living tabernacles. Mary testifies to the primary importance of simply carrying Jesus even before there are words or deeds to show him and explain him."

Mary keeps things in her heart; she ponders them with the Holy Spirit. She will help us to avoid aggressiveness and self-assertion which must surely be the death of evangelization.

And then words: "My soul magnifies (proclaims) the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . . for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Mother most amiable, Help of Christians, pray for us.

**THIS WEEK'S
SECOND COLLECTION
EASTER FLOWERS**

HOSPITALITY/REFRESHMENTS
Please join us for refreshments
Sunday, March 30th
St. Monica School Hall
following the 9:00am Mass
ALL ARE WELCOME!

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION
To keep the First Saturday Devotion, attend Mass, pray rosary, meditate on the mysteries for 15 minutes. Go to confession within eight days.
9am Mass
Saturday, April 5th | St. Monica Church
Rosary to follow in Gethsemane Chapel



LENTEN CALENDAR

MONDAYS | Pilgrimage of Hope: Reflections on the Jubilee Year 6-7pm | St. Monica Church | Fr. Michael Harvey
TUESDAYS | Rosary & Meditation 6-7pm | Gethsemane Chapel | Deacons
WEDNESDAYS | Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions 6-7pm | St. Lucy Church | Fr. Marcos Pena
THURSDAYS | Evangelization & the Church Class 6-7pm | St. Lucy Schoolhouse | Fr. Marcos Pena
FRIDAYS | Stations of the Cross & Lenten Meal 6-7pm | St. Lucy Church
SATURDAYS | Eucharistic Adoration 9:30am-2:30pm | Gethsemane Chapel

	<p>St. Lucy's Lower Church Hall</p>
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LAETARE SUNDAY
The Fourth Sunday of Lent is the midpoint and known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare means "rejoice" and the Church expresses hope and joy in the middle of our penitential Lenten practices. Rose is the color of rejoicing, so you might see your priest wearing rose colored vestments this Sunday!

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

Thursday evenings 6-7pm (ZOOM)
Rosary for world peace & individual intentions
followed by Evening Prayer.
Contact Bonnie Doherty at bonnieocds@gmail.com

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

**PALM SUNDAY
SOLEMN PROCESSION**

The Palm Sunday Masses begin with the Blessing of the Palms and Procession. On Palm Sunday, April 13 the 9:00am (SM) and 10:30am (SL) Masses will begin with a Solemn Procession. These processions will start at the statues of Our Lady outside the Church (weather permitting).

FIRST READING*1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a*

The LORD said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons.

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is here before him." But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will no begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There - anoint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalms 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)***R. the Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshed my soul.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

SECOND READING*Ephesians 5: 8-14*

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

GOSPEL*John 9: 1-41*

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" - which means Sent -. So he went and washed and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. As him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen, why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple: we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is

from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything.” They answered and said to him, “You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.”

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin, but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.”

2025

LENT

ALMSGIVING

“If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery.” - St. Peter Chrysologus

FAST & ABSTINENCE

When Christians fast, we imitate Jesus, declaring with him, “Man does not live by bread alone, but every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

PRAYER

“Let us not say our prayers thoughtlessly. Think about what we say and, what’s more, to whom we say them.”



Jesus is longing for your presence.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSIONS

Wednesday Evenings
6-7pm
St. Lucy Church

Saturdays
9:30am-2:30pm
Gethsemane Chapel
at St. Monica Church

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

MARCH 15 & 16

St. Monica - \$7,865.00 St. Lucy - \$4,818.00

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 Tuna, Mashed Potatoes, Cereal, Canned Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Soups, Peanut Butter & Jelly. 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 6am-7pm

**CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE**
Open Mon-Sat from 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: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 1pm
Closed Wed



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
978.686.9573

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Marcos Peña	Administrator
frmarcosmethuen@gmail.com	
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	
Joseph Lundin	Music Director
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
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ST. MONICA SCHOOL
212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844
(978) 686 -1801
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson	Principal
Ann Marie Collins	Administrative Assistant
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHONIsaiah 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning
Exult and be satisfied at her consoling heart

OPENING SONG

V1: Amazing grace how sweet the
sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

V2: Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Refrain: My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God my savior has ransomed me
And like a flood, his mercy reigns
Unending love, Amazing grace

FIRST READINGJoshua 5:9a, 10-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you." While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. On the day after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. On that same day after the Passover, on which they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMPsalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad. **R.**

Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. **R.**

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the poor one called out, the LORD heard
And from all his distress he saved him. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters: Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONLuke 15:18**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory**

I will get up and go to my Father and shall say to him

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless GloryGOSPELLuke 15:1-3, 11-32

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

OFFERTORY HYMNHosea

V1: Come back to me with all your heart.
Don't let fear keep us apart.
Trees do bend, though straight and tall;
so must we to others' call.

V3. You shall sleep secure with peace;
faithfulness will be your joy.

V2: The wilderness will lead you
to your heart where I will speak.
Integrity and justice with
tenderness you shall know.

Refrain: Long have I waited
for your coming home to me
and living deeply our new life.

COMMUNION HYMN

LOVING AND FORGIVING

Refrain: Loving and forgiving are You,
O Lord; slow to anger, rich in
kindness, loving and forgiving are You.

V1: All my being, bless the
Lord, bless the holy name of
God. All my being, bless the
Lord, remembering the
goodness of God.

V2: God forgives us all our
sins, healing those who live in
pain; Saving us from final
death, God fills us with
goodness and love.

V3. Good and gracious is
the Lord, slow to anger, rich
in love. God remembers not
our sin, forgiving and loving
is God.

V4. As heaven soars above
the earth, so great the love
of God for us. As far as east
is from the west, the Lord
takes our sins from us.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

10,000 REASON'S (BLESS THE LORD)

Refrain: Bless the Lord oh my soul Oh my soul. Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before. Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

V1: You're rich in love And You're slow to anger.
Your name is great. And Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing.
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

V2: God forgives us all our
sins, healing those who live in
pain; Saving us from final
death, God fills us with
goodness and love.

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.



ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, March 29

9:00am Joshua Klein
 4:00pm For the Parishioners of
 St. Lucy & St. Monica

Sunday, March 30

9:00am To All Saints for favors received
 To the Holy Trinity for favors received
 12:00pm Sharon Bibeau
 Roland Beaudoin
 Santina Winning

Saturday, April 5

9:00am FRIST SATURDAY MASS
 4:00pm Philip, Johanna & William Muhilly

Sunday, April 6

9:00am For the Parishioners of
 St. Lucy & St. Monica
 12:00pm Mary Hamel
 Robert LaPiana
 Fred J. & Jenny Bonaccorsi
 Joseph F. Bonaccorsi
 Roland & Eleanor Marchman
 Norman Rainville



ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, March 29

4:00pm Gertrude & Joseph Reardon
 Margaret & William Kallery
 Phyllis & Joseph Reardon, Jr.
 Maureen & James Reynolds

Sunday, March 30

10:30am Pasquale Petralia
 Connie Mercier

Monday, March 31

9:00am Michael Basile

Tuesday, April 1

9:00am Karl Jackson (living)

Wednesday, April 2

9:00am Ryan Matthew Thistle

Thursday, April 3

9:00am Diane L. Farelli

Friday, April 4

9:00am Joel Jackson

Saturday, April 5

4:00pm Joanne Kaufman

Sunday, April 6

10:30am Vito & Giuseppina Cunsolo
 Deceased Members of the
 Cunsolo & Galvagno Families
 Joe Potvin
 John Bellino

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	03/30/25	Fr. Mark Riley	Michael Castellon RMS Boston
Mon	03/31/25	Fr. Sean Connor	Ulises Diaz RMS Boston
Tues	04/01/25	Fr. Richard Cornell	Gustavo Neitzke RMS Boston
Wed	04/02/25	Fr. Gerald Souza	Javier Padilla RMS Boston
Thurs	04/03/25	Fr. Richard DeVeer	Diego Pena RMS Boston
Fri	04/04/25	Fr. Robert Nee	Edward Rodriguez RMS Boston
Sat	04/05/25	Fr. Daniel Crowley	Aaron Sanz RMS Boston



PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Barbara S., Carolyn, Adrienne M., Terry, Chris C., Joy M., William T., Robert L., Chris B., Kathy P., Jeff H., Brian V., Mike B., Louie C., Phyllis T. & Patrice K.

Please pray for Sheila Mahoney whose funeral we recently offered. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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clergytrust

"The support of the Clergy Trust means so much in terms of my present situation, and as I'm getting older and needing it more... and also to have the confidence that our elderly priests are treated with the dignity that they deserve.

So it means a lot to all of us."

- Fr. Richard Clancy

Pastor, River of Divine
Mercy Parish
Dracut/Lowell/Tyngsboro



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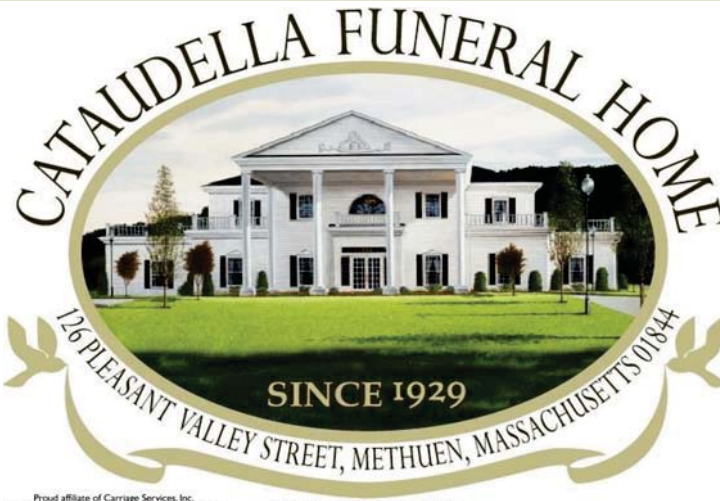
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